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# **ROLE POLICE IN INVESTIGATION OF ORGANIZED CRIME**

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## **Abstract**

This article looks at the complicated world of organised crime in India. It highlights just how important police investigation is for fighting these criminal activities. In the beginning, there's a historical look at the issues, giving context to why law enforcement plays such a vital role in reducing organised crime. The study dives into what organised crime really is, how big it is, and its different forms such as drug trafficking, economic crimes and cyber crime. Then, it talks about how organized crime affects society and provides case studies on various gangs operating across India. The focus is on police work in investigating these crimes. Different techniques are discussed, along with challenges that law enforcement faces. Also, working together with other agencies is super important. The article includes case studies showing both successful and failed investigations, offering insights on how police efforts impact dismantling these networks and getting convictions. Public trust in police investigation matters too; there's even a look at the media's role in shaping those opinions. Lastly, by comparing India's methods to international practices, this study identifies lessons learned and possible improvements for the future.

## **Introduction**

Organised crime in India includes many types of criminal activity that groups plan out for money. Think of extortion, drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, and other racketeering forms. This issue has grown over time due to social issues, political factors, and new technologies. The sale of unlawful products and services to a large number of citizen clients is the mainstay of organised crime. It is also heavily involved in legal commerce and labour unions. It uses unlawful techniques including monopolisation, terrorism, extortion, and tax evasion to drive out or control legitimate ownership and leadership, as well as to take

<sup>1</sup> *Organised crime in India*. Available at: [https://unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS\\_No54/No54\\_10VE\\_Sharma.pdf](https://unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS_No54/No54_10VE_Sharma.pdf) (Accessed: 26 August 2024).

<sup>1</sup> *RFPL*. Available at: [https://www.rfpl.co.in/subscription/upload\\_pdf/Monika\\_Sharma-IJLHB\\_VOL.5\\_NO.2\\_MAY-AUG\\_2019\\_\(Special\\_Issue\)\\_9626.pdf](https://www.rfpl.co.in/subscription/upload_pdf/Monika_Sharma-IJLHB_VOL.5_NO.2_MAY-AUG_2019_(Special_Issue)_9626.pdf) (Accessed: 26 August 2024).

<sup>1</sup> *Criminality in India - the organized crime index* (no date) *The Organized Crime Index | ENACT*. Available at:

illicit profits from the public. Organised crime also corrupts public authorities in order to avoid government intervention and is growing more sophisticated. In India, in addition to the conventional realms of activity like extortion, soliciting protection money, contract killing, bootlegging, gambling, prostitution, and smuggling, drug trafficking, illicit arms dealing, money laundering, and transportation are now involved. Organised crime seeks to obtain power by influencing public authorities and therefore monopolising or near monopolising. Later, the money and power that it generates are utilised to infiltrate the legitimate company and a variety of other linked operations.

### **Meaning of organised crimes**

Organised crime is described as “those involved in continuing major criminal actions for large profit elsewhere, usually in collaboration with others.” An organised crime gang is a gang of criminals who work together for the length of a certain criminal activities. Structured of organised criminal group differ. A stable core of essential persons is commonly seen in successful organised criminal groups. There is swarm of subordinates, experts, and other temporary individuals surrounding them, as well as an extensive network of disposable allies. Many organisations are, in reality, informal networks of criminals that band together for the length of a criminal operation, playing various roles based on their abilities and competence. Shared experiences (such as incarceration) or recommendations from reliable persons strengthen collaboration. Others are bound by family or cultural connections, some are even referred to as “criminal families”.

Organised crime employs professionals who provide a service, sometimes to a variety of crime organisations. Transportation, money laundering, debt collection, or the provision of fraudulent papers are examples of services (identity crimes supports a wide range of organised crime).

### **Characteristics of Organised Crimes:**

**CONTINUITY:** The criminal organisation exists beyond the lives of individual members and is designed to withstand changes in leadership.

**STRUCTURE:** The criminal organisation is organised as a set of hierarchically ordered interconnected offences each dedicated to the accomplishment of a certain function. It might be very organised or quite flexible. It is distinctive, though, because the rankings are based on power and authority.

