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# SITUATION OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

## NCRB Report 2020

- **'967 rape cases were reported in 2020 as opposed to 1,231 in 2019'**
- Crime against women in the Capital has reduced by 24% in 2020 as compared to 2019, shows the data shared by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- According to it, total crime against women reported in 2020 came down to 9,782 incidents from 12,902 in 2019.
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/crimes-against-women-dip-by-24-cybercrimes-see-55-rise-ncrb-data/article36486113.ece>

# CRIME AGAINST WOMEN – NCRB Data

TYPE OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN	2019	2020
Assault on women	1088	938
Sexual Harassment	862	644
Rape cases	1231	967
Stalking	388	235

# DISHA?

Disha is the name given to a veterinarian who was raped and murdered in Hyderabad on November 27, 2019. She was allegedly abducted by four men who offered to help her fix her bike's flat tyre. The body of the woman was found burnt around 30 km away at an underpass near Shadnagar on the NH-44. Inquiries revealed that the four planned the abduction by puncturing her bike's tyre.

The four accused were arrested amid widespread protests across the nation seeking justice for the victim. On the morning of December 6, the Cyberabad police shot all four accused in an encounter, saying they tried to attack the police force while they were conducting a reconstruction of the crime scene.

# DISHA BILL

- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019 (Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019).
- The bill provides for awarding death sentence for offences of rape and gangrape and expediting trials of such cases to within 21 days.
- **The Act envisages the completion of:  
investigation in seven days  
trial in 14 working days,  
where there is adequate conclusive evidence and  
reducing the total judgment time to 21 days from the existing four  
months.**

The AP Disha Act also prescribes **life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF DISHA ACT

Andhra Pradesh government passed the Disha Bill intending to **provide better security and protection towards citizens, mainly women and report instances of harassment, sexual harassment, and other crimes against women.**

The app has expedited the investigation of cases related to atrocities against women and led to taking appropriate steps to direct these cases through the legal system with the required evidence.

# INTRODUCING WOMEN AND CHILDREN OFFENDERSSS REGISTRY

- The government of India has launched a National Registry of Sexual offenders but the database is not digitized and is not accessible to the public.
- In the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act, 2019, the Andhra Pradesh government will **establish, operate and maintain a register in electronic form, to be called the 'Women & Children Offenders Registry'**.
- This **registry will be made public** and will be available to law enforcement agencies.

# EXCLUSIVE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH PENALTY FOR RAPE CRIMES

- At present, provision for punishing an offender in a rape case is a fixed jail term leading to life imprisonment or the death sentence.
- The Disha Act 2019 has prescribed the death penalty for rape crimes where there is adequate conclusive evidence. Provision is given by amending Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.



# REDUCING THE JUDGEMENT PERIOD TO 21 DAYS

- The existing judgment period as per the Nirbhaya Act, 2013 and Criminal Amendment Act, 2018 is 4 months (two months of investigation period and two months of trial period)
- As per the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act 2019, the judgment will now have to be pronounced in 21 working days from date of offence in cases of rape crimes with substantial conclusive evidence.
- The investigation shall be completed in seven working days and trial shall be completed in 14 working days. For this, amendments have been made to Section 173 and Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, 1973 and via the introduction of additional clauses in the act.
- The same has been done in cases involving minors.

# STRINGENT PUNISHMENT FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST CHILDREN

- In cases of molestation/sexual assault on children under the POCSO Act, 2012, punishment ranges from a minimum of three years to maximum of seven years of imprisonment.
- In the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act 2019, apart from rape, the Government of Andhra Pradesh **prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children.**
- **New Sections 354F and Section 354G 'Sexual Assault on Children' is being inserted in the Indian Penal Code, 1860.**

# PUNISHMENT FOR HARASSMENT FOR WOMEN THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

- At present, no such provision exists in the Indian Penal Code. In the AP Disha Act, 2019, in cases of harassment of women through email, social media, digital mode or any other form, the guilty shall be punishable with imprisonment
- The imprisonment will be for a term which may extend to two years on first conviction and with imprisonment for a term which may extend to four years on second and subsequent conviction.
- **A new Section 354E 'Harassment of Women' is being added in Indian Penal Code, 1860**

# ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COURTS

- In the AP Disha Act, 2019, the government will **establish exclusive special courts in each district to ensure speedy trial.**
- These courts will exclusively deal with cases of offences against women and children including rape, acid attacks, stalking, voyeurism, social media harassment of women, sexual harassment and all cases under the POCSO Act.
- The state government has introduced the **'Andhra Pradesh Special Courts for Specified Offences against Women & Children Act, 2019'**.

