Defence & Security · GS - III

Transnational organised crime increasingly challenges national security by exploiting differences in legal systems and law-enforcement capabilities across countries. Examine the role of international cooperation in addressing this threat, with reference to India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Transnational organised crime, extradition, INTERPOL, UNTOC, mutual legal assistance, intelligence sharing, cross-border gangs, money laundering, international law-enforcement cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Transnational criminal networks operate across national boundaries through extortion, contract killings, drug trafficking, illegal arms and money laundering. Their cross-border operations make domestic policing alone insufficient to dismantle such networks.

Challenges for India

1. Cross-Border Criminal Networks

- Gang leaders may operate from foreign jurisdictions while coordinating crimes within India.
- Safe havens and jurisdictional differences complicate arrest and prosecution.

2. Financial and Digital Networks

- Criminal proceeds move through complex financial channels and digital platforms.
- Encrypted communication and cyber-enabled operations hinder investigations.

3. Extradition Difficulties

- Differences in legal procedures, evidentiary requirements and diplomatic relations may delay extradition.
- Lengthy proceedings can allow fugitives to evade justice.

Role of International Cooperation

- **INTERPOL:** Red Notices and international police cooperation assist in locating fugitives.
- **Extradition treaties:** Facilitate the transfer of accused persons or convicted offenders for legal proceedings.
- **Mutual Legal Assistance:** Enables evidence collection, document sharing and cooperation in criminal investigations.
- **UNTOC:** Provides an international framework for cooperation against organised criminal networks.
- **Financial intelligence:** Cooperation against money laundering can disrupt the financial foundations of criminal syndicates.

Way Forward

India should strengthen bilateral law-enforcement agreements, improve intelligence sharing, expedite extradition procedures consistent with due process and enhance financial and cyber-investigation capabilities.

Conclusion

Transnational organised crime requires coordinated international enforcement rather than isolated national responses. Strong legal cooperation, institutional trust and respect for due process are essential to dismantling cross-border criminal networks.

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