



PLUTUS IAS

Weekly Current Affairs

Weekly Current Affairs 04-Dec-2023 to 10-Dec-2023



The Indian **EXPRESS**

Corporate Office

Basement 8, Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh Metro Station
Gate No. 6, New Delhi 110005

17A/41, 1st Floor, WEA Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005

706 1st Floor Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Near Batra Cinema
Delhi - 110009

C 59 Noida Sector 2, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301

Phone: 08448440231

Email: info@plutusias.com

Web: www.plutusias.com



CONTENTS

Polity and Governance	1
Delimitation and Reservation Bills of Jammu Kashmir	1
Supreme Court's Inquiry Into Illegal Immigration	2
History and Culture	5
8th Wonder of the World	5
Disaster Management	7
Cyclone – Michaung	7
Social Issues	11
NCRB 2022 Report	11

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

DELIMITATION AND RESERVATION BILLS OF JAMMU KASHMIR

Why in the news?

Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 were approved by the Lok Sabha.

Background:

In the historical context of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the process of delimitation for Lok Sabha seats adhered to the Indian Constitution, while the delimitation of Assembly seats operated independently under the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution. However, a significant turning point occurred on August 5, 2019, with the abrogation of Article 370, leading to Jammu and Kashmir losing its special status and being reconstituted as a Union Territory.

Subsequently, in March 2020, the Union government established a Delimitation Commission tasked with delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir and four northeastern states—Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland. Initially set to conclude within a year, the Commission faced delays due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a one-year extension.

The culmination of the delimitation process saw the publication of orders by the Delimitation Commission regarding the restructuring of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir. This restructuring was further reinforced through the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which played a pivotal role in shaping the new political landscape of the region.

Delimitation Orders and Legislative Changes:

- The completion of delimitation resulted in increased legislative assembly seats from 107 to 114 through the Jammu and Kashmir Reorgani-

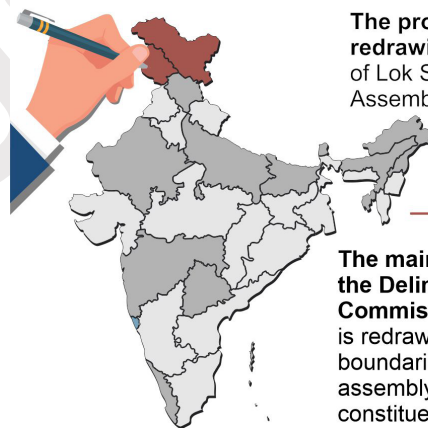
sation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023:

- Introduced in Lok Sabha in July 2023, the bill amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- The Act initially reorganizes Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (with legislature) and Ladakh (without legislature).

Key Features:

What is Delimitation



The process of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats to represent changes in the population.

The main task of the Delimitation Commission is redrawing the boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census.



In the process, the number of seats allocated to states in Lok Sabha or in the Legislative Assembly may also change



It also reserves Assembly seats for Scheduled Castes (Scs) and Scheduled Tribes (Sts) in accordance with the Constitution



- **Legislative Assembly Seats:**

- The 2019 Act set the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly seats at 83; the amendment increases this to 90.
- Reserves 7 seats for Scheduled Castes and 9 seats for Scheduled Tribes based on the Delimitation Commission's report.

- **Nomination of Kashmiri Migrants:**

- The Lieutenant Governor may nominate up to 2 members from the Kashmiri migrant community to the Legislative Assembly, with one being a woman.
- Defines migrants and includes those not registered due to various circumstances.

- **Nomination of Displaced Persons:**

- The Lieutenant Governor may nominate 1 member representing displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including successors-in-interest.
- Specifies criteria for defining displaced persons based on historical events.

Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023:

- Introduced in Lok Sabha in July 2023, this bill amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004.

Key Features:

- **Socially and Educationally Backward Classes:**

- Original Act included people residing in specified areas and weak and underprivileged classes.
- The amendment substitutes weak and underprivileged classes with other backward classes as declared by the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, removing the original definition

- **Commission Recommendations:**

- The government may make inclusions or exclusions from the category of weak and un-

derprivileged classes based on Commission recommendations.

- The Bill deletes the definition of weak and underprivileged classes from the Act.

SUPREME COURT'S INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Why in the news?

