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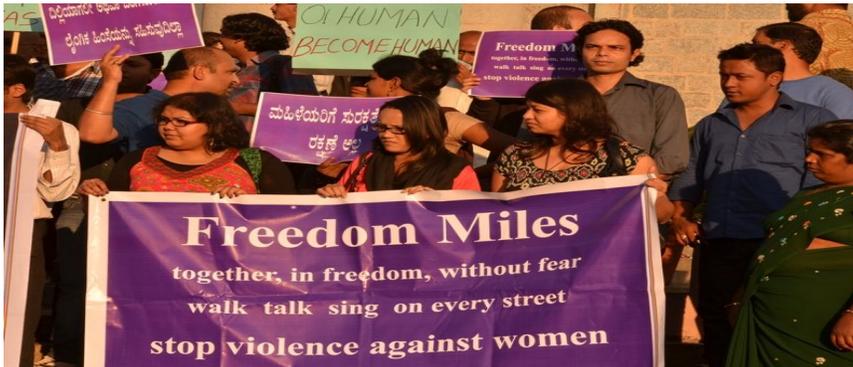
1) Delhi govt. rejects mercy petition in Nirbhaya case

Recommendation sent to Lt. Governor

The Delhi government has recommended rejection of the mercy petition of one of the convicts in the Nirbhaya case, according to a senior official of the State Home Department. **The recommendation has been sent to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal. Vinay Sharma, one of the convicts facing the gallows in the gang rape and murder case of a 23-year-old paramedic student, had filed a mercy petition before President Ram Nath Kovind.** "It is the fittest case to reject the mercy petition, keeping in view the heinous and gravest crime of extreme brutality committed by the appellant," the note sent by the government to Mr. Baijal said.

The Lieutenant Governor will now send his recommendation on the mercy plea to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the official said and added that a final call will be taken by the President of India.

The paramedic student was raped on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, inside a running bus in south Delhi by six persons before being thrown out on the road. She died on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she was airlifted from Delhi for treatment



2)'92.9% cases of crime against women pending in city courts'

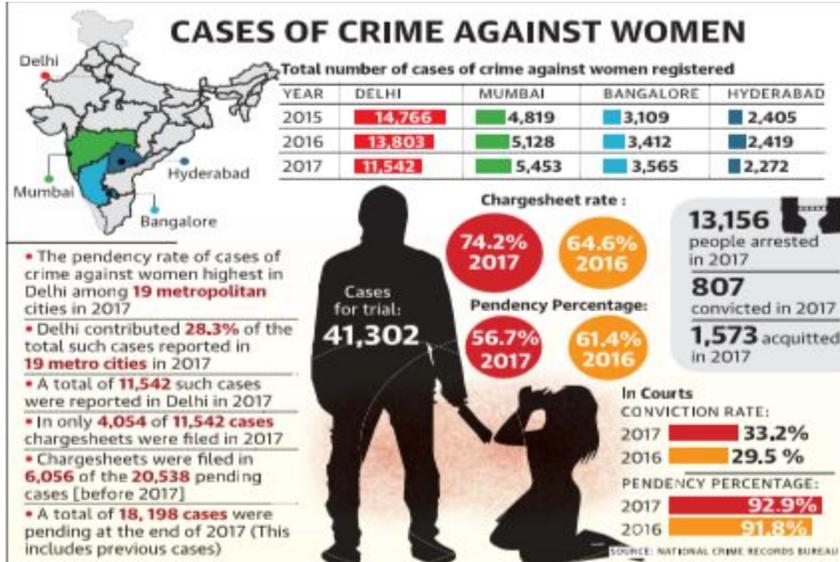
NCRB data for 2017 reveal that convictions have taken place in 690 cases

With a **conviction rate of just 33.2%**, the **Capital recorded 92.9%** cases of crime against women pending in various district courts, stated **National Crime Records Bureau data for 2017**. **A total of 41,302 cases, including 10,120 cases in 2017, are pending for trial in six district courts of Delhi**. According to the data, convictions have taken place in 690 cases. The report stated that a majority of cases under crime against women (CAW) was registered under **"Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives" (27.9%)**, followed by **"Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty" (21.7%)**, **"Kidnapping and Abduction of Women" (20.5%)** and **"Rape" (7.0%)** in all 19 metropolitan cities.

Separate police teams "We have separate teams for investigation and law and order in all police stations. This was done for the speedy disposal of cases. Due to law and order duties, the investigation gets affected," said an officer, adding: "Cases of molestation, rape and other heinous crimes against women are treated on priority basis but those such as cruelty by husband or his relatives take time to investigate."

Measures taken The police said they have taken various measures to curb crime against women that include dynamic identification of crimeprone areas, deployment of police resources, **dedicated women helpline no. 1091**, exclusive women help desk at police stations, antistalking services for women, **stationing allwoman PCR vans in vulnerable areas**,

concerted action against consuming alcohol in public places, informing civic agencies regarding dark patches for rectification, selfdefence training for women/girls and special drives against tinted glasses in public transport vehicles. "The number of cases of CAW in Delhi is high because of registration. We have various channels for women to approach the police and any kind of complaint is dealt on priority basis and an FIR is registered immediately," said an officer.



