A Reality Check

PRISONS IN

india

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CRIME CAN BE DEFINED AS A CERTAIN ACT WHICH IS DELIBERATELY COMMITTED IN A SYSTEMATIC OR NON-SYSTEMATIC WAY TO ACHIEVE A HEINOUS OBJECTIVE WHICH DECLARED TO BE ILLEGAL BY A GOVERNING BODY. MORE THE HUMANS, MORE IS THE NUMBER OF BRAINS AT WORK WHICH GIVES RISE TO ETHICAL AS WELL AS UNETHICAL THINKING. THIS CAN LEAD TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. GOVERNING BODIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TAKE DIFFERENT NUMBER OF STEPS TO CURB THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES THAT CAUSE HARM TO COMMON PEOPLE. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS WIN THEIR ELECTIONS BASED ON POLICIES THAT THEY PUT FORTH IN FRONT OF THE PEOPLE REGARDING REDUCTION IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. SOME PROVE SUCCESSFUL WHILE SOME GOVERNMENTS BECOME THE PART OF CRIME WORLD WHICH CANNOT BE DENIED. THIS PIECE OF WORK GUIDES THE READER TOWARDS THE NAKED TRUTH OF THE PRISONS MANAGED IN INDIA AND HOW THEY CAN BE RELATED TO WORLD AND DISCUSS FEW STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH THE LOOPHOLES IN GOVERNANCE THAT CAN ACT AS CRITICISM AND IMPROVEMENT FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TOWARDS A BETTER SOCIETY.

World Crime Statistics:

Let us start with comparison of crimes executed throughout the world with a semi-pie chart that gives us percentages of crimes commitment throughout the globe differentiated with continents.

Here we find out that North America and South America comprising of total 29% of global area have highest amount of crimes committed (43.2%) as compared to Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania which is displayed in Fig. 1. Here, the crime rate in Asia lies at the bottom.

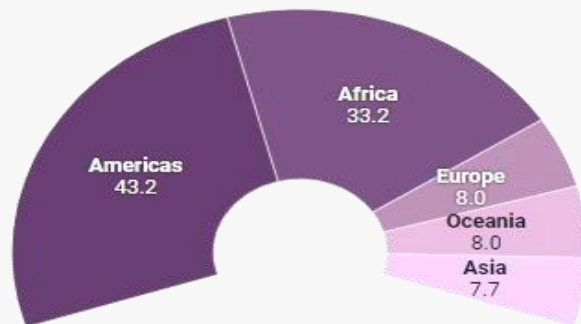**World Crime Statistics (in Percentage)**

Americas 43.2
Africa 33.2
Europe 8.0
Oceania 8.0
Asia 7.7

Figure. 1
Rates are calculated per 100,000 inhabitants.

Did you know?

According to the Numbeo Crime Index Statistics:

➢ *Venezuela has the Highest number of Crime Rate (83.23)*
➢ *Qatar Safest Index with 86.76*

Our area of interest is Asia and specifically India which is developing country even after the 60 years of independence. Country occupies approximately 3.2 million square km area which makes it 5th largest country in the world area-wise. According to statistics of world countries population, India lies at 2nd position with a population of 1.3 billion humans. Crime rates become certain with greater population and thus government has a great challenge to deal with criminals. The most known way is police custody and imprisonment as a part of punishment. Let's look at State-wise crime statistics in the country. (Refer Fig 2)
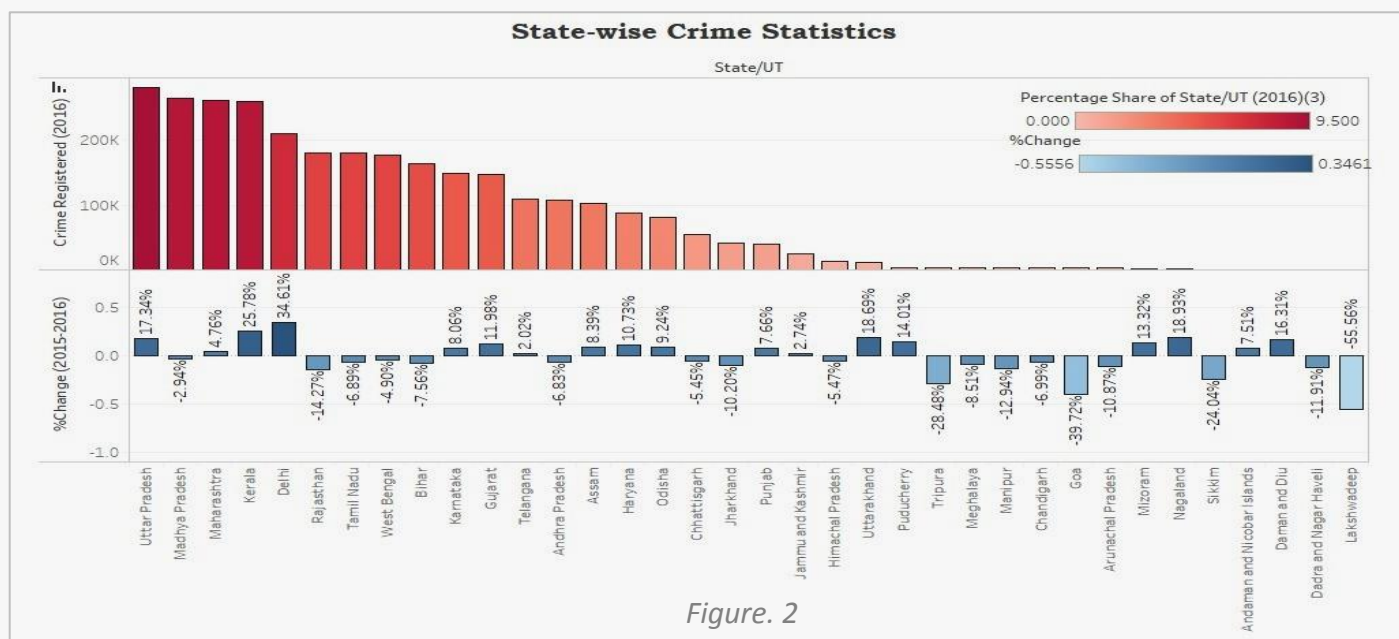
Figure. 2

Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 0.2 million criminals in the jail comprising of 9.5% of total criminals in India. But the astonishing part being Indian capital Delhi which has highest increase in number of criminals between year 2015 to 2016. This tells that crimes have increased across capital and northern part of India while it also has depleted in several north-eastern states due to good governance and law-abiding people.
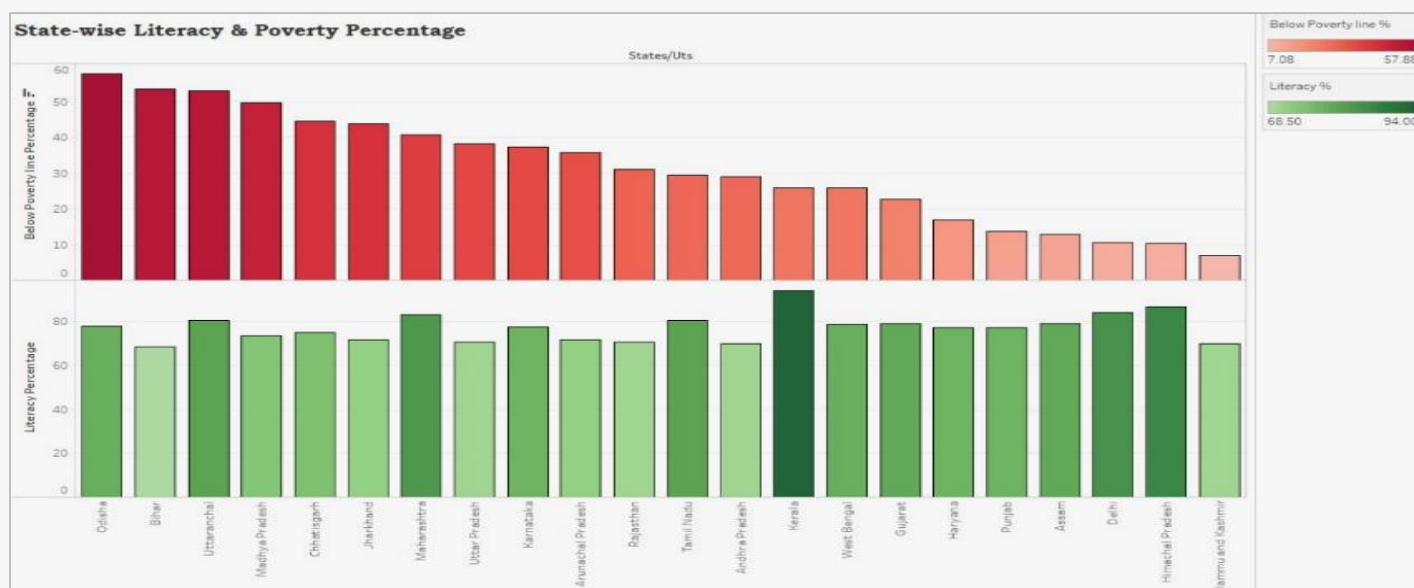

