



NIA to Probe Human-Trafficking Syndicate

Why in News?

Recently, the [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)](#) carried out searches across 22 locations in six states as part of an investigation into a [human-trafficking syndicate](#) that entices youth to work in call centers involved in [cyber fraud](#).

Key Points

- The searches were conducted in Bihar, **Uttar Pradesh**, Delhi, and other regions.
 - It originates from a police report filed in Gopalganj, Bihar which involves an **organized syndicate that lures and traffics Indian youth to foreign countries** under the pretense of providing jobs.
- Trafficked individuals were **coerced into working in fake call centers**. These call centers were involved in conducting cyber fraud operations.
- **Human Trafficking:**
 - It refers to the **illegal trade and exploitation of people**, typically for the purposes of forced labour, sexual exploitation, or involuntary servitude.
 - It involves the **recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of individuals** through **threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, or deception** for the purpose of exploiting them.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- **About:**
 - The **NIA** is the **Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency of India** mandated to investigate all the **offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India**. It includes:
 - Friendly relations with foreign states.
 - Against atomic and nuclear facilities.
 - **Smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency** and infiltration from across the borders.
 - The offences under the **statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the [United Nations](#)**, its agencies and other international organisations.
 - It was **constituted under [the National Investigation Agency \(NIA\) Act, 2008](#)**.
 - The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states **without special permission from the states** under **written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

