

Inter-State Variation in Crime Against Women in India

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Abstract

In India around half of the population is female. Despite playing a crucial role in shaping society as the children's first teachers, women are the most vulnerable to crime. This study aimed to know the rate of violence against women in different states of India. Violence includes offenses related to dowry, sexual assault, beating, rape, cruelty by in-laws, etc.

Method- The required data for the study have been collected from secondary sources, the National Crime Record Bureau, and the Ministry of Home Affairs for two years (2018 to 2022). The study is descriptive and analytical. **Results** - The data reveals notable geographical differences in patterns of crime against women, with some states reporting improvements and others reporting deteriorating circumstances. To effectively address these challenges, it is imperative to improve court responses, increase public awareness, and strengthen law enforcement.

Keywords: Crime, Women, Spatial distribution, violence, India.

Introduction

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, she stands up for all women"- Maya Angelou

In ancient times women were worshipped as goddesses. Nowadays, the harsh reality is that women have endured decades of mistreatment in our predominantly male society in India. Along with other crimes, crimes against women are increasing in the different states of India. Crimes against women include physical violence, domestic violence, dowry, Kidnapping, and Abduction of women.

The United Nations has acknowledged violence against women as a basic violation of women's human rights. However, historically, domestic violence has not received much attention as a general social concern or as a matter of public health (L. Jeyaseelan et al, 2007).

In the Middle Ages, the status of women in Indian society was extremely poor and subordinate, they were still viewed as men's slaves. The condition of women was great in theory but low in practise. Many home, social, and outside activities were off-limits to women. Before being married, they had to live under the control of their father and brother, and after

marriage, under the control of their husbands. Sati pratha, parda pratha, and other discriminatory rules were imposed on women.

One of the biggest societal issues that many nations confront worldwide is gender imbalance in developmental outcomes, which is particularly severe in India. Another issue is crime against women. According to the 2024 Global Gender Gap, India has close to 64%. Among the total 146 countries, India is at 129th rank.

The "Nirbhaya (viz. fearless)" gang rape case in Delhi in 2012 sparked anger and was extensively denounced both domestically and internationally. Two years later, in May 2014, the Badaun (in Uttar Pradesh). The gang rape of two young Dalit girls received extensive international and Indian media coverage; the UN denounced the heinous crime and demanded that those responsible be held accountable right now. As a result, in 2016, the Indian government enacted the "National Policy for Women," which aims to eradicate all types of violence against women by bolstering laws, policies, programs, institutions, and community engagement. Nevertheless, such an initiative was unable to prevent crimes against women, such as the Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

Literature Review

There are many types of crimes against women in India, but only a few crimes have been reported properly (Babu & Kar, 2009). Even the reported crimes can be less than the actual numbers. Only recorded crimes in India have been taken into account in this analysis. In India, women are victims of a variety of crimes, including rape, molestation, acid attacks, torture, murder, kidnapping, and dowry deaths.

Several studies have been conducted to investigate the factors that contribute to crime against women in India, utilizing data from the Indian Human Development Survey, National Family Health Survey, and NCRB. Some studies found that violence against women severely impacts the psychological and physical well-being of women (Kramer et al., 2004; Campbell et al., 2002). Physical intimate partner violence is highly associated with the poor health condition of women. It may result in depression, trouble sleeping, eating problems, injuries, and an increased risk of suicide or homicide (Coker et al., 2002).

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), twenty-nine percent of women have experienced physical violence and 6 percent have experienced sexual violence. Violence against women can have serious physical repercussions that impair the nation's ability to function economically. (Dang et al., 2017) have observed that although crimes against women happen in many places and civilizations, they differ in form and frequency. In particular, there are notable distinctions between the inhabitants of rural and urban areas, as well as between Hindus and Muslims. The incidence of both CAW and rape decreases with increasing sex ratio. Even though some states forbid the sale of alcohol, alcoholism raises the risk of rape.

Using data from the Indian Human Development Survey, National Family Health Survey, and NCRB, numerous research has been conducted to investigate the factors contributing to crime against women in India. Some studies have found that

states with higher that are more likely to see higher rates of crime against women are those with greater income inequality (Rashad & Sharaf, 2017);

Objectives

- To study the changes in crime against women in India from 2018 to 2022.
- To analyze Indian penal and specific local laws of crimes against women, as well as the constitutional and legal provisions for women.

