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# Russia Pressures India For Help To Avoid Getting Blacklisted By FATF

## Why In The News?

- **Russia Could Become Blacklisted By The Financial Action Task Force In June.** To Avoid This, **Moscow Is Pressuring India** To Help Thwart The Blacklisting Effort. Russia Has Told India That **Key Energy And Weapons Deals Would Be At Risk.**
- The Pressure Comes As The **Financial Action Task Force** - An Intergovernmental Group Focused On Combating Money Laundering And Terrorist Financing - **Prepares For A June Meeting**, During Which Members Could Implement Restrictions On Russia.

**Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

**What is FATF ?**  
The Financial Action Task Force is an intergovernmental organisation founded to develop policies to combat money laundering. The initiative to set up FATF was taken by G-7 group.

**What are its functions ?**  
Promote policies that can combat global money laundering.  
Promoting measures to tackle terror financing.  
It maintains a list of countries that are non-compliant to the rules of the organisation.

**Significance of FATF**  
The FATF blacklist itself acts as a benchmark for international sanctions.  
It prevents state sponsored terrorism as well as illegal money laundering.  
The organisation brings uniform standards for global transactions.

**Black List :**  
It is issued to list countries which are found to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

**Grey List :**  
It serves as a warning for countries to be compliant to the directions else face risk of blacklisting.

## What Do We Know?

- Though Its **Invasion Of Ukraine** Had Already Made Russia The **World's Most Heavily Sanctioned Country**, An FATF Blacklisting Would **Put Moscow In The Same Category As North Korea, Iran, And Myanmar.**

- **If Russia Is Added To The Blacklist**, FATF Members, Banks, Investment Firms, And Payment-Processors Must Perform Additional Due Diligence And Could Even Enact Countermeasures. Russia Was Suspended From FATF In February, It's Urging Other Countries Like India To **Help Thwart The Blacklisting Effort**.
- The Kremlin Has Warned India That **Defense, Energy, And Transportation Deals Between The Two Countries Would Be At Risk** Under The Designation. Russia Is **India's Top Arms Supplier** And Has Emerged As A **Major Oil Supplier** In The Last Year.
- Russia Has Also Said That Even Being Added On The **FATF's "Gray List" - A Less Severe Measure - Would Still Threaten Deals**. Moscow Believes That **India Has "Special Credibility"** Within The FATF That Should Be Used But Has Also Turned To Other Governments For Similar Support. **Ukraine Has Championed The Blacklisting But Is Not A Member Itself**.



## What's At Risk For India?

- Among Projects With India That Russia Warned Would Be Under Threat If More Measures Are Passed Were:
- Cooperation Between Oil Giant **Rosneft And Nayara Energy Limited**.
- **Exports Of Russian Weapons And Military Equipment** To India As Well As Defense Sector Technical Cooperation.
- India Has Also Scooped Up **Cheap Russian Oil** After The US And Its Allies Imposed A Price Cap And Europe Rejected Supplies.
- Russian Proposals For **New Joint Aviation Projects** Presented At The Aero India 2023 Exhibition In February.

- Technology And Energy Cooperation At **India's Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.**
- An Agreement Between **Russian Railways' RZD Logistics And The Container Corporation Of India On Cargo Transportation Services** Linked To The Development Of A **North-South Trading Corridor**



## What Is Russia's Current Position?

- Despite Facing Extensive Sanctions From The US And Its Allies Due To The Ongoing Conflict, **Russia Has Managed To Soften The Economic Blow** By Enhancing Its Relations With Neutral Countries Like China And India.
- However, If Russia Were To Be Blacklisted By The FATF, It Would Pose Significant Challenges For These Countries In **Continuing Their Business Dealings With Russia.** Consequently, This Would Further Exacerbate The Economic Difficulties Faced By The Kremlin.
- The Sectors Russia Identified As At Risk Are **Particularly Sensitive In The Strategic Partnership With India.** Russia Is India's Largest Provider Of Weapons Though Defense Supplies Have Stalled For Lack Of A Payment Mechanism That Doesn't Violate US Sanctions.

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