

## CHAPTER 37

### CRIME STATISTICS

37.1 Crime Statistics is an important and essential input for assessing quality of life and the human rights situation in the society. Crime Statistics broadly reflects the status of operations of Criminal Justice System in a Country. Crime Statistics includes data on Offences - Breaches of the law Offenders - Those who commit offences Victims - Those who are offended against In India Crime statistics are generated on the basis of crime records maintained by different law enforcing agencies like the Police, the Judiciary at different level of administrative/legal jurisdiction under the federative system of India. These statistics are normally readily available and are generally used for assessing how crime is being dealt with by law enforcement organisations, However, these statistics being based on those **cases which are generally reported to the law enforcement agencies** and recorded through all stages of action on the cases reported. 'Crime Statistics' in India gives an **incomplete picture** of crime situations in the country. The deficiency is not particular to India, as some studies have shown that even data collected by British Crime Statistics provides a picture of 30% of the actual crime in the country.

37.2 **Source of Crime Statistics** : 37.2.1 **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** is the nodal agency at the centre to collect, compile and disseminate the information related with crime. "Crime in India", an annual compilation of NCRB, is being published since 1953. For this publication, the information in 22 standardized formats is being collected from all the 35 States/UTs as well as from 35 mega cities.

37.2.2 Internationally , data on crime & drugs is maintained by **United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** . UNODC collects data on crime and the operation of criminal justice systems in order to make policy-relevant information and analysis available in a timely manner to the international community. UNODC works on the development of standards for national crime and criminal justice information systems and for the conduct of victimization surveys. The office also aims to enhance the cross-national comparability of data through the development of key indicators and data reporting tools. Periodic reports of UNODC on selected crime issues provide in-depth analysis on key topics of concern at the global and regional level.

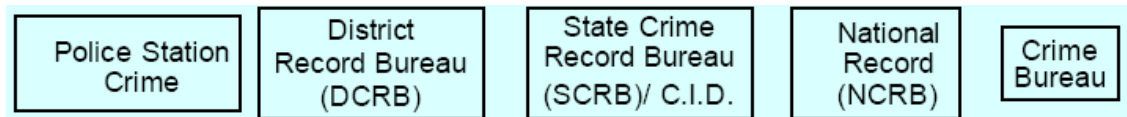
37.2.3 Recognizing the importance of Crime Statistics , UNODC in cooperation with United Nations Statistical Division launched the Eleventh **United Nations survey of Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (11<sup>th</sup> UN-CTS )** for the period 2007-08. The major goal of the survey was to collect the data on incidence of reported crimes and operations of criminal justice system. India has also participated in the survey. The survey results provide an overview of trends and interrelationships between various parts of the criminal justice system to promote informed decision-making in administration, nationally and internationally. Data collection through the CTS is conducted on an annual basis. The First & Second UN-CTS was conducted during 1970-80.

37.2.4 The information maintained by UNODC includes :

- Statistics on Crime : Homicide, assaults sexual violence, robbery , kidnapping, theft burglary , drug related crime .

- Statistics on Drug Use.
- Statistics on Criminal Justice: Persons prosecuted, convicted, detained , Criminal Justice system resources etc.

**37.3 Procedure for Collection of Crime Statistics:** The flow of information starts from the Police stations wherein the cognizable offence is reported in the form of **First Information Report (FIR)**. FIR sets the process of Criminal Justice in motion. The information thereafter flows from District Crime Record Bureaus to State Crime Record Bureau and the same is finally consolidated by National Crime Records Bureau .



**37.4 Genesis of National Crime Records Bureau :** Setting up of National Crime Records Bureau was recommended by the **National Police Commission** set up in 1977 . Accepting the recommendations, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** constituted a Task Force in 1985 to work out the modalities for setting up of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The Government accepted the recommendations of the Task Force and constituted the NCRB with headquarters at New Delhi in January, 1986. The objectives of the Bureau are :

- To function as a clearing house of information on crime and criminals including those operating at National and International levels so as to assists the investigators, and others in linking crimes to their perpetrators.
- To store, coordinate and disseminate information on inter-state and international criminals from and to respective States, national investigating agencies, courts and prosecutors in India without having to refer to the Police Station records.
- To collect and process crime statistics at the National level.

**37.5 Major Issues :37.5.1** Major issues pertaining to crime statistics include :

- Large extent of non-reporting/ recording of crime/ offences at different levels of administration, particularly with reference to non-cognizable offences having social implications
- Inadequate coverage of crime heads – under-coverage due to non-reporting for identified reasons.
- Reliability – systemic biases, errors due to overlaps between different sections of IPC, outreach to vulnerable (women, children and backward communities).
- Timeliness – rationalization of data flow.
- Identification of new types of crime/ offences for collection of statistics thereon.

37.5.2 The above issues were discussed by Committee on Crime Statistics constituted in October, 2010 by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. Crime is a state subject and state governments might be sensitive to the number of cases reported in their domains. States with better reporting systems or more empowered and educated public might record higher rates of crime. Further, in lot of cases the offended person may not report the crime out of social considerations or out of the fear of consequences eg. crime against women, children etc . Hence the comparisons across the states and across categories of crime must always be done with caution .

### **37.6 Terms & Definitions :**

The Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C) India classifies all the crimes into two categories :

- **Cognizable Crime : Sec. 2 ( C ) Cr PC**
- **Non Cognizable Crime: Sec 2 ( I ) Cr PC**

**Cognizable Crime :** A cognizable offence or case is defined as the one which an officer in-charge of a police station may investigate without the order of a magistrate and effect arrest without warrant. Cognizable crimes are broadly categorised as those falling either under the 'Indian Penal Code (IPC)' or under the 'Special and Local Laws (SLL)'

**Non Cognizable Crime :** Non-Cognizable crimes are defined as those which can not be investigated by police without the order of a competent magistrate. Police do not initiate investigation in non-cognizable crimes except with magisterial permission.

#### **Broad classification of crimes under the Indian penal code (IPC) :**

- Crimes against body:** Murder, Attempt to commit murder, Culpable homicide not amounting to murder, Kidnapping & Abduction, Hurt, Causing death by negligence;
- Crimes against property:** Dacoity, Preparation and assembly to commit Dacoity, Robbery, Burglary and Theft;
- Crimes against public order:** Riots and Arson;
- Economic crimes:** Criminal breach of trust, Cheating & Counterfeiting;
- Crimes against women:** Rape, Dowry death, Cruelty by husband or his relatives, Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, Insult to the modesty of women and Importation of girl from foreign country;
- Crimes against children:** Child rape, Kidnapping & abduction of children, Procurement of minor girls, Selling and buying of girls for prostitution, Abetment of suicide, Exposure and Abandonment, Infanticide and foeticide;
- Other IPC crimes.

#### **Crimes under the Special and Local Laws (SLL)**

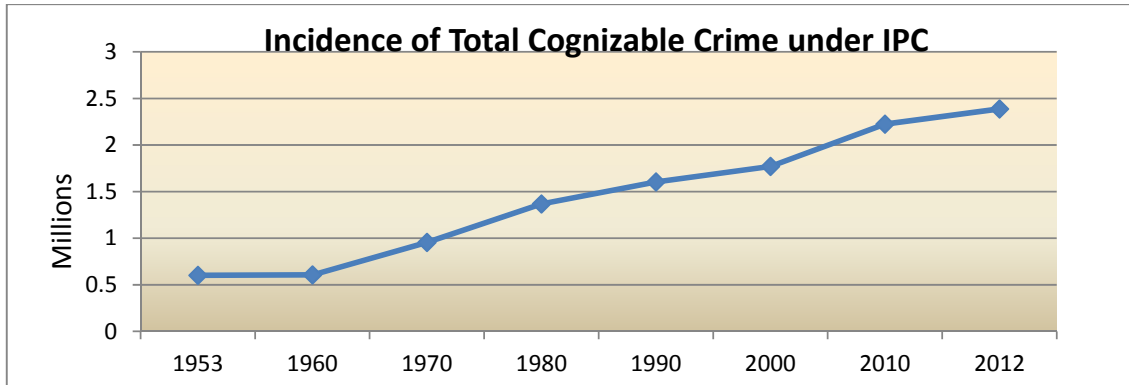
- Arms Act, 1959;
- Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985;
- Gambling Act, 1867;
- Excise Act, 1944;
- Prohibition Act;
- Explosives & Explosive Substances Act, 1884 & 1908;
- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956;
- Indian Railways Act, 1989;
- The Foreigners Act, 1946;
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955;
- Passport Act, 1967;
- Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

- xiii) Antiquities & Art Treasures Act, 1972;   xiv) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961;
- xv) Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006;
- xvi) Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986;
- xvii) Copyright Act, 1957;   xiii) Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1987;
- xix) SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;   xx) Forest Act, 1927;
- xxi) Other crimes (not specified above) under Special and Local Laws including Cyber Laws under Information Technology Act (IT), 2000.