Research Methodology

Secondary data from the Indian government's Crime Records Bureau served as the study's framework. Data on crime at the state level for the years (2018-2022) has been gathered and examined for the study. Through the identification of the six variables, the researchers attempted to compare the crime rate against women throughout the Indian states and union territories and analyze the trajectory of specific crimes against women.

Table 1(a): State-Wise Trends in Crimes Against Women in India (2018 vs 2022)

S.No.	States/UT	Dowry Deaths		Assault on woman with intent to outrage her Modesty		Cruelty by Husband or his relatives		Kidnapping & Abduction of Women (Total)		Human trafficking		Rape (Total)	
		2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022
1.	Andhra Pradesh	140	101	4480	6188	6889	12024	63	756	88	33	973	627
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	104	77	60	74	13	55	0	1	70	74
3.	Assam	176	195	4204	2168	11261	5870	945	4601	129	85	1767	1478
4.	Bihar	1111	1057	262	403	2603	1850	333	10190	4	62	651	881
5.	Chhattisgarh	79	63	1864	1329	504	945	151	2218	25	13	2101	1246
6.	Goa	0	0	127	90	10	6	22	60	94	20	61	75
7.	Gujarat	9	10	1213	705	2928	2209	27	1354	17	5	553	610
8.	Haryana	216	234	2676	2742	4195	5887	1162	3109	13	14	1296	1787
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	1	515	494	183	201	4	346	0	0	349	369

10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	-	1611	-	337	-	194	-	0	-	328	-
11.	Jharkhand	266	214	1384	1167	1052	870	57	1265	44	34	1098	1298
12.	Karnataka	202	166	5338	7150	2075	2851	28	1844	143	58	487	598
13.	Kerala	17	12	4618	5020	2070	5094	22	250	60	39	1972	820
14.	Madhya Pradesh	547	520	8795	5567	4160	8506	35	8216	35	57	5450	3046
15.	Maharashtra	205	184	10871	11611	6882	11384	56	9382	561	327	2149	2911
16.	Manipur	0	0	56	72	14	10	4	62	5	0	52	42
17.	Meghalaya	1	1	98	63	18	28	4	100	1	2	89	75
18.	Mizoram	0	0	68	29	6	4	1	5	0	0	50	14
19.	Nagaland	0	0	10	9	3	3	0	4	0	0	11	7
20.	Odisha	373	263	9975	7337	1984	5466	19	5350	47	73	923	1464
21.	Punjab	67	71	965	667	1499	1640	48	1520	1	7	837	517
22.	Rajasthan	405	451	5283	8568	12363	18852	1537	6691	4	5	4337	5408
23.	Sikkim	1	0	23	23	1	2	0	42	1	0	16	13
24.	Tamil Nadu	55	29	815	1417	809	1043	25	538	14	4	332	421
25.	Telangana	186	137	4648	4700	6286	9996	102	2518	100	216	606	814
26.	Tripura	18	25	167	88	303	338	21	93	0	1	97	62
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2521	2142	12977	10663	14361	20511	38	14960	10	17	4322	3692
28.	Uttarakhand	63	70	548	699	630	956	254	778	1	2	576	905
29.	West Bengal	444	427	3416	2564	17150	22431	787	6869	115	40	1069	1112
	Total State(S)	7114	6373	87111	81540	100636	139051	5952	83176	1512	1115	32632	30366

Source: National Crime Record Bureau (2018 & 2022)

Table 2(a): State-Wise Trends in Dowry Deaths, Assault on Women, and Cruelty by Husbands (2018-2022).

S.No.	States/UT	Dowry Deaths		Change in dowry deaths from 2018 to 2022	Assault on woman with intent to outrage her Modesty		Changes in Assault on Women crime from 2018 to 2022	Cruelty by Husband or his relatives		Changes in Cruelty by husband crime from 2018 to 2022
		2018	2022		2018	2022		2018	2022	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	140	101	-39	4480	6188	+1708	6889	12024	+5135
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	104	77	-27	60	74	+14
3.	Assam	176	195	+19	4204	2168	-2036	11261	5870	-5391
4.	Bihar	1111	1057	-54	262	403	+141	2603	1850	-753
5.	Chhattisgarh	79	63	-16	1864	1329	-535	504	945	+441
6.	Goa	0	0	0	127	90	-37	10	6	-4
7.	Gujarat	9	10	+1	1213	705	-508	2928	2209	-719
8.	Haryana	216	234	+18	2676	2742	+66	4195	5887	+1692
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	1	-3	515	494	-21	183	201	+18
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	-	-	1611	-	-	337	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	266	214	-52	1384	1167	-217	1052	870	-182
12.	Karnataka	202	166	-36	5338	7150	+1812	2075	2851	+776
13.	Kerala	17	12	-5	4618	5020	+402	2070	5094	+3024
14.	Madhya Pradesh	547	520	-27	8795	5567	-3228	4160	8506	+4346
15.	Maharashtra	205	184	-21	10871	11611	+740	6882	11384	+4502
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	56	72	+16	14	10	-4
17.	Meghalaya	1	1	0	98	63	-35	18	28	+10
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	68	29	-39	6	4	-2
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	10	9	-1	3	3	0

20.	Odisha	373	263	-110	9975	7337	-2638	1984	5466	+3482
21.	Punjab	67	71	+4	965	667	-298	1499	1640	+141
22.	Rajasthan	405	451	+46	5283	8568	+3285	12363	18852	+6489
23.	Sikkim	1	0	-1	23	23	0	1	2	+1
24.	Tamil Nadu	55	29	-26	815	1417	+602	809	1043	+234
25.	Telangana	186	137	-49	4648	4700	+52	6286	9996	+3710
26.	Tripura	18	25	+7	167	88	-79	303	338	+35
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2521	2142	-379	12977	10663	-2314	14361	20511	+6150
28.	Uttarakhand	63	70	+7	548	699	+151	630	956	+326
29.	West Bengal	444	427	-17	3416	2564	-852	17150	22431	+5281
	Total State(S)	7114	6373	-741	87111	81540	-5571	100636	139051	+38415

Source: National Crime Record Bureau (2018 & 2022)

1. **Dowry Deaths:** Between 2018 and 2022, dowry deaths have significantly decreased in a number of states, suggesting that this grave problem may be being addressed. The largest decrease was seen in Uttar Pradesh, where cases fell by 379 (from 2521 to 2142). Bihar, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh followed with 54, 110, and 39 cases, respectively. These decreases might be the result of more stringent anti-dowry legislation enforcement, successful awareness campaigns, or enhanced reporting systems. However, despite these encouraging trends, some states reported increases throughout the same period. Assam witnessed a surge of 19 instances, Haryana had an increase of 18, and Rajasthan saw an increase of 46 cases (from 405 to 451). These increases demonstrate that dowry-related violence is still a persistent issue in some areas and calls for ongoing, targeted action.

2. **Assault on women with intent to Outrage modesty:** The overall trend of assaults against women with the intention of outrage modesty shows a decrease of 5,571 cases nationwide, from 87,111 cases in 2018 to 81,540 cases in 2022. Nevertheless, not every state has seen this drop. States like Madhya Pradesh recorded a significant drop of 3,228 instances, Odisha saw 2,638 fewer cases, West Bengal recorded 852 fewer cases, while Assam witnessed a steep drop of 2,036 cases (from 4,204 to 2,168). certain reductions may suggest increased law enforcement or effective awareness campaigns in certain states. On the other hand, a number of nations have noted a discernible rise in these attacks. With 3,285 more instances (from 5,283 to 8,568), Rajasthan saw the largest increase, followed by Karnataka with 1,812 more cases and Andhra Pradesh with 1,708 more cases. Moderate increases were also noted in states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Uttarakhand, indicating the need for ongoing monitoring, community involvement, and more stringent enforcement in areas where the rate is rising.

3. **Cruelty by Husband or his relatives :** The statistics on husband or family member cruelty show a very alarming pattern, with incidents rising from 100,636 in 2018 to 139,051 in 2022—a significant increase of 38,415

cases. This dramatic increase suggests that women's circumstances in their homes are getting worse, which suggests that domestic violence and family abuse are still problems. Leading the way with the largest increase of 6,489 instances (from 12,363 to 18,852) is Rajasthan, which is closely followed by Madhya Pradesh (up 4,346 cases), Uttar Pradesh (up 6,150 cases), Andhra Pradesh (up 5,135 cases), West Bengal (up 5,281 cases), and Maharashtra (up 4,502 cases). The seriousness of the situation is further highlighted by the notable increasing trends also seen in Telangana, Odisha, and Kerala. States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and Goa have had lesser but significant drops, while Assam has seen a significant drop, reporting 5,391 fewer cases (from 11,261 to 5,870), maybe as a result of focused interventions or underreporting. This inconsistent trend emphasises how urgently stronger legal enforcement, improved support networks, and more successful preventative measures are needed to shield women from domestic abuse.

