

This article is related to General Studies- Paper-III (Internal Security)

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"Latest NCRB report introduces categories for cyber crimes against women, cases of insult under SC/ST Act, duration of delay in closing police & court cases."

On Monday, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the much delayed crime data for 2017. While it was without some crucial data categories, the data included were more fleshed out than in the 2016 crime report. The NCRB has introduced more than three dozen new categories and sub-categories of crimes under various heads.

The report omits data on mob lynchings, khap killings, murder by influential people and killings for religious reasons.

Data on farmer suicides after 2015 are yet to be published although, sources said, the fully compiled data had been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs 20 months ago.

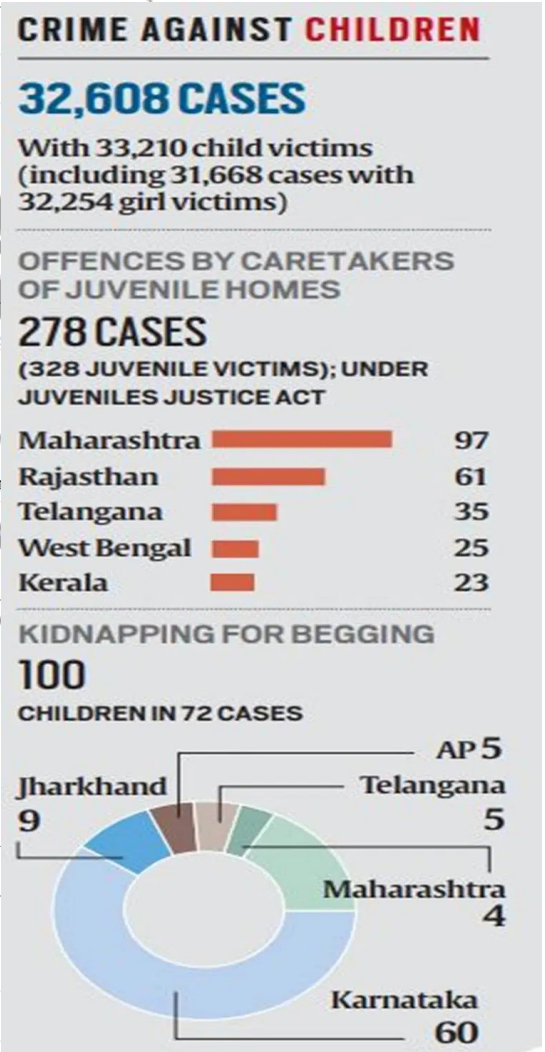
NCRB crime report data: New categories, broadly

At least four categories where significant diversification of data can be seen are crimes against women and children, atrocities against Dalits, cases of corruption, and time taken by police and courts to take cases to their conclusion. For the first time, the NCRB has introduced categories of cyber crimes against women and children.

In the case of Dalits, the NCRB has for the first time published data on offences registered solely under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with further categorisation of insult, land grab and social ostracism.

The NCRB has also recorded cases of disproportionate assets against public servants besides introducing new crime heads such as abetment, criminal intimidation, simple hurt, credit/debit card and on-line frauds, Internet crimes through online gaming and kidnapping for begging among others.

