



Notices of Interpol

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Why in News?

Recently concerns have been raised about the misuse of [Interpol's notice system](#), especially the issuance of **blue corner notices**, which are **less scrutinised** than their red corner notices.

- The number of blue notices has **approximately doubled in the last ten years**.
- Critics have argued that **countries often exploit** existing protocols to target political refugees and dissidents.



INTERPOL



About

- Official Name – International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO - INTERPOL)
- Establishment year – 1923
- Member states – 195
 - India has been a member since 1956.
- Headquarters – Lyon, France
An inter-governmental organization

Objective

- Collects and disseminates information from various police forces to facilitate criminal investigation across the globe.
 - Doesn't have law enforcement powers such as arrest.

Composition

- President (head of Interpol) – elected for 4 years
- Secretary General (performs day-to-day activities) – for 5 years
- Specialized Secretariat – deals with specific issues like cybercrime, terrorism, human & drug trafficking, financial & environmental crime, etc.
- General Assembly - supreme governing body (meets once a year). India hosted INTERPOL General Assembly in 2022.

INTERPOL Notices

These are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.



MISSING PERSON



WARNINGS AND INTELLIGENCE



IMMINENT THREAT



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



WANTED PERSON



UNIDENTIFIED BODIES



MODUS OPERANDI



GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO UNSC SANCTIONS

INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)

- The NCB is the designated contact point for Interpol.
- India's Interpol NCB – Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

What is the Interpol Notice System?

▪ About:

- [Interpol](#) serves as a vital information-sharing network for **national police forces** to combat transnational crimes.
- Interpol (General Secretariat)** issues notices to member states for missing or wanted persons, which, while **not mandatory** for states to follow, are often treated as warrants for **arrest and extradition**.

▪ Requesting Authority: Notices are issued at the request of:

- A member country's **Interpol National Central Bureau**
- 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.

- At the request of the [United Nations](#) concerning the implementation of sanctions imposed by the [Security Council](#).

▪ **Types of Notices:**



What are the Concerns Regarding the Misuse of Interpol Notice?

▪ **Blue Notice Vs Red Notice:**

- **Blue Notice:** Referred to as an "enquiry notice," enables police forces in member states to exchange crucial crime-related information, including verifying a person's criminal record and location, among other details.
 - Blue Corner notices are issued **before** the filing of **criminal charges**.
- **Red Notice:** Issued by a member state to apprehend a wanted criminal through extradition or other lawful means, targeting individuals sought by national jurisdictions for prosecution or to serve a sentence following an arrest warrant or court ruling.
 - Interpol can act on a **request from any country**, regardless of whether it is the fugitive's home country, as long as the alleged crime occurred there.
 - The individual in question may be **detained and apprehended** while moving through a member state, with additional adverse outcomes including the freezing of bank accounts.
 - Interpol **lacks** the authority to **mandate law enforcement** agencies in any nation to apprehend the individual targeted by a red corner notice, as the decision to do so is entirely at their discretion.

▪ **Controversy Surrounding Red Notice: Although Interpol's Constitution explicitly forbids any activities of a political character, activists have accused it of failing to enforce this rule. For example:**

- **Russia** frequently issues notices and diffusions for the arrest of Kremlin opponents, contributing to 38% of all public red notices according to the US rights organisation **Freedom House**.
- International human rights groups have also accused **China, Iran, Turkey, and Tunisia**, among others, of abusing the agency's notice system for **authoritarian ends**.
- Interpol declined India's second request to issue a red corner notice against Gurpatwant

Singh Pannun, designated as a "terrorist" by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the [UAPA](#) citing inadequate information and highlighting that his actions have a "**clear political dimension**", which is beyond the scope of a red corner notice under Interpol's Constitution.

- **Interpol's Stand: Interpol has strengthened the supervision of its red notice system in light of increasing criticism, but concerns persist over the issuance of blue notices.**

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