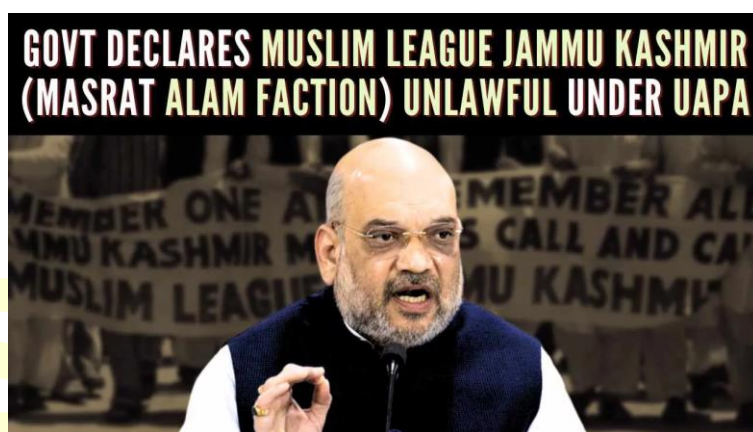


# Centre Bans Muslim League Jammu & Kashmir Masarat Alam Faction

## Why In News

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** banned the Masarat Alam faction of the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for five years.



- Union **Home Minister Amit Shah** posted on his official X handle, “The ‘Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction)’/MLJK-MA is declared as an ‘Unlawful Association’ under UAPA.

## Who is Masarat Alam

- **Led by Masarat Alam**, the successor of the late **Syed Ali Shah Geelani** and incumbent Hurriyat Conference chairman, the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir is a separatist organisation.
- Masarat Alam is currently in Jail and has been under detention for almost 13 years now.
- Though he was released after the late **Syed Ali Shah Geelani** requested the release of political prisoners, Alam was again detained after Pakistani flags were waved during protests organised by him.
- As per reports by FirstPost, Alam allegedly orchestrated protests from jail in 2016 after meeting some people.



## MLJK-MA

- The **ministry of home affairs (MHA)** banned a faction of **Muslim League Jammu Kashmir**, led by separatist leader **Masarat Alam Bhat**, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for five years for indulging in “**anti-national and secessionist activities**”, with home minister Amit Shah asserting that those who work against the “unity, sovereignty, and integrity of the nation” will not be spared.



- In a statement, MHA said the objectives of the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) were **to attain freedom for Jammu & Kashmir** from India, merge it with Pakistan, and establish Islamic rule.
- “The organisation’s members have been involved in **secessionist activities**, **raising funds** through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy

organisations, to support terrorist activities and sustain stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu & Kashmir,” the statement said.

- The home ministry emphasised that the outfit and its members **show disrespect towards the constitutional authority** and setup of the country.
- “Their unlawful activities undermine the integrity, sovereignty, security, and communal harmony of India,” it said.



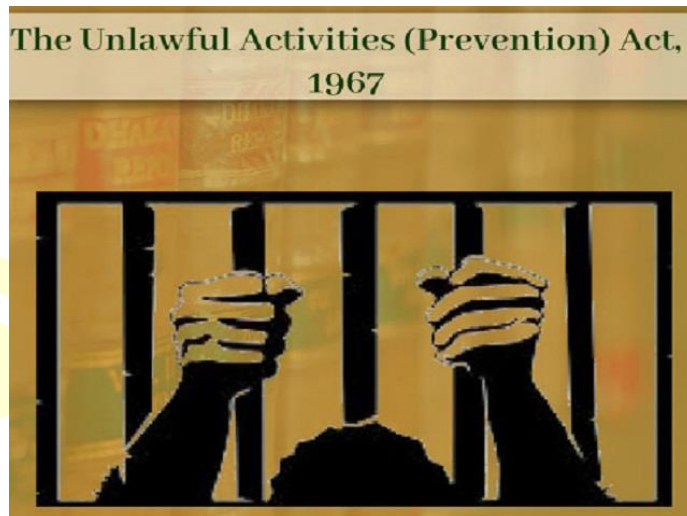
- The MHA also said that there have been indications of the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) having **linkages with banned terrorist organisations**.
- “The outfit and its members have been **supporting terrorist activities** with the intent to create terror in the country, thereby endangering its security and public order.
- Their **anti-national activities demonstrate** disregard and disrespect for the constitutional authority and sovereignty of India,” it said.



- Bhat is known for his **anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda**. He became the chairman of the hardline faction of the Hurriyat Conference following the **death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani**.
- Officials at North Block, who didn't want to be named, said Bhat has been in jail since 2010 for his alleged involvement in violent protests in Kashmir valley.

## UAPA Implication On MLJK-MA

- With **UAPA imposed on MLJK-MA**, the organisation will now be subject to the stipulations and penalties outlined in the UAPA Act.
- These can include a ban on its activities, confiscation of property, and criminal penalties for its members.



- “Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of the section 3 of the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967)**, the Central government hereby declares the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) as an unlawful association.
- The Central government hereby directs that this notification shall, subject to any order that may be made **under section 4** of the said Act, have effect for a period of five years from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette,” it said.