



In India, the Parliament has enacted a series of National Security and anti-terror Laws such as Preventive Detention Act, Maintenance of Internal Security Act, National Security Act, Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, Prevention of Terrorism Act, etc. all in the attempt to uphold the Sovereignty, Security and Integrity of the nation.

**Body:**

- **The recent invocations of 'National Security' laws in the country:**
  - **Uttar Pradesh (UP) government** has invoked the draconian **National Security Act (NSA)** against 139 people; in cow slaughter cases for 76 of them.
  - Thirteen arrests were linked to anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests in the state
  - **Madhya Pradesh government** has ordered to invoke National Security Act, 1980 in view of the several incidents of **attacks on medical and police personnel** serving people amid the global pandemic.
  - It is important that the states and the Centre adopt a cautious approach on the use of the NSA, and indeed other such extraordinary laws like the **Public Security Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**.
  - Else, these well-intended, and perhaps even necessary, laws will become tools to dis-empower citizens and will contribute to a rising record of violation of civil liberties—between 2017 and 2018, **as per NCRB, NSA invocations rose by more than a third, from 518 to 697.**
- **Concerns related to National Security laws:**
  - **Need No Record of Detentions under the NSA:** The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which collects and analyses crime data in the country, does not include cases under the NSA in its data as no FIRs are registered. Hence, no figures are available for the exact number of detentions under the NSA.
  - In recent cases, different State governments have invoked the stringent provisions of the NSA to detain **citizens for questioning the policies of the government in a democratic manner**. **Ex:** Criticisms against CAA protests, arrests in J&K etc
  - Some constitutional experts argue that the governments sometimes use the NSA as an **extra-judicial power**.
  - NSA has come under wide criticism for its misuse by the authorities. Experts describe the validity of the Act even during peacetime as '**anachronism**'.
  - The police make use of NSA when **they are unwilling or unable to make a criminal case**. Instances of journalists critical of the establishment being charged with NSA are becoming common.
  - The **vague language** of the law means NSA being used for the detention of individuals based on the government's satisfaction that an individual is a threat to foreign relations, national security, public order, or the maintenance of essential supplies and services.
- **for such laws in a democratic country such as India:**
- **Yes:**
  - **The stringent laws are required to counter terrorism.** This belief is inspired by the logic that such **laws will deter terrorists from indulging in acts of terrorism.**