

CHAPTER-2

CRIMES IN MEGA CITIES

Introduction

The term 'Mega City' here refers to cities having population of over 10 lakhs(1 million). The number of such cities has increased from 23 in 1991 to 35 in 2001.

On account of peculiar problems such as unchecked migration, illegal settlements, diverse socio-cultural disparities, uneven distribution of incomes etc., Mega cities are facing increased criminal activities. Organised groups, gangsters, professional criminals and even youth and Juveniles find crime as a short cut for a lavish life in mega cities. This chapter deals with crime analysis relating to these cities.

In the absence of mid-year population estimates for the year 2004 for these 35 cities from the Registrar General of India Office, the actual census population of these cities for the year 2001 is used for calculating the crime rates. The population of these 35 mega cities (see **Table-1.6**) constitutes nearly 10 per cent of the country's total population.

27.8 percent of population lives in Urban areas as per 2001 census. The present analysis does not aim at complete urban crime pattern in the country but restricts to only 35 mega cities representing nearly 37.8 per cent of total urban population(1078.8 lakhs out of 2853.5 lakh as per 2001 census).

Various forms of crime

Further, the present analysis on mega cities restricts itself to 22 major specified crimes under IPC and 21 specified crimes under SLL. The city-wise details of these crimes for 35 mega cities are furnished in **Chapter-I**. Other related details on Property Stolen & Recovered, Crime against Women, Crime against Children and Cyber Crimes are also furnished in the respective chapters of the reports. The major crime pattern of IPC crimes & SLL crimes in 35 mega cities are discussed below.

Crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

Incidence

(All India...18,32,015 Mega Cities...3,09,929)

A total of 3,09,929 cognizable crimes under the IPC were reported in 35 mega cities during 2004 as compared to 2,91,246 crimes during 2003, thereby reporting an increase of 6.4 per cent. At the national level, this increase was 6.8 per cent over previous year 2003.

Contrary to the national level, increase of Violent crimes over previous year such as Murder (2.7%), Attempt to Murder (7.5%) and Dacoity (0.2%), the Urban agglomeration centers witnessed a decline of 1.4, 5.7 and 4.2 per cent respectively.

The Urban agglomeration centers have accounted for 46.0 per cent (37,143 out of 80,682) of the total Auto theft cases in the country followed by 28.9 per cent cheating cases (i.e. 15,016 out of 51,939) and 24.7 per cent Counterfeiting cases (378 out of 1,529) of the nation's total crime.

The cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore have accounted for 15.7 per cent, 9.5 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively of the total crimes reported from 35 mega cities. Agra city of Uttar Pradesh has reported significant increase of 54.6 per cent IPC crimes as compared to previous year (2003) followed by Meerut (51.1%) & Lucknow (47.3%) cities of the same State. Ludhiana city of Punjab and Vijayawada city of Andhra Pradesh have reported a decline of 40.1 and 24.0 per cent respectively.

Rate of Crime (IPC)

(All India...168.8

Cities...287.3)

The average rate of crime in Urban agglomeration centres at 287.3 was much higher than the country's crime rate of 168.8 (**Table-1.6**). The crime rate for each city is compared with the corresponding crime rate of the domain State in **Table 2(A)**.

Crime rate (IPC) in cities was generally higher than the corresponding crime rate of domain State. In case of Chennai and Surat, the crime rate was lower than that of the respective State. In case of Kolkata city, the crime rate (around 82) was

almost equal to that of domain State West Bengal (82.6). In case of Mumbai city(179.9), the crime rate was slightly higher than that of Maharashtra (173.3). Following the national trend of increase in crime rate by 5.0 percent (from 160.7 in 2003 to 168.8 in 2004), the crime rate in cities has also increased by 6.4 per cent (from 270.0 in 2003 to 287.3 in 2004).

