



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, 274 fugitive criminals were brought back to India from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026

Previous governments lacked the political will to bring back fugitives; Modi government has made the extradition of fugitives a 'national priority'

Under the guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, India has developed an integrated, intelligence-led and technology-driven model to combat fugitive criminals

Modi Government's strategy against fugitive criminals has been built on three key pillars: Global operations, Robust coordination and Smart diplomacy

The issue of fugitive criminals intrinsically linked to the country's sovereignty, economic stability, law and order and national security

Under the guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, process of bringing fugitive criminals back to India was pursued in mission mode, with government introducing a series of legal provisions to strengthen extradition framework

Under Modi Government, there has been a significant increase in the issuance of INTERPOL Red Corner Notices, in the last three years, notices have been issued against 401 fugitive criminals

Modi Government launched BHARATPOL, connecting more than 1,400 agencies with INTERPOL, thereby reducing the time required for information sharing to 3 -10 days

Modi Government enacted National Investigation Agency (NIA) Amendment Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment (UAPA) Act in 2019

Three new criminal laws introduced special provisions relating to fugitive criminals, for first time, Sections 355 and 356 of BNSS provide provision for trials in absentia

Through stringent enforcement of PMLA, Modi Govt attached assets worth ₹17,874 crore belonging to fugitive criminals between 2019 and 2026

Between 2019 and 2026, successful restitution amounting to ₹18,762 crore was carried out, including funds recovered from economic offenders who had fled country

Through Operation Trishul, Modi Govt used satellite technology and digital footprints to geo-locate fugitive criminals hiding abroad after changing their names and identities

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Taking a decisive stance against fugitive criminals, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, India has brought back 274 fugitive criminals from 36 countries since 2019. To strengthen action against fugitives, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi enacted the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act in 2018. Under the guidance of Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, India has developed an integrated, intelligence-based, and technology-driven model against fugitives, paving the way for stricter measures against them and facilitating their return to India.

Before 2014, the country's extradition framework had become outdated, and India had extradition treaties with only 37 countries. There was also no dedicated law to deal with economic fugitives or to confiscate their assets. Between 2004 and 2013, India secured the extradition of only four fugitives per year on average, while 110 extradition requests remained pending. In addition, incomplete documentation and slow processing made the extradition process highly cumbersome, often leading foreign courts to deny extradition requests. India's extradition efforts also faced legal and judicial hurdles, including the principles of double jeopardy and dual criminality, which frequently resulted in the rejection of extradition requests. Furthermore, the absence of effective coordination and a unified strategy among the Ministry of Home Affairs and other departments hindered progress. The sharing of information on fugitives, location tracking, and the issuance of Red Corner Notices were also moved at a slow pace.

Previous governments lacked the political will to bring back fugitives; Modi government has made the extradition of fugitives a 'national priority'. In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision, the Union Home Minister has emphasized a three-pronged strategy against fugitives: global outreach, strong

coordination, and smart diplomacy. Shri Amit Shah has described the issue of fugitive offenders as one that is intrinsically linked to the country's sovereignty, economic stability, law and order, and national security.

The Modi Government enacted the NIA (Amendment) Act and the UAPA (Amendment) Act in 2019, and from 2020 onwards, the process of bringing fugitive offenders back to India was taken up in a mission mode. As a result, enforcement efforts were no longer confined to proscribed organizations alone. The scope of action was expanded to include individual terrorists, handlers, funding networks, and support systems based abroad, significantly strengthening India's ability to pursue fugitives and dismantle their networks.

In 2024, the Modi Government implemented three new criminal laws, incorporating special provisions relating to fugitive offenders. For the first time, Sections 355 and 356 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) provide for trial in absentia, enabling the entire judicial process—from trial to prosecution—to be completed even in the absence of a fugitive accused.

In 2022, India hosted the 90th Interpol General Assembly, where Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah underscored the importance of the three pillars of global policing—Communication, Collaboration, and Cooperation. To strengthen coordination, connectivity, and information-sharing between India and global law enforcement agencies, the Union Home Minister launched BHARATPOL in January 2025. BHARATPOL has created a comprehensive information infrastructure by integrating the CBI, State Police Headquarters (through Interpol Liaison Officers - ILOs), and District Police Headquarters onto a single platform. Under this initiative, more than 1,400 units of State and Central agencies have been connected through the portal, ensuring seamless flow of information. As a result, the response time for information-sharing between the CBI and other law enforcement agencies has been significantly reduced. Today, information sought by the CBI is generally shared by other law enforcement agencies within 10 to 20 days, and in some cases, within 3 to 10 days, substantially improving the efficiency of investigations and extradition proceedings. Union Home Minister has held a total of 5 important meetings in this direction.