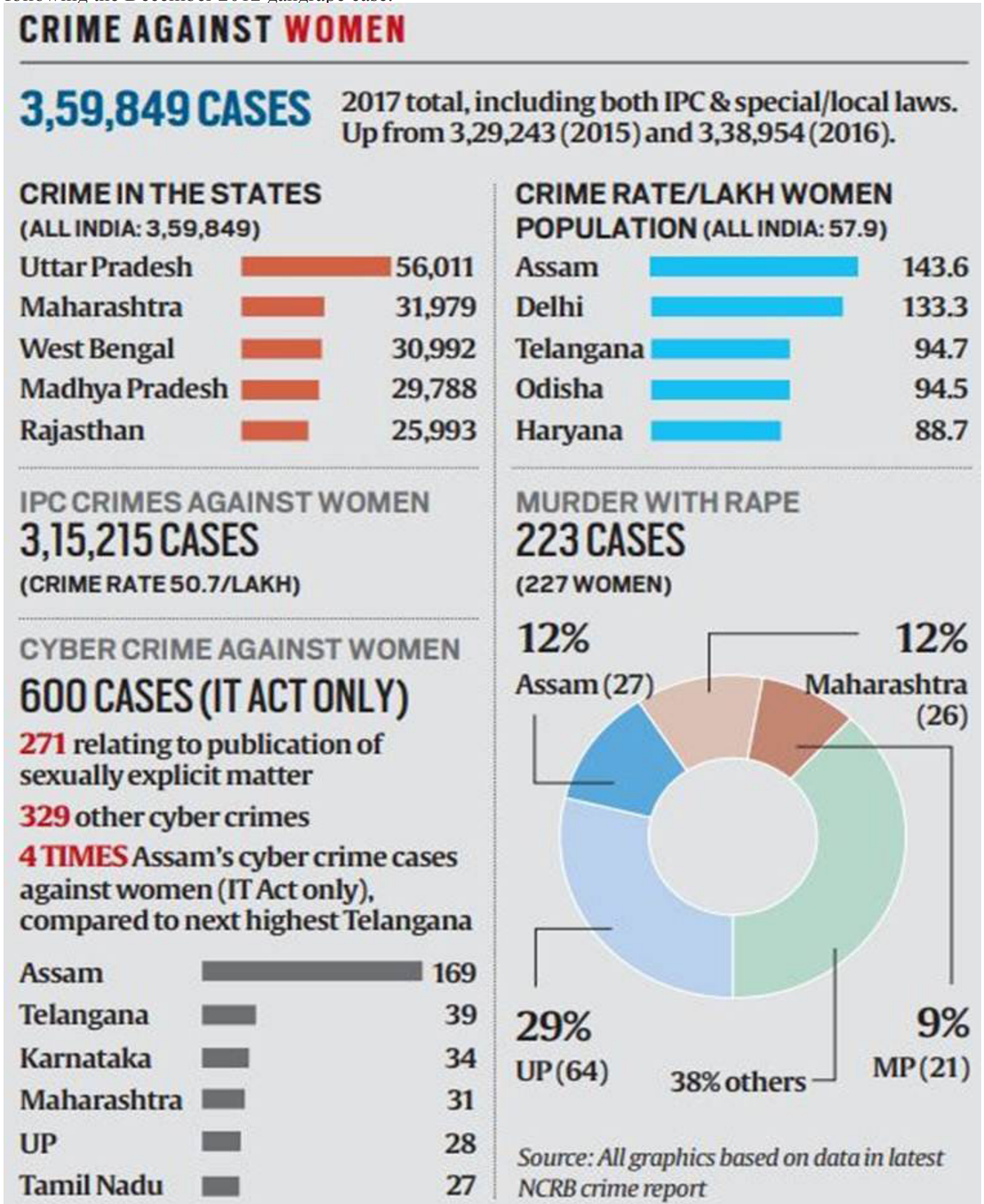
More importantly, for the first time, the NCRB has not merely dwelt on pendency of cases with the police and courts but also the period of such pendency, which has thrown up some rather counter-intuitive data.



Women and children

In the case of women and children, the NCRB has this time recorded data for “murder with rape”. In 2017, as many as 33,885 women were reported to have been raped across the country. Of these, 227 were murdered after the rape. As many as 28,152 children were raped with cases registered under IPC and the POCSO Act. Of these, 151 were killed after being raped.

The NCRB has, however, removed the category of gangrape that was introduced to the NCRB database following the December 2012 gangrape case.



In the category of cyber crimes against women, the NCRB has recorded 4,242 offences where women were either stalked, blackmailed or their morphed pictures were uploaded on the internet.

In a sub-category for SLL (special and local laws) cyber crimes against women, the number of women-centric crimes is given as 600, of which 271 relate to publishing or transmitting of sexually explicit material under the Information Technology Act.

The report has also introduced the categories of sexual harassment at the workplace and in public transport. As many as 479 and 599 cases were reported in 2017 under these categories respectively.

Also, 33,606 cases were registered and 40,420 juveniles apprehended during the year. "Majority of juveniles in conflict with law apprehended under IPC and SLL crimes were in the age group of 16 years to 18 years. These cases accounted for 29,194 out of 40,420, totalling 72.2 per cent cases during 2017," the NCRB said.

Justice delayed

While the NCRB has always collected data on pendency of cases with police and in courts, this was largely about the number of such cases. In the latest report, the NCRB has also recorded the period of pendency.

The data show police delayed chargesheets in 40% of cases. For IPC crimes, police are supposed to file a chargesheet within 90 days. But data show that in certain cases such as rioting, which includes communal riots, police delayed filing of chargesheets in 60% of the cases. It says there are more than 3 lakh cases pending investigations for more than one year.

The report says in more than 40% of cases with fast-track courts, these courts have taken more than three years to finish the trial. In fact, in as many as 3,384 cases committed to fast-track courts, the trial was finished in more than 10 years.