Recently, a Constitution bench consisting of five judges in the Supreme Court commenced the hearing of petitions that challenge Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955. This provision was incorporated into the statute subsequent to the endorsement of the Assam Accord.

Background:

A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court recently addressed concerns about the impact of an "unlimited influx" of illegal migrants from Bangladesh on demographics and resources allocated for Indian citizens. The court, during the hearing of related petitions, questioned the applicability of Section 6A, granting Indian citizenship benefits to illegal migrants, solely in Assam and not in West Bengal, which shares a larger portion of the Bangladesh border.

Supreme Court's Directives:

- The court directed the Home Secretary to submit an affidavit by May 11, 2023, detailing the estimated inflow of illegal migrants into India, especially in Assam, post-March 25, 1971.
- The affidavit is expected to outline the measures taken by the Centre to address illegal immigration and provide specifics on the extent and timelines for border-fencing.
- The government is instructed to furnish details regarding illegal immigration along the West Bengal border after March 25, 1971.

Central Government's Defense:

- The central government refutes claims of unfairly burdening Assam with illegal migrants, contending that different states can be clas-

sified differently based on historical and geographical grounds.

- Arguing against allegations of arbitrariness, the Centre asserts that Article 14's guarantee against non-arbitrariness does not mandate universal application of laws, emphasizing the need for differentiation based on dissimilarity or the nature of individuals concerned.

Assam Accord:

The Assam Accord emerged as a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) following the Assam Movement (1979–1985), a significant uprising in the state. The movement aimed to address the issue of illegal immigrants, primarily Bangladeshi, and sought the detection, disenfranchisement, and deportation of such individuals.

Terms of the Assam Accord:

Border Security Measures:

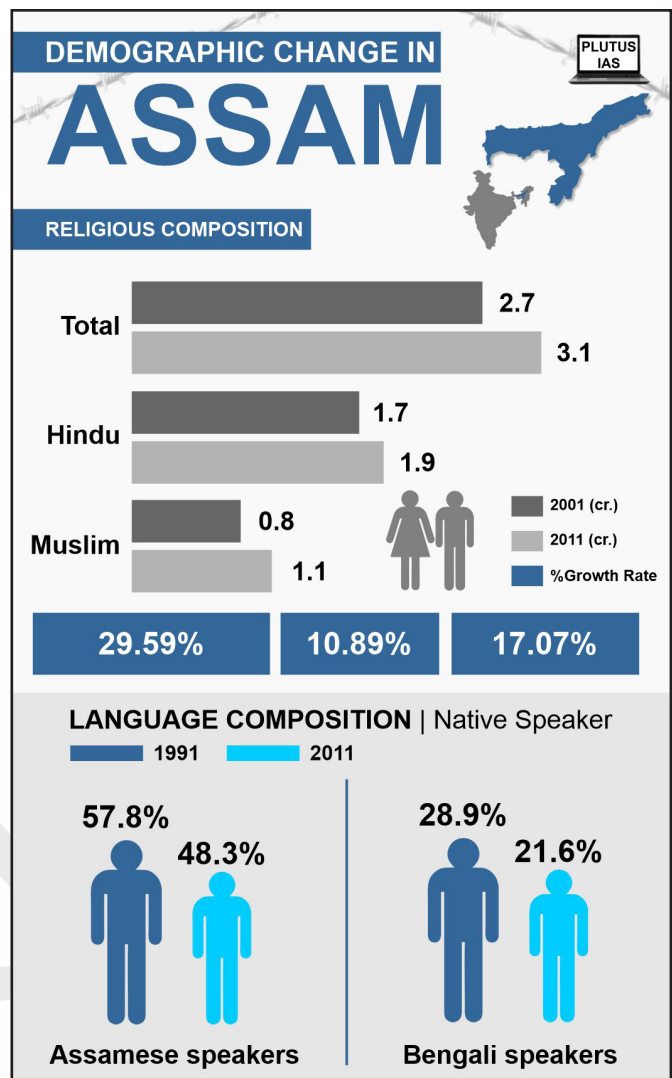
- The Accord mandated the erection of physical barriers, like walls and barbed wire fencing, along the Bangladesh-India border.
- Security forces were deployed for land and river patrols to prevent infiltration.

