

# India Crime 2024: An Evolving Landscape

As we move through 2024, the crime landscape in India continues to evolve, shaped by a complex interplay of socio-economic factors, legal frameworks, and cultural attitudes. Understanding this landscape is crucial for citizens, policymakers, and advocates alike. Here's an overview of India's crime scenario this year (till April 2024) compared to last year (till April 2023)

Majorly all the crimes reported are categorized into 5:

**A. IPC Crime:** The Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the main criminal code of India, drafted in 1860. It categorizes various offenses and prescribes punishments. The IPC covers a wide range of crimes, including:

- **Cognizable vs. Non-Cognizable Offenses:** Cognizable offenses allow police to arrest without a warrant; non-cognizable require a warrant.
- **Bailable vs. Non-Bailable Offenses:** Bailable offenses allow for bail, while non-bailable do not.

**B. Special & Local laws:** These laws address specific issues not fully covered by the IPC. Examples include:

- **The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** Provides protection for women against domestic violence.
- **The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** Protects marginalized communities from discrimination and violence.

**C. Crime against women:** Crimes against women include:

- **Domestic Violence:** Physical, emotional, or psychological abuse within the home.
- **Sexual Offenses:** Rape, sexual harassment, and trafficking.
- **Dowry Deaths:** Related to the dowry system, where brides are killed or driven to suicide due to dowry demands.

Laws such as the IPC sections 375 (rape) and 498A (dowry harassment) specifically address these issues.

**D. Crime against children:** Crimes against children encompass a range of offenses, including:

- **Child Abuse:** Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of children.
- **Child Labor:** Exploitation through work that harms their education and development.

- **Child Trafficking:** Illegal trade of children for purposes like forced labour or sexual exploitation.

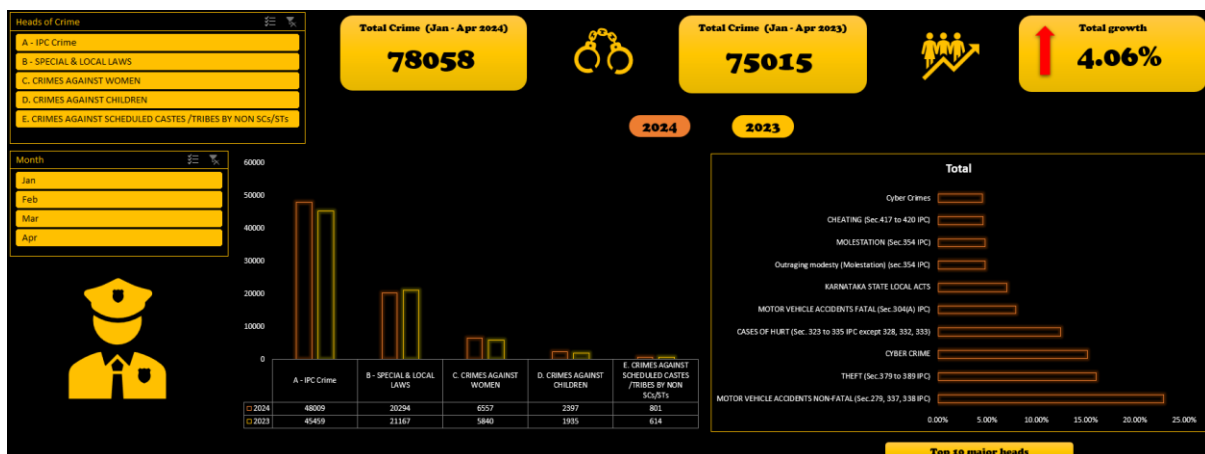
The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, aims to protect children from sexual offenses.

**E. Crime against SCs/STs by Non SCs/STs:** This refers to offenses committed against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) by individuals not belonging to these communities. Such crimes may include:

- **Atrocities:** Discrimination, violence, and social ostracism aimed at SC/ST individuals.
- **Economic Exploitation:** Underpayment or denial of employment opportunities.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was enacted to protect these communities from such crimes, prescribing stringent penalties for offenders.

The total number of crimes reported increased from 75,015 in 2023 to 78,058 in 2024, marking a growth rate of **4.06%**. This suggests a rising trend in criminal activities across the board.