Figure. 3

Illiteracy and poverty being the sovereign reason for crime rates increase in any part of world. "The Guardian" in one of their newsletters mentioned about illiteracy linking to crimes. It said that 50% of the British prisoners are functionally illiterate. Fig. 3 shows state-wise illiteracy and poverty content in India. It depicts Odisha being the poorest among with Bihar on 2nd spot with very low amount of literacy. This can be compared with the inmates' record in India where it has been found from the Fig. 4 that Uttar Pradesh (marked in Dark Green) has the more criminal cases registered with Bihar on 2nd spot. These states are kno-

{ *"This will never be a civilized country until we expend more money for books than we do for chewing gum." — Elbert Hubbard* }

for their illiteracy, poverty and inactivity of government for educational practices. While the north-eastern states and Kerala being highly educated have less crimes cases registered than other states. State government has a stand here to improve poverty and literacy rate which will in turn reduce crimes committed in the state.
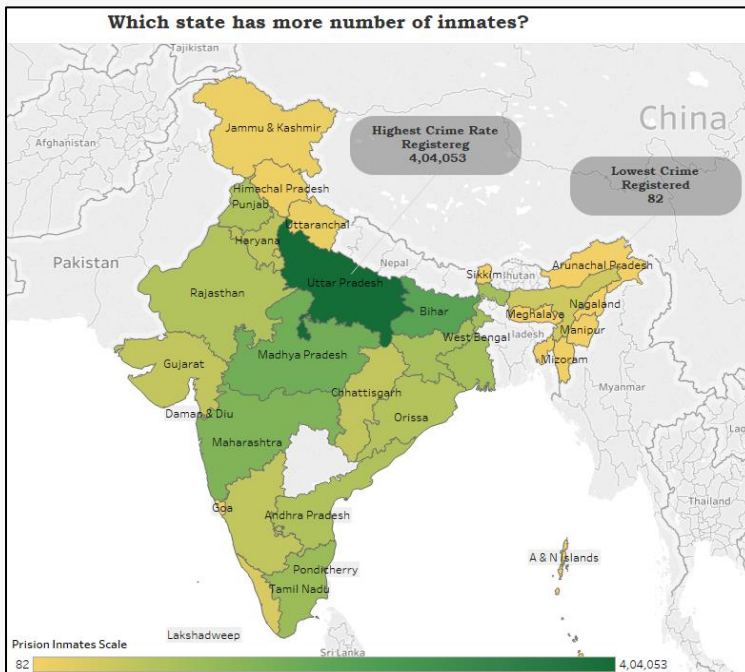

Figure. 4

Now we have known that major criminal convictions are in Uttar Pradesh. Let us dig one step further understanding where the issue lies. Criminal get convicted eventually and they land up in jail for serving their term as a punishment. But there are cases where prisoners escape from the police custody by tricking the officials. Here is a survey (Refer Fig. 4) which gives us types of prison escapes from various states from India.

Chhattisgarh tops the chart with number of escapees from inside the prison while Madhya Pradesh is at the pinnacle with escapees from outside prison. Nonetheless Uttar Pradesh again shows an example of bad governance with maximum number of prison escapees from police official custody. There are 2 ways to look at them. The first one suggests on inability of police to handle criminals in the state and the second one suggests unofficial tie-ups with the prisoners which gives rise to compromising laws. (Refer Fig. 5)

Did you know?
Toughest Prison in the world to Break out of:
➢ ADX Florence, US
➢ Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary, US
➢ La Santé Prison, France
➢ Arthur Road Jail, India
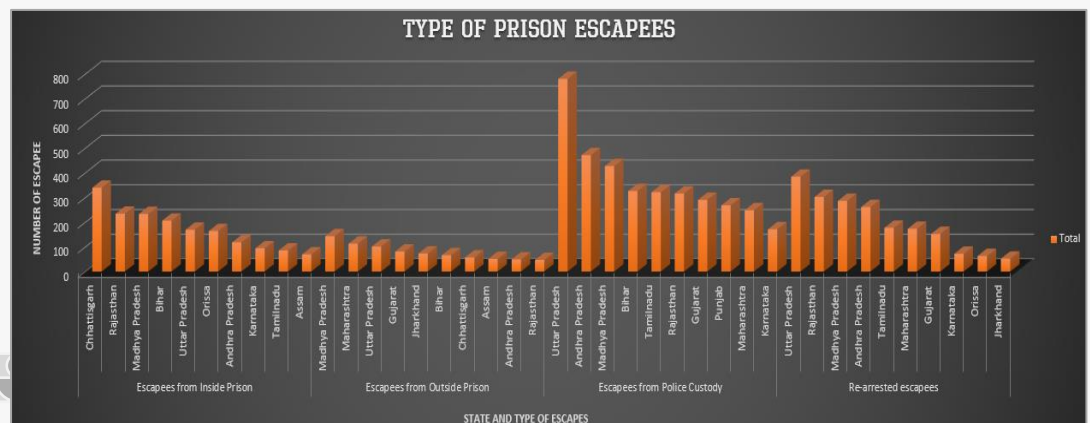➢ Fuchu Prison, Japan