Classification of Immigrants:

- Immigrants who entered Assam before January 1, 1966, were considered Indian citizens and allowed to vote.
- Those entering between January 1, 1966, and March 24, 1971, were granted Indian citizenship but prohibited from voting for the first 10 years.
- Immigrants arriving on or after March 25, 1971, were classified as illegal and subjected to expulsion.

Political Impact:

- The Accord led to the conclusion of the Assam Movement and enabled leaders of the agitation to form a political party and establish a government in Assam.



Introduction of Section 6A:

- Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, was introduced to implement the provisions of the Assam Accord.

Challenges to Section 6A:

- Supreme Court Proceedings:** The Supreme Court is currently hearing petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Section 6A.
- Concerns Raised by Indigenous Groups:** Indigenous Assamese groups argue that Section 6A acts as a lure for illegal migrants to settle in Assam, gaining Indian citizenship.
- Alleged Violation of Rights:** Petitioners claim that the special provision is arbitrary, singles out Assam, violates Article 14, and contributes

to an influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

- **Proposed Cut-off Date:** Petitioners, led by the Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha (ASM), advocate for establishing 1951 as the cut-off date for inclusion in the National Register of Citizens instead of 1971.
- **Discriminatory Nature:** The core argument is that Section 6A, with its different cut-off date for Indian citizenship in Assam, is discriminatory, arbitrary, and violates the rights of indigenous Assamese people.

Prelims Questions

Q1. With reference to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. The amendment increases Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly seats from 83 to 90, with reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
2. The Lieutenant Governor can nominate up to 2 members from the Kashmiri migrant community to the Legislative Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. With reference to the Assam Accord, consider the following statements:

1. The Assam Accord resulted from the Assam Movement (1979–1985), addressing the issue of illegal immigrants, primarily from Bangladesh.
2. The Accord mandated the erection of physical barriers, such as walls and barbed wire fencing, along the Bangladesh-India border for enhanced security.
3. Immigrants who entered Assam before January

1, 1966, were considered Indian citizens and allowed to vote.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answers

S. No.	Answers
1.	B
2.	C

Mains Question

Q1. Discuss the multifaceted challenges posed by illegal migration in India, considering its socio-economic, political, and cultural implications.

Q2. Discuss the socio-political and constitutional implications of the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Critically assess the challenges and opportunities arising from the integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union of India.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD

Why in the news:

Angkor Wat, in the heart of Cambodia, has beaten Pompeii in Italy to become the eighth Wonder of the World.

Location:

- Situated in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- Largest religious monument globally, covering 1,200 sq meters with intricately carved bas-reliefs.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

- Constructed in the 12th century by Khmer Emperor Suryavarman II.
- Initially a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, later converted to a Buddhist temple.
- Transition depicted in carvings showcasing scenes from Hindu and Buddhist mythology.
- Part of an extensive complex including the Bayon Temple in Angkor Thom.

KEY FEATURES:

- Architectural brilliance with sandstone block construction.
- 15-foot-high wall, wide moat for protection.
- Bas-reliefs depicting deities and narratives from Hindu and Buddhist traditions.
- Symbolic five lotus-shaped towers representing Mount Meru.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Also known as Yasodharapura, derived from the Khmer word “nokor” meaning “kingdom.”
- UNESCO protection for its archaeological and cultural significance.

- Breathtaking sunrise spectacle attracting tourists.

POMPEII: ANCIENT ROMAN CITY

LOCATION:

Near Naples, Italy, by the Bay of Naples.

HISTORY:

- Founded around the 6th century BC, influenced by Greek and Etruscan cultures.
- Became a Roman colony around the 1st century BC.
- Catastrophically buried by Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 AD.

KEY FEATURES:

- Excavated ruins reveal streets, buildings, houses, public spaces, temples, and artifacts.
- Showcase of Roman architecture, including villas, temples, theaters, and an amphitheater.
- Renowned for exquisite frescoes, mosaics, and artifacts.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

- Provides invaluable insights into ancient Roman life, architecture, art, and urban planning.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site, major tourist destination, and educational resource.

CONCLUSION:

Angkor Wat and Pompeii, both wonders with unique historical and cultural significance.

Angkor Wat's architectural magnificence and UNESCO's efforts make it a compelling destination.

