

**SOCIAL ISSUES**

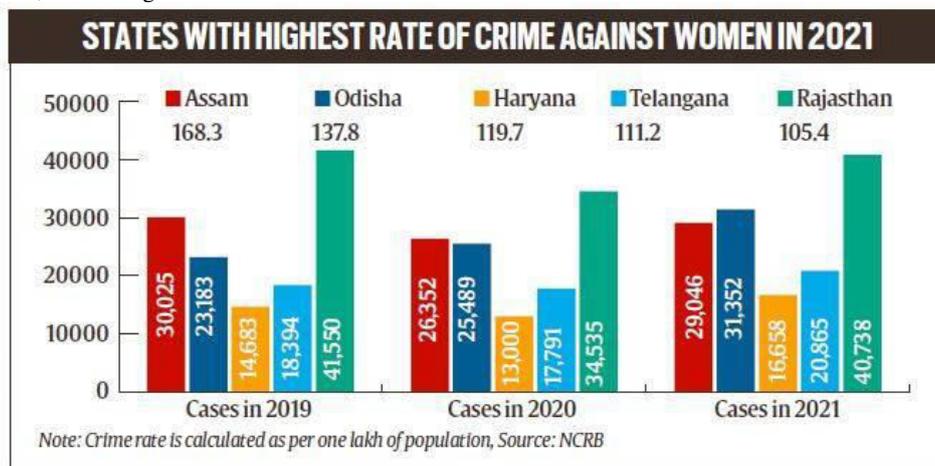
❖ **Crime against women rose by 15.3% in 2021: NCRB**

❖ **CONTEXT:** Crime against women rose by 15.3 per cent in 2021 from the previous year, according to latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), with 4,28,278 cases registered last year following 3,71,503 cases in 2020.

- The NCRB report also shows that the rate of crime against women (number of incidents per 1 lakh population) increased from 56.5 per cent in 2020 to 64.5 per cent in 2021. A majority of these cases (31.8 per cent) fall in the category of “Cruelty by husband or his relatives”, followed by “Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty” (20.8 per cent), kidnapping and abduction (17.6 per cent), and rape (7.4 per cent).

❖ **States**

- According to the report, the highest rate of crime against women in 2021 was registered in Assam (168.3 per cent), despite a marginal dip over the last three years. The state recorded over 29,000 such cases in 2021.
- The other top states in this category include Odisha, Haryana, Telangana and Rajasthan. Rajasthan, like Assam, showed a marginal decrease in the actual number of cases while the three other states (Odisha, Haryana and Telangana) marked an increase.
- The report places UP on top (56,083) in terms of actual number of cases registered in 2021, although the rate is lesser at 50.5 per cent. The other states that recorded the highest number of crimes against women include Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Odisha.



- Nagaland stood out with the lowest number of crimes against women registered in the past three years — 43 in 2019, 39 in 2020 and 54 in 2021. It also had the lowest crime rate against women for 2021 at 5.5 per cent.
- Among Union Territories, Delhi had the highest rate of crime against women in 2021 at 147.6 per cent. It also topped in absolute numbers of cases registered, recording an increase over the past three years from 13,395 in 2019 to 14,277 in 2021.