Figure. 5

Prisoners are always categorized according to how heinous the crime has been committed. Government has built around 6 types of jails comprising majority of central jails in India (44%). The places

that are remote have district courts and district jails for their custody. Others comprise of special jails for terrorists and women jails to avoid misbehaviour inside jail premises. (Refer Fig. 6)

{ *"True peace is not merely is the absence of war, but the presence of justice"*
– Jane Addams }

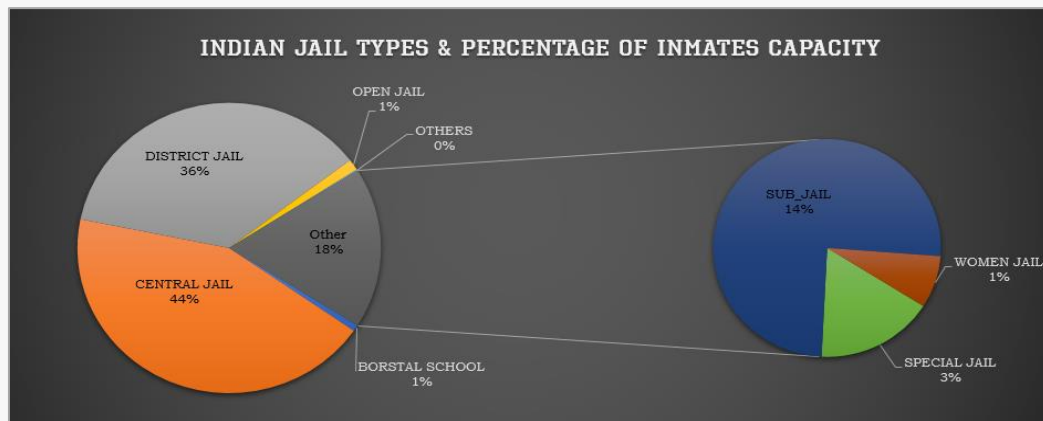INDIAN JAIL TYPES & PERCENTAGE OF INMATES CAPACITY

Figure. 6

Prisoners serving their period as a part of punishment have been segregated according to states and Ministry of State that the charge of handling the security force to manage criminals. According to Public Domain Data shared by Government of India in 2015, Maharashtra tops in number of jails in the country (210) but the inmate capacity is considerably less. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar put together have 122 jails but the total capacity for inmates is 48000 and 35000 respectively. State Governments have allocated capacity according to crime rates registered and number of criminals in the state (Refer Fig. 7).
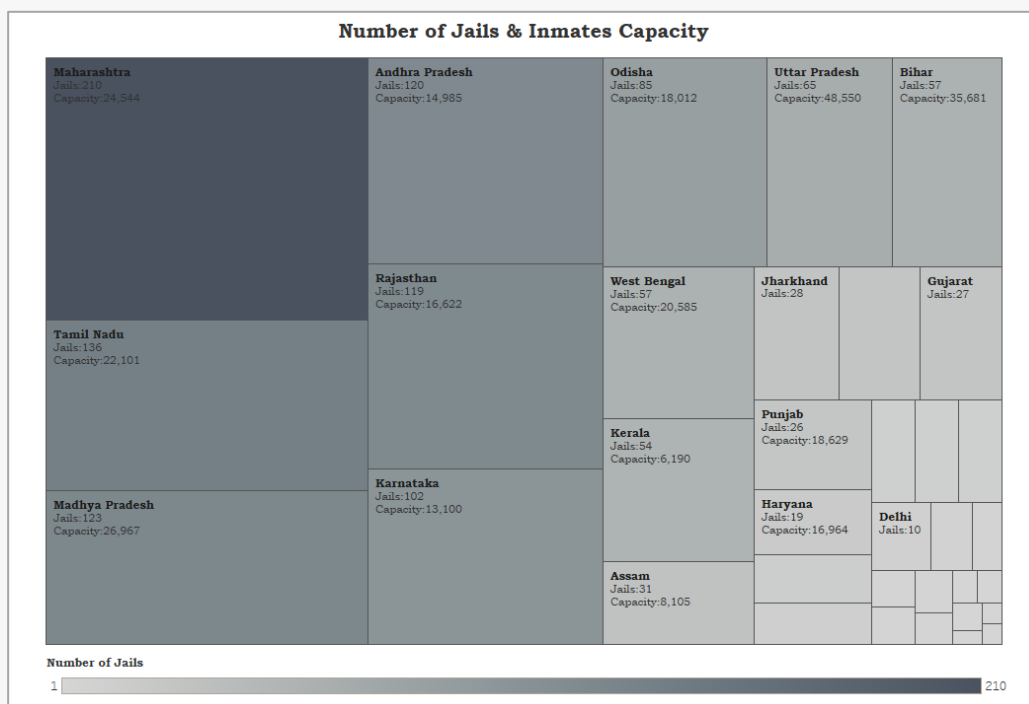

Number of Jails & Inmates Capacity

Figure. 7

Let's compare population of prisoners with capacity for every state to get a clearer and wider idea of prisons. Fig. 8 gives an idea about comparison between prison capacity and inmates' population. The transparent bar shows the total population and dark blue bar shows prison capacity.

