

BACK AND FORTH: ON PAKISTAN'S MOVES TO TACKLE TERRORISM

Pakistan must fulfil its FATF obligations by acting against terrorists

Pakistan's moves to tackle terrorism on its soil, particularly cross-border terrorism, have often been described as "one step forward and one step back", when it comes to the broader support terror groups have enjoyed within the country. Thus, it would come as little surprise that within days of issuing a "Statutory Regulatory Order" (SRO) listing (that included Dawood Ibrahim, the LeT's Zaki Ur Rahman Lakhvi, and about 85 other designated terrorists) directing officials to implement the UNSC committee resolutions against them, Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry (MFA) denied that the listing was new. The listing had UNSC and Interpol information on at least five Pakistani passports and three Karachi addresses that belonged to Dawood, the former underworld don and the accused mastermind of Mumbai's 1993 blasts. However, the MFA says that the SRO did not imply an admission that he lives there. Instead, it argues, the move was a routine one, as a part of Pakistan's international commitments. Accordingly, Pakistan is required to align its domestic terror listings with those issued by the UNSC's ISIL and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee (under UNSC Resolutions 1267/1989/2253). Thus far, the domestic listing, maintained under the country's Anti-Terrorism Act by the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), had not included either Dawood or Lakhvi, who was tried briefly for the 26/11 attacks but was granted bail in 2014. In contrast, LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and JeM chief Masood Azhar, who was designated by the UNSC in May 2019, have been added to the domestic NACTA list. The MFA also claims that the listing that included Dawood and Lakhvi had been issued earlier, a claim countered by Indian government sources, who say this is a first.

The confusion over the SRO and Pakistan's disclaimer give credence to the belief that its government lacks a seriousness of purpose when it comes to its actions against all terrorists. If, in fact, the SRO had named these terrorists in past orders, then why has it failed to add them to its domestic listing? If it has included Dawood's addresses and passports on its own SRO, directing officials to ensure everyone on the list does not have access to funding, arms or travel, then for the Foreign Ministry to say it is paying lip service to the FATF directives, is a matter of concern. Finally, regardless of which list Pakistan places any of the terrorists named, and when it did so, the question is what has Pakistan done to investigate, prosecute and apprehend them? In October, Pakistan is expected to face some of these questions at the FATF plenary session, which will decide if its actions merit a reprieve from the grey or "increased monitoring" list, or be downgraded to the black or "high-risk jurisdiction" list and face sanctions. Pakistan needs to show proof of its actions on the ground, rather than going back and forth on the paperwork.

Meanings of Difficult Words:

- ❖ **back and forth** (phrase) – in random directions, particularly in a disorderly manner; from place to place, hither and thither, to and fro, from pillar to post.
- ❖ **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** (noun) – The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.
- ❖ **obligation** (noun) – duty, responsibility, commitment, requirement, necessity.
- ❖ **soil** (noun) – territory.
- ❖ **cross-border** (adjective) – across a border between two countries.
- ❖ **one step forward and two steps back** (phrase) – any progress made is balanced out by problems.
- ❖ **when it comes to** – (phrase) – when considering a specific thing.
- ❖ **broader** superlative adjective of **broad** (adjective) – describing an opinion/support that is shared by many people, or by people of many different kinds.
- ❖ **come as a surprise** (phrase) – to be unexpected, to make someone feel surprised.

