

CURRENT AFFAIRS: 10.05.2026

Rise in cybercrime but overall crime rate dropped in 2024, says latest NCRB report

Deaths due to drug overdose saw a 50% increase in 2024 compared with the previous year, with Tamil Nadu recording most fatalities; 5,194 cases of offences 'against the state' registered, a rise of over 6% from the previous year

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NCRB's Crime in India 2024 Report

Why in News?

The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** released the '**Crime in India - 2024**' report. While the data shows an **overall 6% decline in cognisable crimes across the country**, it highlights a stark **17% surge in cybercrimes**, reflecting a rapid transition from traditional physical offences to sophisticated borderless digital crimes.

- The NCRB also released the **Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI) 2024 report**, according to which 1,70,746 suicides were recorded in 2024. Deaths due to drug overdose saw a **50% increase in 2024 compared with 2023**.

What are the Key Findings of the NCRB 2024 Report?

- **Total Cases:** India recorded **58.85 lakh cognisable crimes** in 2024, down from 62.41 lakh in 2023.
 - The reported 6% dip is largely attributed to the implementation of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**.
 - Under the BNS, simple '**Hurt**' was made a non-cognisable offence. Consequently, cases registered under the 'Hurt' category saw a massive **30.58% decline** (dropping from 6.36 lakh to 4.41 lakh cases), **which artificially deflated the overall national crime numbers**.
- **Crime Rate:** The Crime rate, which is a measure of cases registered per lakh population, saw a dip from **448.3 in 2023 to 418.9 in 2024**, the lowest since 2019.
- **Trends in Crimes:**
 - **Murder and Kidnapping:** Murder cases witnessed a marginal decline of 2.4%, with 'disputes' remaining the leading motive. Kidnapping and abduction cases declined by a significant 15.4%.
 - **Property Offences:** Traditional property offences like theft (down 9.8%) and robbery (down 13%) saw a noticeable decline, though burglary remained relatively stagnant.
- **Crimes Against Vulnerable Sections:**
 - **Children:** Crime against children increased by 5.9% in 2024. Kidnapping and abduction accounted for the highest share, followed by **POCSO-related offences**, while the **crime rate rose to 42.3 per lakh children population (39.9 in 2023)**.
 - **Women:** Crimes against women declined by 1.5%, with 4.41 lakh cases reported in 2024 compared to 4.48 in 2023.

- However, the crime rate remains high at 64.6 per lakh female population (66.2 in 2023), with '**Cruelty by husband or his relatives**' remaining the dominant offence.
- **Marginalised Communities:** Crimes against **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** decreased by 3.6%, while crimes against **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** showed a sharp decline of **23.1% over 2023**.
- **Senior Citizens:** Crimes against senior citizens rose by 16.9% in 2024. Theft accounted for the highest share, followed by **forgery, cheating and fraud (FCF)**, and murder.
- **Juveniles in Conflict with Law:** Cases registered against Juveniles in Conflict with Law increased by 11.2%.
- **Human Trafficking and Missing Persons:** Human trafficking cases declined slightly in 2024, though over 6,000 victims, including many children, were reported trafficked, with authorities rescuing thousands and arresting offenders.
- Meanwhile, **missing person cases increased by 7.3%, while missing children cases rose by 7.8%**, highlighting persistent concerns over trafficking, child safety, and vulnerable populations.
- **Economic Offences:** Increased by 4.6% in 2024, with forgery, cheating, and fraud (FCF) accounting for the majority of cases.
- Meanwhile, the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** cases registered by the State Anti-Corruption Bureau remained largely stable, with most involving trap cases.
- **Environment Related Offences:** Declined by 16.4% in 2024, with most cases registered under the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003**, followed by **Noise Pollution Acts**.
- **State-Wise Variations:** **Telangana** recorded a sharp rise in total cognisable crimes in 2024 and emerged among States with the highest crime rates (cases per lakh population) in the country.
- **Uttar Pradesh** recorded the highest per capita crime rate (7.4), followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- **Nagaland** continued to record the **lowest crime rate in the country**.
- The State/UT reporting highest Charge-sheeting Rate under IPC and BNS Crimes are Kerala (94.5%), Puducherry (91.0%) and West Bengal (90.6%).
- Among metropolitan cities, **Delhi** ranked worst in violent crimes (murders, kidnappings) and fourth worst in economic offences. Bengaluru has recorded the country's **highest suicide rate (20 per lakh population) among major metros**.

