National Investigation Agency (NIA)

Prelims – ***Current events of national and international importance***

Mains (GS III) | *Various Security Forces & Agencies & Their Mandate*

Why in News?

In a major update in the Pahalgam terror attack case, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently handed over the investigation to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

- It is the ***central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency*** in India.
- **Established in** - 2008.
- **Head Quarters** - New Delhi.
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Purpose -** To ***investigate and prosecute offences*** affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States and actions violating existing Acts and international treaties.
- **Established under - *National Investigation Agency Act, 2008*** after the deadly 26/11 terror attacks on Mumbai.
- **Investigation of Scheduled offences -** If the Central government believes that a Scheduled Offence has been committed and is to be investigated under the Act, it may, Suo motu (on its own), direct the agency.
- These include offences under Acts such as the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967.
- The Centre can also receive reports from state governments for such cases.
- The State Government shall extend all assistance and co-operation to the Agency for investigation of the Scheduled Offences.
- **Special Courts** - The legislation grants authority to both central and state governments to set up Special Courts for adjudicating scheduled offences, with the right to appeal to the High Court of the relevant state.

National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019

• **Jurisdiction of the NIA-** Empowered NIA to investigate scheduled offences involving Indian citizens or Indian interests that are committed outside India.
• **Scheduled offences –** The mandate of NIA has also been expanded to investigate offences related to Explosive Substances Act, 1908, Human Trafficking, Counterfeit currency or bank notes, Cyber Terrorism and Arms Act, 1959.
• **Special Courts -** The legislation grants the central government the authority to appoint Sessions Courts as Special Courts for the adjudication of specified offences.
• Additionally, state governments are now permitted to designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts as well.
• When more than one Special Court has been designated for any area, the senior-most judge will distribute cases among the courts.

Reference

IndiaTVNews | National Investigation Agency

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering