

UAPA Amendment Act

May 15, 2020

What are the amendments to the Act?

- The central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism. The amendment additionally empowers the government to **designate individuals** as terrorists on the same grounds.
- Investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above. The amendment additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the **rank of Inspector or above**, to investigate cases.
- The Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act. The Schedule lists nine treaties, including the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), and the Convention against Taking of Hostages (1979). The amendment adds another treaty to the list- **International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)**.
- The amendments give powers to the **Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)** to **attach properties** acquired from proceeds of terrorism. Earlier, the law required that the NIA take prior permission from the respective state police chief to attach the proceeds of terrorism.