NIA ON ORGANIZED CRIME – INTERNAL SECURITY

News: The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** is going to launch a national database of gangsters, criminals running their gangs from behind jails, and their associates.

What's in the news?
What are Organized Crimes?

- Organized crime refers to **structured, coordinated illegal activities conducted by criminal groups** that undermine governance, political stability, and the rule of law.

- **These activities include** the illicit trafficking of firearms, drugs, endangered species, cultural property, falsified medical products, human trafficking, and the smuggling of migrants.

  o Additionally, organized crime extends to financial crimes like **money laundering and terror financing.**

Menace of organized crimes

- According to the **Global Organized Crime Index,** a tool to measure levels of organized crime in a country, **India ranks 61st** among 193 countries in 2023.

- According to estimates, India's **shadow economy** accounts for **20%-25% of GDP**, much of which is linked to organized crime.

- **According to a FICCI** (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying Economy) **report**, organized crime activities like smuggling and counterfeiting cost India's economy around **₹1 lakh crore** annually.

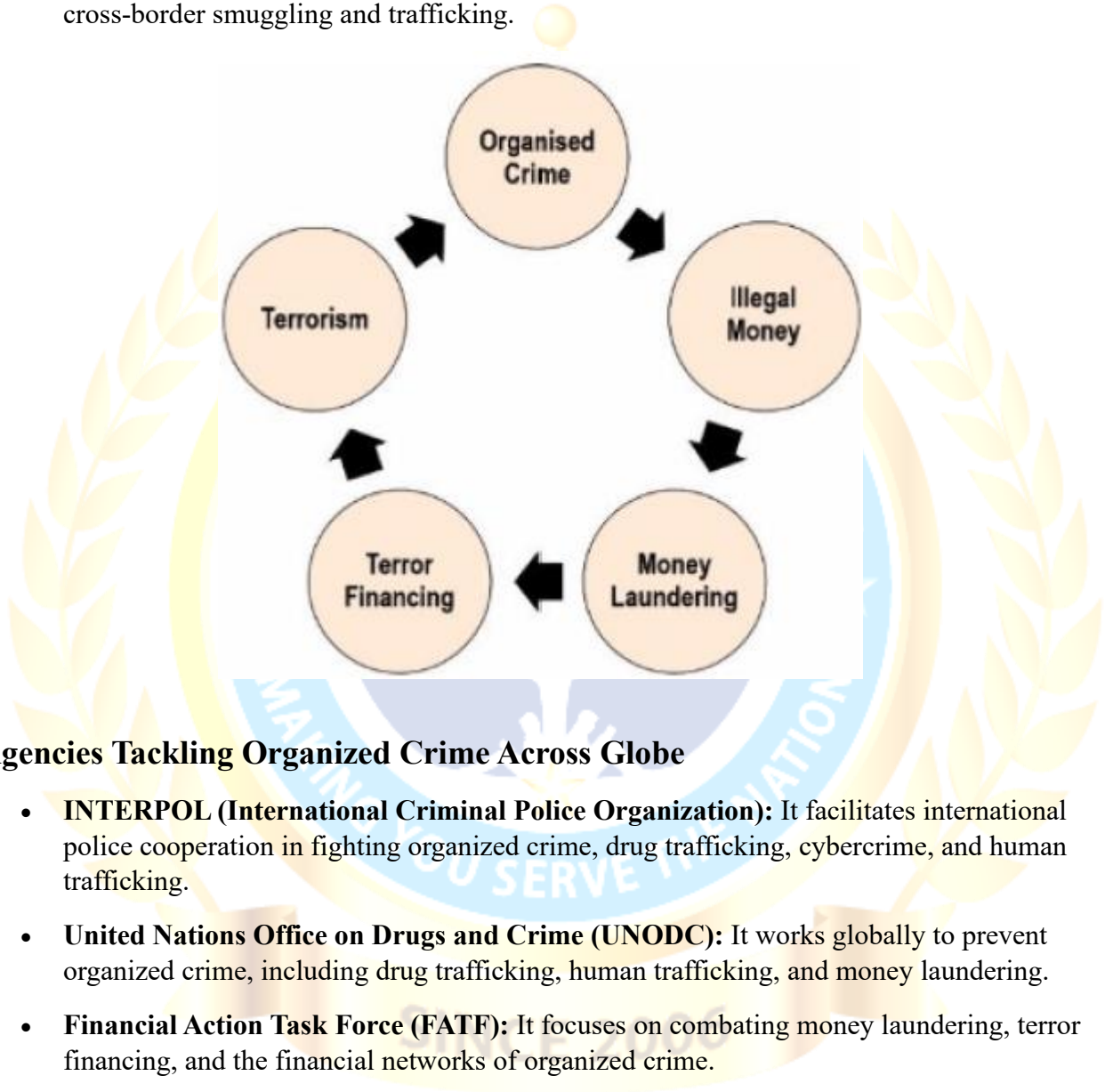## Challenges associated with organized crimes

- **Political Nexus:** Corrupt officials and political links provide protection, eroding governance.

- **Illicit Trafficking:** Major issues include drug, human, and arms trafficking, exacerbated by India's proximity to key trafficking routes.

- **Cybercrime:** Increased use of digital platforms for fraud, money laundering, and cyber-enabled crimes complicates enforcement.

- **Economic Impact:** Money laundering and counterfeit goods harm the economy and public health.

- **Weak Law Enforcement:** Limited resources, coordination issues, and outdated systems hinder crime-fighting efforts.

Agencies Tackling Organized Crime in India

- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):** It investigates complex organized crime cases, corruption, financial fraud, and transnational crimes.

- **National Investigation Agency (NIA):** It focuses on terrorism-related cases but also handles organized crime with links to terrorist networks.

- **Enforcement Directorate (ED):** It investigates financial crimes such as money laundering and foreign exchange violations related to organized crime.

- **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND):** It analyzes financial transactions to detect money laundering and terror financing linked to organized crime.

- **Border Security Force (BSF) and Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** to monitor and control cross-border smuggling and trafficking.

Agencies Tackling Organized Crime Across Globe

- **INTERPOL (International Criminal Police Organization):** It facilitates international police cooperation in fighting organized crime, drug trafficking, cybercrime, and human trafficking.

- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):** It works globally to prevent organized crime, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering.

- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** It focuses on combating money laundering, terror financing, and the financial networks of organized crime.

Way Ahead

- **Dark Web Monitoring:** Invest in technologies to monitor and shut down organized crime activities occurring on the dark web, including illegal trade and smuggling.

- **Coordination and Intelligence Sharing:** Improve coordination between local, state, and central law enforcement agencies to facilitate quick response and intelligence sharing.

- **Transnational Task Forces:** Create transnational task forces that operate across countries to dismantle international crime syndicates.

- **Extradition Treaties:** Strengthen extradition agreements with other countries to ensure that organized crime suspects cannot evade justice by fleeing across borders.

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