- The data reveals a complex crime landscape in India for 2024, with overall crime rates increasing, particularly in IPC crimes and crimes against vulnerable groups (women, children, and marginalized communities).
- While some categories (special and local laws) show a decrease, the uptick in IPC crimes and crimes against women and children highlights persistent societal issues that need to be addressed.
- In 2024, two significant categories dominate the crime statistics: **motor vehicle accidents**, accounting for **22.90%**, and **theft**, representing **16.02%**. These major heads highlight key areas of concern for public safety and crime prevention.

Month Analysis:

In February 2024, Total number of crimes have reported a highest increase of 16.77%.



## IPC Crime

IPC crimes rose from 45,459 in 2023 to 48,009 in 2024. This increase indicates a growing concern regarding offenses covered under the Indian Penal Code, emphasizing the need for enhanced law enforcement measures.



## Major Heads of IPC Crimes

1. Motor Vehicle Accidents (28.61%):

- **Significant Proportion:** Motor vehicle accidents account for the largest share of IPC crimes, indicating a serious issue related to road safety. This suggests that there may be underlying problems such as inadequate traffic regulations, reckless driving, or poor road conditions.
- **Focus on Safety Measures:** The high percentage points to the need for enhanced traffic management, stricter enforcement of road safety laws, and public awareness campaigns to reduce accidents and improve overall safety on the roads.

2. Theft (20.02%):

- **Second Major Offense:** Theft is the second most reported crime, highlighting concerns regarding property security and community safety. This could involve various forms of theft, including burglary, larceny, and auto theft.
- **Implications for Security:** The prevalence of theft suggests that individuals and communities may feel increasingly vulnerable. There may be a demand for better security measures, both from law enforcement and private entities (like security systems).

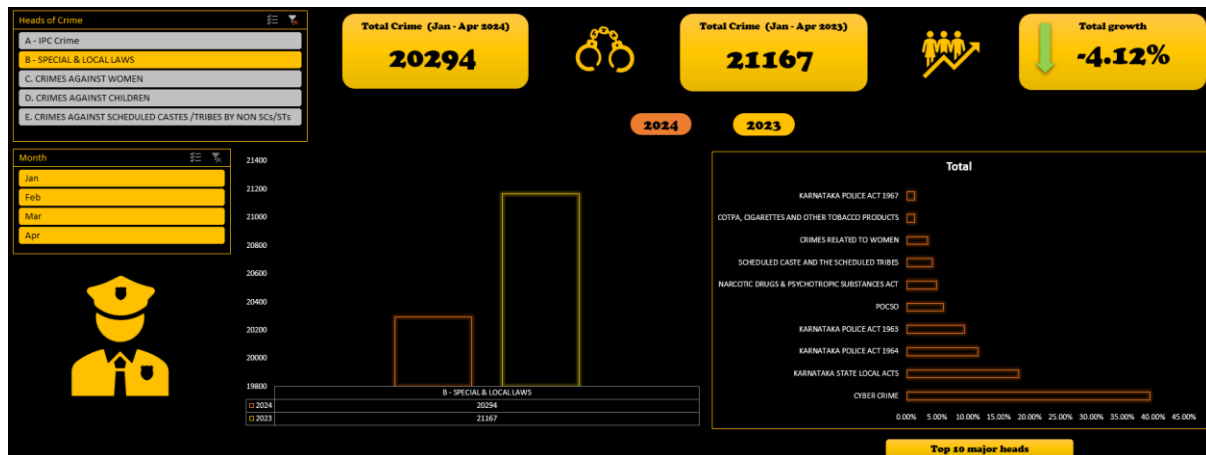
## Month Analysis:



In February 2024, IPC crimes have reported a significant highest increase of **15.99%** compared to the same month last year. A nearly **16% rise** in IPC crimes suggests a concerning trend in criminal activity during this month, highlighting potential underlying issues that may need immediate attention.