Almost 70% states have more prisoners than their capacity which is led by Uttar Pradesh with more than 80,000 inmates. This shows the negligence of Governments over prisoners may it be health or their hygiene.

{ *"It is not possible to be in favor of justice for some people and not be in favor of justice for all people." – Martin Luther King, jr.* }
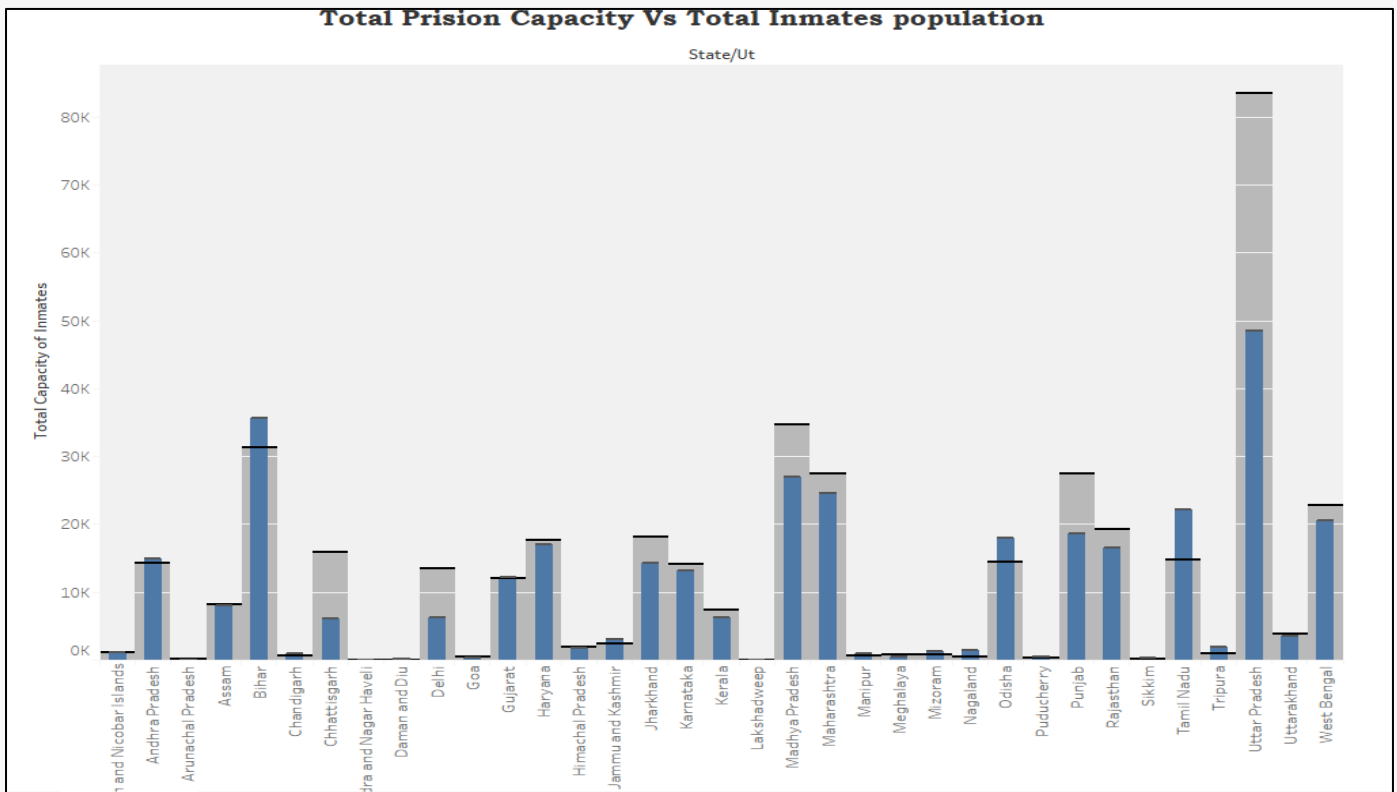
Figure. 8

Indian Prison officials:

In order to manage the prisoners, huge force of law enforcement officials are required. Indian prisons have a force of such officers whose duties revolves around the enforcement of law in prison. AIG (Assistant Inspector General of Prisons) and D.I.G (Deputy Inspector General of Prisons) are the high rank officers, that head the circle of district, special jails etc. Whereas, warder is a lowest position in law enforcement of prison. As per the prison official details published by Indian government in 2010; there are 12,967 head warders followed by 74,889 warders' officials assigned. Though we see that there is an increase in the crime rate and the overcrowding in prison, least number of A.I.G and D.I.G officers are assigned, which seems to be a part of mismanagement of the state governments. (Refer fig 9)

Did you know?
For the year 2017, California resident pays a tax of $75,560 an year for a prisoner, this is more than the cost of tuition fees at Harvard University for an year.