❖ **Cities**

- The NCRB also collates data for crime against women in 19 cities across the country with a population of over 2 million.
- Among these cities, the 2021 data shows that Jaipur had the highest rate at over 194 per cent, followed by Delhi, Indore and Lucknow. Chennai and Coimbatore — both in Tamil Nadu — had the lowest rate.
- In actual numbers among these cities, Delhi topped in 2021 (13,982) followed by Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Delhi also marked the highest number of actual cases in the past three years amongst these cities, with 12,902 in 2019 and 9,782 in 2020.
- Rajasthan had the highest rate of rape for 2021 at 16.4 per cent and topped in actual numbers with 6,337 cases registered last year. UP, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra followed with over 2,000 cases registered last year in these states. Rajasthan also had the highest number of minor girls raped in 2021 with 1,453 cases registered.
- Overall, there were 31,677 cases of rape registered in the country in 2021, marking a marginal decline over the past five years from 33,977 cases in 2018.
- Cases of “murder with gangrape/rape”, for which the NCRB has maintained records since 2017, have remained steady — 284 cases in 2021, the same as in 2019. In 2020, there were 218 such incidents. The highest number of cases under the category was registered in 2018 with 291.
- The highest number of such cases took place last year in UP with 48, followed closely by Assam with 46. Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttarakhand did not register any cases under this category in 2021.
- According to NCRB data, rape-murders make up less than 1 per cent of the total rapes in the country annually. In these cases, the NCRB data between 2017-2021 shows that UP, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra had the highest number of cases in the country annually for rape-murders for the period of 2017-2020.
- Over 28,000 women were abducted last year to be “compelled into marriage”, including 12,000 minors, with the highest number recorded in UP (8,599) followed by Bihar (6,589), the NCRB report shows.

- Only 507 cases were registered in the country under the Domestic Violence Act in 2021 — 0.1 per cent of the total cases of crime against women. The highest number of cases (270) was filed in Kerala. Meanwhile, 6,589 cases of dowry deaths were registered last year with the highest number of such deaths registered in UP and Bihar.
- ❖ **Sharp rise in crimes against women; chargesheet rate low**
- An over 40% uptick in crimes against women and children; just 31% of IPC cases being chargesheeted; a 111% jump in cases of cybercrimes — these are some of the key takeaways from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2021 specific to the national capital.
- Data also shows that most of the IPC cases are of theft, kidnapping and robbery, reflecting an increase in heinous and street crimes. Many of the victims are children — crimes against them have increased by 33% from previous years.

Crimes	2019	2020	2021	Chargesheeting rate in %
Total IPC cases	2,99,475	2,49,192	2,91,904	31.0
Violent crimes	11,613	9,997	11,793	52.0
-Murder	521	472	459	95.0
-Kidnapping & abduction	5,901	4,062	5,527	8.20
Crimes against women	13,395	10,093	14,277	71.20
Crimes against children	7,783	5,362	7,118	32.50
Economic Offences	4,889	4,524	5,143	57.40
Cyber crimes	115	168	356	90.80

■ Among major metro cities, Delhi has one of the lowest chargesheeting rates — only 31% of 2,91,904 cases were chargesheeted in 2021

■ Delhi tops the list in terms

of violent crimes, most being abduction and robbery cases. As per data, over 9,507 kidnapping victims are still 'unrecovered' in Delhi

■ Delhi has seen a jump of 111% cases of cyber crime from last year. Most cases are of people publishing explicit content online.

