

Strengthening of the Extradition Process under the Leadership of the Union Home and Cooperation Minister

India's Earlier Approach to Extradition

- Earlier, India's approach to the extradition process was reactive.
- The biggest problem → There was a 'vacuum' of political will regarding extradition.
- Unfortunately, this country has even seen a time when, let alone catching fugitive criminals, thousands of innocent Indians lost their lives because of them
 - They were helped to leave the country overnight (Bhopal Gas Tragedy)
- Extradition laws had become outdated → Extradition treaties exist with only 37 countries.
- There was no separate law to catch economic fugitives and seize their assets.
- The 'track record' of extradition was very poor
 - Between 2004 and 2013 → On average only 4 fugitives were extradited per year, while 110 requests remained pending.
- The extradition process was very complicated due to incomplete documentation and slow proceedings.
- Foreign courts did not permit extradition.
- Legal and judicial hurdles, such as
 - India's requests were rejected due to protection against double jeopardy and the principle of dual criminality.
- There was a lack of coordination and integrated strategy among ministries and departments,
 - Tasks such as information-sharing on fugitives, location tracking, and issuing "Red Corner Notices" moved at a slow pace.

Reforms in the Extradition Process after 2018 under the Leadership of Modi ji

- Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi ji, as a priority, implemented the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act in 2018, which enforced strictness against fugitives and also paved the way for bringing them back.

- **Then, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji, under the guidance of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, made the extradition of fugitives a ‘national priority’.**

Contributions and Changes during the Tenure of Hon’ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah

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- **Since 2019, under the leadership of Hon’ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji, India has built an integrated, intelligence-led and technology-driven model against fugitives.**
- **Carrying forward the Hon’ble Prime Minister's vision, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji emphasised three pillars against fugitives:**
 - **Global operations, strong coordination, smart diplomacy**
- **Through policy reform, improvement in structural mechanisms, and the latest technology**
 - **A “whole of government” approach was adopted and inter-departmental coordination was established**
- **The Home Minister clearly stated that the issue of fugitive criminals is linked to the country’s sovereignty, economic stability, law and order, and national security.**
 - **The NIA Amendment Act was brought in 2019.**
 - **The UAPA Amendment Act was brought in 2019.**
 - **Action was no longer limited to organisations alone.**
 - **The scope of action expanded to individual terrorists, handlers, funding networks, and support systems based abroad.**
- **After 2020, the process of bringing fugitives back to India was pursued in ‘mission mode’.**
- **In 2022, India hosted the 90th INTERPOL General Assembly.**
 - **The Home Minister gave the message of “communication, collaboration and cooperation” in global policing at this meet.**
- **In 2023, ‘3 new judicial laws’: Under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, Hon’ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji replaced 160-year-old**

colonial laws by adopting the ‘3 new judicial laws’ → This is the biggest reform of the 21st century.

- Several **timely reforms** were made in this, such as:
 - For the first time, in Sections 355 and 356 of the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita**
 - A provision for **‘trial in absentia’** was also introduced,
 - Even in the **absence of fugitive criminals**
 - The **entire process** from ‘trial to conviction’ can be completed.

Provisions in the New Laws:

- If previously recorded evidence or witness statements are available in a case
 - They can be used in the ongoing trial against the fugitive accused.
- If the prosecution had recorded statements of certain witnesses before the accused absconded → Those statements remain valid.
- The BNSS has a provision to record the entire proceedings (especially witness statements) via video recording as much as possible.
- Section 356 has a provision to record witness testimony through audio-video means.
- If the absconding accused is arrested or voluntarily appears in court → There is a provision to re-examine the witnesses.
 - This means there will be no need to start the trial from the beginning again.
 - At the same time, the accused will be given an opportunity to present their side under the principle of ‘natural justice’.

BHARATPOL: Increased Information-Sharing between India and the World

- Launched by the Hon’ble Union Home Minister in January 2025 to increase coordination, contact and dialogue between India and global agencies.
- A national-level portal was launched for coordination and information-sharing with INTERPOL.

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Fraud/Financial Crimes	-	-	-	01	-	04	03	01	09
Terrorist activity/Anti-national activity/ Narco Terror	-	-	01	04	02	04	05	01	17
Organized crime/Gangsters/Extortion	01	01	-	04	03	05	14	14	42
Murder/Robbery/Violent Crime	06	06	03	11	07	11	09	09	62
Sexual Offences/Rape/POCSO	02	-	04	13	04	15	13	02	53
Narcotics/NDPS/Drug Trafficking	-	-	02	01	-	01	07	05	16
Smuggling/Fake Currency/Cyber/Contraband	-	-	04	02	-	02	02	02	12
Human Trafficking /Kidnapping	-	-	01	01	04	01	08	03	18
Other,	-	-	08	03	17	00	09	08	45
Total	09	07	23	40	37	43	70	45	274

- **‘Operation Trishul’** was run to track the geo-location of fugitives.
 - With INTERPOL’s cooperation, the location of the criminals in hiding was established based on satellite, surveillance, and digital footprint.
 - Fugitives had changed their names or identities abroad, but they were still tracked down through technology and profile-mapping.
 - Technologies such as hearing cases via video conferencing were also used to speed up the extradition process.
- Under the guidance of Hon’ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji, extradition requests began to be prepared in a more professional and standardised format.
 - Written assurances were given, keeping in mind the documentation requirements and legal expectations of each country.

