



Congressional Report on Terrorism: US

Why in News

Recently, the US **Congressional report on terrorism** stated that **Pakistan is home to at least 12 groups designated as Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO)**.

- The report named **Terrorist and Other Militant Groups in Pakistan**, released by the bipartisan research wing of US Congress in the **Quad summit 2021**.
- Earlier, in February 2021, the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** had decided to retain **Pakistan on the greylist**.

Foreign Terrorist Organisation

- **FTO** are foreign organizations that are **designated by the Secretary of State US**. This plays a critical role in fight against terrorism and is an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business.

Key Points

- **Pakistan Safe Haven for Terror:**
 - Pakistan has **continued to serve as a safe haven for certain regionally focused terrorist groups**, and has allowed groups **targeting Afghanistan as well as groups targeting India** to operate from its territory.
 - Pakistan's neighbours, including Afghanistan and India, and the US have long accused Islamabad of providing safe haven and support to militants.
- **Categorization of Terrorist Groups:**
 - The groups operating in Pakistan can be broadly categorised into **five types**:
 - Globally-oriented
 - Afghanistan oriented
 - India- and Kashmir-oriented
 - Domestically oriented
 - Sectarian (anti-Shia).

Prominent India-Centric Terror Organizations in Pakistan

| Name | Formation | FTO Designation | About | Status in India as per the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET) | Late 1980s | 2001 | It was responsible for major 2008 attacks in Mumbai, as | Banned |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|--|--------|
| | | | well as numerous other high-profile attacks. | |
| Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) | 2000 | 2001 | Along with LET, it was responsible for the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament, among other attacks. JEM also has openly declared war on the United States. | Banned |
| Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HUJI) | 1980 | 2010 | Initially it was formed to fight the soviet army, however after 1989, it redirected its efforts toward India, although it did supply fighters to the Afghan Taliban. HUJI today operates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, and seeks annexation of Kashmir into Pakistan. | Banned |
| Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM) | 1985 | 1997 | It operates mainly from Pak-Occupied Kashmir and from some Pakistani cities. | Banned |
| Hizb-ul Mujahideen | 1989 | 2017 | It is the militant wing of Pakistan's largest Islamist political party and is one of the largest and oldest militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir. | Banned |
| Al Qaeda | 1988 | 1999 | It has operated primarily from the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas and in the megacity of Karachi, as well as in Afghanistan. | Banned |

▪ **Steps Taken:**

- Modest steps were taken by Pakistan's government to counter [terrorism financing](#) and to restrain some India-focused militant groups following an early 2019 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.
- However, it has **yet to take decisive actions against India- and Afghanistan-focused militants**, and that progress on the most difficult aspects of its 2015 National Action Plan to counter terrorism remains unfulfilled specifically its pledge to dismantle all terrorist organisations without delay and discrimination.

Source: IE