

Masood Azhar as Global Terrorist

Why in news?

The United Nations has designated Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist".

What is the UN terrorist designation?

- The UNSC 1267 Committee of the UN Security Council was established as a result of resolution 1267 (in 1999).
- It is also known as the AlQaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee.
- The Committee comprises all 15 members of the UNSC and decides unanimously and secretly.
- It was established for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of sanctions measures imposed on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan for its support of Osama bin Laden.
- Eventually the committee has been modified and strengthened by subsequent resolutions.
- Now, if an individual/organisation is included in the 1267 list, it helps in restricting their movement, financial penalties and assets freeze among others.

Click [here](#) to know more on the past developments in listing Masood Azhar.

Why is it significant?

- The JeM chief had been behind many attacks on India including the 2001 Parliament attack, 2016 Pathankot airbase attack and the recent [Pulwama attack](#).
- Masood Azhar's listing as a designated terrorist is a success for India's quest to bring the Jaish-e-Mohammad chief to justice.
- China's opposition to the listing has long been a thorn in India's side.
- Beijing's veto of the listing three times between 2009 and 2017 had driven a wedge in India-China relations.
- The designation now comes as a recognition to India's efforts and those of its partners in the Security Council.

What are the concerns?

- There is much disappointment, however, as the final listing made no mention of Mr. Azhar's role in any of the attacks against India.
- It neither mentioned his role in directing insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir.
- A specific reference to Pulwama attack, which was in the original proposal, was also dropped.

What are the challenges?

- Masood Azhar is one of about twenty 1267-sanctioned terrorists who have Pakistani nationality, and more are based there.
- But Pakistan's actions against others on the 1267 list have been far from effective, and in many cases obstructionist.
- E.g. Hafiz Saeed, the 26/11 mastermind and Lashkar-e-Toiba chief, roams free, addresses rallies, and runs a political party without any government restrictions.
- Likewise, LeT's operations commander Zaki Ur Rahman Lakhvi was granted bail some years ago.
- These are despite the UNSC sanctions mandating that funds and assets to the sanctioned individuals must be frozen.
- With Masood Azhar listed as a global terrorist, India must now work to ensure the mandated sanctions.

What lies ahead?

- Constant focus from New Delhi and a push from the global community are essential in Masood Azhar's case.
- It must be ensured that he is starved of funds, arms and ammunition as mandated.
- Besides, prosecution in Pakistan for the acts of terror he is responsible for is also a priority.
- Global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force will also be watching Pakistan's next moves closely.
- [FATF will decide soon if Pakistan has to be placed in "blacklist" or continue on the "greylist". Click [here](#) to know more.]
- In all, both financial and political pressure should be maintained on Islamabad.
- This is imperative to bring the hard-fought designation of Masood Azhar to its logical conclusion.

Source: The Hindu



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