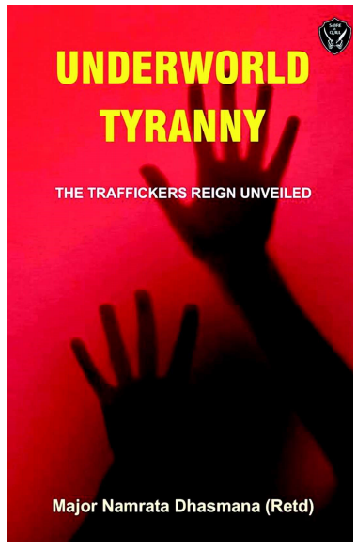


## Review Article 2

# Underworld Tyranny: The Traffickers Reign Unveiled

Major Namrata Dhasmana (Retd)



## Introduction

**U**nderworld Tyranny: The Traffickers Reign Unveiled', by Major Namrata Dhasmana (Retd), is a compelling and well-researched work that examines in depth how different forms of trafficking—human, narcotics, wildlife, and financial—are bound together by organised crime and weak governance. The book brings together an impressive range of contributors from different sections including the armed forces, civil services, law enforcement, and academia. Each of their perspectives adds weight to the discussion, explaining how these criminal networks function, and the kind of leadership and cooperation that are needed to dismantle them.

The editor's introduction makes it clear that trafficking is not only a crime but also a humanitarian and security challenge. The book shows how the forces of globalisation, digital technology, and limited enforcement capacity have helped traffickers in

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expanding their network beyond borders. These syndicates, which include cartels, criminal financiers, and intermediaries, now form a shadow economy and are mirroring legitimate trade. The book closes with a strong appeal for ethical leadership, coordinated institutional action, and greater public awareness to counter what Major Dhasmana calls the 'Traffickers' reign.

Ultimately, this volume seeks to inspire policymakers, law enforcement officers, and citizens to work together against one of the greatest threats to human dignity and security. It aims to expose the mechanics of this underworld and brings to attention how deeply these illicit networks affect our collective well-being.

### **About Major Namrata Dhasmana**

Major Namrata Dhasmana (Retd) is a veteran officer who has worked in both defence and corporate sectors. Her work spans geopolitics, strategic leadership, and policy advocacy. She brings together military discipline, strategic vision, and a deep understanding of governance and human behaviour. With her strategic experience across defence, policy, corporates, and strategic consulting, she now heads a cutting-edge Strategic Consulting firm with her concurrent venture Centre of International Futures.

She is the recipient of the Pillars of Maharashtra Award as the Best Thought Leader and Geopolitical Strategist. She is a qualified independent director, entrepreneur, and global thought leader and earned the title of the most followed women leaders on the global platform in 2022 for her visionary insights in strategy, governance, and geopolitical affairs.

Her leadership in editing this book has ensured a balanced mix of ground experience and academic research. The book captures the seriousness of trafficking and provides practical insights for policymakers, security professionals, and researchers. She steps beyond the surface to expose the shadow economy fuelled by exploitation and facilitated by inaction. The book is her bold attempt to challenge silence with strategy and awaken systems to action. This work is not just a chronicle—it is a reckoning.

### **About the Book**

The book demonstrates how shadow economies have emerged, expanded over a period, and entrenched themselves with the global commerce. These activities have been facilitated by

globalisation, which has opened markets and blurred boundaries. Adding to it is the fact that criminal operations are meticulously undertaken and designed to exploit the weaknesses in the system.

The book highlights that today's cartels operate almost like parallel states, they finance insurgencies, influence elections, and even shape foreign policy. Citing examples of Mexico's drug wars to Afghanistan's opium trade, trafficking has become a huge business that thrives on corruption and conflict. It also explains how drug, human, and wildlife trafficking share the same financial lifeline through money laundering. Profits from one illegal activity are often utilised to sustain another, and this is how the cycle of exploitation is undertaken.

Each chapter of *Underworld Tyranny* contributes a distinct perspective to this larger narrative. The combination of historical insights, field experiences, and policy recommendations makes it a valuable reference for readers. The salients of each chapter are discussed in the subsequent paragraphs.

