



## Rise of Crimes Against Women

### Why in news?

As per annual report of [National Crime Record Bureau](#) the crimes against women rose 4% in 2022 compared to 2021.

#### Crime in India 2022

- **Released by-** National Crime Record Bureau.
- **Increase in crime-** The report indicates 4% rise in crimes against women which corresponds to roughly 51 FIRs each hour.
- **Majority of cases-** Cruelty by spouses or relatives accounted for the highest number of cases in crime against women, it is followed by
  - Kidnapping and abduction,
  - Assault "with intent to outrage modesty", and
  - Rape.
- Around 13,000 cases were registered under *Dowry Prohibition Act*.
- **Delhi-** It registered highest rate (144) of crime against women in the country which is far higher than the national average of 66.4.
- **States-** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh these 5 states were responsible for around half of all cases filed in the country in 2022.

### What are the causes for rise in crimes against women?

- **Patriarchal prisoners-** The root cause of crimes against women is the patriarchal society that does not value women's rights and dignity.
- **Regressive value system-** It undermines women's movements and empowerment which promote conservative, traditional, or backward views on gender roles, sexuality, and morality.
- **Gender based violence-** Child marriage, female genital mutilation, honour killings, dowry violence etc., and increase the crime rate against women.

*As per World Health Organization (WHO) report 1 in 3 women in India face gender-based violence*

- **Women as commodity-** Dowry system has tragically transformed the sacred institution of marriage into a cold business transaction.
- It is associated with various forms of violence and abuse against women, such as domestic violence, dowry deaths, and bride burning.
- **Policy paralysis-** India has women specific laws and schemes but the gap between the formulation of policies for protection of women and their implementation remains a key challenge.
- **Shock absorbers** - Women bear the brunt of the social and economic hardships caused by inequality, discrimination, and lack of opportunities.
- **Inequality-** The high crime rate reflects the persistent discrimination and oppression faced by women and girls in India, across different social and economic groups.

Legal framework for women safety	
Laws	About
<b>Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956</b>	It aims to prevent trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation of women and
<b>Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961</b>	It prohibits the giving or taking of dowry.
<b>Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986</b>	It is enacted to prohibit the advertisement or publication or any kind of indecent representation of women including writings, paintings, figures, etc.
<b>Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act 1987</b>	It prohibits the commission of sati, which is the act or rite of burning or burying alive of any widow or woman along with the body of her deceased husband.
<b>Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005</b>	It recognizes <i>domestic violence as a human rights violation</i> and provides the right to every woman to live in a violence free home according to their wish.
<b>Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013</b>	It is enacted based on the <i>Vishaka guidelines</i> framed by the Supreme Court that provides measures to protect the working women from evil of sexual harassment.

### What are the challenges in the implementation of law?

- **Low representation**- In India, women police officers is only 11.7% against the global average of 24.7%.
- **Investigation hurdles**- Due to dismal proportion of women police officers the investigation and prosecution is affected, this leads to disproportionate levels of workload on women police personnel and slower rates of charge-sheeting and convictions.
- **Huge workload**- The low representation of women in police force causes disproportionate levels of workload on them and leads to slower rates of charge-sheeting and convictions.
- **Policing issues**- There is a severe lack training for investigations, with most of the investigating officers are juniors with a poor pay scale.
- **Delay in cases disposal**- Due to policing and investigation hurdles the case takes long time to resolve increasing the pendency of cases.

### What lies ahead?

- There is a need for more *gender sensitive policing* which would require increasing the recruitment and retention of women police officers as well as providing with adequate training and support.
- A study by Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative recommended measures to improve the working conditions and opportunities for women police officials.

### References

1. [The Hindu- Crime against women on rise](#)

2. [NCRB- Crime in India 2022 report](#)

