

Concerns with Freedom of Terrorists in Pakistan

Why in news?

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- Global pressures and sanctions were levied upon Pakistan to act against terror groups.

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- Despite of international sanctionsLakshar terrorist Hafiz Saeed has remained largely free in Pakistan.

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What are the international pressures on Pakistan?

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- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body which has set standards for regulatory measures to combat money laundering and terror financing.

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- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary decided to put Pakistan back on the “grey list”. Click [here](#) to know more

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- By this Pakistan will subject to direct monitoring and intense scrutiny by the International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) on terror financing, pending further review in June 2018.

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- China and Saudi Arabia voted against Pakistan at the FATF, and India succeeded in shaping global opinion against Pakistan.

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- The US has compelled Pakistan to initiate stringent action against terror groups.

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- For which US piloted a resolution against Pakistan to put it in the global terror finance watch list.

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What is the status of Hafiz Saeed in Pakistan?

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- Hafiz Saeed is the founder and foremost leader of the Lashkar terrorist group.

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- In 2008 Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists killed more than 150 people at multiple locations across Mumbai.

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- Despite international sanctions on the Lashkar and sustained global pressure on Pakistan to act against terrorist groups, Hafiz Saeed has remained largely free.

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- He intends to join mainstream politics and is scheduled to release the manifesto of his party, Milli Muslim League.

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- He has also challenged government's decision in court for freezing his bank accounts and taking over assets linked to his organisation under the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018.

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What are the actions taken by Pak on terror groups?

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- Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) are placed under Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

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- They have also attracted sanctions under the United Nations Security Council Resolution and have been dealt accordingly.

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- To avoid grey-listing, Pakistan promulgated an Ordinance amending the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, to include terrorist organisations listed by the UNSC.

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- Consequently, JuD and FIF were declared as proscribed groups, and all their properties in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan were confiscated.

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- Election Commission of Pakistan acted on a recommendation by the Pakistan Interior Ministry, citing Milli Muslim League's (MML) links with banned militant outfits.

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What moves of Pak concerns global peace makers?

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- Recently Islamabad High Court set aside the Election Commission's resolution refusing registration for JuD's political front, (MML).

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- Following the HC order MML can contest the parliamentary elections scheduled for July 2018.

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- Pak's action against the JuD and FIF was aimed at evading grey listing by the FATF which had created a turmoil in the country.

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- Lashkar has long been considered a "good" terrorist group by the Pakistan army, which has used it as a proxy against India and Afghanistan.

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- An influential section in the Army reportedly believes that Hafiz Saeed is too big taking him on directly will have unmanageable consequences.

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- Thus Limited action against Saeed's groups is unlikely to satisfy the FATF.

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Source: Indian Express

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