

Crimes against women up marginally in 2023

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New Delhi: Cases of crimes against women rose marginally by 0.7% in 2023 to 4.48 lakh from 4.45 lakh in 2022. As in past years, 'cruelty by husband or relatives' accounted for the largest share at 29.8% (1.33 lakh cases) involving 1.35 lakh victims, according to NCRB's Crime in India 2023 report. In 2022, this category under IPC section 498A made up 31.4% of all such crimes.

This was followed by 'kidnapping and abduction of women' with over 88,000 cases (20%), 'assault on women with intent to outrage modesty' with over 83,800 cases (19%), and 66,200 cases (14.8%) under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The crime rate per lakh women population was 66.2 in 2023 compared with 66.4 in 2022, which itself had risen from 64.5 in 2021. The overall charge-sheeting rate stood at 77.6%.

The NCRB reported 29,670 rape cases and 29,909 victims in 2023, with 10,703 cases pending from 2022. In 2022, there were 31,516 rape cases involving 31,982 victims, including 1,017 below 18. In 2023, 852 victims were below 18 — 18 under six years, 87 between six and 12, 284 between 12 and 16, and 463 between 16 and 18. Among adults, the maximum 19,751 victims were between 18 and 30 years, followed by 8,275 between 30 and 45, 961 between

Crimes against kids rose by 9.2% in 2023

Painting a worrying picture, the latest NCRB report shows that over 1.77 lakh cases of crime against children in 2023, up 9.2% from 1.62 lakh in 2022, which itself rose 8.7% over 2021's 1.49 lakh.

Major heads in 2023 were kidnapping & abduction (45%) and Pocs0 offences (38.2%), including child rape. The crime rate per lakh children rose from 36.6 in 2022 to 39.9 in 2023.

Under Pocs0 Act, 762 victims were below 6 yrs, 3,229 between 6-12, 15,444 between 12-16, and 21,411 between 16-18. In 96.6% of penetrative assault cases, offenders were known to victims. In 2023, 91,296 children went missing; 89,809 were traced. TNN

45 and 60, and 70 above 70.

The report listed 230 cases of murder with rape/gangrape involving 233 victims in 2023. Uttar Pradesh topped with 33 cases, followed by 29 each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, and 20 in Rajasthan. There were 248 such cases in 2022 and 284 in 2021.

Overall, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest crimes against women at 66,381, followed by Maharashtra (47,101), Rajasthan (45,450), West Bengal (34,738) and Madhya Pradesh (32,342). Delhi reported 13,439 cases, the highest rate in the country at 133.6, far above the national average of 66.2.

Monsoon season ends; India gets 8% more than normal rainfall

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New Delhi: The four-month summer (southwest) monsoon season ended on Tuesday, with India reporting 8% more than normal rainfall. East and North-East India, however, reported a huge deficit of more than 20% and witnessed the second-lowest rainfall in the rainy season since 1901. The country as a whole, on the other hand, saw the fifth-highest rainfall this year since 2001 and the 38th highest since 1901.

“Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya saw deficient rainfall in three of the four monsoon months. The lowest rainfall in the monsoon season in the region was recorded in 2013,” IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said. “Rainfall over east and northeast India has been deficient in many years in recent times. There

is a trend that shows that rainfall over this region has been decreasing since 2020.”

Though the ‘above normal’ monsoon season was marked by many disasters, including cloudbursts, landslides, floods and mudslides, especially in northwest India, the good rains helped farmers increase their acreage of Kharif (summer sown) crops over not just last

DEFICIT IN EAST, NE

year but also over the normal sown area of the season.

The agriculture ministry’s latest data shows the country reported an overall acreage of 1,120 lakh hectares this Kharif season, which is 24 lakh hectares more than the normal acreage. This raises hopes of record foodgrain output during the 2025-26 crop year.

The season technically ended on Tuesday, but cer-

tain parts of the country will continue to report rainfall for a couple of more weeks, till the complete withdrawal of the monsoon in mid-Oct. The delay may delay the onset of northeast (winter) monsoon in Peninsular India.

Mohapatra said most parts of the country are expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the post-summer monsoon season (Oct to Dec). In Oct alone, the country is expected to receive 15% more than normal rainfall. The forecast suggests the winter monsoon (Oct to Dec) rainfall over south Peninsular India, is most likely to be above normal. The IMD chief said maximum (day) temperatures in Oct are likely to be above normal in most parts of east-northeast and northwest, whereas “normal to below-normal” maximum temperatures are expected in other regions of India during the month.

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Corruption cases decline 1.7%, cybercrimes rise 31%: NCRB

New Delhi: While corruption cases declined 1.7% in 2023 compared to the previous year, economic offences rose 6% and cybercrimes 31% in the same period, as per the NCRB report.

In 2023, 4,069 cases were registered by state anti-corruption bureaus (ACBs) against 4,139 in 2022 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Of these, 71% (2,875) were "trap" incidents, where suspects were caught taking bribes, followed by 560 cases of criminal misconduct (14%).

