# NIA (Amendment) Bill, 2019

## Why in News?

The Lok Sabha has passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

## What is NIA?

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was **set up in 2009** under the **NIA Act, 2008**.
- It was set up in the wake of the Mumbai terror attack.
- At present, NIA is functioning as the **Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency** in India.
- It aims to be a thoroughly **professional investigative agency** matching the best international standards at the national level, by developing into a highly trained, partnership-oriented workforce.
- It aims to **discourage** the existing and potential terrorist groups/individuals.
- It aims to develop as a **storehouse of terrorist related information**.

## What are the provisions of NIA act, 2008?

- **Type of offences** - NIA can investigate offences under Acts such as the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967.
- **NIA's jurisdiction -** For the offences under its purview, NIA officers have the same power as other police officers and these extend across the country.
- **Trial Courts** - The existing Act allows the Centre to constitute special courts for NIA's trials.

## What are the changes in NIA (Amendment) Bill 2019?

- **Type of offences** that the NIA can investigate and prosecute is now expanded.
- This will enable NIA to additionally investigate offences related to human trafficking, counterfeit currency, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.
- **NIA's jurisdiction -** The Bill gives NIA officers the power to investigate offences committed outside India. The Special Court in New Delhi will have jurisdiction over these cases.
- Its jurisdiction outside India will be subject to international treaties and

domestic laws of other countries.

- **Special trial courts** can be designated by the Central government for the offences that come under NIA's purview or the "scheduled offences".
- The Bill enables the Centre to designate sessions courts as special courts.
- The Centre is required to consult the Chief Justice of the High Court under which the Sessions Court is functioning, before designating it.
- The state governments may also designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences.

**Source: The Indian Express, PRS.**

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