Table-2(A)
IPC crime rate
Mega Cities Vs Domain State

Sl. No.	City	Rate of Crime (IPC)	
		City	Domain State
1	Agra	260.6	73.2
2	Ahmedabad	388.4	197.3
3	Allahabad	147.7	73.2
4	Amritsar	119.1	100.7
5	Asansol	97.3	82.6
6	Bangalore	501.6	207.9
7	Bhopal	843.2	304.4
8	Chennai	193.6	259.4
9	Coimbatore	264.9	259.4
10	Delhi	380.6	351.0
11	Dhanbad	162.2	110.5
12	Faridabad	298.4	174.4
13	Hyderabad	340.9	201.3
14	Indore	728.2	304.4
15	Jabalpur	572.5	304.4
16	Jaipur	569.0	255.9
17	Jamshedpur	199.9	110.5
18	Kanpur	168.3	73.2
19	Kochi	498.6	315.4
20	Kolkata	81.4	82.6
21	Lucknow	277.9	73.2
22	Ludhiana	182.9	100.7
23	Madurai	264.8	259.4
24	Meerut	212.4	73.2
25	Mumbai	179.9	173.3
26	Nagpur	401.2	173.3
27	Nasik	226.2	173.3
28	Patna	445.0	122.4
29	Pune	286.3	173.3
30	Rajkot	433.0	197.3
31	Surat	147.0	197.3
32	Vadodara	372.1	197.3

33	Varanasi	128.5	73.2
34	Vijayawada	757.6	201.3
35	Vishakhapatnam	239.4	201.3
Total (Cities/All India)		287.3	168.8

Trend analysis – IPC crimes

The details of IPC crimes in cities during 2000 to 2004 are presented in Table-2(B). Due to increase in number of mega cities from 23 to 35 in year 2001, the incidence of crimes in cities during 2000 are not comparable with corresponding incidence since 2001. The crime rate in cities has not shown any fixed pattern.

Table-2(B)
Incidence & Rate of IPC crimes (mega cities)

Year	Incidence	Rate
2000	255276	259.1
2001*	289775	277.0
2002	297679	275.9
2003	291246	270.0
2004	309929	287.3

* Excluding Asansol, Dhanbad & Jamshedpur cities

Crimes under Special and Local Laws **(All India...41,96,766 Cities...18,80,924)**

35 cities have reported 18,80,924 cases registered as crimes under Special & Local Laws as compared to 15,56,159 in 2003. The incidents under SLL during 2004 over 2003 showed an increase in cities (20.9%) as compared to the increase (11.1%) observed at national level.

35 Urban agglomeration centres have significantly accounted for cases under Immoral Traffic (P) Act (33.2%), Copyright Act (32.6%), Indecent Representation of Women (P) Act (26.9%) and Arms Act (23.8%) to the cases registered under respective Act in the country.

Bulk of the SLL cases(93.9%) in the cities could not be categorised as specified crimes. In Kolkata city, almost 99.9% of SLL crimes were reported under 'Other SLL Crimes'.

Crime rate (SLL)
(All-India...386.6

Cities...1743.5)

The crime rate in Urban Agglomeration centres (1743.5) was significantly higher than the national average (386.6). Comparatively, cities of Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and Kolkata in West Bengal have reported much higher rates at 9064.0 and 9624.1 respectively. The city-wise details are presented in Table-1.7.

Trends Analysis – SLL Crimes

The details of SLL crimes in cities during 2000 to 2004 are presented in **Table-2(C)**. Due to increase in the number of mega cities from 23 to 35 in year 2001, the incidence of crimes in cities during 2000

are not comparable with the incidence of later years. The crime rate in cities have not shown any fixed pattern.

Table-2(C)
Incidence & Rate of SLL crimes in Cities

Year	Incidence	Rate
2000	1413500	1434.4
2001*	1763759	1685.8
2002	1625689	1506.9
2003	1556159	1442.5
2004	1880924	1743.5

* Excluding 3 cities - Asansol, Dhanbad & Jamshedpur.