State police arrested 4,759 people in such cases, with chargesheets leading to 976 convictions. Departmental action was taken against 638 others. Maharashtra reported the highest number with 812 cases, followed by Karnataka (362), Rajasthan (316) and TN (302). Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, MP, Odisha and Punjab each recorded between 200 & 287 cases.

Over two lakh economic offence cases were registered in 2023, up 6% from 1.9 lakh in 2022. These included 1.8 lakh forgery, cheating & fraud cases, 22,759 criminal breach of trust cases and 661 counterfeiting cases.

Cybercrime cases rose sharply, with 86,420 registered in 2023, against 65,893 in 2022. "Crime rate (per lakh population) increased from 4.8 in 2022 to 6.2 in 2023," NCRB said. Of these, 69% were fraud, followed by sexual exploitation 4.9%. TNN

World leaders laud Trump's 20-point peace plan to end conflict in Gaza

LONDON, Sept 30 (IANS)

SEVERAL world leaders on Tuesday welcomed the US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza conflict, facilitate the release of hostages, and provide urgent humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza.

The remarks came after Trump formally announced his 20-point peace plan to end the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House on Monday. Welcoming the new US initiative, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, "We call on all sides to come together and to work with the US Administration to finalise this agreement and bring it into reality. Hamas should now agree to the plan and end the misery by laying down their arms and releasing all remaining hostages."

"Together with our partners, we will continue work to build consensus to put into place a permanent ceasefire. We are all committed to a collective effort to end the war in Gaza and deliver a sustainable peace, where Palestinians and

India is now builder of world, we want it to come and build our regions: Israel

NEW DELHI, Sept 30 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza will allow countries like India to carry out reconstruction activities in the region as New Delhi has been playing a positive role for peace in the Middle-East, Israeli ambassador Reuven Azar said on Tuesday. The envoy also welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reaction to the 20-point peace plan and said India can contribute significantly to the region.

The plan, unveiled after talks between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, proposes an immediate end to the war in Gaza and release of all the hostages held by Hamas within 72 hours. Asked whether India was briefed before the peace plan was firmed up, Azar told reporters that he was not aware about it but indicated that several countries were unofficially apprised about the move. "We welcome the statement of Prime Minister Modi. India has a positive role for the region and we will welcome," he said.

The Israeli envoy said India can contribute in terms of economic projects in Gaza and Israel would also like to have its involvement in construction activities in the country. "We are very thankful to the Indian Government. India has been playing a positive role in supporting peace in our region. India has a lot to bring to the plate, when it comes to economic activities."

ted to a collective effort to end the war in Gaza and deliver a sustainable peace, where Palestinians and

Israelis can live side by side in safety and security," he added.

French President Emmanuel

Macron expressed hope that Israel would engage resolutely with the plan, stating that Hamas has no choice but to immediately release all hostages and follow the plan.

Meanwhile, Australia affirms the plan's commitment to denying Hamas any role in the future governance of Gaza, and calls on Hamas to agree to the plan, lay down its arms, and release all remaining hostages. **RUSSIA SAYS IT WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS EFFORTS BY TRUMP TO END WAR IN GAZA:** Russia said it welcomes and supports any efforts to restore peace in Gaza. "Russia always supports and welcomes efforts by Trump that aim to prevent the tragedy that is currently unfolding," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

CHINA WELCOMES TRUMP'S PLAN: China expressed its support for Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza. "China welcomes and supports all efforts conducive to easing tensions between Palestine and Israel," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun stated.

From PoK to Balochistan: Rising uprisings signal collapse of Pak army's grip

■ By Vicky Nanjappa
NEW DELHI, Sept 30 (IANS)

THE protests that have broken out in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) are a clear signal of how badly the Pakistan Army is collapsing due to rising corruption. The army has managed to keep the issue under wraps for long, in a bid to protect its corrupt officials, but now the people have taken to the streets and are fighting back.

The issue of corruption in the Pakistan army, over which the people are fighting, is not limited to PoK, but it extends up to Balochistan, too.

Despite the internet being cut and phone services suspended, news regarding the protests in PoK has reached the entire world.

At least 2 people were killed and 22 others were injured after the police opened fire in PoK.

While there are longstanding issues, such as the development

of the region, Indian officials say that the people of Pakistan are fed up with the brazen corruption in the Pak Army. One of the biggest issues in the army and the people are now flagging is the culture of commission, whether arms deals or developmental works.

The Pakistan Army, for long, had roped in retired officials to deal with the middlemen and take commission. All this was not visible to the public and the rest of the world since

the retired officials were working behind the scenes. There is no doubt that the Pakistan Army is the most powerful institution in Pakistan. Today, it has a puppet in the form of Shehbaz Sharif, and hence, this racket that it undertakes has become even easier.