Prelims Questions

Q.1 consider the following statements:

1. Angkor Wat Temple is situated in Ho chi Minh province of Cambodia.
2. It is Purely a Buddhist temple.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answers

S. No.	Answers
1.	D

Mains Questions

Q1. Discuss the cultural expanse of Indian civilization in Asia, highlighting key influences, interactions, and exchanges that have contributed to shaping the diverse cultural landscape of the region.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

CYCLONE – MICHAUNG

WHY IN THE NEWS?

Recently, rain began to pummel several districts in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh as Cyclone Michaung intensified into a super cyclonic storm, causing a large amount of loss to lives and properties.

Current status of cyclone Michaung:

- On December 3, rains began to pummel Chennai as Cyclone Michaung, soon to intensify into a super cyclonic storm, parked itself roughly 100 km east of the city. By the next morning, most areas had recorded more than 120 mm of rain, with a few recording more than 250 mm. The storm, centered around 80 km southeast of Nellore and 120 km north-northeast of Chennai at 5.30 pm on December 4, moved northward along the Andhra Pradesh coast, bringing heavy rain to most of Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, and southern Odisha.
- According to the statement of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), cyclonic storm Michaung intensified into a 'severe cyclonic storm' with a maximum sustained wind speed of 90 to 100 kmph and gusting to 110 kmph on December 4 afternoon.
- The A.P. State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) stated that the cyclone is likely to weaken

in the next few hours. However, heavy rain will continue for a few more hours.

WHAT IS A CYCLONE?

Cyclone is a region of low atmospheric pressure surrounded by high atmospheric pressure resulting in swirling atmospheric disturbance accompanied by powerful winds.

Preparedness:

- Over 61,600 people were moved to relief camps.
- Suspension and cutoff of power supply were taken as a precautionary measure.
- The airport was closed for several hours, with nearly 300 flights canceled.



- Southern Railway also canceled many long-distance trains.
- The IMD has issued a red alert for a few districts that will receive extremely heavy rainfall on 5 December and marked red are West Godavari, Konaseema, Eluru, Prakasam, Krishna, NTR, Bapatla and Guntur.
- The districts that are likely to receive very heavy rainfall and marked orange are: East Godavari, Kakinada, YSR Kadapa, Nellore and Alluri Sitaramaraju.
- The north coastal Andhra Pradesh region, as well as Tirupati, Annamayya and Nandyal, is marked yellow, as it is expected to receive heavy rainfall.
- The government declared a holiday for educational institutions on 5 December and advised private companies to permit employees to work from home.

Consequences of Cyclone Hazard

- Loss of life: Seven people in Chennai and five people in Andhra Pradesh were killed.
- Destruction of infrastructure: Parked vehicles were either marooned or floating, and there was uprooting of electric poles, along with a few instances of walls and roofs of houses collapsing.
- Inundation of seawater: Occurred in low-lying areas of coastal regions, resulting in the brimming of water bodies and the release of surplus water from reservoirs.
- Landfall: Between Nellore and Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- Loss of vegetation, crops, and food supplies: Uprooting of a large number of trees.
- Severe disruption in communication and transportation: Included the shutdown of Chennai airfield, railways and roadways.

Post Disaster Relief:

- The Army and the NDRF rescued residents on

boats in some areas.

- Additional workforce and necessary additional equipment are being sourced from neighbouring districts to undertake relief operations in Chennai and Andhra Pradesh.
- State agencies, including the Fire and Rescue Services and police personnel were involved in relief and rescue operations.
- Around 13 Ministers were deputed to oversee relief and rescue operations, besides deploying more senior IAS officers on the field.

FAVORABLE CONDITIONS: LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE IDENTIFIED FAVORABLE CONDITIONS:

- A warm sea surface (temperature in excess of 26–27°C) and associated warming extending up to a depth of 60m with abundant water vapor in the overlying air (by evaporation).
- High relative humidity in the atmosphere up to a height of about 5,000 meters.
- Atmospheric instability that encourages the formation of massive vertical cumulus clouds due to the condensation of rising moist air.
- Low vertical wind shear between the lower and higher levels of the atmosphere does not allow the heat generated and released by the clouds to be transported from the area (vertical wind shear is the rate of change of wind between the higher and lower levels of the atmosphere).
- The presence of cyclonic vorticity (rate of rotation of air) that initiates and favors the rotation of the air cyclonically.
- Location over the ocean, around 5–25° latitude away from the equator.