Membership in the core criminal group is restricted and based on shared characteristics such as ethnicity, criminal record, or mutual hobbies. Potential members are subjected to extensive inspection and must demonstrate their worth and commitment to the criminal organisation. Membership standards include secrecy, a readiness to perform any act for the organisation, and a desire to safeguard the group. In exchange for allegiance, a member of a criminal organisation receives financial incentives, a certain status, and protection from police authorities.

**CRIMINALITY:** To obtain revenue, the criminal gang relies on ongoing criminal activities. As a result, ongoing criminal conspiracy is inherent in organised crime. Some unlawful activities include the provision of unlawful products and services.

**VIOLENCE:** Violence and the threat of violence are essential components of a criminal organisation. The threat of violence is employed against members of the group to keep them in line, as well as against outsiders to preserve the organisation's economic interests. Members are expected to engage in, condone, or allow violent behaviour.

**POWER/PROFIT GOAL:** The criminal group's members seek to maximise the group's profits. Political power is obtained by the corruption of public authorities, such as lawmakers and political executives. The criminal organisation retains power by its affiliation with the "protectors", who defend the organisation and its earnings.<sup>2</sup>

### **HISTORICAL EVALUATION OF ORGANISED CRIME:**

The start of organised crime in India goes back to colonial times but really picked up after independence, especially in big cities like Mumbai and Kolkata. In the past, criminal acts were often about bootlegging and smuggling especially when prohibition was around. Over time, things changed a lot. Now gangs are involved in drug trades and contract killing too. The rise of "Dons", or gang leaders who are very influential even in politics makes the situation even trickier.

Different gangs like Dawood gang and Chaddi Baniyan gangs show that organised crime can vary quite a bit from one place to another. These groups often fight over territory and have ties

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<sup>2</sup> bymanishiq, P. (2023) *Organised crime in India*, StudyIQ. Available at: <https://www.studyiq.com/articles/organised-crime-in-india/> (Accessed: 14 August 2024).

<sup>2</sup> *Organized crime and terrorism - daily current affair article for UPSC, IAS, Civil Services and state PCS examinations | Dhyeya IAS® - best UPSC IAS CSE Online coaching | best upsc coaching | top IAS coaching in Delhi | top CSE coaching.* Available at: <https://www.dhyeyaias.com/current-affairs/perfect-7-magazine/organized-crime-and-terrorism> (Accessed: 14 August 2024).

<sup>2</sup>India, legal S. *Organized crime in India.* Available at: [https://www.legalservicesindia.com/article/1290/Organized-Crime-In-India.html#google\\_vignette](https://www.legalservicesindia.com/article/1290/Organized-Crime-In-India.html#google_vignette) (Accessed: 26 August 2024).]

with local politicians this blurs lines between crime and governance.

## **IMPORTANCE OF POLICE INVESTIGATION IN CURBING**

### **ORGANISED CRIME:**

Police investigations are super important for fighting organised crime in India. These criminal networks are complex and huge, that's why law enforcement needs to be strong. But police deal with corruption and lack resources sometimes, plus criminals often have political connections that slow things down.

Police don't just catch criminals. They need to break down their networks. This involves gathering intelligence, conducting undercover work, collaborating with other agencies. Recent efforts aim to boost police skills and improve teamwork among different agencies to tackle organised crime better.

In short organised crime in India is a big challenges that keeps changing over time and needs coordinated responses from law enforcement to lesson its impact on our communities

## **NATURE AND EXTENT OF ORGANISED CRIME IN INDIA:**

### **LEGAL DEFINITIONS OF ORGANISED CRIME INDIA:**

In India, organised crime is seen as a complex group of criminals doing illegal stuff for money on a regular basis. The maharashtra control of organised crime act (MCOCA) defines it as ongoing illegal activities carried out by individuals or groups using violence or threat to gain money or promote insurgency. This description shows that these criminal acts are planned out rather than just random crimes happening here and there.

One key part of legislation the BNS2023 is section 111 specifically aimed at tackling organised crime. It helps outline how to define and punish these activities while working alongside laws related to terrorisms and crber crime. By focusing on organised crime as its own threat,section 111 gives law enforcement clear rules and tools to tackle these complicated networks.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> ForumIAS (2017) *Organized crimes in India: An overview*, Free UPSC IAS Preparation For Aspirants. Available at: <https://forumias.com/blog/organized-crimes-in-india-an-overview/> (Accessed: 26 August 2024).

