

Difference Between Intelligence Agency and Investigation Agency

The key difference between Intelligence Agency and Investigation Agency is that the mandate to investigate offenses is not given to IB but to Investigation Agency. Both agencies play a big role in safeguarding the nation. The following table focuses on the comparison between the two agencies.

Important Difference Between Intelligence Agency and Investigation Agency

Type of Agency	Intelligence Agency	Investigation Agency
Agencies	Intelligence Bureau (IB) Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
Role	Gather intelligence Research and analysis of intel Counter-intelligence Terrorist infiltration VIP security	Carry out arrests, and interrogations Can investigate any occurrence that is classified as a crime under Indian Law
Power to Arrest	Cannot arrest or interrogate	Can carry out arrests
Incidents	Provide intel for other agencies Keep an eye on suspicious activities and people It obtains intelligence from humans, electronic devices, and covert informers.	Government corruption Financial frauds Murders or homicides Terrorism (NIA solely works on anti-terrorism related probes)

Ways of working	Overt and covert means are used by intelligence agencies to work on operations	Do not work covertly
Workforce	Mostly classified	Not classified

Intelligence Agencies and Investigation Agencies of India

Intelligence and investigation agencies both are important for a nation. Nations develop intelligence and investigation agencies to protect themselves from internal and external threats. There is a stark difference between Intelligence Agency and Investigation Agency. Intelligence agencies collect intel or information while the investigation agencies take action on the information.

Intelligence Agency

The Intelligence Bureau can be traced back to British rule in India. After the first war of independence in 1857, the intelligence group was formed to keep an eye on developments of revolt among the soldiers. It was established in 1887 as the Central Special Branch following independence. RAW was established in 1968 as an external research and intelligence agency. Some of the important intelligence agencies include the Intelligence Bureau (IB), National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

Investigation Agency

The investigation agencies are the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Investigation agencies like the CBI are responsible for investigating crimes and arresting people involved in unlawful activities.

The different branches of CBI include the Anti-Corruption Division, Special Crimes Division, Directorate of Prosecution, Economic Offences Division, Policy and Coordination Division, Administration Division, and Central Forensic Science Laboratory.