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Surge in Violent Juvenile Crimes in India

Key Insights and Data Patterns

A growing portion of juvenile crimes are violent: In 2022, nearly half (49.5%) of juveniles apprehended in India were involved in violent offenses—significantly higher than the 32.5% recorded in 2016.

Even as overall juvenile crime rates declined—from 37,402 cases in 2017 to 33,261 in 2022—there has been a marked increase in the share of serious violent acts.

Violent offenses include heinous acts such as murder, rape, sexual assault, grievous hurt, dacoity, robbery, and arson.

Petty offenses like theft, fraud, rash driving, or pickpocketing are excluded from this categorization.

Relevance: GS 2 (Social Issues)

Geographic Trends Across States

Top contributors (2017–2022) to absolute numbers of violent juvenile crimes are:

- **Madhya Pradesh** – 21.8%
- **Maharashtra** – 18%
- **Rajasthan** – 9.6%
- **Chhattisgarh** – 8.4%
- **Tamil Nadu** – 5.8%

Despite its small geographic size, **Delhi** accounts for 6.8%—likely due to enhanced law enforcement and reporting mechanisms.

Highest proportion of violent cases among total juvenile crimes:

- **Jharkhand** – 67%
- **Tripura, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh** – each over 60%
- **Odisha** stands out as an anomaly with only 10% violent juvenile cases despite being in a high-crime belt.

Underlying Causes and Contextual Factors

Cultural and psychological drivers:

Teen years often involve identity confusion, aggressive impulses, and poor self-regulation. Exposure to cyberbullying, incel ideologies, and glorification of violence online further fuels deviant behavior.

Socioeconomic stressors:

Family breakdown, drug use, unemployment, and peer influence contribute to the rise.

Institutional shortfalls:

Poor enforcement of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and inadequate counselling and reintegration programs hamper reformative efforts.

Governance Implications

Even as total juvenile crime falls, the rising violence indicates deeper psycho-social challenges. Policy must prioritise:

- Early-school interventions
- Gender and digital literacy campaigns
- Expansion of mental health support systems
- Strengthening Juvenile Justice Boards with trained psychologists alongside legal professionals

Rethinking the Caste Census

Context & Recent Moves

In 2025, the Union Cabinet sanctioned caste enumeration under the Census via Article 246 (Union List)—a historic move as India hasn't conducted a caste-based census since 1931. States like **Bihar (2023)** and **Telangana (2025)** already carried out caste surveys, revealing OBC/BC majorities and socio-economic marginalisation.

Relevance: GS 2 (Social Issues)

Findings from State Caste Surveys

Bihar (2023):

- OBC + EBC = 63%
- SC = 19.65%, ST = 1.68%, General = 15.52%
- 34% of households survive on less than ₹200/day
- 44% of SC homes fall below this threshold, revealing deep caste-economy links

Telangana (2025):

- BCs form 56.33%, with BC Muslims comprising 10.08%
- Disparities in representation persist:
 - In 45 Central Universities, only 4% of professors and 6% of associate professors are OBCs
 - The General category dominates 85% of such roles, despite the 2019 Teachers' Cadre Act ensuring reservation

What is a Social Management Model?

It is a bottom-up planning approach, grounded in disaggregated caste data.

This diverges from top-down welfare assumptions that apply uniform policies.

States like **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka** have utilized this to finetune reservations, scholarships, and governance.

Why a National Caste Census is Vital

- Allows precise budgeting and targeting of welfare resources

- Facilitates diversity audits in public and private sectors
- Enhances public monitoring of policy impacts across caste lines
- Helps measure performance of schemes like PMAY, Skill India, etc.

Counterpoints & Clarifications

Opposition: It might entrench social divisions.

Rebuttal: Caste is already a determining factor in power and access. Ignoring it doesn't end inequality—it simply conceals it.

Global examples (race in the US, ethnicity in South Africa, language in Brazil) show the need for identity-based data.

A caste census can also unveil elite dominance within caste groups, empowering truly backward sub-sections.

Social Justice & Democratic Participation

A caste census is essential for inclusive, transparent governance and responsive democracy. It could:

- Make affirmative action more precise
- Address inequalities within caste blocs
- Bolster rights related to land, housing, and labour for the marginalised
- Strengthen participatory democracy and constitutional awareness

Constitution as a Vehicle of Social Justice

CJI B.R. Gavai's Key Address

India's Constitution is a bold, transformative charter that recognises and confronts structural inequality rooted in caste, poverty, and exclusion.

It does not assume a level playing field—it actively intervenes to restructure social dynamics and uphold dignity.

CJI described the Constitution as a “quiet revolution written in ink”—not just legal code but a moral force for the marginalised.

Relevance: GS 2 (Judiciary)

Personal Reflections

Chief Justice Gavai recounted his journey from a municipal school student to the highest judicial office—possible only through constitutional safeguards.

He highlighted the visibility the Constitution gives to previously silenced communities:

“To be acknowledged in the Constitution is to be acknowledged by the nation.”

Constitution: A Tool of Equity, Not Neutrality

It seeks to rebalance entrenched power structures and remedy centuries of exclusion.

Affirmative action and fundamental rights are not mere charity—they are reparative mechanisms.

Inclusive Drafting Process

Marginalised communities were not just beneficiaries but key contributors to drafting the

Constitution.

The founding process was a democratic exercise—not an elite imposition.

Governance and Judicial Implications

Legal interpretations must be rooted in lived experiences of marginalised groups.

Policymaking should embody the spirit of inclusion, empathy, and justice promised by the Constitution.

This necessitates governance that listens, includes, and uplifts—not one that remains detached.