<sup>3</sup>Discuss the types of organised crimes. describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels. (150 words, 10 marks) (no date) PWOnlyIAS. Available at: <https://pwnonlyias.com/pyq/discuss-the-types-of-organised-crimes-describe-the-linkages-between-terrorists-and-organised-crime-that-exist-at-the-national-and-transnational-levels-150-words-10-marks/> (Accessed: 26 August 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Tarver, E.*What is social economics, and how does it impact society?*, Investopedia. Available at: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/social-economics.asp> (Accessed: 26 August 2024).

### **Types OF ORGANISED CRIME IN INDIA:**

Organised crime in india encompasses various illicit activities, including:

#### **DRUG TRAFFICKING:**

India is strategically located between major drug producing regions, making it a significant hub for drug trafficking, particularly from the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent areas.

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

This includes the illegal trade of individuals for forced labour or sexual exploitation, which remains a critical issues in many parts of India.

#### **ARMS SMUGGLING:**

The illegal arms trade is prevalent, often linked to conflicts and organised crime syndicates.

#### **ECONOMIC CRIMES:**

This category includes money laundering, where illegal profits are disguised as legitimate income, and extortion, where individuals or businesses are coerced into paying for protection.

#### **CYBER CRIME:**

With the rise of technology, organised crime has expanded into cyber activities, including theft, online fraud, and hacking.

#### **RANSOM FOR KIDNAPPING:**

Kidnapping for ransom is a well organised crime in metropolitan areas. There are various local and inter state gangs active since the financial advantages outweigh the labour and risk required.

#### **CONTRACT HOMICIDE:**

Murder is a capital offence punished by life in jail or death under section 302 of the Indian penal code. Contract killing have a very low risk of being discovered. Contract killing are carried out by employing a professional gang for a monetary reward.

### **Case studies of Organised Crime Syndicates in India:**

Several notorious organised crime syndicates have shaped the landscape of crime in India:

#### **D COMPANY:**

Led by Dawood Ibrahim, this syndicate is involved in drug trafficking, extortion, and terrorism, operating both within India and internationally.

#### **THE CHHOTA RAJAN GANG:**

Once a part of the D Company, Chhota rajan's group is know for its involvement in

extortion and contract killing, primarily in Mumbai.<sup>4</sup>

#### **THE SANDALWOOD SMUGGLING CASE:**

Involved organised crime linked to the illegal trade of sandalwood, highlighting the intersection of environmental crime and organised crime syndicate in India.

#### **VEERAPPAN CASE:**

The Veerappan case is one of the most infamous sandalwood smuggling cases in India, centered around the notorious bandit and smuggler Veerappan, who operated primarily in the forests of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

These examples show just how complex organised crime is in India and how it's noticed deeply across society.

### **THE ROLE OF POLICE IN INVESTIGATION UNDER ORGANISED CRIME:**

The police have a super important job. They detect, investigate and catch members of organised crime groups. These groups are all about illegal kidnapping, robbery and drug trafficking. To fight back against these crimes, law enforcement uses lots of different methods:

#### **INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS: UNDERCOVER OPERATION:**

Officers sometimes pretend to be part of criminal gangs to get their trust and learn all their secrets. For example, an officer might act like they want to buy drugs just to catch them selling it.

#### **SURVEILLANCE:**

Investigators watch organised crime groups using cameras and CCTV or cyber tech.

#### **FORENSIC ANALYSIS:**

Police look at physical and digital evidence from crime scenes to make strong cases.

### **CHALLENGES IN POLICE INVESTIGATION:**

**The police face some tough challenges:**

#### **CORRUPTION:**

Is a big issue sometimes organised crime has friends inside the police force which makes it hard to investigate properly.

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<sup>4</sup> Dinesh Verma Writer at Writing Law Dinesh has written this article. He is pursuing B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) from Panjab University Swami Sarvanand Giri Regional Centre (PUSSGRC) Hoshiarpur (2024) *What are organised crimes and their characteristics?*, *Writing Law*. Available at: <https://www.writinglaw.com/organised-crimes-and-their-characteristics/> (Accessed: 26 August 2024)

### **LACK OF RESOURCES:**

Can be a problem. Investigating these serious crimes takes a lot of time and money.

