



ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING AND NATIONAL SECURITY: A *Comparative Study of India and Global Frameworks*

Vikram Banerjee¹, Ritika Kumari Prasad², Wohida Parvin³,

Atyab Imam⁴, Roshni Parvin⁵

¹Research Scholar, Dept. of Law, Brainware University,

²4th Year, BBA LLB, Dept. of Law, Brainware University,

³4th Year, BBA LLB, Dept. of Law, Brainware University,

⁴4th Year, BA LLB, Dept. of Law, Brainware University,

⁵4th Year, BBA LLB, Dept. of Law, Brainware University

Abstract: Illicit arms trafficking shows up as one of the biggest danger to national and international security in the today's era. Estimated cautiously between \$1.7 billion and \$3.5 billion within one year, the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) propels Rebellions, violence, Criminal syndicates, and Hostilities all across the world. India, with its strategic location in the heart of South Asia and closely bordered by unstable states and Penetrable borders, faces severe problems from this happening. This research paper tries to do a all round synopsis of India's statutory, departmental, Functional and Active responses to illegal arms trafficking along with comparing it to contemporary global legislation, including the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA), the Firearms Protocol, and the UNTOC. It tries to check on statutes principally the Arms Act, 1959 (as amended in 2019), the UAPA, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, 2023, relevant from India's domestic view point and investigates on the loopholes that exists in statutory recommendation and real life circumstances. The paper suggests on how despite having a strong legislative framework, robust institutional support, brave border security, and digital surveillance system, India still need a new, comprehensive and more grounded plan to secure it's National integrity and security along with global interactions.

Keywords: Illicit Arms Trafficking; Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW); National Security; Transnational Organized Crime; Border Security

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid increase of illegal arms is one the biggest safety concern of today's world. Unlike atomic warfare or use of scientific arms, collection and maintenance of which is solely associated to the country's chief executive power through supported by international treaties and frameworks, small arms and light weapons (SALW) are affordable, easily transferrable, easy to hide, and extremely dangerous too which make them the optimum choice of rebellion groups, militants organisations, insurrectionists, and structured local criminal groups throughout the world. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has

stated that no place on this planet is unaffected by the repercussions of illicit arms supply and it has horrific affects on humankind, policy implementation, and all round development of that place.¹

In India's case, the risk is even higher due to its geographical location as it shares borders with politically unstable states like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China, and Myanmar and many of them are birth place of historic conflict, large arms storage, and insignificant political supervision. This make India even more vulnerable to ever ongoing transfer of illegal weapons multi-dimensionally. The Indian states of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir shares a long border with Pakistan, the unstable north-eastern frontier states shares border with Myanmar, and the India-Bangladesh border corridor have also been identified as one of the important corridors for illegal arms transfer. In June 2022, India's Additional Secretary for Disarmament at the Ministry of External Affairs, Sandeep Arya, formally accepted the fact before the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States on the UNPoA that Indian security forces found out thousands of illegal weapons on yearly basis, adding to already on going smuggling.²

This research paper tries to find out India's weapon smuggling problems with a hint of global view in it. It tries to investigate both global statutory frameworks and India's own legislations side by side, examines departmental responses, global arms smuggling patterns including those which are executed through modern techniques like dark web and drones and tries to recognise policy loopholes that requires instant supervision. This discussion is important as the position of India as an economic powerhouse with a lethargic justice delivery system and significant policy gaps predicts a mishap, making the India's situation unique for defence policy formulation.

2. CONCEPTUAL AND STATISTICAL CONTEXT

2.1 Defining Illicit Arms Trafficking

Illicit arms trafficking refers to the unauthorised import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement, or transfer of firearms and related ammunition and parts which occurs in violation of national and international laws. The Arms (Amendment) Act of 2019 establishes through its Section 25(8) definition that illicit trafficking involves all activities which include importing or exporting or acquiring or selling or delivering or moving or transferring firearms and ammunition into or out of or within Indian territory when the arms lack proper legal markings or are being trafficked through illegal means including smuggled foreign firearms and prohibited arms and prohibited ammunition. The definition follows the United Nations Firearms Protocol through its specific language.³

The trade occurs along a range which starts from large-scale state-supported diversion and ends with local theft and grey-market sales of deactivated weapons and 3D-printed ghost guns. The most common method of small arms trafficking involves weapons which include revolvers and pistols and rifles and machine guns and grenades and rocket launchers and anti-tank missiles. The use of these weapons creates direct links to homicide and terrorism and organised crime activities throughout the world.