Source: NCRB data

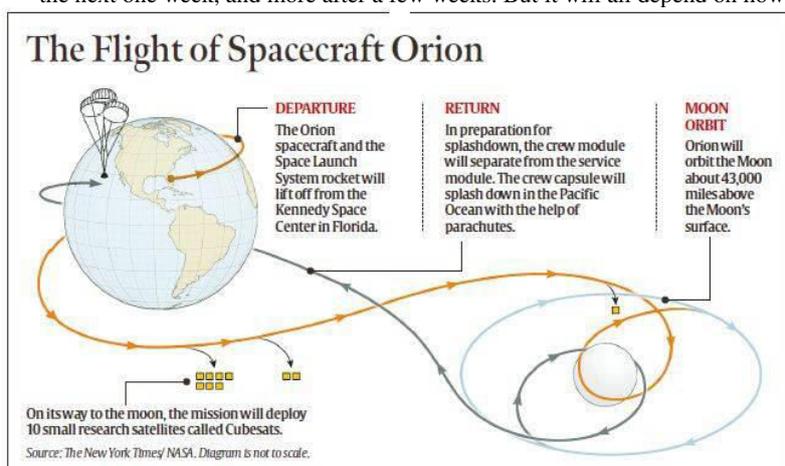
- The Delhi Police meanwhile reasoned that they are “actively” registering more cases online and at police stations/booths.
- ❖ **Crimes against women**
- As per the data, Delhi saw 14,277 cases of **crimes against women** last year. This is in contrast to other cities like Bengaluru and Mumbai, which saw 3,127 and 5,543 cases.
- Most women from the age of 18 to 30 are ‘vulnerable’ and are targeted by husbands, relatives or friends.
- Though 71% of these cases have been chargesheeted, more than 16,000 cases are still pending from previous years. Further as many as 1,374 POCSO cases and 1,125 rape cases have been registered in 2021 — a 41% increase from the previous year. This is because of higher registration and sensitivity of police personnel in Delhi. Police also make arrests in 80-90% of cases within the first week. The chargesheeting can sometimes be low because of pending court cases.
- ❖ **Cybercrime**
- Delhi has seen a steep rise in cybercrime cases from the previous years. According to data, with 356 cases in 2021, there has been a 111% rise in cases of online fraud, online harassment, publication of explicit content, etc as compared to 2020, which saw 168 cases. Most offenders were booked for publication and transmission of sexually explicit content where the victims/complainants are women or minors aged 12-17.
- ❖ **Violent crimes — Murder, kidnapping**
- In 2021, Delhi recorded 11,793 cases of violent crimes and only half of the cases have been chargesheeted, data shows. Most cases are of kidnapping, rape, robbery, attempted murder, causing grievous hurt, etc.
- Delhi has the highest number of murder cases (454) among the 19 metropolitan cities in the country. Most of the victims in such cases are aged 18-35. Police said many cases are of personal enmity and money disputes, which can’t be averted. However, they said they have been able to chargesheet 95% of murder cases registered and arrest the accused in less than 48 hours.
- Cases of kidnapping have also increased by 36% in the city in 2021 as compared to the 2019. Data shows only 8% of cases have been chargesheeted and there are more than 9,507 unrecovered victims from previous years. Last year, over 5,888 persons were kidnapped/abducted.

**PRELIMS**

**1. UN High Seas Treaty**

- ❖ **CONTEXT:** UN treaty for protecting oceans failed recently. When the latest round of talks began two weeks ago in New York, it was hoped that an agreement would be arrived at for the conserving marine life at the ‘high seas’ which lie outside the exclusive jurisdiction of different countries. In June 2022, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had declared an “ocean emergency” at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, citing threats to the world’s oceans.