The discussion in the chapter 'Drug trafficking to Human Trafficking' shows how closely the two trades are related in Myanmar and Northeast India. This connection is very strong in the region's tribal community, and is exasperated especially due to the porous borders, as these groups have continued to have strong cultural ties that date back even before the time modern borders were created. The analysis suggests that any good approach to tackle the threat must take into account the tribes' feelings while also going after the criminal networks that take advantage of their weaknesses.

Next is the chapter 'Crime Chronicles: True Stories of the Underworld Darkest Secrets' written by an Interpol officer, drawing from his first-hand law enforcement experience and years of investigative work in both Indian and international institutions. The book recounts rarely told stories from the underworld and adds authenticity and realism to the account and underlines the fact that outdated systems, procedural rigidity, and overburdened enforcement system continue to hinder the responses to organised crime. The point is succinctly made that, "Utilizing an 18<sup>th</sup> Century judicial system alongside a 19<sup>th</sup>-century police model to combat 20<sup>th</sup> Century crime is a formula for catastrophe".

The chapter 'Wildlife Trafficking in India – An Overview' explores how illegal wildlife trade is interlinked with other forms of organised crime, where defenceless creatures are treated as commodities in a troubled economy. The book brings out that wildlife smugglers generally use the same routes, networks, and ways to get money as drug and people traffickers. The report says that India needs stronger enforcement laws, more institutional capacity-building, and more public involvement to safeguard its biodiversity. Moreover, the lack of public understanding of this issue results in inadequate policy emphasis and limited institutional support. Wildlife trafficking is often seen as a 'Victimless' crime as the victims cannot speak for themselves and regarded as a 'High value–low risk' business as the detection rates are low and profit margins high.

The book's chapter on 'A Tide of Darkness: Drug Smuggling and Human Trafficking in India's Coastal Areas' talks about how India's long coastline and major shipping routes are being increasingly used for smuggling operations. India's strategic location between the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle makes it a crucial link in the international drug transit chain, particularly through sea routes. These unlawful operations are shown to be supported by factors such as political instability, sustained demand, and significant economic disparities in the region. The book calls for stronger coastal security mechanisms, including enhanced surveillance, improved information sharing, and more active international coordination.

The book explains how organised criminal groups use instability in a region to enhance their hold, which is discussed in the chapter, 'Global Kingpins Narcos Networking: A Geopolitical Perspective and Strategic Impacts on India'. The chapter emphasises that India's response must include a combination of diplomacy, enforcement, and cooperation mechanisms with other countries in the region. Case studies from India's border states show how global cartels use complex networks to facilitate cross border operations. The book also highlights the shortcomings of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, noting its limited reach and the absence of robust asset-forfeiture provisions, and calls for timely reforms to ensure that the law keeps pace with the realities of global organised crime.

The chapter on 'Human Trafficking and National Security: A Hidden Threat to Sovereignty' shifts focus to the human consequences especially for women and children. It argues that trafficking needs to be regarded not solely as a social or criminal matter, but as a national security issue. It highlights how trafficking erodes social trust, makes governance weak and damages institutional integrity. It underlines that trafficking remains one of the gravest violations of human rights and human dignity wherein individuals are subjected to grave exploitation.

The discussion in the chapter 'Goa and North-East Connect via the Trafficking Route' reveals how Goa, which was for long perceived as a peaceful and low-crime state, is slowly emerging as a hub for the flesh trade. It is getting increasingly connected to the Northeast and these activities are largely being supported through tourism and local corruption. In this framework, victims from geographically distant areas especially from the Northeast remain the most vulnerable, often trapped in cycles of debt and exploitation.

The chapter 'The Underbelly of Mumbai: Uncovering the Drug Menace' shows how Mumbai has been a popular place for drug traffickers for many years. The city's active seaports, busy international airport, and diverse population make it a good hub for both smugglers and buyers to meet. Over the years, a strong network of drug peddlers has grown in the city which has adapted to crackdowns by law enforcement agencies whilst successfully spreading addiction to different strata of the society.