The Modi Government has enforced the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) with greater rigor. Through stringent enforcement of PMLA, Modi Government attached assets worth ₹17,874 crore belonging to fugitive criminals between 2019 and 2026. To strengthen international efforts to trace and apprehend fugitives, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has established a Special Global Operations Centre. The Centre coordinates in real time with police agencies across the world through Interpol, enabling faster tracking and apprehension of fugitives. To facilitate the swift exchange of information, the CBI has also designated Interpol Contact Officers in every State as well as in all Central investigating agencies, significantly enhancing coordination and international cooperation in fugitive investigations.

The number of Interpol Red Corner Notices issued has increased significantly in recent years. 40 Red Corner Notices were issued in 2022, 100 in 2023, 107 in 2024, 112 in 2025, and 182 have already been issued in 2026 so far. To strengthen efforts to trace fugitive offenders, Operation Trishul was launched to geo-locate absconding criminals. Under this initiative, with the support of Interpol, the locations of concealed fugitives were established using satellite inputs, surveillance, and digital footprint analysis. Many fugitives had changed their names or identities while residing abroad. However, through use of advanced technology and profile mapping, Indian agencies were able to identify and trace them. Technology has also been leveraged to expedite extradition proceedings, including the use of video conferencing for court hearings, thereby helping to accelerate the legal process. Over the past three years, Red Corner Notices have been issued against 401 fugitive criminals.

274 Fugitives have been Brought Back between 2019 and 2026, as per year-wise details

Crime Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (till July)	TOTAL
Fraud/Financial Crimes	-	-	-	01	-	04	03	01	09
Terrorist activity/Anti-national activity/ Narco Terror	-	-	01	04	02	04	05	01	17
Organized crime/Gangsters/Extortion	01	01	-	04	03	05	14	14	42
Murder/Robbery/Violent Crime	06	06	03	11	07	11	09	09	62
Sexual Offences/Rape/POCSO	02	-	04	13	04	15	13	02	53
Narcotics/NDPS/Drug Trafficking	-	-	02	01	-	01	07	05	16
Smuggling/Fake Currency/Cyber/Contraband	-	-	04	02	-	02	02	02	12
Human Trafficking /Kidnapping	-	-	01	01	04	01	08	03	18
Other,	-	-	08	03	17	00	09	08	45
Total	09	07	23	40	37	43	70	45	274

Under the guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, extradition requests are now being prepared in a more professional and standardized manner. In addition, written assurances are provided after carefully taking into account the documentary requirements and legal expectations of the requested country. The fugitives brought back to India include individuals wanted in terrorism, gangsters, financial offenders, narcotics accused, and individuals wanted in cases of murder, rape, and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The campaign to bring fugitives back to India extends across cases involving terrorism, pro-Khalistan extremism, the gangster-terror nexus, narcotics trafficking, cyber fraud, and fake currency. The extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana from the United States stands as a significant example of India's resolve and

its sustained legal and diplomatic efforts in pursuing complex terror cases. In matters related to Jammu and Kashmir, fugitives operating from abroad had been used to sustain terrorism, narco-terrorism, and cross-border support networks.

The success achieved in bringing fugitive offenders back to India is not the result of chance, but of credibility, thorough legal preparation, sustained diplomatic persistence, and continuous follow-up. At the domestic level, this effort has been driven by close coordination among the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI), and State Police forces. This reflects a true "Whole-of-Government" approach, in which Central and State agencies work in close coordination to ensure the return of fugitive offenders and deliver speedy justice to victims.

The constitution of a Standing Focus Group under the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in January 2026 marks a significant institutional step in strengthening India's fugitive management framework. The Group is responsible for prioritising fugitive cases, standardising dossiers, bridging information gaps, ensuring sustained follow-up with foreign partners, and providing national-level support to cases initiated by State agencies. Fugitives operating from abroad are not dormant case files—they represent live operational threats that require sustained, coordinated, and proactive action.

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