In 2015, Pakistan signed one of

the biggest deals for a naval project called the Hangar-class submarine programme. This deal was estimated at around \$5 billion. However, the details of this deal remain sketchy, and no information has even been given to the Parliament or the public. However, the

Pakistan Army has not just been complicit in giving information about defence deals. The corruption even extends to housing and land. Schemes such as the Defence Housing Authority (DHA)

have made the Pakistan Army the biggest property developer in the country. The DHA, which runs into millions of dollars, has managed to escape scrutiny, as a result of which corruption is at an all-time high. The DHA has a special legal status that protects it from government oversight. This has

enabled the Pak Army officials to indulge in large-scale corruption. These issues have not only irked the public, but a section within the army as well.

Indian officials say that corruption has peaked the most under Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Recently, a letter that was issued in the name of The Guardians of Honour exposed the uneasy calm within the army. The letter accuses Munir of incompetence, corruption and political oppression.

The crisis was reportedly sparked off due to the stand-off with former PM Imran Khan and the court-martial of Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, former head of the ISI.

While Asim Munir has largely managed to put down dissent, the mask is currently wearing off. An Intelligence assessment on the situation in Pakistan suggests that the protests in Balochistan and PoK could be turning points for Munir and his men.

Issue of corruption in the Pak army, over which people are fighting, is not limited to PoK, but it extends up to Balochistan, too

Enforced disappearances continue in Balochistan

QUETTA, Sept 30 (ANI)

THE ongoing cycle of enforced disappearances in Balochistan shows no signs of slowing down, as three more individuals have reportedly gone missing following their detention by Pakistani security forces, according to local sources and families, 'The Balochistan Post' reported.

In one recent incident, security personnel conducted a late-night raid on Sept 27 in Konchati area of Dasht, Kech district. During the operation, two men, Altaf, son of Habtain, and Gulab, son of Ayub Baloch, were taken into custody and have not been seen since.

Trump, Netanyahu agree on plan to end Gaza war



President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the State Dining Room of the White House on Monday in Washington. (AP/PTI)

- Hamas says it will discuss Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza within the group and with other Palestinian factions before responding

WASHINGTON, Sept 30 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday they've agreed on a plan to end the war in Gaza, but it's unclear whether Hamas will accept the terms.

Read Time & Tide
HOPE FOR PEACE
on page 6

Hamas said on Tuesday it will discuss Trump's peace plan for Gaza within the group and with other Palestinian factions before responding.

Trump on Monday laid out a 20-point plan for ending the Israel-Hamas war and establishing a temporary governing board in the war-battered Palestinian territory that would be headed by Trump and include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The plan does not require people to leave Gaza and calls for the war to end immediately if both sides accept it. It also calls

PM Modi welcomes Trump's plan to end Gaza conflict

NEW DELHI, Sept 30 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday welcomed US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza conflict, saying that it provides a viable path to long-term peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people, as well as the larger West Asian region.

"We welcome President Donald J Trump's announcement of a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict. It provides a viable pathway to long-term and sustainable peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people, as also for the larger West Asian region," Modi's post read.

for all remaining hostages to be released by Hamas within 72 hours of Israel accepting the plan.

Trump said Israel would have the "full backing" of the United States to take steps to defeat Hamas if the group doesn't accept the proposed peace deal.

"I think we are beyond very close," Trump said at the start of
(Contd on page 3)

FINAL ELECTORAL ROLL OUT IN BIHAR

Final electoral roll has 7.42 cr voters; 1.63 lakh voters added in Patna

PATNA, Sept 30 (PTI)

THE Election Commission on Tuesday published its final electoral roll in Bihar, containing details of 7.42 crore voters, a drop of more than 47 lakh since June, when the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was launched. The number of voters in the final roll is, however, higher than in the draft roll (7.24 crore), which came out in August after names of 65 lakh electors were knocked off as they were found to be "absent", "shifted" or "dead".

According to a statement issued by the Chief Electoral

Names of 3.66 lakh voters, which were in the draft roll, were also deleted in the course of the "claims and objections" phase

Officer of Bihar, names of 21.53 lakh "eligible voters", which got left out in the draft roll, were added since publication of the draft roll on August 1.

However, names of 3.66 lakh voters, which were in the draft roll, were also deleted in the course of the "claims and objections" phase. The EC did not



specify the grounds on which names in the draft roll were found to be of "ayogya" (ineligible) electors by the time of the publication of the final roll.

Other details like a district-wise break up, besides number of males, females and third-gender voters, and proportion of different age groups, were still

awaited. Earlier, the CEO had come out with a social media post, in which the EC was also tagged, to announce "in the light of Special Intensive Revision, the final electoral roll has been published on 30.09.2025. People can look up their names by clicking on the link voters.Eci.Gov.In".

Meanwhile, the Patna district administration issued a statement declaring that the total number of voters, across 14 assembly segments under its jurisdiction, was about 48.15 lakh, which was "an increase of 1.63 lakh" when compared with

(Contd on page 3)