In the next chapter, 'The Emerging Role of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in US Drug Enforcement and Global Collaboration', the book discusses how international agencies like the United States DEA are working with partner nations to counter drug trafficking. The publication emphasises the need for data-sharing, unified legal frameworks, and harmonised cross-border enforcement mechanisms to enable international agencies to combat the menace effectively. The chapter further stresses that the enduring challenge lies in building a sustainable global framework that integrates enforcement with education, social awareness, and community resilience.

The book also talks about and relates the fight against trafficking, with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The authors put forward the point in the chapter 'From Awareness to Action: How Sustainable Development Goals Can Help Eradicate Trafficking' that social awareness, gender equality, and inclusive education are vital in combating this menace. The SDG framework thus offers a practical path to addressing poverty, inequality, and gender disparity. The SDG goals when implemented with commitment and seriousness, can transform vulnerable populations into empowered and resilient communities and make our fight against trafficking stronger.

The chapter titled 'Unveiling Shadows: A Comprehensive Analysis of Human Trafficking and Policy Frameworks in India' analyses India's pathway and also whether enough is being done to stop human trafficking. It stresses that the country needs to build mechanisms that make it easier for non-governmental organisations and law enforcement to work together. Also, awareness campaigns can significantly contribute towards reducing the danger of becoming a victim. The analysis also states that these initiatives need to be backed up by strong legislation and greater cooperation between countries and groups. The book states that only a framework that bears all these aspects can ensure long-term response to trafficking.

The chapter 'Beyond Borders: Assessing the Interconnected Challenges of Drug and Human Trafficking in BRICS Societies' takes a regional view and focuses on the BRICS—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—countries and their immediate neighbourhood. It says that drug and human trafficking are both hard problems that can readily cross-national borders. The chapter argues that meaningful progress can be achieved only through regional cooperation, shared resources, exchange of best practices, and sustained dialogue. By working together, the BRICS countries can strengthen criminal prosecution, dismantle trafficking networks, and address the broader social and economic conditions that sustain these illicit operations.

The analysis of the darknet and cryptocurrency in the chapter 'Drug Economy on the Darknet and its Implications on BRICS Countries' explores how traffickers are using technology extensively to grow their businesses on the dark web. Cryptocurrency provides them with the advantage of anonymity and encryption, and

therefore, such transactions become difficult to trace. The chapter also talks about the rise of a digital drug economy that is slowly spreading to BRICS countries. It says that the dark web is a safe area for both traffickers and buyers because there are not any clear regulations for regulating cryptocurrencies, policing the dark web, or cross-border economic relationships. To address jurisdictional gaps and deal with the anonymity that makes this digital underworld feasible, the authors have suggested a single legal system and agreements for enforcing the law across borders.

The final section, Strategic Policy Interventions, serves as an imperative roadmap to combat illicit money flows. It provides clear, actionable strategies to dismantle shadow economies and reinforce institutional safeguards. This section elevates the book from being merely descriptive to genuinely prescriptive, offering stakeholders a coherent framework to drive systemic reform.

### **Conclusion**

The book provides a thorough and realistic look at how trafficking networks work and how they affect national security and government. The book has both real-life examples and policy suggestions. For military people, scholars, and policymakers, it serves as a timely reminder that fighting trafficking needs far more than enforcement alone—it demands ethical leadership, inter-agency cooperation, and an informed public.

*Underworld Tyranny: The Traffickers' Reign Unveiled* is both a study and a call to action. It helps readers understand that trafficking is not only a crime, but also a sign of deeper problems with governance and social responsibility.

The editor and contributors have underscored that this menace demands collective action and a mix of law, technology, and human compassion. Traffickers have been thriving on secrecy and exploitation, and their power can be weakened only through collective strength, cooperation and innovation.

The work ends on a note that perfectly echoes the spirit of service: "The trafficker's greatest adversary is not the law but the determined officer who refuses to yield". It is a reminder that moral courage, teamwork, and dedication remain the strongest weapons in this enduring fight against the underworld.

**Commander Saurav Mohanty**