Parliament passes the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019

Context:
The Rajya Sabha passed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019.

Details:

- Home Minister Amit Shah said that terrorism has no religion and individuals of one religion must not be victimized.
- He also said that terrorist acts are committed not by organizations but by individuals.
- Declaring an organization as a terrorist organization will not stop the individuals behind it.
- The Minister said that only those individuals who participate in terrorist activities, aid those indulging in such activities, propagate the ideology of terrorism and members of known terrorist organizations will be declared as terrorists after this amendment is passed.
- The Amendment gives powers to DG, NIA to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.
- Currently, the law requires that NIA take prior permission from the respective state DGP to attach the proceeds of terrorism. This delays the process as often such properties are in different states, the Minister added.
- Earlier, officers of ranks DSP and above were empowered to investigate cases under UAPA as per Section 43. The Amendment seeks to empower officers with the rank of inspectors and above to do the same.