



## Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

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### Why In News

- Recently, many activists, journalists and students have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in different cases across the country.
- UAPA was passed in **1967**. It **aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India**.
  - **Unlawful activity** refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the **territorial integrity and sovereignty of India**.
- The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the **Centre deems an activity as unlawful** then it may, **by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so**.
- It has **death penalty and life imprisonment** as highest punishments.
- Under UAPA, **both Indian and foreign nationals** can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
- Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can **file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests** and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.
- The **2004 amendment**, added "**terrorist act**" to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned.
  - Till 2004, "unlawful" activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
- In August, Parliament cleared the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists** on certain grounds provided in the Act.
  - The Act empowers the **Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA)** to grant approval of **seizure or attachment of property** when the case is investigated by the said agency.
  - The Act empowers the **officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above**, to **investigate** cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.

**Source: TH**