



CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2025

CRIME IN INDIA REPORT: 2023

Recently, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) published the Annual Crime in India report 2023.

Key Highlights of the report

- **Overall cases registered:** Cognizable crimes (where an arrest can be made without warrant) saw an increase of 7.2% over 2022.
 - o This equates to a crime occurring every 5 seconds.
- **Cyber Crime:** Registered cases surged by 31.2% over 2022. The predominant motive behind these crimes was fraud, followed by sexual exploitation.
- **Crimes Against Scheduled Tribes (STs):** Saw a 28.8% increase in cases registered. This is largely attributed to the ethnic violence in Manipur.
- **Crimes Against Children:** Cases increased by 9.2% over 2022. The highest number of cases were registered under Kidnapping and abduction, followed by the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.
- **Crimes Against Women:** Saw a marginal increase of 0.7% over 2022.

TRIBAL GOVERNANCE

Special Gram Sabhas held across 1 lakh tribal-dominated villages and Tolas adopted the Tribal Village Vision 2030 Declaration as part of Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

About Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

- It is a national movement to build a decentralized tribal leadership and governance ecosystem.
- Coverage: It marks the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership programme, covering 11 crore citizens in 30 States and UTs.



- o It is world's largest tribal grassroots leadership mission.
- Ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Key Objectives
 - o Train and mobilize 20 Lakh tribal changemakers across 1 Lakh villages in 550 tribal-dominated districts
 - o Facilitate Village Vision 2030 Planning & Development Action Plan
 - o Promote last-mile convergence & effective service delivery

Tribal Governance

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs:** Founded in 1999 to provide organised approach to integrated socioeconomic development of Scheduled Tribes.
- **The Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA):** It seeks to empower tribal communities in practicing self-governance and preserving their core beliefs, values, and way of life in Scheduled Areas.
 - o It empowers Gram Sabhas, giving them authority over resources, land transfers, socio-economic development etc.
- **Fifth and Sixth Schedule:** Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides autonomy to tribal areas in the northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram
 - o While, the Fifth Schedule deals with the administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in states except those mentioned in the Sixth Schedule.
- **Customary tribal institutions** (e.g., Adivasi Sabhas, Tribal Panchayats): Such institutions continue to play a meaningful role in internal governance, culture, resource management and conflict resolution in tribal communities, often co-existing with formal Panchayat institutions.

GAZA PEACE SUMMIT

- Recently, USA and Egypt co-hosted the Gaza Peace Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt to advance peace in Gaza and overall stability in the Middle East.
- During the summit, four ceasefire mediators—the United States, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey signed a declaration to inaugurate the USA's 20-point peace plan or the Trump Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity.
- Peace plan declares that future disputes will be resolved via diplomatic engagement and negotiation, not through force or protracted conflict.
- Plan calls for Hamas's disarmament and an internationally supervised reconstruction of Gaza.
- Long term, Trump's twenty-point plan stipulates that no Palestinians will be militarily forced to leave Gaza, and that Israel will agree not to occupy or annex the Gaza Strip.
 - Importantly, 20-point plan for Gaza does not guarantee a two-state solution or the creation of the state of Palestine.
- India's Minister of State for External Affairs attended the summit and appreciated the efforts towards a lasting peace in the region.

Key Strategic Locations in the Region (See Map)

- **Gaza:** Small piece of land on the **Mediterranean Sea** bordering Egypt to the south. Under the semi-autonomous **Palestinian Authority since 1993**.
- **West Bank:** **Landlocked region** to the west of Jordan and East of Israel. **Territories divided into three:** fully controlled by Israel, fully controlled by Palestine, and ones shared between **Israel and Palestine**.
- **Golan Heights:** Bounded by the **Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee** on the west. Contentious between Israel and Syria.
- **Sinai Peninsula:** Lies between **Suez Canal** and the **Gulf of Aqaba**, bounded by **Mediterranean Sea (North) and the Red Sea (South)**.
- **Jerusalem:** Ancient city wholly under Israel. Important for three major monotheistic religions- Jews, Christians, and Muslims.





INTERNATIONALISATION OF RUPEE

The RBI has unveiled new measures to promote wider international use of the Indian Rupee (INR), expanding both trade and investment avenues.

- Internationalisation of the Rupee means allowing the Indian Rupee to be used for global trade and financial transactions.

Key Measures Announced

- Loans in Indian Rupees to Non-Residents: Authorised dealer banks in India and their overseas branches will be permitted to lend in INR to persons resident in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, including a bank.
- Establishing Transparent Reference Rates: Financial Benchmarks India Limited (FBIL) will develop transparent reference rates for the rupee against major global currencies.

