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Major Roles & Functions of CBI - Why is Central Bureau of Investigation in News!

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is India's federal investigative agency. It is the watchdog of the nation to arrest the growing menace of corruption and also to investigate the economic and other conventional offences. In unprecedented developments, there has been a lot of controversy around the CBI raids and to contain this M Nageshwar Rao has been appointed as the interim director of the CBI. He will take over the duties and functions of CBI with immediate effect as per a recent order from the central government. So, let's know the roles, functions and power of CBI. Read this article to know all about the Central Bureau of Investigation and also get to know why is it in the news.

History of CBI

- The origin of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was during the 2nd World War for the purpose of investigating bribery and corruption in the war and supply department.
- At an early stage of World War II, the Government of India realized that the huge amount of expenditures had given a chance to the anti-social elements, both in ranks of officials and non-officials, to engage in bribery and corruption at the cost of the public and the Government of India.
- In 1941 the Government of India passed an executive order setting up the Special Police Establishment (SPE) under a DIG in the then Department of War with mandate to investigate cases of bribery and corruption with which War and Supply Department was concerned.
- By the end of 1942, the activities of the SPE were broadened to include cases of corruption on Railways also, presumably because the Railways were vitally concerned with movement and supply of war materials.
- The Government of India issued an Ordinance in 1943, which constituted the Special Police Force and vested it with the powers of looking into certain crimes in connection with the departments of the Central Government committed anywhere in British India.
- The need for a Central Government Agency was felt even after the war to investigate cases of bribery and corruption, the Ordinance was promulgated as the Delhi Special Police Establishment Ordinance of 1946. In the same year, the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was brought into existence.





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- The SPE was renamed as the Central Bureau of Investigation in 1963 according to the notification of the Home Ministry.

Structure of the CBI

The CBI is headed by a Director who is generally an IPS officer with a rank of Director General of Police.

Presently, the following are the part of CBI Constitution, that take care of the different offences that the CBI currently investigates:

1. **Anti-Corruption Division:** This division is responsible for the collection of information with regards to cases of bribery and corruption, and tasks related to the preventive aspects of corruptions. They investigate cases against public servants under the control of the Central Government and cases against public servants working under state authorities who come under the jurisdiction of the CBI.
2. **Special Crimes Division:** This division of the CBI investigates cases relating to a wide variety of crimes and offences like murders, kidnappings, rapes, drug trafficking and so on, which are committed by organised criminal families and gangs, who pose a major threat to the public tranquillity and safety. CBI also undertakes investigation and prosecution of other IPC offences as well as offences under local and special laws notified under the DSPE Act.
3. **Economic Offences Division:** This part of the CBI was instituted on the 29th of April, 1963. It deals with various economy-related offences as mentioned in section 3 of the DSPE Act. These offences include acts like serious frauds in Banks, Stock Exchanges, Joint Stock companies, Public Limited Companies and so on.
4. **Directorate of Prosecution:** This division deals with the legal actions on people who have been arrested by the other divisions. Its functions include conducting and supervising the cases pending trial, appeal and revision in courts.
5. **Policy and Coordination Division:** The Policy Division deals with all those matters which involve policy, procedure, organization, vigilance and security. Other important tasks include coordinating with ministries, publicity and the implementation of special programmes regarding vigilance and security in the CBI.
6. **Central Forensic laboratory:** This division includes a forensic Science laboratory to help out with investigations being conducted by both, the police and the officers of the CBI.

Duties and Functions of CBI



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The CBI is a multidisciplinary investigation agency of the Government of India and undertakes the investigation of corruption-related cases, economic offences and cases of conventional crime. It normally confines its activities in the anti-corruption field to offences committed by the employees of the Central Government and Union Territories and their public sector undertakings.

The CBI acts as the “National Central Bureau” of Interpol in India. The Interpol Wing of the CBI coordinates requests for investigation-related activities originating from Indian law enforcement agencies and the member countries of the Interpol. The following are the functions of CBI:

1. Investigating cases of corruption, bribery and misconduct of Central government employees.
2. Investigating cases relating to infringement of fiscal and economic laws, that is, breach of laws concerning export and import control, customs and central excise, income tax, foreign exchange regulations and so on. However, such cases are taken up either in consultation with or at the request of the department concerned.
3. Investigating serious crimes, having national and international ramifications, committed by organized gangs of professional criminals.
4. Coordinating the activities of the anti-corruption agencies and the various state police forces.
5. Taking up, on the request of a state government, any case of public importance for investigation.
6. Maintaining crime statistics and disseminating criminal information.

Why is CBI in the news?

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in an unprecedented development, conducted raids inside its own headquarters and arrested Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Devinder Kumar. The officer was arrested in connection with a bribery case against CBI's special director Rakesh Asthana, on 22nd October 2018.
- Kumar has been arrested on the allegations of forgery in recording the statement of Sathish Sana, who had alleged to have paid bribes to get relief in the case. Asthana, who was booked by the agency on bribery charges, had complained against CBI Director Alok Verma on August 24, 2018 that he had taken a bribe of Rs 2 crore from Satish Sana to give him relief in the matter.
- On 24th October 2018 morning, M Nageshwar Rao was appointed as the interim director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with immediate effect. Nageshwar Rao, a 1986 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Odisha





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cadre, was working as the Joint Director in the investigating agency. He will look after the duties and functions of Director, CBI, and will take over the duties and functions with immediate effect, read an order from the central government.

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