Electoral Roll Preparation: A Global Benchmark

Key Points by CEC Gyanesh Kumar

India's process of preparing electoral rolls is among the most transparent and meticulous in the world.

Multiple stakeholders—political parties, voters, police, media, and candidates—serve as real-time auditors during the process.

Relevance: GS 2 (Electoral Reforms)

Process Overview

Since 1960, voter lists are:

- Annually shared with all recognised political parties
 - Subject to objections, corrections, and appeals
- This open process reduces manipulation and enhances public confidence.

Response to Political Allegations

CEC's remarks respond to opposition claims of "industrial-scale rigging" in Maharashtra's 2024 Assembly election.

While no political figure was named, the statement firmly defended institutional integrity.

India's Election System: Global Leader

Organising Indian elections involves over 20 million personnel—larger than many national governments or corporate entities.

This allows nearly 1 billion eligible voters to exercise their franchise.

Global Recognition

India's Election Commission was showcased as a model for electoral transparency at the Stockholm Conference on Electoral Integrity, attended by 50+ countries.

Democratic Significance

Strengthens institutional credibility and citizen trust.

Demonstrates India's commitment to fair, inclusive elections amid rising concerns of electoral interference worldwide.

India's Hesitation Over the 'High Seas Treaty'

Understanding the Treaty

Formally called the **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)** Agreement.

Aims to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national borders under the UNCLOS framework.

Key provisions include equitable sharing of marine genetic resources and setting up marine protected zones.

Relevance: GS 2 (International Relations)

India's Current Status

India signed the treaty in **September 2024** but has not yet ratified it.

Ratification requires changes to domestic legislation like the Biological Diversity Act.

Sources indicate India is unlikely to ratify it during the **2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice**.

Legal and Procedural Hurdles

- Ratification needs Parliamentary approval, expected post-monsoon session
- India is assessing alignment between its laws and treaty requirements
Concerns remain over unresolved global debates on technology transfer, benefit distribution, and access to marine resources.

Global Progress

As of June 10, 2025, 49 countries have ratified the agreement. It requires 60 to come into force.

India's Marine Initiatives at the Conference

Union Minister Jitendra Singh outlined key developments:

- Ongoing ratification process as a signal of commitment
- **Samudrayaan Mission**: first manned submersible test in 2026
- Nationwide ban on single-use plastics
- \$80+ billion invested in Blue Economy
- Launch of '**SAHAV**' **Digital Ocean Portal** for real-time marine data

India's Diplomatic Stand

India backs global conservation, but insists on fair benefit-sharing and protecting national interests.

Its approach balances **resource access** with **global ecological responsibility**.

Export Policy: From Subsidies to Standards

Government's New Strategy

India is phasing out subsidies as its primary export booster, shifting focus to enforcing **Quality Control Orders (QCOs)** to promote globally competitive products.

Relevance: GS 2 (Governance), GS 3 (Economy, Exports)

Understanding QCOs

QCOs legally require that goods—whether produced domestically, exported, or imported—

meet the standards set by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
This improves product credibility and discourages poor-quality imports.

Rationale Behind the Shift

Government concedes that past subsidies have failed to meaningfully boost exports. Emphasis is now on regulatory simplification (e.g., land, clearances) instead of financial aid. Persistent quality concerns in manufacturing prompted the change.

Selective Subsidies Still Under Review

Strategic sectors like **rare earth battery production** may still receive incentives, especially after China's export bans on key components.

Industry Concerns

Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) has requested ₹10,000–15,000 per kWh subsidy for green fuel machinery in mining. Industries continue pushing for direct support.

Debate on QCOs

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal supports QCOs as vital for quality assurance. However, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery warned QCOs may:

- Burden MSMEs
- Deter imports essential for production

Government's Balancing Act

Exemptions from QCOs exist for:

- Advance Authorisation Scheme
 - Export-Oriented Units (EOUs)
 - Special Economic Zones (SEZs)
- This ensures export supply chains relying on imports aren't disrupted.

Policy Implications

- Marks India's strategic turn toward quality-driven, WTO-compliant exports
- Reduces trade disputes linked to subsidies
- May increase compliance burdens, especially on small manufacturers
- Aligned with **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India**—but demands upgraded quality infrastructure and institutional support

13th June 2025: Static MCQS

1. Which of the following statements with regard to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India are correct?

- I. It has recommended grants of Rs. 4,800 crores from the year 2022-23 to the year 2025-26 for incentivizing states to enhance educational outcomes.

- II. 45% of the net proceeds of union taxes are to be shared with states.
- III. 45,000 crores are to be kept as performance-based incentive for all states for carrying out agricultural reforms.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a. I, II and III
- b. I, II and IV
- c. I, III and IV
- d. II, III and IV

Correct Option: (c)

2. Consider the following statements in respect of the international bank for reconstruction and development (IBRD):

- I. It provides loans and guarantees to middle income countries.
- II. It works single-handedly to help developing countries to reduce poverty.
- III. It was established to help Europe rebuild after the world war II.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (c)

3. Consider the following statements in respect of RTGS and NEFT:

- I. In RTGS, the settlement time is instantaneous while in case of NEFT, it takes some time to settle payments.
- II. In RTGS, the customer is charged for inward transactions while that is not the case for NEFT.
- III. Operating hours for RTGS are restricted on certain days while this is not true for NEFT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. I only
- b. I and II
- c. I and III

d. III only

Correct Option: (c)

4. Consider the following countries:

1. United arab emirates
2. France
3. Germany
4. Singapore
5. Bangladesh

How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?

- a. Only two
- b. Only three
- c. Only four
- d. All the five

Correct Option: (b)

5. Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana':

- I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.
- II. The ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroot levels.
- III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. I and III only
- c. II and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (d)