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Gang rape cases in India, witnessed a rise

Athul Krishna

The gang-rape cases in India have increased significantly, particularly in the states such as Rajasthan, Haryana, Jharkhand and Delhi.

Rajasthan recorded the highest number of cases registered with a count of 941. It is followed by Haryana with 163 cases, Jharkhand with 54 cases, and Delhi with 46 cases in 2020. According to the report published by National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 3,71,503 cases of crime against women were registered during 2020. An upward trend has been discovered in the number of rape cases in the above-mentioned states between 2018-20. Rajasthan recorded 556 cases in the year 2018 whereas, in 2019, the cases increased by 346 with a total of 902 cases. Similarly, Haryana, Jharkhand, Delhi also showed an upward trend. Aishwarya Gopinath, the co-founder of PinkLungi media website, and a post-graduate in women studies said, "Rape usually happens to showcase dominance over the opposite gender more than the sexual aspect of it. 7.5% of cases registered in the category, crimes against women under IPC are rape cases. (With inputs from Shahul Hameed)

Zero percent convictions in custodial deaths

Iswarya Lakshmi

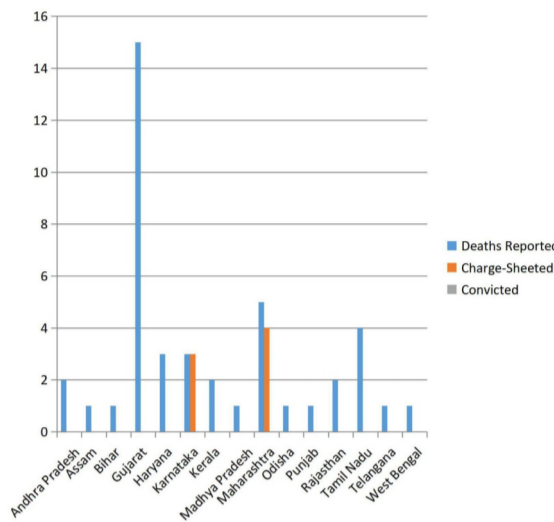
In 2020, out of 43 custodial deaths that were recorded in India in the category 'not on remand', no policemen were convicted.

As per the Indian Penal Code, a person arrested should be produced before the magistrate within twenty-four hours of the arrest. This means these deaths have occurred even before the accused was produced before the court.

This was revealed in the latest Crime In India data released by NCRB last month.

Surprisingly, 40% of these custodial deaths have taken place in the states ruled by the BJP government.

As per the data, Gujarat has



The convicted column is not found as there are zero convictions

recorded the highest number of custodial deaths which is 15 and interestingly no arrests have been made so far.

Following Gujarat,

Maharashtra has recorded 5 deaths and yet again no convictions have occurred.

Tamil Nadu has recorded four custodial deaths whereas Karnataka has recorded three.



been made in states such as Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, none of them are convicted yet.

"Custodial deaths are absolutely against Article 21 of the constitution. 43 custodial deaths of people who were not in remand is a shocking revelation," said C.S.Rajan, Tamil Nadu State President of Citizen Movement for Equality, based in Madurai. He added, "At the same time, we cannot completely rely on the data set, as many custodial deaths also go unreported. I have dealt with some cases of custodial deaths where the bodies have been thrown into the well without reporting it." (With inputs from Pranav Shriram)

States such as West Bengal, Telangana, Punjab, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Assam have reported 1 custodial death each.

Although few arrests have

Communal murders increased by 70%

Aamir Sohail

Despite the total number of crimes in India dipped in 2020, the murders owing to communal reasons has risen by 70% as compared to 2019.

This significant rise is witnessed because of the 53 deaths that were reported in Delhi during the riots that shocked the capital city in the aftermath of a protest against CAA-NRC. The nine other deaths are spread across the states.

Surprisingly, these murders happened in the year of a



Murders due to communalism in 2019 and 2020

pandemic. BJP ruled states accounted for 9 murders in 2020 while

Congress-ruled states accounted for none. Following Delhi, Bihar

recorded the second-highest number of communal murders with a count of six. In effect, the chances of a person being killed in a BJP ruled state is 900% higher when compared to people living in the other states of the country.

Dr Ajai Kumar, a member of a group working towards communal harmony known as VR1 foundation expressed his disappointment saying that "These deaths should not have happened, it is very disappointing." (With inputs from Anjali R and Alwin)

Domestic violence cases decrease in 2020

Ahana Bagchi

Domestic violence cases have been on a decrease post-2019. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data 2020, the total number of cases of domestic violence reported in India has decreased in 2020 as compared to the previous year.

The year 2020 has seen an 11.04% decrease as compared to that of 2019 in terms of the total cases reported. Karnataka specifically has seen a 17% decrease whereas other states like Uttar Pradesh has seen a 21.03% decrease in domestic violence cases.

It is essential to note that the decrease is just in the cases reported. Analysts attribute the cause of the decrease to the lockdown that was imposed in the year 2020.

Cases reported have risen in certain states as well, like West Bengal (17.76% increase) and Odisha (33.58% increase). However the majority of the states in the country have a lesser number of cases reported in the year 2020. (With inputs from Riya Joseph)

K'taka: Highest in child marriages

Nishitha Rachel

Karnataka is known for its heritage destinations, national parks, hill stations, IT sector among others. Despite all this, the state is leading in the highest number of child marriage cases reported.

According to reports from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Karnataka has recorded the highest number of child marriage cases in the last four years.

As per the data, in 2017 Karnataka recorded the highest number of cases with the count of 65 whereas, in

2018, Assam recorded the highest number of cases with the same count. However, in 2019 Karnataka accounted for 111 cases only to register, yet again, a highest number of cases in 2020 which totaled up to 184 with Assam and West Bengal coming in second and third.

V. Radhamani, the president of Belaku NGO in Bangarapet told the beacon that she believes the number increased due to the pandemic. "Since children were at home and had nothing to do, the parents, especially people living in the rural areas, decided to get

their children married off for either property or gold," she said.

She added, "We have stopped some of these marriages for the time being. But later these children were married off."

India has seen a drastic increase in the number of child marriages despite the rise in technology and education. According to the data, in 2018 the number of cases registered were 501, in 2019 it was 523 and the highest was recorded in 2020 with 785 cases.

(With inputs from Arakkal Shada Amina)

B'lore stands fifth in crimes against scheduled castes

Akshara DM

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report on crimes against Scheduled Castes in metropolitan cities in 2020, the silicon city of India, Bengaluru stands fifth in the country.

A total of 141 crimes on SCs were recorded in the year 2018, 166 in 2019 and 133 in 2020. Despite a decrease in crimes against SCs in Bengaluru, the city still stands fifth among the 19 metropolitan cities. The

top four cities include Lucknow, Jaipur, Kanpur and Ahmedabad.

N. Shankar state convener of Dalit Sangarsha Samiti Samyojita said, "This NCRB data is not accurate. The atrocities are not getting registered in police stations. A fear is created among the scheduled castes and they make them take back the case." He further added, "These cases are considered as a civil matter. This has happened in many stations across Bengaluru and this is still happening." (With inputs from Abhimanyu Sharma)