ENGELS' PAUSE

Geoffrey Hinton who was awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize, warned that AI could trigger a modern Engels' pause.

About Engels' Pause

- It is a term coined by Oxford economist Robert Allen, based on Friedrich Engels' observations of 19th-century Britain.
- It refers to the paradox during early Industrial Revolution in Britain (c. 1780–1840) when industrial output rose sharply but real wages of workers remained stagnant.
- There are concerns that AI driven Economy could replicate Engels' pause, where economic growth exists but the gains are unequally distributed, leaving many behind.

LEFT-WING EXTREMISM (LWE)

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed that the number of most affected districts reduced from 6 to three (Bijapur, Sukma, Narayanpur- all in Chhattisgarh).

- State achievements: Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have recently been delisted from the category of LWEaffected states.
- Government Target: Complete elimination of Naxalism by March 31, 2026.
 - o The overall number of LWE-affected districts has reduced from 18 to 11.

About LWE

- LWE, commonly referred to as Naxalism, is one of India's most serious internal security challenges.
- Ideology: It is rooted in socio-economic inequalities and fueled by Maoist ideology, utilizing violence and propaganda to overthrow the existing democratic government and establish a classless society.
- Region affected
 - o Origin: The movement originated from the Naxalbari movement of 1967 in West Bengal.
 - o Historical Reach (Red Corridor): It spread primarily across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) ACT (AFSPA)

The Ministry of Home Affairs recently extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in parts of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland for another six months.

About AFSPA, 1958

- It is a special law granting extraordinary powers to the military to maintain law and order.
- Objective: To empower the armed forces to operate in “disturbed areas” where public order is seriously threatened.
- Currently, AFSPA is in effect in parts of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It was lifted from Tripura in 2015, Meghalaya in 2018 and Mizoram in 1980s.
- AFSPA also remains in force in Jammu and Kashmir through the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990.

Key Provisions of the Act

- **Declaration of Disturbed Area** (Section 3): Governor, Administrator, or Central Government can declare part or whole state/UT as “disturbed” if they believe the situation requires armed forces to aid civil authorities.
- **Special Powers of the Armed Forces** (Section 4): Grants special powers to armed forces personnel in areas declared as “disturbed” -
 - Use force, including shooting to kill, against anyone violating law.
 - Arrest and Enter/Search premises without warrant based on suspicion.
 - Prohibit assembly of 5 or more persons.
 - Destroy any arms dump, fortified position from which armed attacks can be made or any training camp for armed volunteers
- **Immunity to Armed Forces personnel** (Section 6): Protection from prosecution and legal suits for acts under AFSPA without the Central government’s sanction.
- **Treatment of arrested person:** Armed forces required to hand over the person to the nearest police “with least possible delay.”



Landmark Judicial Decisions

- Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v. Union of India (1997): Validated AFSPA constitutionally with safeguards on use of force and immunity.
- Extra-Judicial Execution Victim Families Association v. Union of India (2016): Immunity under Section 6 is not absolute; accountability for excessive force is mandatory.
- Sebastian M. Hongray v. Union of India (1984): Security personnel can be held accountable despite AFSPA immunity.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CYBERCRIME

Recently, 72 of the 193 member states signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime in Hanoi, Vietnam.

About United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime

- Convention was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 24 December 2024.
- It will enter into force 90 days after the 40th State deposits its ratification.
 - o The signing process will remain open until 31 December 2026.
 - o India has not signed the treaty yet.
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) served as secretariat to negotiations.
- UN Convention Against Cybercrime is the first universal legally binding framework for the collection, sharing and use of electronic evidence for all serious offences.

Key features of the Convention Against Cybercrime

- **Expanded Scope of Cyber Offences:** It criminalize cyber-dependent crimes and also offences related to online fraud, online child sexual abuse, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images etc.



- **International Cooperation:** It establishes a 24/7 network to boost international cooperation.
- **Protection of sovereignty:** States Parties shall carry out their obligations under this Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.
- **Victim Support:** The Convention encourages States to provide victims with access to recovery services, compensation, restitution, and the removal of illicit content. This support will be delivered according to each country's domestic laws.
- **Respect for human rights:** States Parties to ensure that the implementation of their obligations under the Convention is consistent under international human rights law.