{ *"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."*
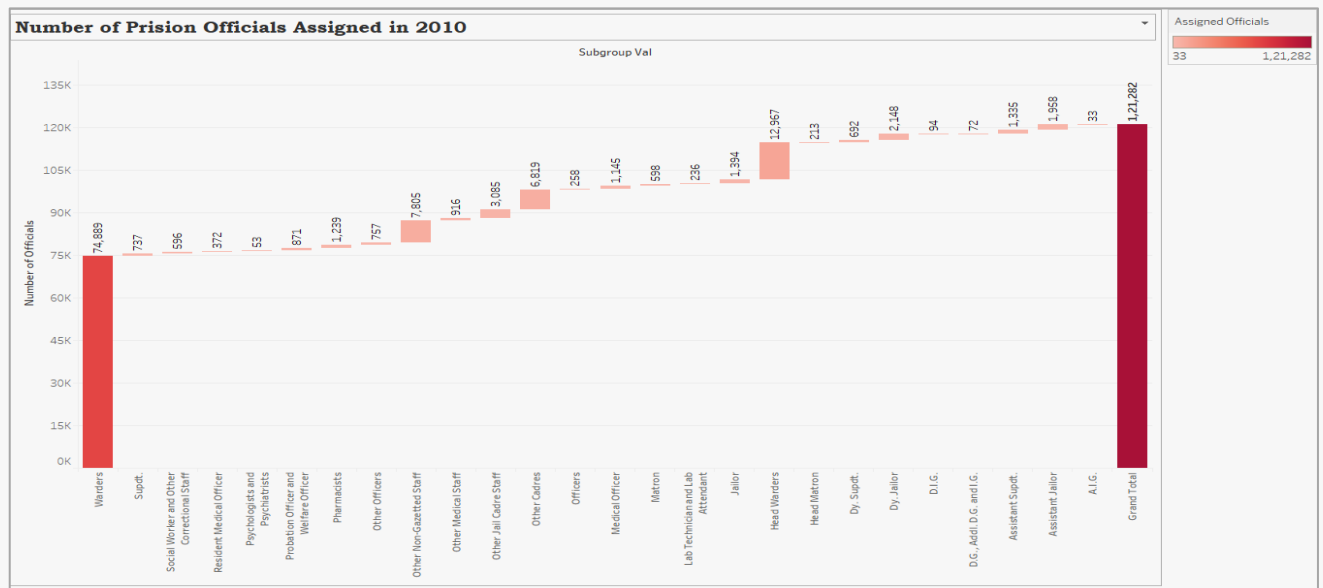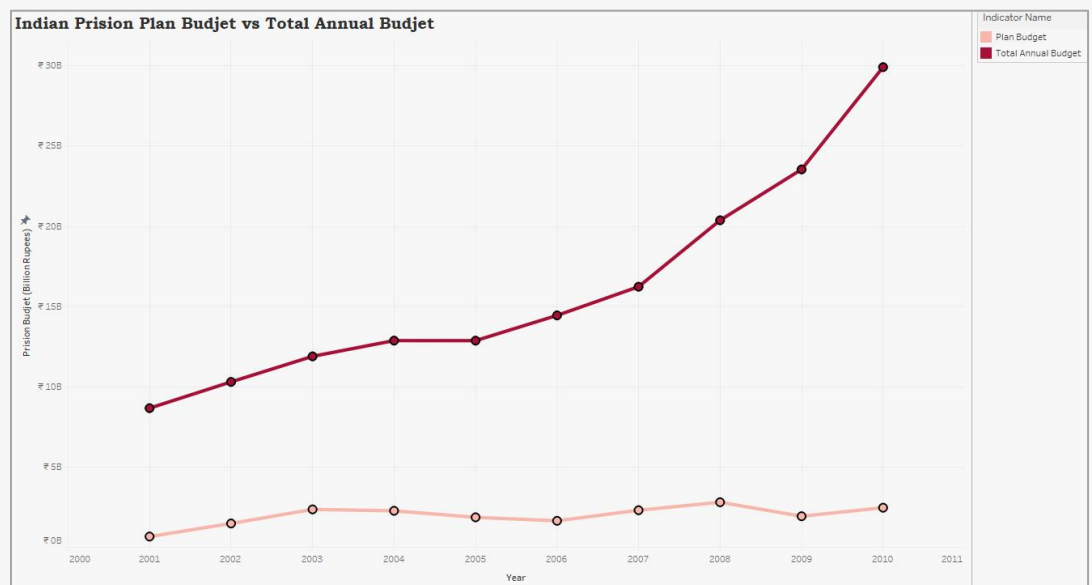– Cornel West }

Figure. 9

Figure. 10

Did you know?