**Incidence of Crime :** Number of crime reported under Indian Penal Code(IPC) or Special & Local Laws(SLL).

**Rate of Crime :** Number of crime reported per lakh person in the target population .

**37.7 Past Trends:** 37.7.1 As per the number of cases reported, the total cognizable crime under IPC in general has been showing a rising trend except for the years 1954, 1955, 1963, 1968, 1969, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1993 and 2003, in which the declining trend was observed.



37.7.2 Head wise categorization of crime reveals that among major heads, Dacoity and Burglary / House breaking have being showing a **declining trend** over a period of **60 years**. Burglary / House breaking has declined by 37.0% (from 1,47,379 in 1953 to 92,892 in 2012) and Dacoity has declined by 22.7% (from 5,579 in 1953 to 4,314 in 2012), whereas Murder has **increased** by 251.3% (from 9,802 in 1953 to 34,434 in 2012); Rape by 902.1% (from 2,487 in 1971 to 24,923 in 2012); Kidnapping & Abduction by 804.6% (from 5,261 in 1953 to 7,592 in 2012); Robbery by 225.2% (from 8,407 in 1953 to 27,343 in 2012) and Riots by 263.5% (from 20,529 in 1953 to 74,633 in 2012).

**Trends of some major crime heads over years 1953-2012**

Total Cog. Crimes under IPC		Murder		Rape		Kidnapping & Abduction		Dacoity		Robbery		Burglary/House Breaking		Riots	
Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence
1953	6,01,964	1953	9,802	1971*	2,487	1953	5,261	1953	5,579	1953	8,407	1953	1,47,379	1953	20,529
2012	23,87,188	2012	34,434	2012	24,923	2012	47,592	2012	4,314	2012	27,343	2012	92,892	2012	74,633
<b>% Change in 2012 over 1953</b>		<b>296.6</b>		<b>251.3</b>		<b>902.1</b>		<b>804.6</b>		<b>-22.7</b>		<b>225.2</b>		<b>-37.0</b>	

NCRB started collecting data on Rape since 1971 only.

**37.8 Crime Statistics India - 2012** : 37.8.1 During 2012, a total of 60,41,559 cognizable crimes comprising 23,87,188 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes (2.6 % increase over previous year) and 36,54,371 Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes (6.9 % decrease over previous year) were reported, showing an overall decrease of 3.4% over 2011 (62,52,729) . IPC crime rate has increased by 2.3% over 2011 while SLL crime rate has decreased by 7.2% over 2011).