Table 2(b): Trends in Crimes Against Women: Changes in Kidnapping, Human Trafficking, and Rape Cases (2018-2022)

S.No.	States/UT	Kidnapping & Abduction of Women (Total)		Changes in Kidnapping Cases from 2018 to 2022	Human trafficking		Changes in Human trafficking from 2018 to 2022	Rape (Total)		Changes in Rape cases from 2018-2022
		2018	2022		2018	2022		2018	2022	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63	756	+693	88	33	-55	973	627	-346
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	55	+42	0	1	+1	70	74	+4
3.	Assam	945	4601	+3656	129	85	-44	1767	1478	-289
4.	Bihar	333	10190	+9857	4	62	+58	651	881	+230
5.	Chhattisgarh	151	2218	+2067	25	13	-12	2101	1246	-855
6.	Goa	22	60	+38	94	20	-74	61	75	+14
7.	Gujarat	27	1354	+1327	17	5	-12	553	610	+57
8.	Haryana	1162	3109	+1947	13	14	1	1296	1787	+491
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	346	+342	0	0	0	349	369	+20
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	194	-	-	-	-	-	328	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	57	1265	+1208	44	34	-10	1098	1298	+200
12.	Karnataka	28	1844	+1816	143	58	-85	487	598	+111
13.	Kerala	22	250	+228	60	39	-21	1972	820	-1152

14.	Madhya Pradesh	35	8216	+8181	35	57	+22	5450	3046	-2404
15.	Maharashtra	56	9382	+9326	561	327	-234	2149	2911	+762
16.	Manipur	4	62	+58	5	0	-5	52	42	-10
17.	Meghalaya	4	100	+96	1	2	+1	89	75	-14
18.	Mizoram	1	5	+4	0	0	0	50	14	-36
19.	Nagaland	0	4	+4	0	0	0	11	7	-4
20.	Odisha	19	5350	+5331	47	73	+26	923	1464	+541
21.	Punjab	48	1520	+1472	1	7	+6	837	517	-320
22.	Rajasthan	1537	6691	+5154	4	5	+1	4337	5408	+1071
23.	Sikkim	0	42	+42	1	0	-1	16	13	-3
24.	Tamil Nadu	25	538	+513	14	4	-10	332	421	+89
25.	Telangana	102	2518	+2416	100	216	+116	606	814	+208
26.	Tripura	21	93	+72	0	1	+1	97	62	-35
27.	Uttar Pradesh	38	14960	+14922	10	17	+7	4322	3692	-630
28.	Uttarakhand	254	778	+524	1	2	+1	576	905	+329
29.	West Bengal	787	6869	+6082	115	40	-75	1069	1112	+43
	Total State(S)	5952	83176	+77224	1512	1115	-397	32632	30366	-2266

Source: National Crime Record Bureau (2018 & 2022)

1. **Kidnapping & Abduction of Women (Total)** - Between 2018 and 2022, the number of documented cases of kidnapping and abduction of women increased alarmingly by +77,224, from 5,952 to 83,176. With instances rising from 38 to 14,960 (+14,922 cases), Uttar Pradesh experienced the most significant spike among the states. Bihar saw a rise of +9,857 cases (from 333 to 10,190). Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal similarly recorded significant surges of +8,181 and +6,082 cases, respectively, while Maharashtra saw a similar trend, with cases increasing from 56 to 9,382 (+9,326 instances). However, states such as Sikkim (+42), Mizoram (+4), and Nagaland (+4 instances) had considerably smaller increases, suggesting a lower crime rate in these areas.

