



## Towards Transformative Global Policing

This article is based on [“Why Interpol needs to get better at countering global challenges”](#) which was published in The Indian Express on 18/10/2022. It talks about the Interpol General Assembly meeting in India and challenges in front of global policing.

**For Prelims:** The Interpol General Assembly, Central Bureau of Investigation, International Criminal Court, UN Security Council, Red Notice, Bioweapons, Cyberwarfare.

**For Mains:** Interpol Notices, Challenges in Front of Global Policing, From Politics Centric to People Centric Ecosystem of Interpol.

**World's largest international police organisation, Interpol facilitates police cooperation across borders.** [The Interpol General Assembly](#) meeting is taking place in India after a gap of about **25 years**, it was last held in **1997**.

Considering the evolution of the criminal landscape, **crimes are becoming more sophisticated, more transnational, and more complex for investigators**, due to technological advances that require serious attention to keep the **International Policing** standards up to the mark.

### What is Interpol?

- The [International Criminal Police Organisation \(Interpol\)](#) was set up in **1923**, in order to facilitate criminal investigation across the globe.
- Interpol has **195 member countries including India**. They work together to share data related to police investigations.
- Interpol is **neither an investigative agency nor a front-line police force**. It is **mandated to share information and provide back-end technical assistance** to law enforcement agencies.
  - Each country hosts an **Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB)**, which **links national police with a global network**.
    - In India, the [Central Bureau of Investigation](#) is the collaborating agency with the Interpol.

### What are Interpol Notices?

- **Interpol Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts** allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
  - Notices are issued by the **General Secretariat**.
- Notices can also be issued at the request of **International Criminal Tribunals** and the [International Criminal Court](#) to seek persons wanted for committing crimes within their jurisdiction, notably **genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity**.
  - They can also be issued **at the request of the United Nations** in relation to the

implementation of **sanctions imposed by the Security Council**.



## What are the Challenges in Front of Global Policing?

- **Accelerating Technology, Challenging Policies:** The next decades will likely be characterised by the acceleration of [digitalization](#), **hyper-connectivity** and an exponential growth in the volumes of data.
  - The convergence of different domains like [Bioweapons](#) and [nuclear technology](#) is set to create new threats to **effective global policing**.
- **Rising Global Migration and Era of Gen-Z:** At the global level international migrations can be expected to persist. In addition, the next decade will be shaped by the maturation of Generation **Z**, **born entirely in the digital age** and **featuring high rates of smartphone social media penetration**, this creates possibility of [data-breach](#) and [cyberwarfare](#) between two countries.
- **Widening Global Trust Deficit:** Global policing can only be imagined in harmony with global cooperation but currently the globe is experiencing the **theatre of geo-strategic competition**, shaping multipolarity and rising traditional issues of **cross border trafficking** and [terrorism](#).
  - Around the world, many **governments, businesses and media** are facing growing **trust deficit and social polarisation**. Through the **rise of synthetic media and digitally enabled mis- and disinformation**.
- **Climate Change and Global Policing:** More frequent and **severe extreme weather** events due to [climate change](#) are increasing public concerns over these risks of Ecocide.
  - It is also putting a strain on global public safety capabilities and resources.
- **Changing Tides of Globalisation:** Growing **income inequality and nationalist sentiments** have fuelled a **backlash against globalisation**, for instance it is visible in the **escalation in trade disputes**.
  - In the coming decades, **populism and nationalism** are likely to remain **significant countervailing forces**.
  - In the long run this could have repercussions for existing **international regimes, including policing cooperation, with more reliance on regional, bilateral or informal arrangements**.
- **Limited Policing Jurisdiction:** In democratic politics across the globe, **police forces have to act with restraint**, within the boundaries of legal procedures, whereas the lawbreakers enjoy the ease of mobility and access to the internet.

## What Should be the Way Forward?

- **Speeding up Red Notice Process:** The notice mechanism of Interpol should be improved to **speed up the process of issuing Red Notices** to fugitive offenders, sending a message that there can be no safe havens for corrupt, terrorist and drug cartels.
- **Early Detection and Warning System:** There is a need to develop international strategies for establishment of **early detection and warning systems and intelligence exchange to take global policing to a new level.**
- **From Politics Centric to People Centric Ecosystem:** There is a need to keep policing away from the theatre of geopolitical issues. **Public-spirited efficient policing is the most meaningful confidence-building measure that people across diverse geopolitical contours desire and deserve.**
  - **Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies** must endeavour to **build, maintain and operate a people-centric ecosystem** to meet evolving challenges.
- **Developing Cyber-Policing for Cyber Crimes:** To meet the **growing sophistication, complexity and trans nationalization of crime**, new digital investigative and data management capabilities, expertise like **innovative AI-enhanced tools** are the need of the hour.
  - For example, **criminal statistics will have to be updated to adequately capture cybercrime** across the globe.
  - **International policing cooperation has to evolve and become more connected to meet the greater imperative for collaboration.**
- **Opportunity for India:** India is now an acknowledged technology powerhouse. **India's demographic dividend** of a large and young technology-oriented workforce in startups can be utilised for **upgrading the security architecture and setting up effective policing standards for the globe.**
  - Indian skill development resources through **capacity building programmes run by the CBI training academy** are used periodically by the international police fraternity, particularly law enforcement agencies in Asia and Africa.

### ***Drishti Mains Question***

What are the major challenges related to global policing and to what extent Interpol can facilitate global cooperation to tackle rising cybercrimes.



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