

2. What is an Interpol Red Notice, What Does It Do?

Prelims: Miscellaneous

Mains: GS-II- Important International Institutions, Agencies and fora- their Structure, Mandate.

Why in News?

- ▶ Home Minister of India has conveyed to Interpol Secretary-General Jurgen Stock that India would like the international police agency to expedite its process of publishing Red Notices (RNs). As many as 18 requests for RNs from India are pending with Interpol, including against fugitive jeweller Mehul Choksi and Nirav Modi, a key accused in the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank scam.

About Red Notices:

- ▶ Criminals or suspects often flee to other countries to evade facing justice. An RN alerts police forces across the world about fugitives who are wanted internationally.
- ▶ Interpol describes an RN as “a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action”.
- ▶ RNs contain information that helps identify wanted persons, such as their names, dates of birth, nationality, and physical attributes such as the colour of their hair and eyes, as well as pictures and biometric data such as fingerprints, if they are available. RNs also mention the crime(s) they are wanted for.
- ▶ An RN is published by Interpol at the request of a member country. The fugitives may be wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence. **The country issuing the request need not be the home country of the fugitive**; Interpol acts on the request of a country where the alleged crime has been committed.
- ▶ The Interpol itself does not want individuals; they are wanted by a country or an international tribunal.
- ▶ Also, an RN is an international wanted persons' notice; it is not an international arrest warrant. Which means that the Interpol cannot compel the law enforcement authorities in any country to arrest the subject of an RN. It is up to individual member countries to decide what legal value to give to an RN, and the authority of their national law enforcement officers to make arrests.

- ▶▶ RNs are issued to simultaneously alert police in all member countries about internationally wanted fugitives. An RN can help bring a fugitive to justice, sometimes many years after the crime was committed.
- ▶▶ However, because an RN is not an arrest warrant, action against a fugitive frequently rests on the diplomatic clout that the country making the request has with the country where the fugitive is located. Nations with a big international profile, and economic or political heft, are often more successful than the rest.

Other Types of Notices by The Interpol:

- ▶▶ **Blue Notice:** To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.
- ▶▶ **Green Notice:** To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.
- ▶▶ **Yellow Notice:** To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- ▶▶ **Black Notice:** To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- ▶▶ **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- ▶▶ **Purple Notice:** To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.
- ▶▶ **The INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice:** Issued for individuals and entities that are subject to sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).