2.2 Global Scale And India-Specific Data

The global illicit arms market, which operates in secret, has an estimated value range between \$1.7 billion and \$3.5 billion per year which makes it the ninth largest criminal market according to the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime's 2025 background paper. The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database shows that the United States provided 43% of worldwide arms exports from 2020 until 2024 while France supplied 9.6% and Russia supplied 7.8% which proves that legal arms distribution creates pathways for illegal arms distribution. The National Crime Records Bureau⁴ in India has kept annual records of thousands of arms offences since its founding. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence DRI operates as India's main anti-smuggling agency because the Customs Act of 1962 gives it jurisdiction to monitor all illegal merchandise confiscations that occur throughout the nation's border and port and airport locations. The Punjab state corridor functions as a primary route for anti-national groups to smuggle arms and narcotics across the India-Pakistan border using drone operations. The Smuggling in India Report 2023-24 which identified drone-based smuggling as an increasing danger recorded that traffickers now use technological advancements and Free Trade Agreement loopholes to misrepresent their goods.⁵

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Study on Firearms 2020 (2020).

² Press Trust of India, India's Security Agencies Seize Annually Thousands of Illicit Firearms, The Print (June 28, 2022), <https://theprint.in>

³ Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019, No. 48 of 2019, § 25(8) (India).

⁴ Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2001.

⁵ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Measuring the Scope and Scale of Illicit Arms Trafficking (Jan. 2025).

3. INDIA'S DOMESTIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 The Arms Act, 1959 And Its Amendments

The Arms Act of 1959 serves as the main law which Indian Parliament uses to control all aspects of arms and ammunition activities. The law was established to replace the colonial Indian Arms Act of 1878 because it maintains control over firearms while allowing people to use guns for self-defense and agricultural protection and sports purposes. The Act contains its content through six distinct chapters. Chapter II (Sections 3–12) establishes licensing requirements which prevent people from possessing or manufacturing or trading arms without holding an authorized license. Chapter III (Sections 13–18) provides information about the licensing system which includes the reasons used to decide whether to approve or deny applications. Chapter IV (Sections 19–24B) provides detailed information about how enforcement personnel can conduct searches and seizures and make arrests and detain individuals. Chapter V (Sections 25–33) establishes criminal activities together with their corresponding penalties which serve as the most important section for anti-trafficking operations. The Act has undergone multiple amendments which demonstrate how security needs have changed over time. The Arms (Amendment) Act of 1988 introduced the concept of 'prohibited arms' which established stricter penalties for firearms violations because rising terrorism and insurgency needed to be addressed throughout Punjab. The Arms (Amendment) Act of 2019⁶ introduced the most extensive changes to the existing law during its recent time period. The major changes which the organization implemented included the following items. The organization reduced the maximum number of firearms which individuals could possess from three weapons down to two weapons to decrease the distribution of firearms.⁷

3.2 The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)

The United Nations Anti-Terrorism Act serves as India's main anti-terrorism law which connects with weapons trafficking regulations that address terrorist-related weapon use. The UAPA establishes weapon possession or usage for terrorist activities as a more severe crime than the Arms Act which military courts handle through their strict bail regulations. The UAPA defines terrorist acts as violent activities that use firearms and explosives and other dangerous materials to threaten India's national unity and territorial integrity and national security and national sovereignty and to create fear among its citizens. The UAPA enables prosecutions of arms trafficking operations which support terrorist organizations and unlawful associations because these activities fall under its jurisdiction and the most serious offenses can lead to death penalty prosecutions. The Arms Act and UAPA create important practical connections because weapon possession cases which involve conflict area weapons from Kashmir and Maoist insurgency areas in central India usually result in both laws being applied to the same case. Courts have upheld such dual prosecution as legally valid given the distinct elements of each offence.⁸