- ❖ **What is the proposed UN High Seas treaty?**
- Also referred to as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean', the treaty to deal with Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction has been under discussion for several years.
- The proposed treaty concerns the ocean existing beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones that lie from the coast of a country to about 200 nautical miles or 370 km into the sea, till where it has special rights for exploration. Waters beyond that are known as open seas or high seas.
- The treaty was to be negotiated under the United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982 which governs the rights of countries regarding marine resources. As there is no treaty for conserving the health of vast swathes of the earth's oceans, a UN resolution in 2017 had decided to rectify this while setting 2022 as the deadline.
- The pandemic resulted in many delays, and later, a High Ambition Coalition, which now has more than 100 countries including India, the US, and the UK, came about and put the focus on '30x30' goals – protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030. After the latest deadlock, talks will only resume next year, unless a special session is called.
- Some aspects of negotiations included establishing marine protected areas to put limits on certain activities, environmental impact assessments or clearances for sustainability of works, financial support to countries and sharing other scientific knowledge. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has said binding agreements are needed for this treaty to be effective.
- ❖ **How are the world's oceans regulated as of now?**
- Some treaties, along with the UNCLOS, regulate the conduct of actors on the high seas.
- The UNCLOS led to the establishment of territorial sea boundaries 22 km offshore, deciding the region up to which countries could claim full sovereign territorial rights, as well as the 200 nautical miles EEZ limit. It also created the International Seabed Authority and other conflict-resolution mechanisms.
- But a treaty dedicated to protecting ocean health does not exist as of now. Conversely, every country has the right to access open seas, resulting in large-scale drilling and trawling operations for catching fish and other animals for commercial purposes.
- ❖ **What are the risks of countries failing to reach an agreement?**
- Ninety per cent of global warming is occurring in the ocean, according to the NASA.
- The effects of ocean warming include sea level rise due to thermal expansion, coral bleaching, accelerated melting of Earth's major ice sheets, intensified hurricanes, and changes in ocean health and biochemistry. Excessive fishing has increased manifold over the years, and a third of species such as sharks and rays are at the risk of extinction, according to the World Wildlife Fund.
- Despite acknowledging these threats, members failed to agree on how to deal with these threats.
- There has been talk of resistance from countries that engage in deep sea mining of minerals or are heavily invested in fishing.
- Some countries in the Caribbean alleged that richer countries of the Global North did not actively participate until the last few days of the talks.
- 2. **Destination Moon, and beyond**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: The launch of a keenly awaited space mission that is being seen as the start of a new age in space exploration had to be put off on after engineers were unable to resolve a problem involving inadequate flow of liquid hydrogen to one of the rocket's four engines. NASA's Artemis 1 mission is aimed at exploring the Moon with the specific objective of getting human beings back on the lunar surface and possibly beyond — to Mars and elsewhere.**
- NASA did not say when it would attempt to launch the mission again. There are at least two windows of opportunity in the next one week, and more after a few weeks. But it will all depend on how soon the problem is fixed.



- ❖ **Back to the Moon**
- It has been 50 years since the six Apollo human moon landings between 1969 and 1972. There has been huge progress in space exploration since then. Spacecraft have now gone beyond the solar system, exploratory missions have probed

Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, more than 500 astronauts have travelled to space and back, and permanent space laboratories like the International Space Station (ISS) have been set up.

- However, the promise of transporting human beings to new worlds, the possibility of landing, and living, on other planets, or travelling deep into space, probably even encountering aliens, has remained stagnant since the last of the 12 astronauts to set foot on the Moon returned in 1972.
  - This is why Artemis 1 is being seen as ushering in a new space age. It is the first in a series of ambitious missions that are planned to take human beings back to the Moon, explore possibilities of extended stay there, and investigate the potential to use it as a launch pad for deep space explorations.
  - On the face of it, Artemis 1 has extremely humble mission objectives. It is technically only a lunar Orbiter mission. It is not carrying any astronauts. It does not even have a lander or rover component. The mission's spacecraft, called Orion, will get into a lunar orbit that would be about 97 km from the Moon's surface at its closest. But unlike most other Orbiter missions, Orion has a return-to-Earth target after it has orbited the Moon for about a month.
  - Although the objective is to ensure the return of human beings to the Moon, the Artemis missions are going to be qualitatively very different from the Apollo missions. In many ways, the Moon landings of the 1960s and 1970s came a little too early in the space age. Man had reached the Moon just 12 years after the first-ever satellite, Sputnik, had been launched.
  - The Apollo missions were guided by geo-political considerations, and the desire of the United States to go one up on the Soviet Union which had taken a considerable lead in space technology, having sent the first satellite in space, the first spacecraft to crash on to the lunar surface, and the first astronaut in space.
  - The Artemis missions are in a position to exploit the major advancements in space technologies over the years. These technologies now make it possible to start extracting the resources found on the Moon, build from the materials available there, harness hydrogen or helium as energy source. Not all of that would happen with the first mission itself, but these things are distinctly possible now, making human landings on the Moon much more meaningful than earlier.
- ❖ **Setting the stage**
- Artemis 1 is all about laying the foundations for more complex and ambitious missions. It is carrying several payloads in the form of small satellites called CubeSats, each of which is equipped with instruments meant for specific investigations and experiments.
  - The focus of these investigations is clearly to explore long-term stays of human beings in space, and on the Moon.
  - One CubeSat will search for water in all its forms, another will map the availability of hydrogen that can be utilised as a source of energy.
  - Then there are biology experiments, investigating the behaviour of small organisms like fungi and algae in outer space, and the effect of radiation, especially the reaction on their genes.
  - The Orion spacecraft, which is specifically designed to carry astronauts into deep space on future missions, will have three dummy 'passengers' — mannequins made of material that mimic human bones, skin, and soft tissue. These would be equipped with a host of sensors to record the various impacts of deep space atmosphere on the human body.
  - The rocket that is being used for the Artemis missions, called Space Launch System, or SLS, is the most powerful ever built, more powerful than the Saturn V rockets that had taken the Apollo missions to the Moon. The giant, 98-metre-tall rocket, weighing 2,500 tonnes, can help the Orion spacecraft achieve speeds of over 36,000 km per hour, and take it directly to the Moon, which is 1,000 times farther than the International Space Station that sees a regular traffic of astronauts.

