

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.

Mega cities are facing increased criminal activities on account of peculiar problems such as unchecked migration, illegal settlements, diverse socio-cultural disparities, uneven distribution of incomes etc. 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.

The actual census population of these cities for the year 2001 is used for calculating the crime rates in the absence of mid-year population estimates for the year 2005 for these 35 cities from the Registrar General of India Office. 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

The present analysis on mega cities is restricted 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...18,22,602 Mega Cities...3,14,708)

A total of 3,14,708 cognizable crimes under the IPC were reported in 35 mega cities during 2005 as compared to 3,09,929 crimes during 2004, thereby reporting an increase of 1.54 per cent. However, there was a decline of 0.5 per cent in IPC crimes during 2005 over previous year 2004 at the national level.

The Urban agglomeration centers have accounted for 43.7 per cent (37,460 out of 85,709) of the total Auto theft cases in the country followed by 29.1 per cent cheating cases (i.e. 15,603 out of 53,625) and 27.1 per cent Counterfeiting cases (646 out of 2,383) of the nation's total IPC crime.

The cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore have accounted for 16.2 per cent, 10.0 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively of the total crimes reported from 35 mega cities. Chennai city has reported significant increase of 61.8 per cent IPC crimes as compared to previous year (2004) followed by Vishakhapatnam (40.0%) and Surat (27.6%). Bhopal city of Madhya Pradesh and Vijayawada city of Andhra Pradesh have reported a decline of 34.0 and 24.4 per cent respectively.

Rate of Crime (IPC)

(All India...165.3

Cities...291.7)

The average rate of crime in Urban agglomeration centres at 291.7 was much higher than the national crime rate of 165.3 (**Table-1.6**). Indore reported the highest crime rate (766.1) among the mega cities in the country followed by Vijayawada (572.8) and Bhopal (556.2). 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 Amritsar, Kolkata and Surat, the crime rate was lower than that of the respective State. The crime rate in case of Mumbai city (192.0) was slightly higher than that of Maharashtra (181.3). Contrary to the national trend of decline in crime rate by 2.0 percent (from 168.8 in 2004 to 165.3 in 2005), the crime rate in cities

has increased by 1.5 per cent (from 287.3 in 2004 to 291.7 in 2005).

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

Sl. No.	City	Rate of Crime (IPC)	
		City	Domain State
1	Agra	245.9	67.3
2	Ahmedabad	386.5	209.0
3	Allahabad	149.0	67.3
4	Amritsar	92.1	105.3
5	Asansol	111.5	78.1
6	Bangalore	510.7	211.1
7	Bhopal	556.2	286.8
8	Chennai	313.3	250.3
9	Coimbatore	265.9	250.3
10	Delhi	398.8	356.1
11	Dhanbad	165.2	121.8
12	Faridabad	298.9	187.2
13	Hyderabad	312.2	196.9
14	Indore	766.1	286.8
15	Jabalpur	544.5	286.8
16	Jaipur	507.3	228.5
17	Jamshedpur	230.3	121.8
18	Kanpur	138.2	67.3
19	Kochi	437.6	313.0
20	Kolkata	71.1	78.1
21	Lucknow	271.2	67.3
22	Ludhiana	182.2	105.3
23	Madurai	283.3	250.3
24	Meerut	209.0	67.3
25	Mumbai	192.0	181.3
26	Nagpur	452.4	181.3
27	Nasik	241.0	181.3
28	Patna	462.1	108.9
29	Pune	314.6	181.3
30	Rajkot	392.6	209.0
31	Surat	187.6	209.0
32	Vadodara	353.6	209.0
33	Varanasi	100.2	67.3
34	Vijayawada	572.8	196.9
35	Vishakhapatnam	335.2	196.9
Total (Cities/All India)		291.7	165.3

Trend analysis – IPC crimes

The details of IPC crimes in cities during 2001 to 2005 are presented in Table-2(B).

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

Year	Incidence	Rate
2001*	289775	277.0
2002	297679	275.9
2003	291246	270.0
2004	309929	287.3
2005	3,14,708	291.7

* Excluding Asansol, Dhanbad & Jamshedpur cities

Crimes under Special and Local Laws
(All India...32,03,735 Cities...7,66,619)

35 cities have reported 7,66,619 cases registered as crimes under Special & Local Laws as compared to 18,80,924 in 2004. The incidents under SLL during 2005 over 2004 showed a decline in cities (59.2%) as compared to the decline of (23.7%) observed at national level.

35 Urban agglomeration centres have significantly accounted for cases under Immoral Traffic (P) Act (35.6%), Copyright Act (29.4%) and Arms Act (23.4%) to the cases registered under respective Act in the country.

Crime rate (SLL)
(All-India...290.5 Cities...710.6)

The crime rate in Urban Agglomeration centres (710.6) was about two and half times of the national average (290.5). Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh is the only city in the country which reported more than 10 thousand SLL cases per one lakh of population. The city-wise details are presented in Table-1.18.

Trends Analysis – SLL Crimes

The details of SLL crimes in cities during 2001 to 2005 are presented in Table-2(C). The crime rate in cities has not shown any fixed pattern.

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

Year	Incidence	Rate
2001*	1763759	1685.8
2002	1625689	1506.9
2003	1556159	1442.5
2004	1880924	1743.5
2005	7,66,619	710.6

* Excluding 3 cities - Asansol, Dhanbad & Jamshedpur.