3.3 Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, 2023

In the year 2023, a new legal framework was incorporated in the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita that the country adopts to combat the illegal arms trade. The BNS treats all kinds of smuggling including arms smuggling as organised crime that is punishable with a minimum sentence of five years which could be for life. UAPA would also apply if the illegal smuggling is used for terrorist financing or puts the financial system and security of India at any risk. The BNS changes all the existing criminal laws and helps in more effective prosecution of arms-trafficking cases. However, the real impact can only be assessed once the system is put into practice.⁹

3.4 The Customs Act, 1962 and the Role of DRI

Under the provisions of Customs Act, the Customs department at all entry points including airports, seaports and land Borders of country can enforce the provision to prevent unlawful import of arms and ammunition. All such imports are to be duly declared and subjected to regulatory clearance from competent authorities. Failure to comply with the provisions shall invite penalty including fine and /or sentence of imprisonment. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), the apex anti-smuggling agency of government of India under the ministry of finance is tracking the global arms-trafficking syndicates to identify modus operandi and their networking. The DRI is working with National Investigation Agency (NIA), Border Security Force (BSF) and state police and its anti-terror squad to track the arms suppliers. But, there are inter-agency logjam as too many agencies are in the fray and fighting for jurisdictions¹⁰ for a job that requires immediate action. The arms traffickers are making merry due to the logjams.

⁶ Arms (Amendment) Act, 1988, No. 42 of 1988 (India).

⁷ Arms Act, 1959, No. 54 of 1959 (India); Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019, No. 48 of 2019 (India).

⁸ Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, No. 37 of 1967, § 15 (India).

⁹ Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, 2023, No. 45 of 2023 (India).

¹⁰ Customs Act, 1962, No. 52 of 1962 (India).

4. GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS: A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT

4.1 The UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA)

The UN General Assembly adopted Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) in the main session in 2001. India has participated¹¹ in negotiations which led to the approval of the Programme of Action on small arms trade. We restated our backing to the Programme of Action as the inaugural multilateral effort towards dealing with the aspect of small arms trade. The Programme encourages the States to enact domestic legislation and procedures to stop the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; to implement a marking and tracing system; to secure stockpiles of weapons; to reclaim and destroy the small arms found illicitly within the country; and to collaborate with other States in stopping the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. One of the strengths of the Programme is that practically all the countries in the world have adopted it. The weakness is, however, its failure to be committed and there is no effective system of verification and enforcement. The Indian delegate to the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States in June 2022 acknowledged that the domestic legislation regulating firearms was highly developed but feared that the thousands of illegally obtained firearms that had been intercepted by Indian security agencies over the last few years was due to cross-border trafficking. Another important point that he made was that there is a need to strengthen the implementation of UNPoA, particularly to the nations that possess a significant quantity of SALW, but lack the adequate regulatory measures.

4.2 The UN Firearms Protocol

The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms and their parts and components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) serves as the sole international legal framework which specifically tackles the problem of illegal firearms trafficking. The treaty mandates that member countries must establish laws to prohibit all forms of illegal firearm manufacturing and distribution activities while they must display weapon identification marks during production and importation and transfer activities and they must maintain detailed records which enable weapon tracking and they must provide permission for all types of export and import and transit operations and they must work together to conduct investigations. India has signed the UNTOC treaty but it has not signed the Firearms Protocol which prevents the country from participating in the Protocol's compliance and cooperation processes while its domestic laws achieve the Protocol's objectives.¹²

