Specially Designated Global Terrorist

Why in news?

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The US administration has declared Syed Salahuddin a ‘Specially Designated Global Terrorist’.

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Who is Syed Salahuddin?

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- He is **currently the chief of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM),** one of several homegrown militant groups that have been operating from the Valley for decades.
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- He is also the head of an alliance of anti-India militant groups, the United Jihad Council, that works to annex the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan.
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- He **contested the 1987 elections** from the Muslim United Front (MUF).
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- Salahuddin lost the election, then alleged it had been rigged.
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- Many Pakistanis think he is a well-educated Kashmiri from Srinagar who was forced to pick up the gun after the rigged in 1987.
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What does the designation of global terrorist mean?

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- Such categorisation is aimed at disrupting the financial support network for terrorists and terrorist organisations.
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- It deters donations or contributions to designated individuals or entities.
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- The designation also authorises US government to block the assets of foreign individuals and entities that commit or pose a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism.
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- It also **increases public awareness** and knowledge of individuals or entities linked to terrorism.
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How is the list different from the UN's sanction list?

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- A UN designation is recognised by all countries and is considered a **non-partisan global sanction.**
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- Whereas, the US designation is limited only to the United States.
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- India had sought the UNSC's global terrorist designation for Syed Salahuddin but the move was blocked by China.
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- Although the US sanction is confined to that country, it can compel other Western countries to follow suit.
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What significance does this hold to India?

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- This is the first time a Kashmiri militant has been designated a "global terrorist".
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- By branding Syed Salahuddin as SDGT, the US has accepted that HM is not an "indigenous terror group" in Kashmir and poses a greater threat to the world, eventhough the outfit has confined itself to the Kashmir Valley.
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- The US move is a recognition of India's longstanding position that **cross-border terrorism is behind the crisis in Kashmir.**
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Source: The Indian Express

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