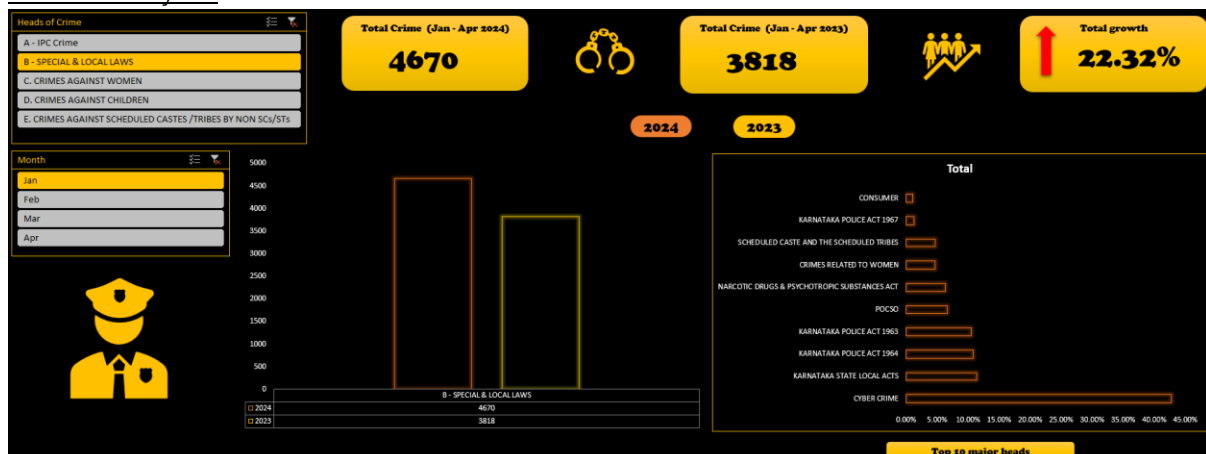
## Special & Local laws

Crimes categorized under special and local laws decreased from 21,167 in 2023 to 20,294 in 2024. This drop could indicate improved enforcement of specific laws or a shift in focus towards more serious IPC crimes.



A noteworthy 39.41% of reported Special & local crimes were categorized as cyber-crimes. This significant proportion highlights the growing importance of addressing digital offenses in today's increasingly connected world. As society becomes increasingly reliant on digital technologies, addressing the challenges posed by cyber-crime will be essential for safeguarding individuals and maintaining public trust in online systems.

### Month Analysis:



In January 2024, special and local crimes reported a significant increase of 22.32% compared to the same month last year. This notable rise raises several important observations and considerations for policymakers and law enforcement.

# Crime Against Women

The number of crimes against women increased significantly from 5,840 in 2023 to 6,557 in 2024. This alarming trend underscores ongoing issues of gender-based violence and highlights the necessity for better protective measures and societal change.



## Key Observations

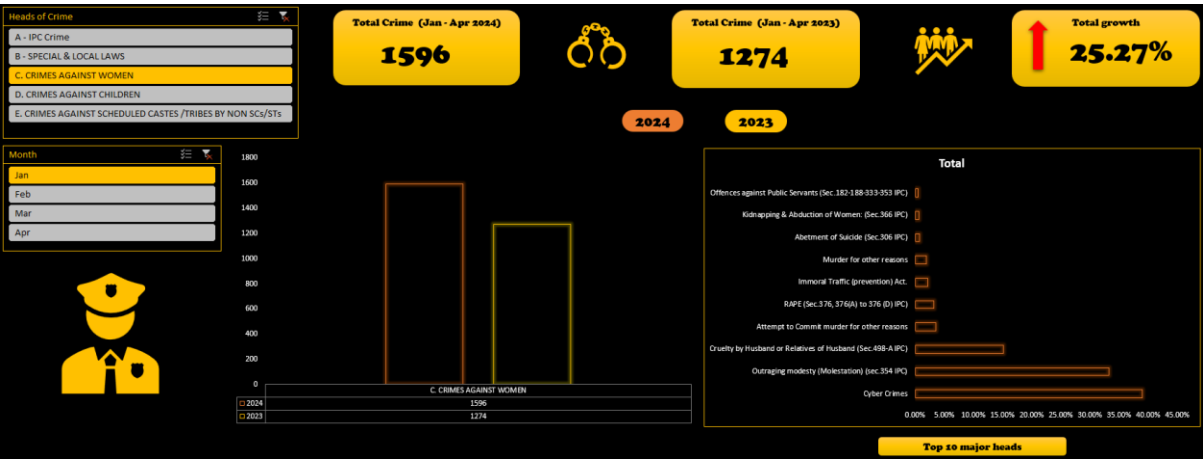
### 1. Outraging Modesty (Molestation) - 36.24%:

- **Prevalence of Physical Offenses:** The significant share of molestation cases underscores the ongoing issues of physical harassment and gender-based violence. This trend indicates a persistent culture of impunity surrounding such offenses.
- **Need for Legal and Social Reforms:** The high percentage calls for not just stricter enforcement of existing laws but also societal change to address attitudes toward women's safety and dignity.