4.3 The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

The UN General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2013 which became the first international treaty to create binding global regulations that govern the international trade of conventional weapons. The treaty became law on 24 December 2014. 116 states have joined the ATT through ratification or accession as of November 2024 which includes six of the world's top ten arms producers who are France, Germany, Spain, China, the United Kingdom, and Italy. The ATT core provisions consist of Articles 6 and 7 because Article 6 prohibits arms transfers which violate UN Security Council resolutions and arms embargoes and which permit genocide and war crimes to occur. The signing countries must track arms exports which might lead to serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law according to Article 7 of the treaty.¹³

India abstained from the 2013 UN General Assembly vote adopting the ATT, which Russia and China and Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and Indonesia and Myanmar also voted against because they believed the treaty did not properly handle their sovereignty issues and all types of illegal arms trafficking. India has not subsequently acceded to the ATT. India needs to participate in the international treaty to access the Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF) and related transparency mechanisms although India actively participates in global disarmament efforts through other international platforms. Critics have argued that India's ATT abstention is strategically inconsistent given its frequent victimhood of cross-border arms trafficking, while proponents of the current stance contend that the ATT's enforcement gaps do not justify the sovereignty constraints of membership. Amnesty International reported in August 2024 that major arms exporting nations continue to break ATT regulations which leads to terrible outcomes.¹⁴

¹¹ Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.192/15 (2001).

¹² Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2001; United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Nov. 15, 2000, 2225 U.N.T.S. 209.

¹³ Arms Trade Treaty, G.A. Res. 67/234B, U.N. Doc. A/RES/67/234B (Apr. 2, 2013) (entered into force Dec. 24, 2014); Arms Control Ass'n, The Arms Trade Treaty at a Glance (2024).

¹⁴ Amnesty Int'l, Governments' Brazen Flouting of Arms Trade Treaty Rules Leading to Devastating Loss of Life (Aug. 2024).

4.4 UNTOC and the Organised Crime Nexus

The UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime provides the main framework which enables international partners to combat organized criminal activities that involve arms trafficking. Its Protocols — including the Firearms Protocol — elaborate specific obligations in thematic areas. The convention's chapter on mutual legal assistance (Article 18) and extradition (Article 16) are particularly important for cross-border arms trafficking investigations. India has signed UNTOC and uses its provisions to establish bilateral cooperation with the United States, European countries, and selected South Asian nations for arms trafficking intelligence sharing and joint investigation efforts.

5. INDIA'S SECURITY CHALLENGES: CASE STUDIES AND THREAT VECTORS

5.1 The Pakistan-Punjab Corridor and Drone-Based Trafficking

The Punjab border with Pakistan has emerged as the single most active arms smuggling corridor in India. Cross-border drug and arms shipments from Pakistan are now conducted through drone delivery systems which anti-national groups and Pakistan-based networks have developed to bypass existing ground detection systems. The BSF and Punjab Police have seized hundreds of drones in recent years, many of which were equipped with AK-47s and pistols and grenades and rocket-propelled grenade components. The Smuggling in India Report 2023-24 specifically flagged this as an escalating challenge because drone deliveries can bypass traditional detection infrastructure which includes fencing and thermal sensors. The government has installed¹⁵ anti-drone systems at important border areas yet traffickers succeed in developing new strategies to defeat these protection systems.

5.2 The Northeast India and Myanmar Frontier

The 1,643-kilometre India-Myanmar border which remains mainly unfenced passes through dense jungle and mountain areas which has created a path for arms smugglers to use throughout its history. The insurgent groups which operate in Manipur Nagaland Assam and Mizoram have obtained their weapons through trafficking networks that run from Myanmar which is currently experiencing a severe civil war that began after the military coup in 2021. The lack of central authority control over most of Myanmar has created conditions for military-grade weapons to spread through regional grey markets¹⁶ which present major security challenges for Indian planners who need to monitor these weapons as they enter northeastern India.

5.3 The Munger-Illegal Manufacturing Network

The Munger district of Bihar has maintained its reputation as India's center for illegal small arms production since colonial times when traditional craft methods developed into an organized criminal operation that creates country-made pistols and rifles and revolvers for eastern Indian criminal groups. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data shows that illegal arms possession offenses reach their highest levels in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The weapons which domestic¹⁷ manufacturers produce instead of international smugglers demonstrate both India's domestic arms trafficking problem and the effect of supply-side interdiction methods.

6. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES AND ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGES

6.1 India's Multi-Agency Architecture

India operates multiple institutions to combat arms traffickers through its counter-arms-trafficking system which includes the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as the lead agency for terrorism-related arms cases and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence for customs and border seizures as well as the Border Security Force and Sashastra Seema Bal as land border management agencies and the Coast Guard for maritime security and the Central Bureau of Investigation for inter-state criminal organization investigations and state police forces for basic law enforcement duties. The NIA has achieved major legal victories through its arms trafficking prosecutions which involved terrorist activities, creating essential legal precedents that guide prosecutors in their work with the Arms Act and UAPA laws.

The existing system suffers from inter-agency coordination deficiencies which act as its main structural weakness. The lack of a nationwide database that tracks seized firearms has been identified by multiple parliamentary standing committees and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as a major problem which hinders weapon tracing efforts that serve to uncover trafficking operations. The recommendation has gained new urgency because drone-based trafficking requires immediate weapon marking and trace analysis according to the existing need to establish a National Arms Database which has been pending since its introduction.

¹⁵ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Smuggling in India Report 2023–24 (Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India 2024).

¹⁶ Int'l Inst. For Strategic Stud., Armed Conflict Survey 2024 (2024).

¹⁷ National Crime Records Bureau, Crime in India 2022 (Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India 2023).

6.2 Border Management Modernisation

The Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs, represents India's most ambitious technological initiative for border security. The system integrates thermal sensors, radars, underground sensors, and camera networks along priority border segments. Phase-I and Phase-II implementations have covered sections of the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders. The deployment of counter-drone systems, initially resisted on cost grounds, has been accelerated following the 2021 Jammu Air Force station drone attack — the first confirmed terrorist drone strike on Indian soil — which dramatically elevated the political salience of airspace-based trafficking.

6.3 Intelligence Sharing and International Cooperation

India has established bilateral and multilateral agreements to combat arms trafficking but these arrangements currently operate as separate entities. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mutual evaluation process has pressed India to strengthen its tracking of arms trafficking as a proceeds-of-crime offence. The United States and India have established the Homeland Security Dialogue while their INTERPOL partnership enables them to share intelligence which has resulted in disrupting multiple international trafficking operations. India uses INTERPOL's iARMS database as an international tracing system for seized firearms but the complete connection with its national databases has not yet been achieved.

7. COMPARATIVE REFLECTIONS: INDIA AND GLOBAL PEER EXPERIENCES

The comparative evaluation demonstrates educational differences which show how India approaches arms trafficking while other countries deal with the same problem. Mexico has suffered severe violence from American weapons which smugglers bring into Mexico but Mexico has become the strongest supporter of the ATT diversion provisions. Mexico's experience shows that approximately 70-90 percent of confiscated weapons come from legal US trade which demonstrates how both legal and illegal activities operate as interconnected systems. The Brazilian arms¹⁸ trafficking problem contains two elements because their borders and rural areas have poor state control which enables illegal arms markets to operate without law enforcement success through their current supply-side methods. The arms trade in Brazil exists through illegal small arms production which supplies criminal groups while India faces the same problem through its Munger arms production facilities which demonstrate the need for both domestic production controls and demand reduction methods to stop border security operations. The Sahel region in West Africa presents a strong warning which shows how Muammar Gaddafi's 2011 Libya collapse created a weapons flood that renewed armed conflict throughout Mali Niger Burkina Faso and other regions. The South Asian lesson shows that Myanmar's civil war will create a weapon supply problem which will affect India through northeastern state traffic for several decades.

8. EMERGING CHALLENGES

8.1 Dark Web and Digital Trafficking

Darknet markets now serve as online marketplaces that enable arms trade operations which disrupt traditional methods of weapon trafficking. The combination of encrypted communications platforms with cryptocurrency transactions and anonymous postal services has created a global marketplace which enables small arms distribution that bypasses regular security checkpoints. The UNODC's Global Study on Firearms 2020 documented the growth of online illicit markets, showing that a single darknet firearms vendor could serve customers in multiple countries at the same time. The country of India¹⁹ faces major difficulties because its digital infrastructure continues to expand while domestic criminal organizations develop better skills to use these new technological resources.