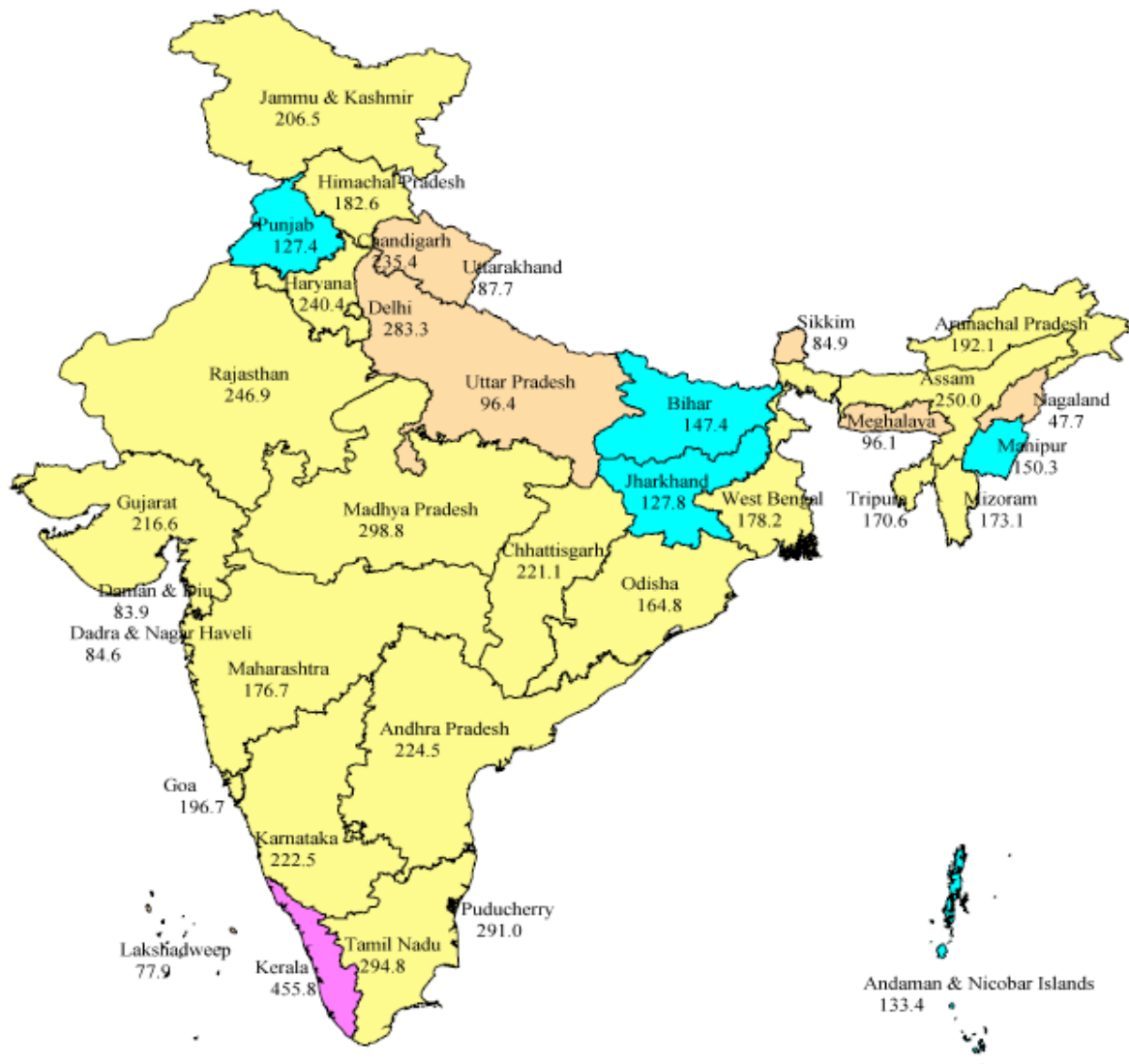
SL. No.	CRIME HEADS	CASES REPORTED	% TO TOTAL IPC CRIMES	RATE OF CRIME	CHARGE-SHEETING RATE	CONVICTION RATE
<b>A) VIOLENT CRIMES</b>						
1	MURDER	34434	1	3	86	36
2	ATTEMPT TO COMMIT MURDER	35138	1	3	92	26
3	C.H. NOT AMOUNTING MURDER	3620	0	0	88	33
4	RAPE	24923	1	4	96	24
5	KIDNAPPING & ABDUCTION	47592	2	4	72	21
6	DACOITY	4314	0	0	78	21
7	PREPARATION & ASSEMBLY FOR	3099	0	0	95	19
8	ROBBERY	27343	1	2	71	29
9	RIOTS	74633	3	6	92	18
10	ARSON	11836	0	1	68	16
11	DOWRY DEATHS	8233	0	1	94	32
	<b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES</b>	<b>275165</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>B) CRIME AGAINST WOMEN (IPC+SLL)</b>						
1	KIDNAPPING & ABDUCTION OF WOMEN & GIRLS	38262	1.6	6.5	72.9	21.2
2	ASSAULT ON WOMEN WITH INTENT TO OUTRAGE HER MODESTY	45351	1.9	7.7	96.0	24.0
3	INSULT TO THE MODESTY OF WOMEN	9173	0.4	1.6	96.1	36.9
4	CRUELTY BY HUSBAND OR HIS RELATIVES	106527	4.5	18.2	93.6	15.0
5	IMPORTATION OF GIRLS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES	59	0.0	0.0	90.0	16.1
	<b>TOTAL CRIME AGAINST WOMEN (IPC+SLL)</b>	<b>244270</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>21.3</b>
<b>C) ECONOMIC CRIMES</b>						
1	CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST	17901	0.7	1.5	73.7	24.8
2	CHEATING	94203	3.9	7.8	72.6	24.3
3	COUNTERFEITING	2351	0.1	0.2	51.1	36.2
	<b>TOTAL ECONOMIC CRIMES</b>	<b>114455</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>24.6</b>
<b>D) PROPERTY CRIMES</b>						
1	BURGLARY	92892	3.9	7.7	42.1	29.7
2	THEFT	337407	14.1	27.8	34.0	33.3
	<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES</b>	<b>430299</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>32.4</b>
<b>E) CRIMES AGAINST SCs</b>						
	<b>TOTAL CRIME AGAINST SCs</b>	<b>33655</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>23.9</b>
<b>F) CRIMES AGAINST STs</b>						
	<b>TOTAL CRIME AGAINST STs</b>	<b>5922</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>22.5</b>
<b>G) TOTAL CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN</b>						
	<b>TOTAL CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN</b>	<b>38172</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>29.0</b>
<b>H) COGNIZABLE CRIMES UNDER IPC</b>						
	<b>TOTAL COGNIZABLE CRIMES UNDER IPC</b>	<b>2387188</b>			<b>78.8</b>	<b>38.5</b>
<b>I) COGNIZABLE CRIMES UNDER SLL</b>						
	<b>TOTAL COGNIZABLE CRIMES UNDER SLL</b>	<b>3654371</b>			<b>93.4</b>	<b>88.6</b>
<b>J) COGNIZABLE CRIMES UNDER IPC + SLL</b>						
	<b>TOTAL COGNIZABLE CRIMES UNDER IPC + SLL</b>	<b>6041559</b>			<b>87.8</b>	<b>73.6</b>