### 2. Cyber Crimes - 34.32%:

- **Rise of Digital Harassment:** The notable percentage of cyber-crimes against women highlights the growing threat of online harassment, including stalking, cyberbullying, and non-consensual sharing of explicit content. As more women engage online, these threats have become more prevalent.
- **Importance of Digital Literacy:** There is a pressing need for public awareness campaigns to educate women about digital safety and legal recourse available for cyber offenses.

Month Analysis:

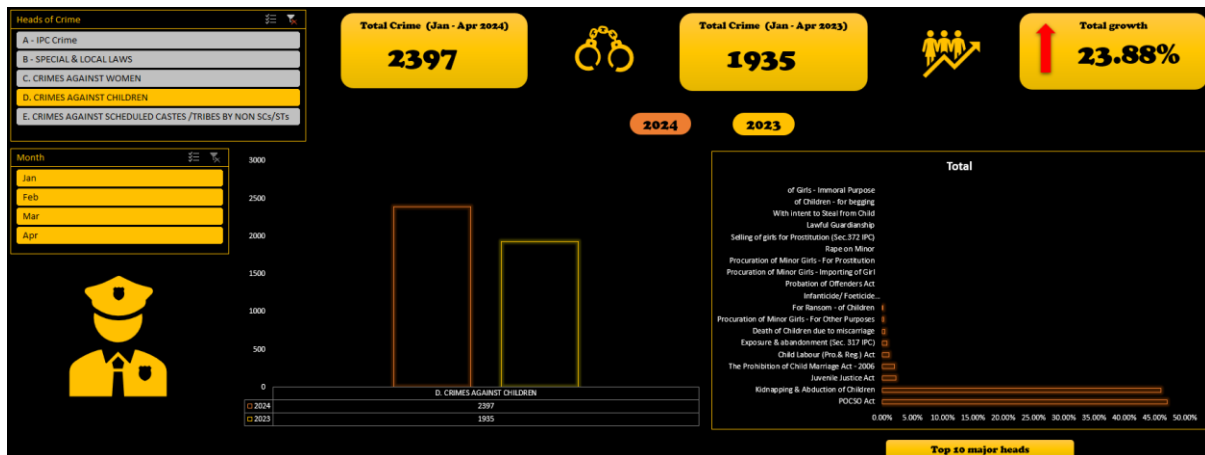


The 25.27% increase in crimes against women in January 2024, primarily driven by cyber-crime, highlights a critical need for a comprehensive response. By focusing on education, legal reforms, and improved support systems, society can take significant steps toward protecting women from these rising threats and fostering a safer online environment. Addressing these issues is essential for achieving greater gender equality and ensuring that all women can navigate the digital world without fear.



# Crime against children

Crimes against children rose from 1,935 in 2023 to 2,397 in 2024. This 23.9% increase points to a growing vulnerability of children in society and calls for urgent action to enhance child protection mechanisms.



## Key Observations

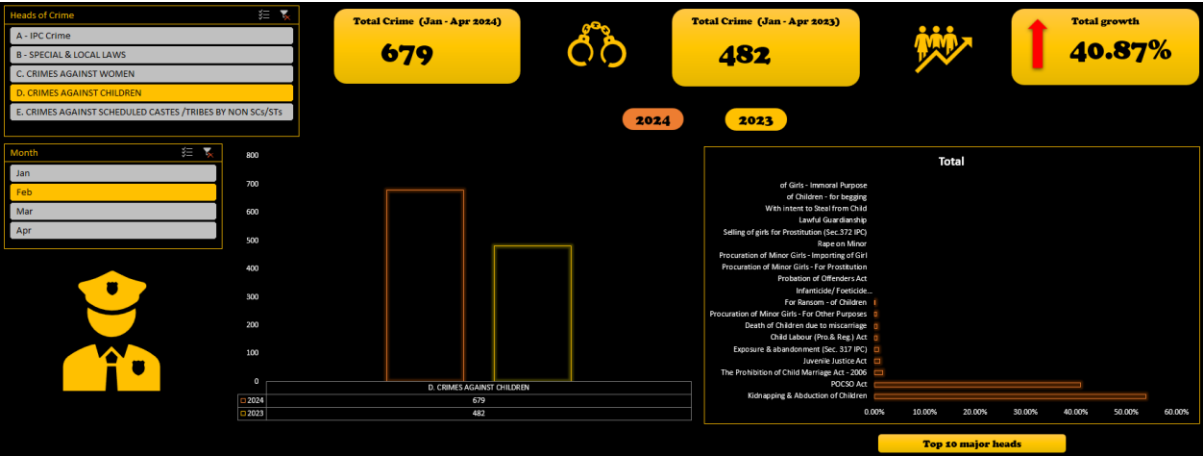
### 1. Dominance of POCSO Act Offenses (47.06%):