- In the last 3 years, Red Corner Notices have been published against 401 fugitive criminals.

Crime Category	2026	2025	2024	Total
Fraud / Financial Crime	57	26	32	115
Terrorist Activity / Anti-National Activity / Narco-Terror	12	11	19	42
Organised Crime / Gangster / Extortion	15	11	10	36
Murder / Robbery / Violent Crime	42	30	18	90
Sexual Offences / Rape / POCSO	6	1	7	14
Narcotics / NDPS / Drug Trafficking	24	18	10	52
Smuggling / Fake Currency / Cyber / Contraband	2	2	1	5
Human Trafficking / Kidnapping	2	2	1	5
Other	22	11	9	42
Total	182	112	107	401

- Fugitives were brought back from at least 36 countries/jurisdictions, and around 18 states/union territories received them.
- Those brought back include individuals **wanted in terrorism, gangster, financial offence, narcotics, murder, rape and POCSO cases.**
- This campaign extends across terrorism, pro-Khalistan extremism, gangster-terror convergence, narcotics, cyber fraud and fake currency.
- The extradition of **Tahawwur Hussain Rana** from the USA is a major example of India's resolve and patient **legal-diplomatic effort** in complex terror cases.
- In cases related to Jammu & Kashmir, fugitives based abroad were being used to run terror, narco-terror and cross-border support networks.
- Cases such as **Mohammad Arshad, Mohammad Rafiq Nazar, Imtiaz Khandu and Farooq Naiku** struck directly at the external support system of the J&K terror network.
- The **return of fugitives linked to PFI** disrupted the ecosystem of funding, radicalisation and safe havens built abroad.
- Cases related to Abdul Rahman, Mohammad Sajjad Alam, Kodje Mohammad Sharif and Mohammad Ghouse Nayazi increased pressure on extremist networks.
- Action on the **overlap of pro-Khalistan, gangster-terror and organised crime** is a major achievement of **India's fugitive strategy.**

- Cases such as Rajbir Singh, Parminder Singh Pindi, Baljit Singh and Ramanjit Singh weakened networks supporting violence in India from abroad.
- In gangster cases, the return of Anmol Bishnoi, Aman Bhainswal, Akshay Bishnoi, Ankit Bishnoi, Sachin Bishnoi and Vikram Barad strengthened deterrence.
- These cases made it clear that orchestrating violence in India from a command centre set up in foreign location will not be allowed.
- The joint use of **law enforcement, intelligence and diplomacy** proved effective in **narcotics and narco-terror cases**.
- Cases related to Saleem Dola, Sheikh Nisar Ahmed, Taher Saleem Dola, Naveen Cheechkar and Lijo Jose established drug trafficking as a transnational security challenge.
- Cases linked to Nepal showed the importance of open borders, cross-border crime, and operational trust with neighbouring countries.
- 19 arrests and 15 deportations in a cyber-criminal network operating from Nepal marked a major success of intelligence-led coordination.
- Nepal-based coordination proved useful in cases of fake currency, money mules, robbery, narcotics, murder and gangster crime.
- In economic offences and fraud cases, the return of Akshit Khandelwal, Harshit Jain, Monica Kapoor, Angad Singh and Subhash Parab widened the scope of the strategy.
- The delay, distance and legal complexity used by economic offenders are now being weakened through effective coordination.
- Swift extraditions in serious crimes, such as the Luthra Brothers and Shahul Hameed cases, strengthened public and victim families' trust.
- The return of accused in rape, POCSO and other serious crimes proved the usefulness of LOC (Look Out Circular) and INTERPOL channels.
- Cooperation with the UAE, Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the USA, the UK, Germany, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and other countries was important.
- **The basis of success is not mere coincidence, but credibility, legal preparedness, diplomatic persistence and sustained follow-up.**
- **In domestic coordination, the IB, CBI, RAW, NIA, ED, MEA, NCB, DGGI and state police → All shared a role.**

- This model reflects a **“Whole of Government”** approach, where central and state agencies together deliver swift justice to victims.
- The formation of a Standing Focus Group under IB’s **Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)** in January 2026 is an important institutional step.
 - This group provides support on fugitive priorities, dossier standardisation, closing information gaps, following up with foreign partners, and giving national support to state-level cases.
 - Fugitives based abroad are not inactive case files, but live operational threats.
- **Every successful return increases public trust, supports victims, strengthens prosecution, and breaks the morale of networks.**
- **The core message is clear → India will ensure accountability across borders too, with patience, professionalism and firm resolve.**