❖ **The aborted launch**

- The excitement around the mission will, however, have to be held back for the time being. There was a two-hour window on 29-8-22 to launch the mission, between 8:33 am and 10:33 am Eastern Daylight Time (about 6 pm to 8 pm in India). The launch was called off shortly after 8:33 am (6 pm India time) since the engineers who had been working on the problem for over two hours had been unable to resolve the issue.
- The problem had been detected a few hours ahead of the launch. The flow of liquid hydrogen to one of the four engines of the rocket was not found to be optimal, which could have resulted in over-heating.

3. **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic (SEED) Tribes**

❖ **Context: Tribe categorisation work delays benefits under SEED**

❖ **Objectives**

- To provide coaching of good quality for DNT/NT/SNT candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations.
- To provide health insurance to DNT/NT/SNT Communities
- The primary objective is to provide financial assistance to National Health Authority (NHA) in association with State Health Agencies (SHAs) for undertaking providing a health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakhs per family per year to DNT, NT and SNT families as per norms of "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- To facilitate livelihoods initiative at community level to build and strengthen small clusters of DNT/NT/SNT Communities institutions
- Its primary objective is to provide financial assistance to National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for undertaking institution building in association with State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) of state Governments/UTs at community level.
- To provide financial assistance for construction of houses to members of the DNT/NT/SNT Communities
- It has been proposed to earmark a separate outlay for PMAY to support specific importance in providing houses only for DNTs living in rural areas who have not taken benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as SC, ST, OBC and are living below poverty line.

❖ **Implementation of the scheme**

- The Scheme will be implemented through a portal, developed by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- The portal consists of two modules.
  - One module for registration of the applicant with details of his family, income, occupation, aadhar and bank details, caste certificate, etc...
  - The second part consists of the scheme component for which the applicant wants to seek benefit with his UID as Login id and his mobile as his password.
  - The funds will be transferred directly to the beneficiaries in their account.
- The other implementing agencies are:
  - the Ministry of Rural Development,
  - National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and
  - National Health Authority (NHA).

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna?**

Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms. Biogeographically, India is situated at the tri-junction of three realms namely Afro-tropical, Indo-Malayan and Paleo-Arctic realms, and therefore, has characteristic elements from each of them. This assemblage of three distinct realms probably is a fact which is believed to partly account for its rich and unique biological diversity.

Variations according to bio-geographic regions are:

- **The Himalayan Region:** The altitude gradient results in tremendous biodiversity of the region. There exist Tropical rainforests in the eastern Himalayas, dense subtropical and alpine forests in central and western Himalayas. Sambar, muntjac serow, goral, Himalayan thar, snow leopard and brown bear inhabit this region.
- **The Indian Desert:** The natural vegetation consists of tropical thorn forests and tropical dry deciduous forests, sandy deserts with seasonal salt marshes and mangroves. Thar desert possesses most of the major insect species. 43 reptile species and moderate bird endemism are found here.
- **The Western Ghats:** This zone displays diversity of forests from evergreen to dry deciduous. The Nilgiri langur, Lion tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Malabar grey hornbill and most amphibian species are endemic to the Western Ghats.
- **The Deccan Peninsula:** Large parts are covered by tropical forests. Tropical dry deciduous forests occur in the northern, central and southern part of the plateau. Fauna like tiger, sloth bear, wild boar, gaur, sambar and chital are found throughout the zone.
- **The Gangetic plains:** It includes tropical dry deciduous forest, littoral and mangroves regions of the Sunderbans. The fauna includes elephants, black buck, gazelle, rhinoceros, Bengal florican, crocodile, freshwater turtle and a dense waterfowl community.
- **The North East:** The tropical vegetation of northeast India is rich in evergreen and semi evergreen rain forests, moist deciduous monsoon forests, swamps and grasslands. Mammalian fauna includes 390 species of which 63% are found in Assam.
- **The Indian Islands:** About 2,200 species of higher plants are found here of which many are endemic.

**The Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

It was enacted to preserve the biological diversity in India, and provides mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge. It is helpful in conservation of flora and fauna as:

- There are provisions for setting up National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Board, and Biodiversity Management Committee for proper management of biological resources.
- It aims to respect and protect knowledge of local communities traditional knowledge related to biodiversity.
- It secures sharing of benefits with local people as they are conservers of biological resources and holders of knowledge and information relating to the use of biological resources.
- It also has provisions for notifying heritage sites by State Government in consultation with local body which will ensure better preservation.

**MCQs**

1. Consider the following statements
  1. The Classification of tribes as De-notified and Nomadic Tribes is made under Habitual Offenders Act.
  2. National Commission for denotified nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes is a statutory body set up to safeguards the rights of these communities.
  3. Denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes form the sub-part of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
  4. Every year Vimukti Diwas or Liberation Day celebrated by DNTs across the country.
 Select the correct statement/s using the codes given below
  - a) 1 and 2 only
  - b) 2 and 4 only
  - c) **1 and 4 only**
  - d) 2 and 3 only
2. Consider the following statements with respect to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
  1. It is a statutory body.
  2. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. It is the implementing and monitoring agency for implementation of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).  
Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) **2 and 3 only**  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) All of the above
3. With reference to recent data on crime against women in India consider the following statements  
1. Among top states Odisha showed a marginal decrease in the actual number of cases.  
2. UP topped in terms of actual number of cases registered in 2021.  
Choose the correct statement/s using the codes given below?  
a) 1 only  
b) **2 only**  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea, consider the following statements:  
1. A coastal state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles, measured from baseline determined in accordance with the convention.  
2. Ships of all states, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea.  
3. The Exclusive Economic zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.  
Which of the statements given above are correct?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) **1,2,3**
5. “‘30x30’ goals” recently mentioned in news is related to which of the following?  
a) River rejuvenation  
b) E waste recycling  
c) **Protection of ocean**  
d) Bio diversity hotspot
6. Saturn V a super heavy-lift launch vehicle developed which of the following organization?  
a) **NASA**  
b) ISRO  
c) ROSCOSMOS  
d) JAXA
7. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India: Groups (PVTGs) in India:  
1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.  
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.  
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.  
4. Mankidia and Bondo tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.  
Which of the statements given above are correct?  
a) 1, 2 and 3  
b) 2, 3 and 4  
c) **1, 2 and 4**  
d) 1, 3 and 4
8. An initiative called “One Herb, One Standard” recently seen in news has been taken which of the following ministry?  
a) **Ministry of AYUSH**  
b) Ministry of Agriculture  
c) Ministry of Health and family welfare  
d) Ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution
9. ‘Global Gender Gap Report’ is published by  
a) UN Women  
b) World Bank  
c) Human Rights Watch  
d) **World Economic Forum**
10. According to the latest report, the highest rate of crime against women in 2021 was registered in which state?  
a) UP  
b) **Assam**  
c) Bihar  
d) Odisha