EXERCISE IN NEWS

- **Exercise Pacific Reach:** It is biennial multinational submarine rescue exercise featuring participation from over 40 nations.
 - o Host: Singapore.
- **KONKAN-25 Exercise:** Joint bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and United Kingdom's Royal Navy.
- **AUSTRAHIND 2025:** India-Australia joint annual military exercise.
- **Samudra Shakti Exercise:** India-Indonesia joint bilateral maritime exercise.
- **JAIMEX -2025:** Biennial naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.
- **Exercise Ocean Sky:** Multinational air exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force.
 - o This is the first time a non-NATO country (India) is participating in this exercise.

COLD DESERT BIOSPHERE RESERVE

UNESCO designated the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in India – as part of 26 new sites – to UNESCO's World Network Reserves (WNBR).

- This designation brings India's total to 13 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, joining a global network of 785 sites.

About Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

- Location: This is India's first high-altitude cold desert biosphere reserve and one of the coldest and driest ecosystems in UNESCO's WNBR.
 - o It is located in Himalayas and stretches from Ladakh (comprising Leh and Kargil Districts) in north to Kinnaur (Spiti valley and Kinnaur district in Himachal Pradesh) in South.
- Protected Areas: It covers the Pin Valley National Park and its surroundings, Chandratol and Sarchu and the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Biome: It constitutes a Cold Desert biome with harsh climatic conditions, attributed to two factors – location on leeward side of Himalayas (making it a rain-shadow zone) and very high elevation.

MUD VOLCANO

India's only Mud Volcano in Baratang Island in Andamans and Nicobar Islands erupts after 20 years.

About Mud Volcano

- It is a geological formation where a mixture of mud, water, and gases (mainly methane, sometimes carbon dioxide or nitrogen) erupts to the surface, creating cone-like structures that resemble true volcanoes without molten lava.
- Mud volcanoes are generally encountered in areas where natural gas is present.

- Eruptions are caused by the pressure from Earth's tectonic forces or by accumulation of hydrocarbon gases.

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2025 ranks India under 'serious' category.

About Global Hunger Index (GHI)

- Index has been released by Irish humanitarian organization 'Concern Worldwide' and German aid agency 'Welthungerhilfe' (with FAO, UNICEF, WHO, IFPRI).
- Purpose of Index is to track hunger globally using nutrition & mortality indicators.
- Each country's GHI score is calculated based on a formula (See image) that combines four indicators:
 - o Undernourishment (Insufficient caloric intake);
 - o Child stunting (Children with low height under age 5);
 - o Child wasting: (Children with low weight for their height under age 5);
 - o Child mortality: (Children who die before their fifth birthday).

Key Findings of the report

- India Related Findings:
 - o India's Position: India is ranked 102nd among the 123 countries assessed with a GHI score of 25.8, which is classified as serious.
 - o Child Nutrition Crisis: 1 in 3 Indian children is stunted. Undernourishment affects 172 million people, 13.5 million more than in 2016.



NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE 2025

Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi have been awarded Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2025 for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.

- Our immune system protects the body from harmful pathogens like viruses, bacteria, and fungi.
- However, it must also make sure not to attack its own cells — this balance is very important for healthy body function.
- The immune system uses two types of tolerance to achieve this — central tolerance and peripheral tolerance.

MAHI BANSWARA RAJASTHAN ATOMIC POWER PROJECT

PM laid the foundation of the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (MBRAPP).

- Location: Banswara, Rajasthan near the Mahi Dam on River Mahi.
- Capacity: 4 x 700 MWe PHWR (4 nuclear power units of Indigenous PHWRs (Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors)).
- It will be developed by Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam (ASHVINI), a joint venture between Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited (NPCIL) and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).
- The project is part of India's "fleet mode" initiative.
 - o Under this Initiative, ten identical 700 MW reactors are being built across India under uniform design and procurement plans.

Nuclear Power Capacity in India

- India currently has 24 reactors across 7 power plants with installed nuclear energy capacity of 8180 MW (January 30, 2025).
 - o The government plans to increase this to 22,480 MW by 2031-32.



VANDE MATARAM

The Union Cabinet announced nationwide celebration of 150th anniversary of the national song 'Vande Mataram'.

About Vande Mataram

- Origin: Composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first published in Anandamath (1882).
- On 24th January 1950, it was declared that Vande Mataram would have equal status with the National Anthem (Jana-gana-mana).
 - o Jana Gana Mana, originally composed in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.
- Theme: Pays tribute to Mother India, inspiring devotion, courage, and unity.
- It was recited by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896 at the annual session of the Indian National Congress.

