

## Impact of Pandemic on Crimes and Suicides

### What is the issue?

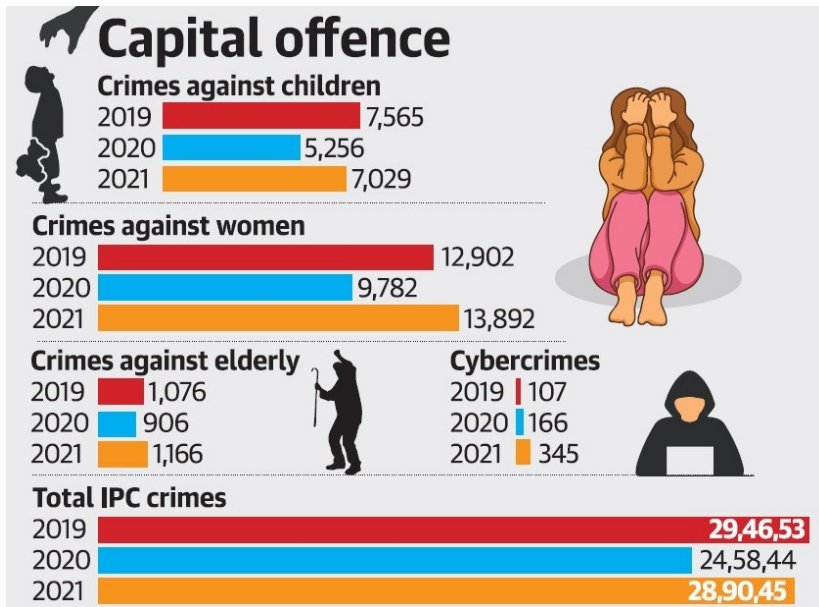
Increase in violent crimes, suicides in NCRB's Crime in India report 2021 points to indirect consequences of pandemic.

### What is NCRB ?

- **Origin-** The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was established in 1986 with the aim of establishing a body to compile and keep records of data on crime.
- **Ministry-** It functions under the **Union Home Ministry**.
- **Functions-** Its functions include collection, coordination and exchange of information on inter-state and international criminals to the respective states.
- NCRB also acts as a national warehouse for the fingerprint records of Indian and foreign criminals, and assists in locating interstate criminals through fingerprint search.
- **Reports of NCR**
  - Crime in India
  - Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI)
  - Prison Statistics India
  - Report on Missing Women and Children in India
  - Fingerprint in India

### What is the status of violent crimes in India in 2021?

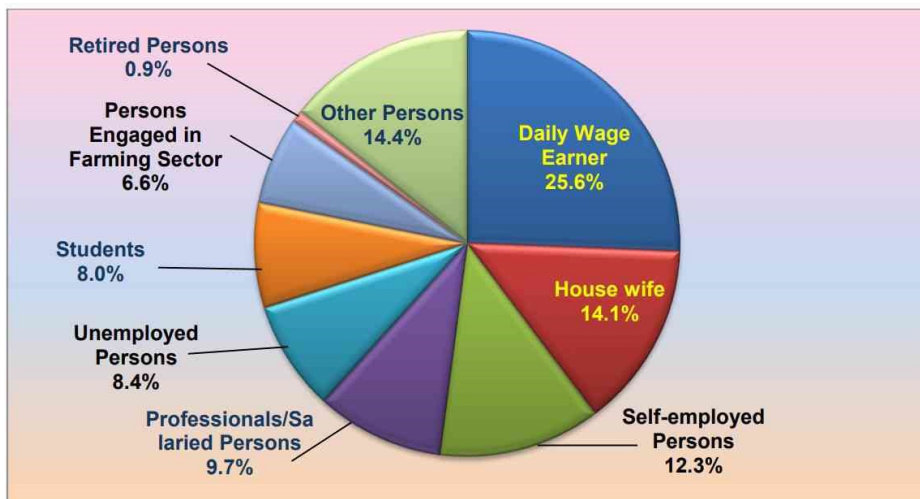
- Registration in violent crimes such as rape, kidnapping, atrocities against children, robberies and murders increased in 2021 in comparison to the drop in 2020.
- **Overall crime rate-** The overall crime rate (per 1 lakh people) decreased from 487.8 in 2020 to 445.9 in 2021.
- **Major crimes-** Cruelty by husband or his relatives constituted 31.8% of crimes against women.
- **Chargesheeting and conviction rate-** While violent crimes increased, the chargesheeting rate fell as did the conviction rate.
- **State wise data-** Assam (76.6 violent crimes per one lakh people), Delhi (57) and West Bengal (48.7) had the highest numbers.
- Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu registered the lowest numbers.
- **Safest city-** Kolkata has emerged as the safest city in 2021 with the fewest cognisable offences recorded per lakh of its population.



### What about the status of suicides?

- **Suicide rate**- The report revealed that the suicide rate in the population in 2021 — 12 per one lakh people was the highest in the last five years.
- **Main reasons**- Domestic problems (33.2%) and illnesses (18.6%).
- **Other causes**- Drug abuse/addiction, marriage-related issues, love affairs, bankruptcy or indebtedness.
- **Victims**- Most victims are daily wage earners (25.6%) and housewives (14.1%).
- **Region**- Delhi saw a massive 24% jump in suicides, followed by Chennai and Bengaluru.

Percentage Distribution of Suicide Victims by Profession During 2021



### What does the report signify?

- Domestic violence continues to be a major issue.
- The decrease in crime rate is largely due to a decrease in cases registered under disobedience to a public servant's order, relating to lockdowns.
- The decrease in chargesheeting rate and conviction rate signifies the poor response of law enforcement in a year with more violent crimes.

- The 5.9% jump in cases registered as cybercrimes over 2020 indicates the increasing use of digital devices and the related challenges.
- With India registering the highest excess deaths during the pandemic, according to the World Health Organization, these figures are not surprising.

## References

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2. <https://www.news18.com/news/india/10-rise-in-suicides-in-pandemic-daily-wage-earners-and-housewives-died-more-says-ncrb-report-4378400.html>
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