Moradabad Central Jail in Uttar Pradesh is so chock-a-block with inmates that there isn't enough space for them to sleep. So the 2,200 inmates in the jail, which is supposed to house only 650, sleep in shifts. Each morning when 600-odd prisoners go to court for their trial, the pressure eases somewhat and some inmates get their share of a 6ft x 2ft cell.

Every year the elected body presents a budget in the parliament regarding different entities like finance, defence, railways etc. The financial budget consists of funds to be allocated to the Prison and Courts to deal with the criminals of the country. Let's take a look at a comparison of budget planned and actual budget required to suffice the need.

"*Ignorance, allied with power, is most ferocious enemy justice can have.*"
– James Baldwin

Types of Expenditure on Prisoners

Indicator Name

| Clothing Expenditure | Expenditure on Welfare activities | Food Expenditure | Medical Expenditure | Other expenditures related to inmates only | Vocational / Educational Expenditure | Total expenditure on inmates |

Prision Expenditure (in Billion Rupees)

₹ 7.176B

₹ 4.465B

₹ 1.710B

₹ 0.475B
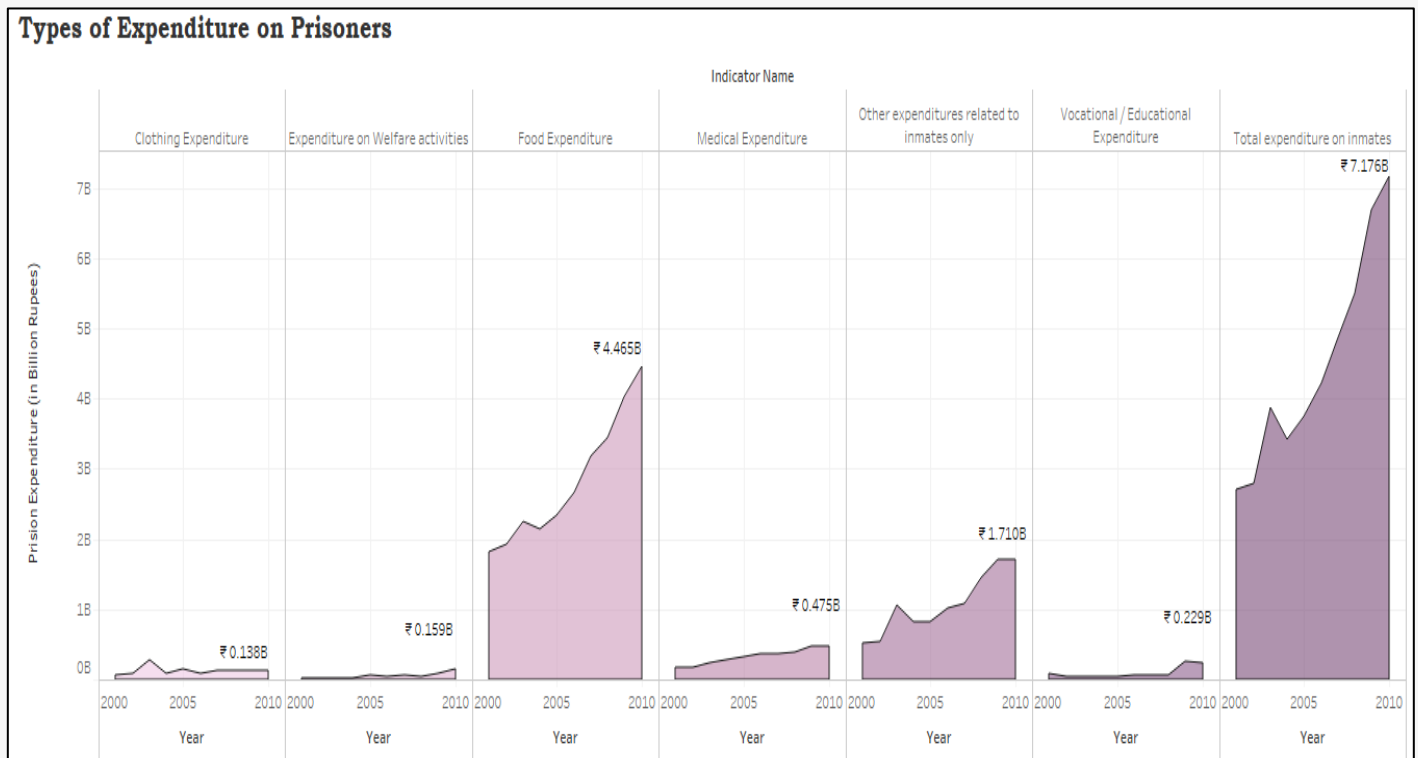
₹ 0.229B

₹ 0.159B

₹ 0.138B

Figure. 11

Fig 11 shows data for the years 2001 till 2011 where there is normal increase in planned budget for India but the actual budget needed is astonishingly high. The budget planned for the year 2010 was INR 40 million. But it turns out to be more than INR 300 million are been invested solely for Prison maintenance. Does this not sound fishy?

Taxpayers pay their tax for a complete year so that Government can plan good infrastructure, utilities and governance for the residents in the country. But when such amount of money gets invested haywire, this gives rise to inflation in the country. Common man is unknown about all the internal facts and keeps on paying the taxes in hope to get fruitful results someday.

Prisoners get extra amount of attention which is needed to guide them to the right path. A deeper look inside the budget tells us expenditure required for the prisoners.

Fig 11 gives us the clear visualization of types of expenditure done on prisoners from the year 2000 - 2010. The majority of it goes to Food as it is the basic need for any living being. But the sad part of it is expenditure done on health, welfare, education and awareness is considerably less which is an alarming situation for the state governments.

{ "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher."   – Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam" }

Conclusion:

Literacy and poverty are more prone to hit the economy as well as the criminal activities in any country. India is also not spared from this. As we have discussed in the above article, in order to cut down the criminal activities it is important to first work on root cause i.e. Literacy. The government should also create more opportunities to create jobs, so that the youth get a proper channel to invest their energy instead of crime. It is a duty of central as well as state government to spread awareness to bring social changes. From the state-wise crime statistics figure, it can be seen that a commendable job done by the state government for the