

As safe haven for most lethal terrorist groups, country poses **3 times** more danger to humanity than Syria, says Oxford study

# ‘PAK A BIGGER TERROR THREAT THAN SYRIA’

By **Geeta Mohan** in New Delhi

IN A scathing report published by Oxford University and the Strategic Foresight Group (SFG), Pakistan has been placed at the top of the list of countries that pose a threat to “humanity” and “global peace”. The report titled ‘Humanity at Risk - Global Terror Threat Indicant’ has highlighted the state sponsorship of terrorism in Pakistan — which makes it three times more a terror risk to humanity than war-torn Syria.

“Pakistan is responsible for three times the terror risk to humanity than Syria poses, or more than five times the risk that Libya poses, and seven times the risk that Iraq poses,” says the report.

It also highlights that Pakistan-based terror groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba, **Turn to Page 2**







(Above) Hafiz Saeed's JuD was recently taken off the list of banned terrorist organisations. (L) ISIS terrorises large swathes of Syria and Iraq & has become the target of largest US military operation in Iraq in years.

## LeT & JeM are a greater risk to humanity than ISIS, says report

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Jaish-e-Mohammad and Afghan Taliban are the biggest threats to world peace.

"If we look at the most dangerous terrorist groups, based on hard facts and statistics, we find that Pakistan hosts or aids a majority of them. Also, there are a significant number of groups based in Afghanistan which operate with the support of Pakistan," the report says.

'Global Terror Threat Indicator' (GTTI) concludes that LeT and JeM are greater threats to humanity than the Islamic State/Daesh.

"If we follow trend-lines rather than headlines, we find that Lashkar-e-Taiba, Taliban, Jaish-e-Mohammed are much greater risk to humanity than ISIS or Daesh at this stage. Indeed, even Al-Nusra Front and Al-Shabaab are greater threat than Daesh. Nevertheless, greater attention is focused on Daesh than the groups that can threaten humanity on a large scale," the report says.

Highly placed sources told India Today TV that South Block has taken note of the findings of the report. "It basically reflects the ground reality, especially in interior Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Balochistan area. The recent removal of Hafiz Saeed from the banned list, the dastardly attack in Kandahar and kidnapping of Iranian personnel show the existence of terrorists operating from Pakistani soil with tactical and financial support from state agencies," said a source.

### Analysis based on over 200 terror groups

The 87-page report was based on an analysis of over 200 terror groups throughout the world. It says that only one-fourth of these organisations are motivated by their ideology.

"I think Pakistan is beyond naming and shaming. One more such report will hardly change its behaviour till they realise that it is hurting them the most or there is a concerted global effort to isolate Pak. Unfortunately, there is no global consensus on how to treat this epicentre of global terror," says Amar Sinha, former secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and former Indian envoy to Afghanistan.

Painting a grave picture in a post 2020 scenario, the report says that the globally designated terrorist and Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed could

# 'JuD's Hafiz Saeed could be Pak PM'

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personnel show existence of terrorists operating from Pakistani soil.

Hafiz Saeed's JuD and the Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation were taken off the list of banned terror organisations since the presidential ordinance against these networks lapsed and the current dispensation did nothing to keep them on the list.

become the prime minister of Pakistan.

"Extremist and religious political parties in Pakistan become increasingly popular. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is able to build its party infrastructure and contest the federal elections successfully in alliance with other extremist groups and active unofficial support from the military. Pakistan then elects Hafiz Saeed as the head of government."

When contacted, Qamar Cheema, Pakistani analyst said,

"Pakistan has secured its territory from non-state actors which had safe heavens here and came from Afghanistan. International communities including the US and major European countries have praised Islamabad for its counter-terrorism efforts."

"This report is motivated and politically tailored as SFG is an Indian think tank and India wants Pakistan to be isolated globally," he added.

India Today TV

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