Cybercrime Epidemic

- The most alarming takeaway from the 2024 report is the unabated rise of digital offences, which grew by **17%** to cross **1.01 lakh reported cases**.
- **The crime rate under this category increased from 6.2 in 2023 to 7.3 in 2024.**
- **Rise of the 'Digital Arrest':** A major new trend in 2024 was the exponential spike in '**Digital Arrest**' frauds. Scammers posing as law enforcement agencies (CBI, Customs, or Police) coerce victims over video calls, threatening them with immediate incarceration to extort their life savings.
- **Dominant Motives:** **Fraud** remains the overwhelming motive for cybercrime (over 70%), driven by **AI-enabled phishing, voice cloning, and sophisticated** investment scams, followed by sexual exploitation and extortion.
- **State Hubs:** States with high IT penetration, such as **Telangana**, recorded the highest cybercrime rate, with over 70 cases per lakh population, followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- These states continue to report the highest volumes of cybercrime, though authorities note significant under-reporting in rural and tier-3 areas.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- **Establishment:** NCRB was founded in **1986**, based on the recommendations of the **Tandon Committee (1974)**, **National Police Commission (1977-1981)** and the **MHA's Task Force (1985)**.
 - It operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, **Government of India**, with its headquarters located in **New Delhi**.
- **Core Mandate:** To function as a national clearing house and repository of information on crime and criminals, assisting law enforcement agencies in linking crimes to their perpetrators.
- **Major Publications:** The NCRB publishes highly authoritative annual reports that serve as the baseline for policy-making and judicial review in India. The three major ones are:
 - ***Crime in India*** (Comprehensive crime statistics)
 - ***Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI)***
 - ***Prison Statistics India***
- **Key Technological Initiatives:**
 - **CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems):** A nationwide digital network connecting over 15,000 police stations for real-time sharing of FIRs and investigation data.
 - **NAFIS (National Automated Fingerprint Identification System):** A centralized, searchable database assigning a unique 10-digit lifetime ID to arrested individuals based on their fingerprints.
 - **NDSO (National Database of Sexual Offenders):** A central registry for tracking convicted sexual offenders across the country.

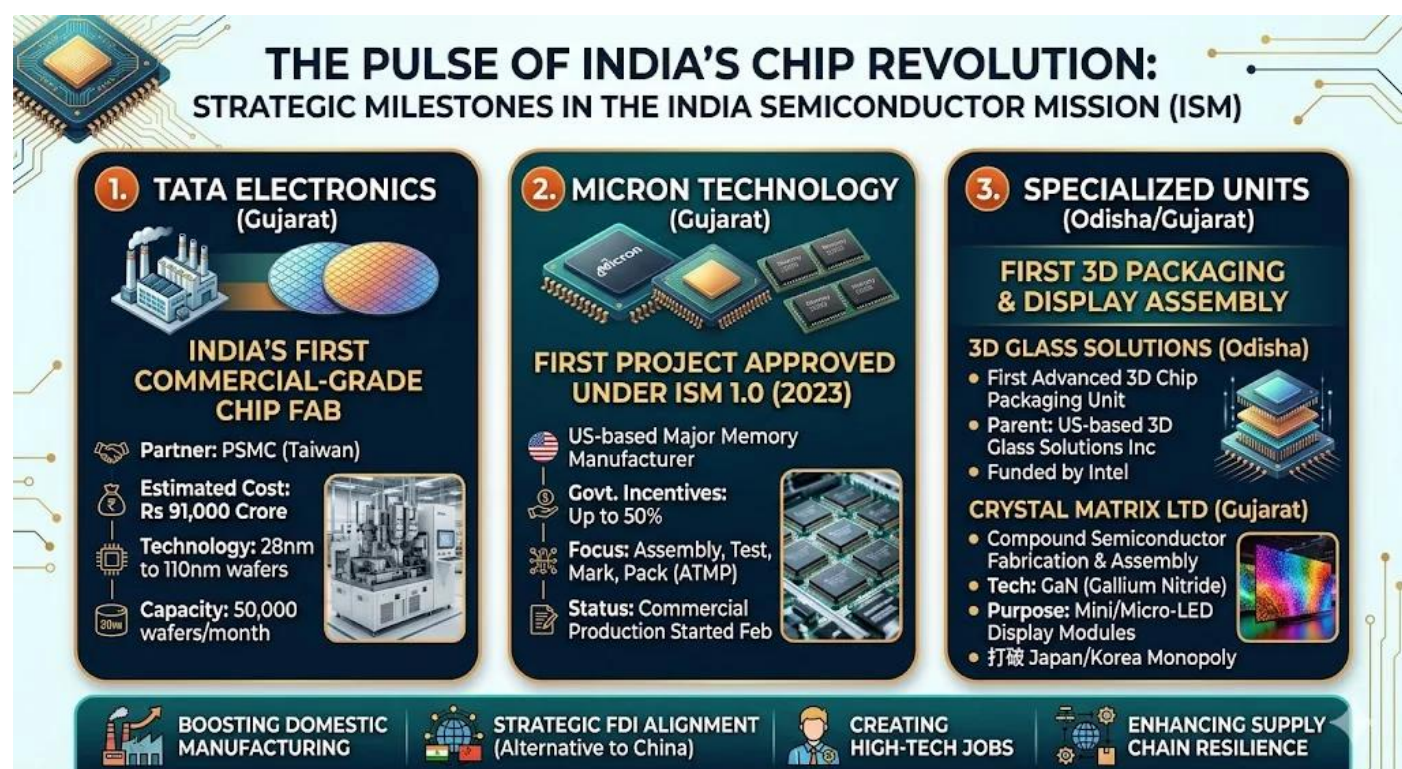
12 semiconductor plants approved: Where India's chip manufacturing mission stands, what's next

