Declaration of certain individuals as terrorists under new UAPA

News

Invoking the recent amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central Government has decided to declare the following individuals as terrorists and add their names to Schedule 4 of the Act:

Maulana Masood Azhar: chief, founder and key leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad

Hafiz Muhammad: chief, founder and key leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamat-ud-Dawa

Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi: chief operation commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba and one of its founder members

Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar: runs an international underworld crime syndicate and is involved in perpetrating acts of terror

Additional Information

All of the above are involved in terrorist attacks in India, and have been designated as global terrorists under United Nations.

Earlier when terrorist organizations were banned, the individuals associated with it simply changed names and continued to carry out terrorist activities.

Who is a “terrorist” in the UAPA Bill?

The words “terror” or “terrorist” are not defined in the UAPA Bill.

Section 15 of the UAPA defines a “terrorist act” as any act committed with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country.

The original Act dealt with “unlawful” acts related to secession; anti-terror provisions were introduced in 2004.