

Hong Kong National Security Law

July 28, 2021

In news

A 24 year old is found guilty of terrorism and inciting secession, became the first person convicted under Hong Kong's national security law.

About Hong Kong national security law.

- The National Security Law was passed by China on June 30 last year before the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's transfer from Britain.
- It was titled 'The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region'.
- It was unanimously passed by the Chinese government and immediately made a part of Hong Kong's legal system.
- Crimes of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces are **punishable by a maximum sentence of life in prison.**
- Those found guilty will not be allowed to stand for public office.
- Companies can be fined if convicted under the law.
- Beijing will establish a **new security office in Hong Kong**, with its own law enforcement personnel – neither of which would come under the local authority's jurisdiction.
- This office can send some cases to be tried in mainland China – but Beijing has said it will only have that power over a "tiny number" of cases.
- In addition, **Hong Kong will have to establish its own national security commission to enforce the laws, with a Beijing-appointed adviser.**

- **Hong Kong's chief executive will have the power to appoint judges to hear national security cases,** raising fears about judicial autonomy.
- **China will have power over how the law should be interpreted,** not any Hong Kong judicial or policy body. If the law conflicts with any Hong Kong law, the Beijing law takes priority.
- Some trials will be **heard behind closed doors.**
- People suspected of breaking the law can be **wire-tapped and put under surveillance.**
- Management of foreign non-governmental organisations and news agencies will be strengthened.
- **The law will also apply to non-permanent residents** and people from outside [Hong Kong].who are not permanent residents of Hong Kong.
- It criminalises any act of:
 - secession – breaking away from the country.
 - subversion – undermining the power or authority of the central government.
 - terrorism – using violence or intimidation against people.
 - collusion with foreign or external forces.
- **Punishment:** Life imprisonment is the maximum punishment for all offences and can be followed by lesser penalties.