states which shows decrease in the crime rate compared to the previous year but states which show comparative increase in the number of crime percentage is concerning. Another loophole found in system is the number of escapees which directs the inability of officials. Government should work on improving their security systems and intelligence tracking. Moreover, the officials who are responsibl [1]e for handling such criminals need to be trained from time to time. Also, it is important to maintain a ratio of security officials and the prisoners. Modification of prison infrastructure to accommodate prisoners needs to be taken seriously according to the capacity of any prison. From the figure 6 it is found that, 70 % of the prisons have more prisoners than the capacity they hold which leads to imbalance in the lack of management and the budget system. If revised prison budgets, infrastructure, training officials, prisoners' rehabilitation and their vocational training be done right, then the time is not far away when there are no criminals in the society.

Appendix:

Fig Number	Tool	Description	Chart Used	Visualization
Figure 1	Datawrapper	World Crime Statistics continent-wise	Election Donut Chart:	The aim of this chart was to show the World crime statistics in percentage
Figure 2	Tableau	India State-wise Crime Statistics, Shows Crime Registered in 2018 and percentage change from 2015 to 2016	Bar Chart	Two visualization are made to show the crime registered comparison between the states and percentage change in crime from 2015 to 2016
Figure 3	Tableau	State-wise Literacy and Poverty Percentage	Bar Chart	Two bar graphs were used to check the comparion of literacy Percentage and below poverty live percetage between the states
Figure 4	Tableau	State-wise Prison Inmates	Map	This visualization was used to see the overall picture of states where high and the low crime rates.
Figure 5	Advance Excel	State-wise types of Prison Escapees	3-D Cluster Column bar graph	This visualization was used to see 4 categories of escapees state wise, which gives clear picture of the highest and the lowest escapee statewise
Figure 6	Advance Excel	Indian Jail Types & Percentage of Inmates Capacity	Pie of Pie Chart	This was used to see the micro details of the Jail types and the percentage of inmates capacity
Figure 7	Tableau	State-wise number of Jails and Inmates Capacities	Treemaps	This was used to see the broader picture of share of states with the capacity and the number of jails.
Figure 8	Tableau	Total Prison Capacity vs Total Inmates population	Bullet Bar Graph	This graph was used to see the comparision of prision capacity with respect to the inmates population
Figure 9	Tableau	Number of Prison Officials assigned in 2010	Waterfall Chart	This graph was used to see types of officials assigned across the prison
Figure 10	Tableau	Indian Prison Plan Budget Vs Total Annual Budget	Line Graph	This graph was used to see the increase and decrease of Prison actual and plan budget from 2001 to 2010
Figure 11	Tableau	Types of Expenditure on Prison	Area Graph	This graph was used to see the year wise different indicatiors expenditure on prisoners. Area gives good visualization than the line graph

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