2. **Human Trafficking** : There was a modest decrease in the overall number of human trafficking cases, which decreased by 397 from 1,512 in 2018 to 1,115 in 2022. Maharashtra saw the biggest drop of any state, with cases dropping from 561 to 327 (-234 cases). Goa and West Bengal also experienced large drops, with cases dropping by -74 and -75 cases, respectively. Telangana reported the largest spike, going from 100 to 216 (+116) cases, although other states also saw an increase in human trafficking

cases. Odisha and Madhya Pradesh had increases of +26 and +22 cases, respectively, along with Bihar, which saw a rise from 4 to 62 cases (+58 cases).

3. **Rape** - In 2022, there were 30,366 rape cases, a modest decrease of -2,266 instances from 32,632 incidents last year. Madhya Pradesh witnessed the biggest decline of any state, with instances falling from 5,450 to 3,046 (-2,404 cases). Kerala also saw a considerable dip, with -1,152 cases. Additionally, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh reported significant drops of -855 and -630 cases, respectively. However, rape incidents increased in several regions, with Rajasthan seeing the largest increase, going from 4,337 to 5,408 (+1,071 cases). Following Maharashtra, which saw an increase of +762 cases (from 2,149 to 2,911), Haryana and Odisha also saw increases of +491 and +541 cases, respectively.

Table 3: Women's Safety Across India: States with Low, Moderate & High Crime Rates

Low Crime States Against Women	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland.
Moderate crime States Against Women	Uttarakhand, Bihar, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand
High Crime States Against Women	West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana.

Table 3, Shows the categorization of crime States into three groups: Low, Moderate and Worst performing States. According to the number of crimes against women from 2018 to 2022, Indian states can be divided into three categories: low, moderate, and high. It's possible that underreporting or smaller populations contributed to the lower number of instances reported in low-crime states like Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, and Mizoram. In states with moderate crime rates, including Kerala, Odisha, and Jharkhand, there were mixed trends, with some crimes going down and others going up. Stronger law enforcement and immediate policy action are needed to protect women in high-crime areas like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh, where there have been notable increases in rape, kidnapping, and human trafficking.

Results and Discussions

Table 4: "State-wise Comparative Normalized Crime Index for Crimes Against Women in India (2018 & 2022).

S.No.	States/UT	Dowry Deaths		Assault on woman with intent to outrage her Modesty		Cruelty by Husband or his relatives		Kidnapping & Abduction of Women (Total)		Human trafficking		Rape	
		2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022	2018	2022
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.94	0.95	0.65	0.46	0.59	0.46	0.95	0.94	0.8431	0.89	0.82	0.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.98
3.	Assam	0.93	0.90	0.67	0.81	0.34	0.73	0.38	0.69	0.77	0.74	0.67	0.72
4.	Bihar	0.55	0.50	0.98	0.96	0.84	0.91	0.78	0.31	0.99	0.81	0.88	0.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.96	0.97	0.85	0.88	0.97	0.95	0.90	0.85	0.95	0.96	0.61	0.77
6.	Goa	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.83	0.93	0.99	0.98
7.	Gujarat	0.99	0.99	0.90	0.94	0.82	0.90	0.98	0.90	0.96	0.98	0.90	0.88
8.	Haryana	0.91	0.89	0.79	0.76	0.75	0.73	0.24	0.79	0.97	0.95	0.76	0.67
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.95	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.97	1.00	1.00	0.93	0.93
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.99	-	0.87	-	0.98	-	0.87	-	1.00	-	0.94	-
11.	Jharkhand	0.89	0.90	0.89	0.90	0.93	0.96	0.96	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.80	0.76
12.	Karnataka	0.91	0.92	0.58	0.38	0.87	0.87	0.98	0.87	0.74	0.82	0.91	0.89
13.	Kerala	0.99	0.99	0.64	0.56	0.87	0.77	0.98	0.98	0.89	0.88	0.63	0.84
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.78	0.75	0.32	0.52	0.75	0.62	0.97	0.45	0.93	0.82	0.00	0.43
15.	Maharashtra	0.91	0.91	0.16	0.00	0.59	0.49	0.96	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.46
16.	Manipur	1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	0.99	0.99		0.99	1.00	0.99	0.99

