

2 MAY 2019

ANTI-SEMITISM

Why in news?

- As per a recent study, Anti-Semitic attacks worldwide rose 13% in 2018 from the previous year, with the highest number of incidents reported in Western democracies, including the U.S., France, Britain and Germany.

More on news:

- The study found the causes to be mass immigration, economic hardship and opposition to Israel’s policies towards the Palestinians.
- The anti-Semitic attacks are also prevalent in African and South Asian countries.

About Anti-Semitism:

- Anti-Semitism is the hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group
- A person who holds such positions is called an anti-Semite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism.
- History is replete with many instances of anti-Semitic attacks.
- The most glaring anti-Semitic actions can be seen in Nazi Germany under Hitler.
- Adolf Hitler and Anti-Semitism:
- In Germany, the Nazi Party led by Adolf Hitler, which came to power in 1933 instituted repressive legislation which denied the Jews basic civil rights.
- In September 1935, the Nuremberg Laws prohibited sexual relations and marriages between “Aryans” and Jews as racial disgrace for Aryans. It stripped all German Jews of their citizenship.
- The Nazi government targeted 11 million Jews for extermination, and some six million were eventually killed.



MASOOD AZHAR- A GLOBAL TERRORIST

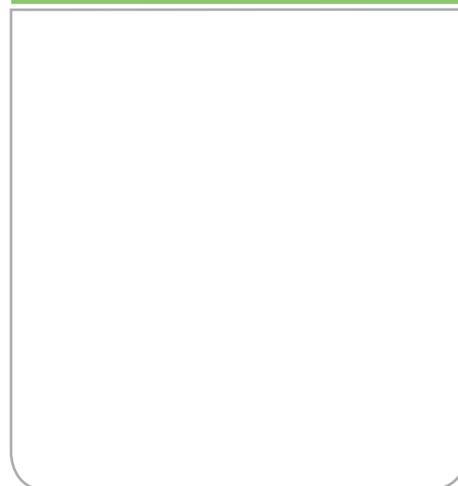
In News:

- UN designates JeM chief MasoodAzhar as global terrorist
- “Reasons for the decision however do not mention the Pulwama attack”

In Brief:

- Jaish-e-Mohammad chief MasoodAzhar was listed as a designated terrorist by the UN Security Council 1267 Committee.
- The listing is a victory for India in a decade-old diplomatic battle waged primarily by India, supported by its likeminded countries which wanted to route out terrorism and most importantly the permanent members of the UNSC who supported India’s cause.

Note



What it would mean?

- A travel ban, arms embargo and asset freeze on Azhar.

P-3's contribution:

- The P-3 or group of three permanent UNSC members, the U.S., the U.K. and France, had co-sponsored a listing request at the committee.
- However, China placed a hold on the request — which normally lasts for three months. This was the fourth such attempt to designate Azhar, over a decade that had gone awry.
- The U.S. circulated a draft resolution (to sanction Azhar) among the UNSC members, i.e., outside the 1267 Committee, presumably to pressure China into either supporting the listing or having to take a stand in open proceedings and risk being seen as supporting terror.

Reasons for listing

The reasons for designating Azhar as a terrorist included

1. His support for the JeM since its founding, being associated with the al-Qaeda by recruiting for them and “participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities or supplying, selling or transferring arms and related material”.
2. His role in recruiting fighters in Afghanistan.
3. The JeM itself was sanctioned by the 1267 Committee in 2001.

U.N. decision in line with our position: MEA

India called it a “step in the right direction”, which demonstrated the international community’s resolve to fight against terrorism and “its enablers”.

About United Nations Security Council resolution 1267:

- It was adopted on 15 October 1999.
- Resolutions 1189, 1193, 1214 recalled on the situations in Afghanistan.
- Osama Bin Laden and associates were designated as terrorists.
- Established a Sanctions Regime to cover individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden and or the Taliban wherever located.
- After the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the sanctions have been applied to individuals and organisations in all parts of the world.
- A consolidated list of people and entities of people associated with al-Qaeda and Taliban, UNSC Committee comes under the regime.
- Laws must be passed with each member nation in order to implement the sanctions.
- Committee receives reports from each nation as to how the work is proceeding, and is able to vary the conditions imposed on any individual as it sees fit.
- There was no right of appeal against listing until December 2006.