CYCLONE RISKS IN INDIA

- In India, 8 percent of the total landmass is prone to cyclones. India has a coastline of about 7,516 km, with 5,400 km along the mainland, 132 km in Lakshadweep, and 1,900 km in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- Four states (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, and West Bengal) and one Union Territory (Puducherry) on the east coast, and one state (Gujarat) on the west coast, are highly vulnerable to cyclone disasters.
- There are 13 coastal states and Union Territories (UTs) in the country, encompassing 84 coastal districts affected by tropical cyclones.
- More cyclones occur in the Bay of Bengal than the Arabian Sea, with the ratio approximately 4:1.

CYCLONE WARNING SYSTEM IN INDIA

Low pressure and the development of cyclones can be detected hours or days before they cause damage. Satellites track the movement of these cyclones, based on which people are evacuated from areas likely to be affected. However, predicting accuracy is challenging, and accurate landfall predictions can only provide a few hours' notice to threatened populations.

India has one of the best cyclone warning systems in the world. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the nodal department for wind detection, tracking, and forecasting cyclones. Cyclone tracking is done through INSAT (Indian National Satellite) satellites. Cyclone warnings are disseminated through various means, such as satellite-based disaster warning systems, radio, television, telephone, fax, high-priority telegram, public announcements, and bulletins in the press. These warnings are communicated to the general public, the fishing community, especially those at sea, port authorities, and commercials.

CYCLONE HAZARD MITIGATION

- Cyclone Shelters: Use public buildings in densely populated coastal areas as cyclone shelters, designed with a blank façade and minimal apertures facing prevailing winds. The shorter side of buildings should face the storm for less wind resistance, with earth berms and green belts to reduce impact.
- Rapid dissemination of warnings, especially to government agencies and marine entities;

- Coastal Belt Plantation: Establish green belts to act as a buffer against strong winds and floods, sustaining less damage. Forests provide a wide buffer zone, hindering cyclones from freely traveling inland.
- Hazard Mapping: Utilize meteorological records to create hazard maps, illustrating areas vulnerable to cyclones, estimating severity, and predicting damage intensities in a region.
- Land Use Control: Designate vulnerable areas for least critical activities, regulate land use through policies, and enforce building codes. Avoid settling in floodplains and mark key facilities in land use plans.
- Flood Management: Incorporate flood mitigation measures to address torrential rains, strong winds, storm surges, and potential landslides in cyclone-affected areas.
- Improving Vegetation Cover: Plant trees and maintain vegetation to secure soil, prevent erosion, slow runoff, and act as windbreaks.
- Coastal Shelterbelt Plantations: Develop shelterbelt plantations along the coast to break severe wind speeds and minimize devastating effects.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q1. Which of the following can be considered as some initial conditions for the emergence of a tropical cyclone?

1. Strong Coriolis force
2. Large variations in the vertical wind speed
3. A pre-existing weak low-pressure area

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	A

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. How can Disaster Resilient Infrastructure be comprehended as a means to minimize the loss of life and property during cyclone-associated events? Additionally, explore the challenges associated with securing essential infrastructure in the aftermath of a cyclone.

SOCIAL ISSUES

NCRB 2022 REPORT

Why in the news?

The annual report on crime in India for the year 2022 was unveiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):

- **Establishment and Mission:**

- Established in 1986, headquartered in New Delhi, and falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- Formed based on recommendations from the National Police Commission in 1977 and a Task Force in 1985.
- Primary responsibility: Collect and analyze crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws.

- **Functions:**

- Serves as a repository of crime information, aiding investigators in tracing crimes and criminals.
- Acts as a national warehouse for fingerprint records of Indian and foreign criminals.
- Facilitates the identification and tracking of criminals operating across state borders by utilizing fingerprint searches.
- In 2009, entrusted with monitoring, co-ordinating, and implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project.
- In 2017, launched the National Digital Police Portal, providing services such as online complaint filing.

- **Reports Published:**

- Publishes the prestigious "Crime in India" report along with the Prisons Statistics India Report.

NCRB 2022 Report on Crime in India:

- **Decline in Registration:**

- In 2022, 58,24,946 cognizable crimes were registered, a 4.5% decline from the previous year.
- Comprising 35,61,379 IPC crimes and 22,63,567 Special & Local Laws crimes.

- **Crime Rate Trends:**

- Crime rate per lakh population decreased from 445.9 in 2021 to 422.2 in 2022, considered a better indicator.