BATHUKAMMA FESTIVAL

Bathukamma Festival celebrations in Telangana create 2 Guinness World Records.

- It is a floral festival celebrated by the women folk of Telangana and some parts of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is celebrated every year for nine days during Durga Navratri.
- It involves preparation of Bathukamma - the traditional art of flower arrangement using seasonal flowers with medicinal values.
- Bathukamma means "come back to life-Mother" and it is dedicated to Goddess Parvati.
- It is declared as Telangana State Festival.



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2025

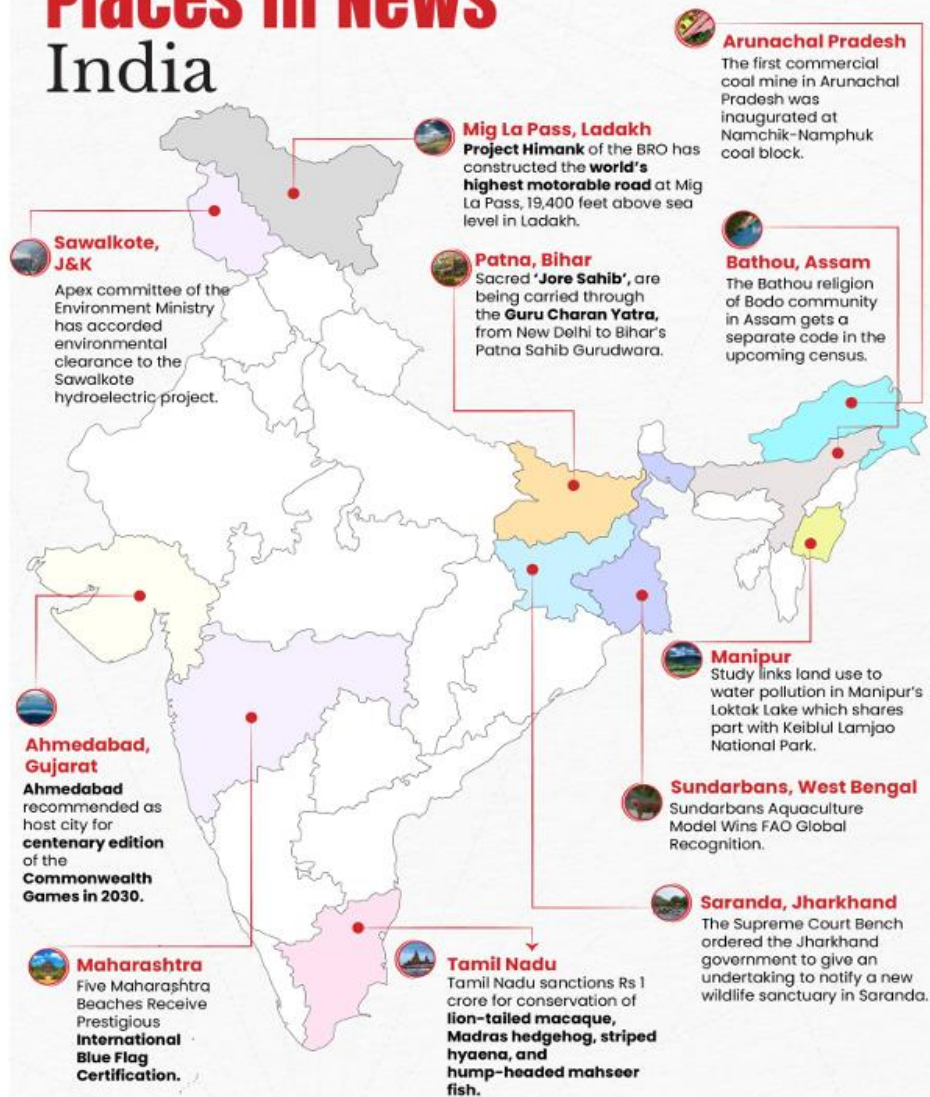
Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 is awarded to Maria Corina Machado.

- It is awarded for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy' in Venezuela.

Nobel Peace Prize

- Since WW-II, The Peace Prize (started in 1901) has been awarded to honour efforts in four main areas:
 - o arms control and disarmament.
 - o peace negotiation.
 - o democracy and human rights.
 - o work aimed at creating a better organized and more peaceful world.
- Indian citizen who won Nobel peace prize
 - o Mother Teresa (1979)
 - o Kailash Satyarthi (2014)

Places in News India



Places in News World

