

Word 'Anti-national' not defined in Statutes

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In news- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha that the word 'anti-national' has not been defined in statutes.

More information on the word anti-national-

- **The word 'anti-national' has not been defined in Statutes.**
- However, **there are criminal legislations and various judicial pronouncements** to sternly deal with unlawful and subversive activities which are detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country.
- **The Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976 inserted in the Constitution Article 31D (during Emergency) which defined "anti-national activity" and this Article 31D was, subsequently, omitted by the Constitution (3rd Amendment) Act, 1977.**
- In 2019, when the National Crime Records Bureau (**NCRB**) **released the annual Crime in India report** for the year 2017, it **included for the first time a new chapter on "Crime Committed by Anti National Elements."**
- The chapter listed – *"North East insurgents, Left Wing Extremists and Terrorists (including Jihadi terrorists)"* as the three anti-national elements.
- According to the NCRB report, these three elements were responsible for 398 violent attacks that took place in 2020.
- **Parliament's standing committee on communication and information technology, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor**, in its report on "ethical standards in media coverage" **recommended** that the government properly define terms such as "anti-national attitude" to remove

any ambiguity in interpretation.