Of the 38,000-odd cases that fast-track courts completed in 2017, over 4,500 cases had been running for 5-10 years. In only around 11,500 cases was the trial completed within one year.

In courts as a whole, 2,71,779 cases were pending trial at the end of 2017.

Other data

Under the category of rioting, new sub-categories have been added which include vigilante action, disputes over water, power and property and rioting during morchas.

Some other new data include spreading of fake news where 257 offences have been recorded. As many as 952 election-related offences were also recorded in 2017 apart from offences relating to religion (1,808) and Obscene Acts and Songs at Public Places (29,557).

CHARGESHEETS

(21.47 lakh chargesheets in IPC cases, 43% filed beyond 3-month deadline)

Within 1 month	32% (6.88 lakh)
1-3 months	25% (5.37 lakh)
3-6 months	20% (4.35 lakh)
6-12 months	14% (3 lakh)
1-2 years	7.5% (1.58 lakh)
More than 2 years	1.5% (29k)

FAST-TRACK COURTS

(38,004 IPC cases disposed of, 40% took more than 3 years)

Less than 1 month	3% (1,000)
1-3 months	4% (1,540)
3-6 months	8% (3,016)
6-12 months	15% (5,911)
1-3 years	30% (11,401)
3-5 years	19% (7,226)
5-10 years	12% (4,526)
More than 10 years	9% (3,384)

GS World Team...

Cyber crime jumped by 77% in 2017

- The number of cyber crimes increased dramatically in 2017 as compared to 2016, and nearly every fifth cyber crime in 2017 was committed against a woman, official data for that year released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show.
- A total 21,796 instances of cyber crime were recorded in 2017, an increase of 77% over the previous year's number of 12,317, says the NCRB report, Crime in India 2017. By contrast, the 2016 number was only 6% more than the 2015 number of 11,592.
- More than half the incidents of cyber crime in 2017 were motivated by fraud, the report, which was released on Monday, said. "During 2017, 56 per cent of cyber crime cases registered were for the motive of fraud (12,213 out of 21,796 cases) followed by sexual exploitation with 6.7 per cent (1,460 cases) and causing disrepute with 4.6 per cent (1,002 cases)."
- Two hundred and six cases of cyber crime were registered for inciting hate against the country, and 139 were committed with political motives. One hundred and ten cyber crimes were related to terrorist activities.

WOMEN CHILDREN

	WOMEN	CHILDREN
Cyber Blackmailing/Threatening	132	1
Cyber Pornography/Hosting/Publishing Obscene Sexual Materials	271	7
Cyber Stalking/Cyber Bullying of Women	555	7
Defamation/Morphing	50	NA
Fake Profile	147	3
Other Crimes	3,087	70
TOTAL	4,242	88

Position of States

- Countrywide, the rate of cyber crime — that is, the number of cyber crimes committed per 1,00,000 population — in 2017 was 1.7, the report shows. The most cyber crimes per 1,00,000 population were committed in Karnataka (5) in 2017; Telangana was next, with a rate of 3.3 cyber crimes per 1,00,000 population, followed by Maharashtra (3) and Uttar Pradesh (2.2).
- In absolute numbers, UP, the most populous state, registered the largest number of cyber crimes (4,971), followed by Maharashtra (3,604), and Karnataka (3,174). Among the Union Territories, the most cyber crimes in 2017 were registered in Delhi (162).
- country in 2017, 4,242 — about 19.5% — were committed against women, and 88 against children. The cyber crimes against women were related to cyber blackmail or threats, cyber pornography or hosting or publishing obscene sexual materials, cyber stalking or cyber bullying of women, defamation, or morphing and indecent representation of women, etc.
- Crimes against children included Internet crimes committed through online games, etc. This is the first time that NCRB has compiled data on the nature of cyber crimes against women and children.
- In 2017, a total 11,601 persons were arrested for cyber crime cases, 8,306 were chargesheeted, and only 162 were convicted.

Position of Womens & Children

- Of the 21,796 cyber crimes registered in the

Expected Questions (Prelims Exams)

1. Recently, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has published the data of crimes of 2017, with reference to this, consider the following statements: -

1. For the first time, NCRB has introduced the categories of cyber crimes against women and children.
2. It has also recorded disproportionate assets cases against public servants in the data.
3. This data collected is based on cases mostly pending in Police stations and courts.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

Expected Questions (Mains Exams)

Q. 'The change in the trend of crimes against women in India and delay in justice is a matter of grave concern.' Analyze this statement in the context of the recently released National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report.

(250 words)

Note: Answer of Prelims Expected Question given on 22 Oct., is 1 (b).