- The high percentage of crimes reported under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act** indicates a critical and ongoing issue of child sexual abuse. This highlights the vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Effective implementation of the POCSO Act is crucial, as it provides a legal framework to protect children and punish offenders. The prevalence of these cases suggests a need for greater awareness and resources dedicated to prevention and support.

### 2. Significant Incidence of Kidnapping and Abduction (46.06%):

- The nearly equal representation of kidnapping and abduction cases underscores a serious concern for child safety and security. This can include abductions for various reasons, including trafficking, forced labour, and exploitation.
- The fact that such a high percentage of crimes involve kidnapping indicates a pressing need for enhanced law enforcement measures, community vigilance, and preventive strategies.

Month Analysis



In February 2024, the crime rate surged to 40.87, with kidnapping and abduction accounting for a striking 53.90% of this total.

## Crime against SCs/STs by Non SCs/STs

The number of crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by non-SCs/STs increased from 614 in 2023 to 801 in 2024. This 30.4% rise raises significant concerns about social discrimination and violence, necessitating stronger enforcement of protective laws.



### Key Observations

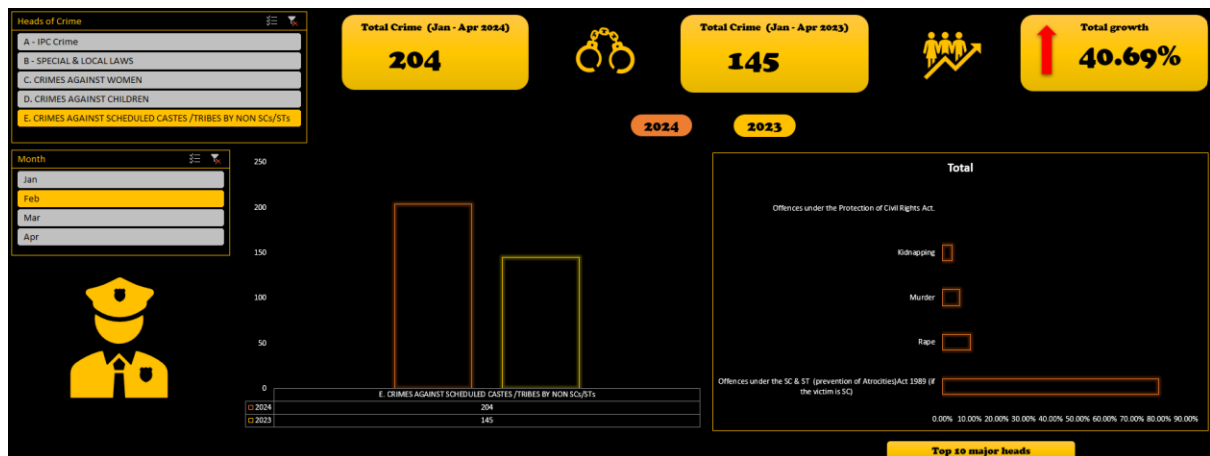
#### 1. Prevalence of Atrocities:

- The major head of crimes against SCs/STs being the **Prevention of Atrocities Act** underscores the serious nature of offenses that these communities face, including physical violence, caste-based discrimination, and social ostracism.
- Such crimes are often rooted in historical inequalities and systemic oppression, necessitating ongoing efforts for justice and equality.

#### 2. Types of Offenses:

- Offenses under this act can include physical assault, sexual violence, economic exploitation, and harassment, all aimed at SCs/STs. The persistence of these crimes indicates that deep-seated prejudices continue to affect these communities adversely.

## Month Analysis



In February 2024, crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) by non-SCs/STs experienced a staggering growth of **40.69%**.

Source: <https://www.data.gov.in/catalog/crime-review-year-2024>