- ❖ **at least** (phrase) – at the minimum, no less than.
- ❖ **mastermind** (noun) – planner, organizer, originator.
- ❖ **Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO)** (noun) – an order issued by the government organisation (e.g Foreign Affairs Ministry) to its regulated entities (e.g. State Bank & others) to fully implement the action items listed in it. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan issued Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs) to provide legal cover for implementing sanction measures under the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. These SROs in respect of designated individuals/ entities require assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions.
- ❖ **designated** (adjective) – identified, recognized, named.
- ❖ **Interpol** (noun) – It is an abbreviation of “international police”; “The International Criminal Police Organization – INTERPOL”, which is abbreviated to “ICPO–INTERPOL”. It is an international organisation that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. Headquartered in Lyon, France.
- ❖ **imply** (verb) – say indirectly, suggest, indicate.
- ❖ **sanctions** (noun) – action taken, or an order given to force a country to obey international laws by limiting or stopping trade with that country, by not allowing economic aid for that country, etc (Courtesy: VOA Learning English).
- ❖ **thus far** (phrase) – until now, till now, up to this point.
- ❖ **National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)** (noun) – it is a Pakistani internal counter-terrorism authority. It is mandated to devise a counter-terrorism strategy that should address short, medium and long-term goals and devise action plans for their implementation.
- ❖ **try** (verb) – hear, investigate (a case) and make a formal judgement on it; pass judgement on, adjudge, adjudicate.
- ❖ **briefly** (adverb) – temporarily.
- ❖ **in contrast (to)** (phrase) – in opposition to, be very different from.
- ❖ **counter** (noun) – contradict, negate, rebuff, oppose, dispute.
- ❖ **disclaimer** (noun) – denial, refusal, rejection.
- ❖ **give credence to** (phrase) – accept/admit something as true.
- ❖ **lack** (verb) – be without, be short of, be deficient in.
- ❖ **pay lip service to** (phrase) – approve/support something without taking any steps.
- ❖ **matter of concern** (phrase) – something which causes worry.
- ❖ **regardless of** (phrase) – irrespective of, without consideration of, notwithstanding, in spite of.
- ❖ **prosecute** (verb) – take to court, institute legal action against, charge with, accuse of.
- ❖ **apprehend** (verb) – arrest, catch, capture.
- ❖ **plenary** (noun) – assembly, conference, meeting (attended by all participants).
- ❖ **merit** (verb) – justify, be worthy of, have a claim to.
- ❖ **reprieve** (noun) – cancellation, suspension, postponement (of a punishment or something undesirable event); stay of execution.
- ❖ **grey/watch list** (noun) – a list of countries on observation due to their “strategic deficiencies” in countering terror-financing and money-laundering. The countries put on grey/watch list by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will be subjected to direct monitoring and intense scrutiny by the International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) on terror financing.
- ❖ **downgrade** (verb) – lower in status/ rank/ importance, demote.
- ❖ **jurisdiction** (noun) – territory, region, zone/area.
- ❖ **black list/high-risk jurisdiction list** (noun) – a list of countries which the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) judges to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.
- ❖ **on the ground** (phrase) – in a situation/place where things are happening really/ practically.
- ❖ **rather than** (phrase) – instead of.
- ❖ **paperwork** (noun) – official procedure/ documentation, rule, regulation.

PEOPLE'S PARTIES: ON RESUMPTION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN J&K

Resumption of political activity, and restoration of statehood are a must in J&K

Six mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday vowed to work together for the restoration of its special status under the Indian Constitution. On August 5, 2019, the Centre hollowed out Article 370 and dismembered J&K into two Union Territories through a dubious legislative route. Saturday's joint declaration is a reiteration of their Gupkar Declaration a day before the Centre's move last year. Still, this signals a slow return of political activity in J&K which had been stalled for over a year. With leaders in jail and curbs on communication and gatherings, mainstream politics has been under lockdown even as militancy showed an uptick. Several leaders have since been released, but many still remain in detention, including former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. Besides the PDP's Ms. Mufti, the declaration was signed by NC president Farooq Abdullah, People's Conference chief Sajad Lone, J&K Congress president G.A. Mir, M.Y. Tarigami of the CPI(M) and Muzaffar Shah of the Awami National Conference. They have said their "political activities will be subservient to the sacred goal of reverting to the status of J&K as it existed on 4th August 2019". Regional parties, the J&KPM and the PDF, also supported the declaration.

The Centre's Kashmir strategy apparently assumed that mainstream parties had no popular support and would wilt once the heavy restrictions on their leaders stayed long enough. It also tried, rather naively, that a new cadre of politicians could be raised and a dramatic change in political culture achieved through external stimulants. Defectors from the PDP and panchayat leaders who won in an election boycotted by most parties completely failed to build any alternative politics. The Kashmir policy has been a mix of reckless audacity and ignorance, laced with the BJP's brand of unitary nationalism. Asymmetric power sharing with several regions and the Centre has been critical to the formation and stability of the Indian Union. The current government itself, which is ostensibly opposed to special arrangements, negotiated on one with Naga rebels. The Centre has also reiterated there would be no alteration in any of the existing arrangements in the Northeastern region. In the case of J&K, the mainstream parties with deep social roots have always welded the region close to India. The BJP and the Centre sought to delegitimise them all as 'soft separatists.' They were immobilised and rendered vulnerable before their own people. These moves undermined all elementary principles of democracy and federalism, but also impaired what the Centre claimed it was doing — closer integration of J&K with India. There is a need for immediate course correction. J&K's statehood must be restored and political activities should be freely allowed, for a start.