Source : Crime In India ,2012 NCRB

A4 & A11 are part of crime against women also, A6,A7 & A8 are part of property crimes also. For calculating rate of crime against specific subset of population ( eg women, children, SC, ST etc) the population of subset has been used as the universe.

**37.8.2 Statewise Incidence & Rate of Crime :** Madhya Pradesh accounted for 9.2% of total IPC crime reported in the country closely followed by Maharashtra (8.5%), Tamil Nadu (8.4%), Uttar Pradesh (8.3%) and Andhra Pradesh (8.1%) whereas Kerala reported the highest crime rate (455.8) for IPC crimes followed by Madhya Pradesh (298.8), Tamil Nadu (294.8) and Puducherry (291.0). Uttarakhand reported highest SLL crime rate of 1,249.0 in the country during 2012 followed by Chhattisgarh (1,069.1) and Kerala (1,009.9).

**Rate of IPC Crime 2012 (All India 196.7)**



**37.8.3 Police Infrastructure :** During 2012, actual strength of police force was 16,74,755 against sanctioned strength of 21,64,316. The proportion of armed police to civil police (actual) is 1: 3. The strength of police personnel for 1,00,000 of population was recorded as 138 (in 2011 the same was 137) while 2.5 number of IPC cases per civil policeman were reported during 2012. The strength of police personnel per unit area in the country i.e. per 100 Sq. Km recorded as 52.9 (0.9% increase over 2011). Actual strength of women police (85,462) was more than sanctioned strength (57,318). The highest number of women police was reported in

Maharashtra. Total of 510 police stations were reported as women police station during 2012.

#### 37.8.4 Persons Arrested & Disposal of Cases :

Persons Arrested	
IPC	SLL
2011 : 31,45,845	2011 : 43,12,413
2012 : 32,70,016	2012 : 41,50,075

37.8.5 For every one hour, 273 cases were reported in country and 373 persons were arrested different IPC sections in the year 2012 of these 2.84 cases pertained to rape & an average of 3.55 persons were arrested in connection to the same per hour.

37.8.6 There were 32,43,783 cases for Police investigation during 2012 (including pending cases from previous year), out of which 23,95,036 (73.8%) cases of investigation were completed while 8,45,495 (26.0%) were pending at the end of 2012. Police could charge-sheet 54.7% cases out of total cases for investigation and 78.8% (17,74,150) of cases of successful detection were reported out of 23,95,036. In term of percentage disposal of IPC cases, disposal of cases by courts was 13.4% while remaining 84.6% cases were pending at the end of the year 2012. Similarly, disposal of SLL cases by courts was 35.4% while remaining 64.0% cases were pending at the end of the year 2012.

#### References:

- Website of United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Crime in India 2012, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs & other information available on the website of National Crime Records Bureau.