- **Crime Against Women:**

- A 4% increase in crime against women in 2022, with 4,45,256 cases registered.
- Dominated by categories like Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives, Kidnapping & Abduction of Women, and Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty.

- **Cybercrime Reporting:**

- A significant 24.4% increase in reporting of cybercrime, totaling 65,893 cases.
- Predominantly cases of fraud, extortion, and sexual exploitation.

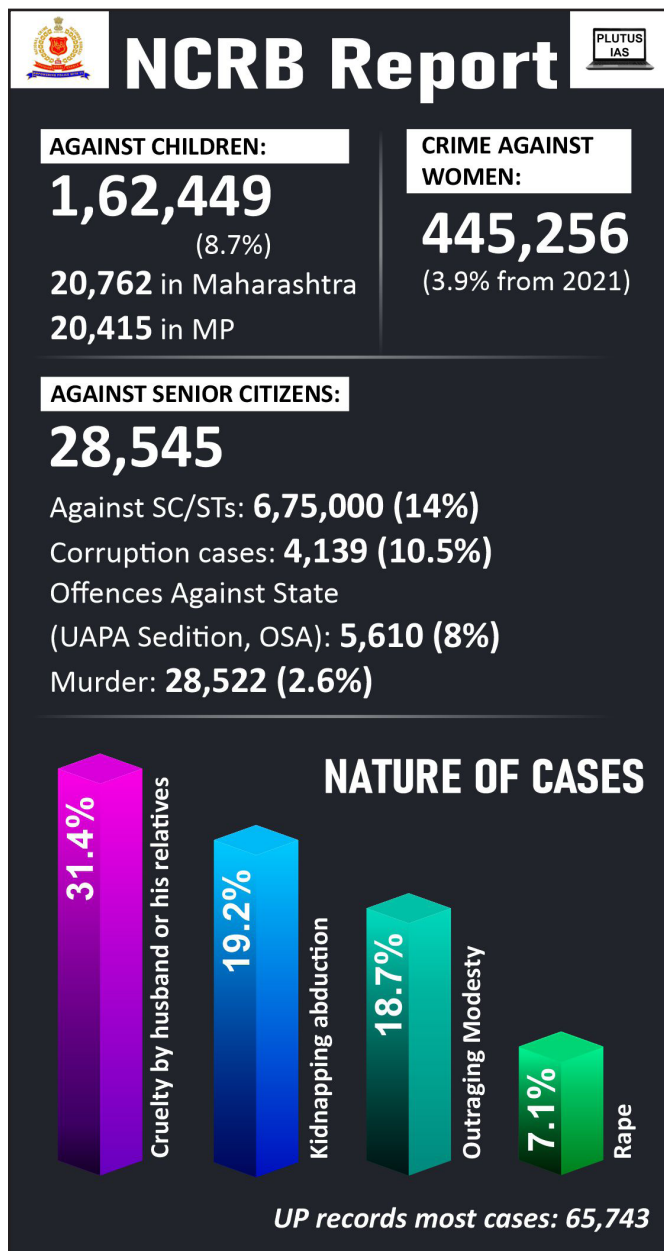
- **Suicides:**

- A 4.2% increase in reported suicides in 2022, with 1,70,924 cases.
- Major reasons include Family Problems, Marriage Related Problems, and Illness.

- **State-wise Trends:**

- States/UTs with the highest charge sheeting

rate under IPC crimes: Kerala, Puducherry, and West Bengal.



Limitations and Considerations:

- **Data Accuracy:**
 - NCRB data records registered crime, not the actual occurrence, reflecting potential variations in awareness and reporting.
 - Principal Offence Rule may lead to undercounting, focusing on the most severe offense in a single FIR.
 - Local-level inefficiencies impact data accu-

racy, as recorded reasons for incidents depend on individual understanding.

● Socio-economic Factors:

- NCRB acknowledges the omission of socio-economic causative factors in crime reporting.

● Factors Affecting Data:

- Fear of uncooperative or hostile police responses may deter certain groups from registering cases.
- Shortage of police officers or unfilled vacancies at the local level can hinder data collection.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), consider the following statements:

1. The NCRB, established in 1986, operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
2. The NCRB was formed based on recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	A

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Evaluate the role of the NCRB in addressing these challenges and to enhance the accuracy and comprehensiveness of crime data in India.