3) India set to get its first missile tracking ship

VISAKHAPATNAM India's first missile tracking ship, which is being built at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, is nearing completion. It is expected to be a New Year gift to the Indian Navy. The project was launched in 2014. The ship is fitted with primary X band and secondary S band active electrically scanned array radar. It will have facility for 300 personnel, a huge deck for landing of a helicopter and multiple missile tracking antennae.



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4) Shivamogga residents oppose monkey park plan

They fear it may result in spread of Kyasanur Forest Disease, which claimed 12 lives in 2018-19.

Fearing that the establishment of a monkey park near human habitation may trigger diseases such as **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)**, the residents of the **Nittur gram panchayat limits in Hosanagar taluk here in Karnataka** have opposed the proposal. The State government recently passed an order to establish a monkey park in Shivamogga district to address the monkey menace. Following this, a team of officials from Revenue and Survey, Settlements and Land Records departments conducted a survey at Nagodi village for establishing the park there. The team found 150 acres of unused government land at Survey Number 305 near Nagodi suitable for the proposed park.

KFD – a viral infection transmitted from monkeys to humans through tick bite – there is fear that such a monkey park will make them more susceptible to the disease. They also fear that apart from KFD, other infections may spread with the confinement of a large number of monkeys near human dwellings. In 2018,19, **12 persons died of KFD in Shivamogga district**. As many as 341 KFD cases were reported there during this period

‘Consult experts’ He said the State government should take a call after consulting medical and veterinary experts, virologists and entomologists. The impact of establishing a monkey park on the wild and domesticated animals in the vicinity should also be studied, he added. Sridharamurthy, tahsildar of Hosanagar, said the survey was conducted on the direction of the government. He said the government would be apprised of the opinion of the people.



7) Operation 'Clean Art' to crack down on illegal trade in mongoose hair

It was a planned raid, not to apprehend criminals, but to check on organised factories that were making paint brushes with mongoose hair. By the end of the day, ten manufacturing units in **Sherkot were raided and approximately 26,000 brushes and over 100 kg of raw mongoose hair was seized**. About 26 people were arrested in connection with illegal trade in mongoose hair. Raids were carried out not only in Uttar Pradesh, but also at Jaipur in Rajasthan, Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, and in Kerala,

on the same day. **"Operation Clean Art was the first pan India operation to crack down on the smuggling of mongoose hair in the country.** There are six species of mongoose found in India and we have mostly recovered [in the raids] grey mongoose [hair]," H. V. Girisha, Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau 'Organised crime' Mr. Girisha said that an adult mongoose yields over 3040 gm of long hair, from which only 2025 gm of "brushmaking hair" is recovered. Operation Clean Art was conceived by WCCB. Describing the making of brushes with mongoose hair an "organised crime", the official said most of these animals were poached by "hunting communities" across the country. **Jose Louies, Deputy Director and Chief Wildlife Crime Control Division, Wildlife Trust of India,**

involved in Operation Clean Art, said the entire operation across the country yielded **54,352 brushes and 113 kg of raw hair. About 49 arrests were made and 27 cases were registered under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).** "Art is supposed to be something unique and evoke the best among people. Why should there be cruelty and criminality involved in the process of creation of art? Art should be clean and artists should take a pledge that they will not use brushes made of mongoose hair,"



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8) Battling anti-microbial resistance

India must accelerate implementation of its National Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance

Antibiotics have saved millions of lives till date. Unfortunately, they are now becoming ineffective as many infectious diseases have ceased to respond to antibiotics. In their quest for survival and propagation, common bugs develop a variety of mechanisms to develop **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**. The indiscriminate use of antibiotics is the greatest driver in selection and propagation of resistant bugs. It has the potential to make fatal even minor infections. **Complex surgeries such as organ transplantation and cardiac bypass might become difficult to undertake because of untreatable infectious complications that may result postsurgery.** The pipeline for the discovery, development and dissemination of new antibiotics has virtually dried out. No new class of antibiotics has been discovered in the past three decades. The reason is simple. **Availability of a new antibiotic takes 10-12 years and an investment of \$1 billion.** Once it comes into the market, its indiscriminate use swiftly results in resistance, rendering it useless. **The resistance to antibiotics in germs is a manmade disaster. Irresponsible use of antibiotics is rampant in human health, animal health, fisheries, and agriculture. While in humans antibiotics are primarily used for treating patients, they are used as growth promoters in animals,** often because they offer economic shortcuts that can replace hygienic practices. Globally, use of **antibiotics in animals is expected to increase by 67% by 2030 from 2010 levels.** AMR has been recognised worldwide as an important public health challenge with serious impact on economy and development. The Sustainable Development Goals have articulated the importance of containing AMR. Similar articulations have been made by **the UN general Assembly, G7, G20, EU, ASEAN** and other such economic and political platforms. Earlier, the O'Neill report on AMR warned that inaction in containing AMR is likely to result in annual mortality reaching **10 million people and a 3.5% fall in global GDP by 2050.**

The FAO has assisted India in forging the Indian Network for Fishery and Animals Antimicrobial Resistance for the generation of reliable data on the magnitude of the problem and monitoring trends in response to control activities.

Biosecurity in animal rearing practices and understanding the role of the environment and the engagement of communities. For this, the world must launch a global movement to contain AMR.