					0.99				0.99				
17.	Meghalaya	0.99	0.99	0.993	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98
18.	Mizoram	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99
19.	Nagaland	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20.	Odisha	0.85	0.87	0.23	0.36	0.88	0.75	0.98	0.64	0.91	0.77	0.83	0.73
21.	Punjab	0.97	0.96	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.92	0.96	0.89	0.99	0.97	0.84	0.90
22.	Rajasthan	0.83	0.78	0.59	0.26	0.27	0.15	0.00	0.55	0.99	0.98	0.20	0.00
23.	Sikkim	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.99
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.97	0.98	0.93	0.87	0.95	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.97	0.98	0.94	0.92
25.	Telangana	0.92	0.93	0.64	0.59	0.63	0.55	0.93	0.83	0.82	0.33	0.89	0.85
26.	Tripura	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.98
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.16	0.08	0.97	0.00	0.98	0.94	0.20	0.31
28.	Uttarakhand	0.97	0.96	0.95	0.94	0.96	0.95	0.83	0.94	0.99	0.99	0.89	0.83
29.	West Bengal	0.82	0.80	0.73	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.54	0.79	0.87	0.80	0.79

Source: Researcher's calculation based on National Crime Record Bureau data.

The table 4 Shows the normalized values (between 0 and 1) for various crimes against women in India's different states and union territories. The values shown in the table indicate the scaled crime indices, where:

- 0 denotes the crime's least frequent occurrence in the dataset.
- 1 denotes the most frequent occurrence in the dataset.

The formula for min-max normalization is:

$$X_{normalised} = \frac{X - X_{min}}{X_{max} - X_{min}}$$

Where:

X is the original crime rate for a state.

X_{min} is the minimum crime rate recorded among all states.

X_{\max} is the maximum crime rate recorded among all states.

$X_{\text{normalised}}$ is the scaled value between 0 and 1.

In both years, states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim continuously maintained high scores (around 1.00) in the majority of crime categories, suggesting consistent reporting or little variation. Kerala and Himachal Pradesh likewise showed stability, with just slight drops in some crimes. While Maharashtra saw a fall in "Assault on Women" (0.16 \rightarrow 0.00) and "Kidnapping & Abduction" (0.96 \rightarrow 0.37), Rajasthan saw gains, with a strong decline in "Assault on Women" (0.59 \rightarrow 0.26), "Cruelty by Husband" (0.27 \rightarrow 0.15), and "Rape" (0.20 \rightarrow 0.00). Odisha also had improvements in "Kidnapping & Abduction" (0.98 \rightarrow 0.64) and "Cruelty by Husband" (0.88 \rightarrow 0.75). But in some states, crime rates increased. For example, Assam experienced increases in "Assault on Women" (0.67 \rightarrow 0.81) and "Kidnapping & Abduction" (0.69 \rightarrow 0.77), while Bihar saw increases in "Cruelty by Husband" (0.84 \rightarrow 0.91) and "Rape" (0.61 \rightarrow 0.77). With "Dowry Deaths" (0.00 \rightarrow 0.00), "Assault on Women" (0.00 \rightarrow 0.08), and "Cruelty by Husband" (0.16 \rightarrow 0.08), Uttar Pradesh displayed large declines in reported crimes, which may be a sign of underreporting or adjustments in data collection. In a similar vein, West Bengal noted 0.00 in "Cruelty by Husband" for both years, indicating incomplete information rather than a true lack of such offences.

Legal Provisions for Women's Safety

1. **Dowry Deaths (Section 304B IPC):** The prevalence of dowry deaths in areas like Rajasthan and Haryana suggests that there are enforcement gaps despite legislation against dowries.
2. **Rape (Section 375 & 376 IPC):** The growing number of cases in Rajasthan and Maharashtra highlights the need for victim-centered strategies and quicker court proceedings.
3. **Kidnapping and Abduction (Sections 363–366 IPC):** In order to prevent these crimes, increased law enforcement and awareness campaigns are needed in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
4. **Section 498A IPC: Cruelty by Husband or Relatives:** The dramatic rise in cases in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra underscores the need for improved reporting and victim assistance systems.

Conclusion:

Overall, the data shows a concerning pattern of rising crimes against women in a number of Indian states, with notable increases in husband abuse, kidnapping, and abduction. Although some jurisdictions have made strides in lowering dowry fatalities and people trafficking, the continued prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence, and kidnapping exposes underlying social problems. The indicated regional differences imply that public awareness, law enforcement efficiency, and socioeconomic circumstances all have an impact on crime

patterns. Stricter legal enforcement, better support networks for survivors, and immediate policy changes are essential to tackling these persistent issues.

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