

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central counter-terrorism agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Security forces and agencies and their mandate is an important topic in the internal security segment of the [UPSC syllabus](#). In this article, you can read about the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for the civil services exam.

National Investigation Agency

The NIA is the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in the country. It was created in 2008 after the [Mumbai terror attack](#) the same year.

- The NIA can investigate terror cases across the country without having to get permission from the states.
- The agency investigates terror offences, waging war against the country, offences on nuclear facilities, etc.
- It came into force after the Parliament passed the National Investigation Agency Act 2008.
- The agency's aim is to become a professional investigating agency matching global standards.
- It also aims at being a deterrent for existing and potential terrorists, apart from being a storehouse of information on terrorism.
- The NIA functions under the Home Affairs Ministry.
- The agency is headquartered in New Delhi and has 8 regional offices across India.
- It is headed by a Director-General (an IPS officer).
- The NIA maintains the '**NIA Most Wanted List**'.

NIA Mission

The stated missions of the NIA are as follows:

- Investigate professionally the scheduled offences utilising the latest scientific methods.
- Facilitating a speedy and effective trial.
- Becoming a result-oriented and professional organisation, that upholds the Indian Constitution and the law of the land, and that gives utmost importance to human rights and dignity.
- Creating a professional workforce through the means of regular training and best practices exposure.
- Showing scientific temper and a spirit of progress while discharging their duties.
- Ushering in the latest technology and modern methods in the activities of the NIA.
- Having cordial relations with the central and state governments, and other law enforcement agencies of the country.
- Helping the states and other agencies with the investigation of terror-related cases.
- Create and share with states and other agencies a database of all information to terrorists.
- Analysing terrorism-related laws in India and periodically reviewing them and suggesting any required changes.
- Win the citizens' confidence by means of fearless and selfless efforts.

NIA (Amendment) Act 2019

The NIA (Amendment) Act 2019 was passed by the Parliament, and received the presidential assent in July 2019. This Act has made a few major changes to the original NIA Act of 2008. The changes are discussed below:

- The amendment allows the agency to investigate the following new offences as well:

- Human trafficking
 - Counterfeit currency or bank notes related offences
 - Sale or manufacture of prohibited arms
 - Offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908
 - Cyberterrorism
- The amendment also expands the jurisdiction of the NIA. Now, it has the authority to investigate offences that are committed **outside Indian territory** subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other nations.
- The amendment also allows the central government to constitute **Special Courts** to conduct trials of scheduled offences.
 - Accordingly, the government will have the power to designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts, after consulting with the Chief Justice of the High Court (under which the Sessions Court functions).
 - The Act also authorises the state governments to designate Special Courts.
 - The Government can appoint more than Special Court in an area.
 - Currently, there are 38 Special NIA Courts across the states and 7 across the UTs.
 - The Special Courts' judges are appointed by the GOI in consultation with the High Court Chief Justices of the area.
 - The trials of the NIA Special Courts have precedence over the trial of the accused in any other case in any other court.

For more on [Central Intelligence And Investigative Agencies In India](#), click on the linked article.

UPSC Questions related to National Investigation Agency

Who is the head of National Investigation Agency?

The Chief of the NIA is Yogesh Chander Modi (IPS), who is its Director-General.

Is NIA a statutory body?

Yes, the NIA is a statutory body.

When was NIA formed?

NIA was formed in 2008.