### **WITNESS PROTECTION:**

That's tough too since criminals might retaliate against those helping the police.

### **COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES:**

#### **CENTRAL AND STATE AGENCIES:**

In the US agencies like the FBI work with teams focused on stopping organised crime by tracking important members together.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:**

Because organised crime isn't just local police often need to team up with foreign agencies for evidence gathering and arrests.

### **IMPACT OF POLICE INVESTIGATION ON ORGANISED CRIME**

When we talk about breaking down criminal networks:

Success stories show real progress. Investigations have led to breaking up organised crime networks thanks to task forces on specific groups like those involved in human or drug trafficking. These teams use controlled deliveries and secret operations to gather proof and disrupt them.<sup>5</sup>

Metrics for assessing success can be tricky but important. Common measures include how many arrests were made or how much illegal stuff was taken away. But also looking at community safety perceptions matters seeing if people feel safer after. Police investigation help create strong cases for prosecution. They gather crucial evidence which supports what happens in court later making sure everyone has what they need for trial.

But still it's not always easy. Convicting people involved in organised crime has challenges too; these cases can get complicated fast there's need for lots of evidence which isn't always easy to collect; plus witnesses might be scared. And remember laws must be followed closely; one tiny mistake might ruin everything for justice.

So there you have it a friendly look into human trafficking, arms smuggling and all those tough

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<sup>5</sup> *Dawood Ibrahim: Mumbai mobster, drug dealer, and terrorist (1955-)* | biography, facts, information, career, wiki, life. Available at: <https://peoplepill.com/i/dawood-ibrahim/> (Accessed: 27 August 2024).

<sup>5</sup> *Chhota Rajan Wikiwand / articles*. Available at: [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Chhota\\_Rajan](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Chhota_Rajan) (Accessed: 27 August 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Staff (2017) *Two men arrested for smuggling sandalwood, The Bhutanese*. Available at: <https://thebhutanese.bt/two-men-arrested-for-smuggling-sandalwood/> (Accessed: 27 August 2024).

<sup>5</sup> *Profiling a poacher: The rise and fall of Veerappan IPCS*. Available at: [https://www.ipcs.org/comm\\_select.php?articleNo=1547](https://www.ipcs.org/comm_select.php?articleNo=1547) (Accessed: 27 August 2024).

issues surrounding organised crime in India today.

## **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF INVESTIGATIVE APPROACHES:**

### **UNITED STATE VS ITALY**

When it comes to fighting organised crime, the US and ITALY approach things differently: The US leans on RICO laws, asset seizure, and witness protection programs. ITALY focuses more on anti mafia laws, justice collaborator programs, and giving police extra powers.

Both countries have had their wins and losses key differences include:

The US has more resources and specialized teams just for organised crime.

ITALY owns strong anti mafia laws plus loads of experience dealing with mafia groups.

Teamwork between both nations really helps when it comes to international cases.

### **CONCLUSION**

In wrapping everything up, diving into organised crime in India shows us how complicated this issue truly is it affects society, economy, and politics alike the history and different forms of organised crime include not just drug trafficking but also human trafficking and arms smuggling this all highlights how majorly threatening it is to our way of life.

The police play such a crucial role in tackling this kind of crime using various investigation techniques but they've got hurdles. Corruption, not enough resources, or sneaky political interference create obstacles that make catching criminals tough.<sup>6</sup>

Even though police often do a good disrupting criminal networks there's still plenty holding them back from getting convictions more easily. Learning from both the triumphs and letdowns of different cases helps improve law enforcement strategies.

Importantly though how the public feels about law enforcement's ability to fight organised crime matters big time to their success. Media coverage impacts this view heavily as well as which is why we need openness and responsibility along this fight against crime.

Ultimately, ongoing improvement in investigation methods as seen across both India and globally is essential for effectively organised crime everywhere.

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<sup>6</sup> *The International Criminal Police Organization INTERPOL*. Available at: <https://www.interpol.int/en> (Accessed: 29 August 2024).

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