8.2 3D-Printed and Improvised Weapons

The spread of low-cost 3D printing technology has established a new type of untraceable gun which people can produce in their homes because it does not need any licensed manufacturing process and security measures cannot stop its production. The structural strength of 3D-printed weapons still remains restricted at present but the technology advances at a fast pace. The Arms Act of India establishes a complete ban on unlicensed manufacturing but its enforcement needs advanced digital intelligence systems which exceed the capabilities of standard border and crime detection methods. Multiple countries around the world have started building artificial intelligence systems that can find 3D printing blueprints online which India needs to either create or obtain for its defense needs.

¹⁸ Arms Control Ass'n, The ATT at 10: The View from Mexico, Arms Control Today (May–June 2023).

¹⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Study on Firearms 2020 (2020).

8.3 Post-Conflict Weapons Overhang

The ongoing conflict in Myanmar and periodic instability in Afghanistan create conditions for large-scale weapons diversion into South Asian black markets. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 together with the ongoing civil war of the Myanmar military has resulted in two countries losing their ability to track weapons because it has created high risks for weapon diversion. India's intelligence agencies have identified this situation as a permanent danger to border security because of the advanced trafficking networks which have operated through the India-Afghanistan-Pakistan border area.

9. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis conclusion reveals that two specific policy approaches must be implemented to enhance India's fight against illegal arms trade. The ATT treaty requires India to join because its current non-participation has become harder to defend from a strategic viewpoint. The treaty would give India access to the Diversion Information Exchange Forum while it would enhance import/export control systems. The treaty would demonstrate India's international leadership in arms control which matches India's goals to become a permanent UN Security Council member. The establishment of a centralized National Arms Database system which operates with advanced technology will enable India to track all seized and licensed weapons through DRI NIA BSF and state police data. The United Nations Firearms Protocol requires ratification because it establishes India's compliance with international standards for marking tracing and record-keeping while creating new partnership opportunities with other Protocol member countries. India should use its geopolitical influence within BIMSTEC and SAARC to establish regional small arms control systems because these systems will solve the fundamental problems that lead to weapons being diverted from local conflict areas. India needs to invest in darknet monitoring and cryptocurrency tracking and AI-based online arms market detection systems so its enforcement agencies can effectively combat modern trafficking activities. Socioeconomic development should be used to tackle the demand for illegal weapons which exists because of conflict and crime and insecurity.

10. CONCLUSION

Illicit arms trafficking presents an enduring and evolving threat to India's national security because it supports terrorist activities and insurgencies while enabling organized crime and civil violence throughout the country's diverse security environment. India established a complex legal system to address arms trafficking which relies on the Arms Act of 1959 and its 2019 amendments together with the UAPA and the BNS 2023 laws. The introduction of statutory definitions of illicit trafficking and organised crime, with correspondingly severe penalties, represents a meaningful tightening of the legal net around traffickers.

The legal system needs more than its current framework. The comparative global experience that includes Mexico's battle against US-origin weapons and West Africa's arms crisis after Gaddafi and Europe's centralized regional military systems shows that enforcement capabilities and agency collaboration and digital intelligence and actual multilateral partnerships determine the effectiveness of domestic laws just as much as the laws themselves. The non-membership of the ATT and the unfinished ratification process of the Firearms Protocol create significant international cooperation gaps for India which require immediate evaluation.

The global arms trade, which generates US\$70 billion in yearly revenue, functions as a commercial enterprise that connects geopolitical power struggles with violations of human rights. India aims to establish itself as a Vishwaguru which serves as its global leadership voice therefore its arms trafficking laws need to match its international diplomatic ambitions. India can achieve better security results through active international cooperation while developing modern institutions which will help tackle global problems.

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