Launched in 2021, ISM 1.0 was conceived as a state-backed push to build a full-stack chip ecosystem. The FM announced ISM 2.0 in the 2026 Budget to produce equipment and materials, design full-stack Indian IP and fortify supply chains

The Union Cabinet approved **two new semiconductor projects** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**, including **India's first commercial GaN-based Mini/Micro-LED display facility** and a semiconductor packaging unit, both to be established in **Gujarat**.

- With the approval of these projects, the total number of semiconductor plants under the ISM has increased to **12**, with facilities being established across Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0:** Launched in **2021** with **Rs 76,000 crore outlay** to build a **full-stack chip ecosystem** (fabrication, packaging, design, display manufacturing). 12 chip plants approved across **Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, UP, Odisha, and Punjab**.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0:** ISM 2.0 (announced in **Union Budget 2026-27**) evolves from mere manufacturing subsidies to a **USD 11 billion** strategy targeting **ecosystem localisation** and indigenous design. It prioritises building a **"full-stack" industry** by supporting ancillary sectors like **chemicals** and **capital goods**.

- **Geopolitical and Economic Significance:** Semiconductors are now categorized as a **critical resource**; localizing their production is essential for **deepening domestic value addition** in electronics and securing supply chains against global geopolitical tensions.



India Semiconductor Mission 2.0

The **Union Budget 2026–27** marked a decisive step in India's technology strategy with the announcement of **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0**. Building on the ecosystem created under ISM 1.0, the new phase reflects a **transition from policy formulation and capacity creation to consolidation**, technological depth, and global integration.

What is India Semiconductor Mission 2.0?

- **About:** ISM 2.0 aims to position India as a reliable and competitive player in the global semiconductor value chain while advancing the goals of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India–Make for the World**. A budgetary provision of **₹1,000 crore** has been made for FY 2026–27 to support this objective.
- **Key Focus Areas:**
 - **Indigenous Manufacturing:** Production of semiconductor equipment, chemicals, gases, and materials within India to reduce import dependence and supply disruptions.
 - **Full-Stack IP Development:** Promotion of end-to-end Indian semiconductor intellectual property for secure and globally competitive chip solutions.
 - **Research & Skills:** Establishment of industry-led research and training centres to support applied R&D and advanced manufacturing skills.
 - **Supply Chain Resilience:** Strengthening domestic and global semiconductor supply chains amid geopolitical uncertainties.
- **Manufacturing:** India has already laid a **strong foundation under ISM 1.0**, approved in December 2021 with an **incentive outlay of ₹76,000 crore** offering up to 50% fiscal support.
 - As of December 2025, ten projects with investments of ₹1.60 lakh crore have been approved across six states, **covering silicon fabs, compound semiconductors**, advanced packaging, and testing facilities.
- **Market Size:** India's semiconductor market has grown from **\$38 billion in 2023 to \$45–50 billion in 2024–25** and is projected to reach \$100–110 billion by 2030.
 - India is emerging as a **global semiconductor hub**, targeting **70–75% self-sufficiency** in domestic chip demand by **2029** and aiming to become a **leading semiconductor nation** with **3 nm and 2 nm** manufacturing capabilities by **2035**.
- **Ecosystem:** The Mission is complemented by the **Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductor and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem**, with a financial outlay of ₹8,000 crore for 2026–27.
 - This programme aims to **accelerate investments, expand fabrication** and packaging capacity, and generate high-quality employment.

TARA Glide Weapon

In News

- The DRDO and Indian Air Force successfully tested the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon**, designed to convert **conventional unguided bombs (also known as dumb bombs, gravity bombs, or iron bombs)** into **precision-guided munitions (PGMs)**.

About

- It has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat, a Hyderabad-based DRDO laboratory, in collaboration with other DRDO facilities.
- The objective of TARA is to provide a **low-cost solution to enhance the lethality and accuracy of existing unguided munitions**.
- It is specifically designed to neutralize **ground-based targets with high precision**, reducing collateral damage and improving mission success rates.