Meanings of Difficult Words:

- ❖ **resumption** (noun) – restarting, reopening, recommencement.
- ❖ **restoration** (noun) – reinstatement, re-establishment, return.
- ❖ **statehood** (noun) – the condition of being an independent state.
- ❖ **mainstream** (noun) – something (certain beliefs/ideas/activities) which are accepted or recognized by most people as a normal or typical.
- ❖ **vow** (verb) – affirm, pledge, promise/swear, make a commitment.
- ❖ **hollow out** (verb) – remove, undermine, make pointless/useless, weaken/erode.
- ❖ **dismember** (verb) – divide up, partition (a territory).
- ❖ **legislative** (adjective) – governmental, parliamentary, law-making, policy-making.
- ❖ **reiteration** (noun) – the process of repeating something (some action) for clarity/emphasis.
- ❖ **Gupkar Declaration** (noun) – it is a resolution issued after an all-party meeting on August 4, 2019 at the Gupkar residence of NC president Farooq Abdullah. They vowed to fight collectively for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status as guaranteed by the constitution under Article 370.

- ❖ **dubious** (adjective) – suspicious, questionable, doubtful.
- ❖ **stall** (verb) – hinder, hamper, obstruct, impede, stop/halt, restrict.
- ❖ **curb** (noun) – restraint, restriction, control, limitation.
- ❖ **lockdown** (noun) – an emergency protocol implemented by the authorities that prevents people from leaving from a place; An extended state of confinement/encirclement/isolation of a person by the authority.
- ❖ **militancy** (noun) – belligerency, combativeness, contentiousness/defiance (usually to support a cause).
- ❖ **uptick** (noun) – a small increase or upward trend.
- ❖ **detention** (noun) – custody, house arrest, restraint; imprisonment, confinement, incarceration.
- ❖ **besides** (preposition) – in addition to, apart from.
- ❖ **subservient** (adjective) – supportive, conducive, instrumental, advantageous.
- ❖ **sacred** (adjective) – dedicated.
- ❖ **revert to** (verb) – return, go back, change back.
- ❖ **apparently** (adverb) – seemingly, evidently, it appears that.
- ❖ **wilt** (verb) – diminish, dwindle, lessen, weaken, fade.
- ❖ **rather** (adverb) – somewhat.
- ❖ **naively** (adjective) – innocently; naturally, ingenuously.
- ❖ **cadre** (noun) – members of a group; a small group (of people).
- ❖ **stimulant** (noun) – encouragement, impetus, inducement, stimulus.
- ❖ **defector** (noun) – betrayer, turncoat, traitor.
- ❖ **boycott** (verb) – avoid, shun, reject, ban, exclude.
- ❖ **reckless** (adjective) – careless, thoughtless, incautious/heedless.
- ❖ **audacity** (noun) – courage, bravery, boldness, fearlessness.
- ❖ **ignorance** (noun) – unawareness, cluelessness, incomprehension.
- ❖ **(be) laced with** (verb) – infuse, spice up, mix in.
- ❖ **unitary** (adjective) – relating to a system of government in which power is provided to the central government.
- ❖ **nationalism** (noun) – it refers to a system (with narrow set of ideas) created by a group of people who believe their nation is superior to all others. It is also a perception of national superiority and an orientation toward national dominance- called as chauvinism (excessive nationalism).
- ❖ **asymmetric** (adjective) – unequal, differing, dissimilar; lopsided.
- ❖ **ostensibly** (adverb) – apparently, seemingly, allegedly, supposedly.
- ❖ **rebel** (noun) – agitator, insurgent, subversive; dissenter, dissident.
- ❖ **reiterate** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate.
- ❖ **root** (noun) – source, origin.
- ❖ **weld** (verb) – unite, bond, connect, join.
- ❖ **seek** (verb) – try, aim, work towards.
- ❖ **delegitimise** (verb) – reverse/withdraw legitimate status of something.
- ❖ **separatist** (adjective) – dissident, nonconformist, sectarian.
- ❖ **immobilise** (verb) – disable, cripple, paralyse, inactive.
- ❖ **render** (verb) – make, cause to be, cause to become.
- ❖ **vulnerable** (adjective) – weak, powerless, helpless.
- ❖ **undermine** (verb) – reduce, diminish, spoil, damage, weaken.
- ❖ **elementary** (adjective) – basic, fundamental, primary, underlying.
- ❖ **federalism/federal framework/system** (noun) – a system of government in which establishments such as states or provinces share power with a national government.
- ❖ **impair** (verb) – damage, diminish, reduce, weaken, undermine.
- ❖ **course correction** (noun) – modifying, improving, rectifying (the plan of action).
- ❖ **for a start** (phrase) – in the first place.