Terror listed

The terror list prepared by the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the United Nations, includes **262 individuals** and **83 entities**

Individuals listed apart from Masood Azhar:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▪ Ayman Al-Zawahari:
al-Qaeda leader | ▪ Sidi Mohamed Arhali:
linked to al-Qaeda |
| ▪ Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi:
Islamic State leader | ▪ Ibrahim Hassan Tali Asiri:
Chief bomb-maker for al-Qaeda |
| ▪ Aamir Ali Chaudary:
Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
explosives expert | ▪ Othman al-Ghamdi:
Commander of al-Qaeda |
| ▪ Maulana Fazlullah:
TTP leader
(died last year) | ▪ Ghalib Abdallah al-Zaydi:
Leader of al-Qaeda |
| ▪ Abdul Rehman al-Sindhi:
al-Qaeda operative | ▪ Ali Musa al-Shawah:
Islamic State leader |
| | ▪ Hamza bin Laden:
Son of Osama bin Laden |



Masood Azhar

Note



National Film Archive of India (NFAI)

In News:

- NFAI to preserve photographer Mahendra Kumar's work

In Brief:

- The National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has acquired a treasure trove of cinema memorabilia belonging to still photographer and ace cameraman Mahendra Kumar, an associate of legendary filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak.

About NFAI:

- The need for preserving film as art and historical documents has been recognized all over the world. The task of preserving cinema in all its varied expressions and forms is best entrusted to a national organization with adequate resources, a permanent set-up and the confidence of the local film industry.
- National Film Archive of India (NFAI) was set up in February, 1964 as a media unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India with the primary objective of acquiring and preserving Indian cinematic heritage.
- This includes preservation of film and non-film material including but not limited to celluloid, stills, glass slides, posters, lobby cards, scripts and song booklets.

Heritage sites at risk from global warming

In news:

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and University of Fribourg made a study on glaciers which are designated as World Heritage Sites.

Important aspects of study:

- Glaciers are set to vanish from almost half of U.N.-designated World Heritage sites in less than a century if greenhouse gas emissions are not cut.
- Nearly half the World Heritage sites — 21 out of a total of 46 that have glaciers will lose all their ice by 2100 under a high emissions scenario.
- Dramatic Khumbu Icefall in Everest will vanish within decades.
- Los Glaciares National Park in Argentina, the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks and TeWahipounamu in South West New Zealand, the Grosser Aletschgletscher in the Swiss Alps and Greenland's Jakobshavn Isbrae are expected to lose much of their ice.



Note

About UNESCO World Heritage Site:

- A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area which is selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance, and is legally protected by international treaties.
- The sites are judged important to the collective interests of humanity.
- To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area)



- The program began with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 1972.
- 193 state parties have ratified the convention, making it one of the most widely recognized international agreements and the world's most popular cultural program.
- Italy, with 54 sites, has the most of any country. India has 37 sites.
- Listed sites can obtain funds from the World Heritage Fund.

Chandrayaan 2 gets new launch window

In news:

- After being deferred several times, India's second mission to the moon - Chandrayaan 2 is set to be launched in July.

About Chandrayaan 2:

- It would have three modules namely Orbiter, Lander named Vikram and Rover named Pragyan, all developed by India.
- The mission would land on the southern pole of the moon, which has not been explored much before by any of the countries.
- Chandrayaan 2 would attempt a soft landing the lunar surface.
- Payload: 3290 kg.
- It is planned to be launched using GSLV MK III.
- The payloads will collect scientific information on lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl and water-ice.

Helium – 3:

Unlike Earth, which is protected by its magnetic field, the Moon has been bombarded with large quantities of Helium-3 by the solar wind. It is thought that this isotope could provide safer nuclear energy in a fusion reactor, since it is not radioactive and would not produce dangerous waste products. But so far it has not been possible to create the helium fusion reaction with a net power output.

Note





Note

Note

