

Prison Statistics India 2017

Why in news?

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recently released the “Prison Statistics India 2017” report.

What are the highlights?

- **Prison deaths** - The number of deaths in prisons has increased marginally from around 1,580 in 2015 to around 1,670 in 2017, with a surge of 5.49% during 2017.
- The NCRB also found that there is a minuscule increase in deaths inside prisons in 2017 as compared to 2016.
- Out of the 1,671 deaths in 2017, 1,494 were natural and 133 unnatural.
- The number of unnatural deaths in prisons has increased by 15.7% from 115 in 2015 to 133 in 2017.
- Among the 133, 109 inmates have committed suicide, 9 died in accidents, 5 were murdered and 5 died due to assault by outside elements.
- For a total of 44 inmates' deaths, the cause of death is yet to be known.
- **Escaped** - A total of 371, 577 and 378 prisoners were reported as escaped from lawful custody during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- During 2017, 215 prisoners were reported as escaped from judicial custody.
- Gujarat has reported escapee of 90 prisoners while they were outside prison premises followed by WB (11), and Bihar and Rajasthan (8) each.
- Apart from escape from Judicial Custody, 163 prisoners escaped from Police Custody.
- Highest of such escape from police custody was reported by UP (39) followed by Punjab (17) and Andhra Pradesh (15).
- **Other incidents** - A total of 15 jail break incidents were reported in 2017 with 10 cases in West Bengal.
- A total of 88 clash incidents inside jails were reported in 2017.
- The highest of such clashes were reported by Bihar (35) followed by Delhi (19) and Punjab (11).
- A total of 204 persons consisting of 181 prisoners and 23 jail officials got injured in such clashes and 1 prisoner died.
- In 2017, no incident of firing was reported across the jails in the country.
- **Prisoners** - The number of prisoners lodged in various jails has increased by

7.4% from 2015 to 2017.

- In 2017, out of the around 4,50,700 prisoners, around 4,31,800 were male prisoners and 18,800 were female prisoners.
- Out of the total prisoners, the convicts, undertrial inmates and detenues were reported to be comprising 30.9%, 68.5%, and 0.5% respectively.
- Other prisoners accounted for 0.2% (693 prisoners) of total prisoners.
- The number of convicted prisoners has increased by 3.7% from 2015 to 2017.
- The highest number of convicted prisoners lodged in Central jails were recorded to be 66.3%, followed by district jails 27.9% and Open jails 2.4%.
- **Prisons** - The total number of prisons at national level has decreased from 1,401 in 2015 to 1,361 in 2017, with a decrease of 2.85% during 2015-2017.
- There are 1,361 prisons in the country - 666 Sub jails, 405 District jails, 142 Central jails, 64 Open jails, 41 Special jails, 22 Woman jails, 19 Borstal School (to reform young people) and 2 other jails.
- The actual capacity of prisons has increased by 6.8% during 2015-2017.

Source: India Today