India looks to US for pushing UN ban on Jaish chief Masood Azhar

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New Delhi: Amid widespread anger over the Pulwama terror attack, India and the US will "very soon" hold another round of dialogue on terrorist designations. Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Maulana Masood Azhar will figure prominently in the talks, official sources said, with Indian authorities likely to push the US to bring another resolution for a UNSC ban on Azhar, an accused in the Pathankot attack who continues to operate with impunity from Pakistan.

India and the US had in 2017 launched a new consultation mechanism for domestic and international terrorist designations after PM Narendra Modi's summit meeting with President Donald Trump.

India sees US support in terrorist designation as evidence of American commitment to end terror. After China blocked a US backed proposal in 2017 to designate Azhar a global terrorist by the UN Security Council, the US has been wary of bringing another such proposal until the time it is assured of support from China.

India has been reluctant to push China on Azhar in the recent past, focusing instead on improving ties with China after the Doklam standoff. While Beijing did express sympathy on Friday for the Pulwama victims and declared that it strongly condemns terrorism, it remained non-committal to support India's demand for an international ban on Azhar. The Pulwama attack, though, is certain to see India once again placing the Azhar issue on top of its agenda with Beijing.

RAGING STREETS: A protester in Jammu runs past burning vehicles