# REDUCING APPEAL TO 3 MONTHS FOR DISPOSAL OF RAPE CASES

- At present, the period for disposal of appeal cases related to rape cases against women and children is six months.
- In the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act, 2019, the period for disposal of appeal cases has been reduced to three months.
- Amendments are being made in Section 374 and 377 of Code of Criminal Procedure Act, 1973.

# CONSTITUTION OF SPECIAL POLICE TEAMS AND APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IN SPECIAL COURTS

- There is no such provision in existing laws.
- In the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act, 2019, the government will **constitute special police teams at the district level to be called District Special Police Team** to be headed by DSP for investigation of offences related to women and children.
- The government will also **appoint a special public prosecutor for each exclusive special court.**

# PASSING BILL AT STATE LEGISLATURE

- State is keen in **creating perfect infrastructure for the effective implementation of the AP Disha Bill, as soon as the Parliament enacts it.**
- It is known that the AP Legislative Assembly already passed the Bill with certain Amendments to the CrPC and sent it to the Parliament.

# ACTIONS TAKEN

- **FOERNSIC LABORATORIES:**
- Number of Forensic labs planned: 3 Regional Forensic labs +1 AP Police HQ: in the process of upgradation
- It maintains highest quality in the analysis and prompt reporting and has set up **24 mobile** forensic science laboratories called **CLUES** in all district headquarters to collect physical evidence from crime scenes.



# DISHA POLICE STATIONS

- 18 DISHA POLICE STATIONS
- TEAM
- 1 Deputy Superintendant of Police
- 2 Circle Inspectors
- 3 Sub Inspectors
- 36 to 47 support staff for investigations.
- 30% additional salary to the DISHA team

# DISHA SOS APPLICATION

## 47 lakhs downloads

This application can be downloaded from the Google play store and Apple app store.



# FEAATURES OF DISHA APPLICATION

- The features of this application include an SOS button which sends out an alert once pressed to the Disha Command Control Centre, immediately notifying the police close to the location of the alert and simultaneously notifies registered emergency contacts as well, a total of 5 numbers can be registered as emergency contacts.
- A new feature called “Track My Travel” was incorporated in the application as an added measure for safety and supervision during travel. Emergency dial assistance numbers, 100 and 112 are also included in the application.
- A specific option is provided in the application to receive the contact information of police officials from the nearest police station, also the contact information of Hospitals, Maternity centres, trauma care centres, blood banks, and pharmacies made accessible from the application.

# UTILITY OF DISHA App

- 1,68,483 SOS requests have been sent out and addressed
- Total of 220 FIRs have been registered and 1297 actionable cases have been taken on by the Andhra Pradesh Police.

# CURRENT STATUS

- AP Government has submitted to Government of India
- The same circulated by GOI to different departments
- GOI asked for clarifications and waiting for the clarifications from AP State Government.

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, 27 JULY 2021 by PIB Delhi

NDW/RK/PK/AY/DDD/1232

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739499>

# ZERO FIRs

- From December 03, 2019 till 31 August 2021
- 546 ZERO FIRs have been registered across various police stations in AP.
- Out of which,
  - 149 were registered in 2021 (till August 31)
  - 338 of them were registered in 2020
  - 59 in 2019 (from December).

- Minor cases are dealt at POCSO Courts
- Major: In regular courts
  - Challenges
  - COVID – No courts, delayed hearings
  - Special courts not yet initiated as the Act is not yet passed in The Parliament

More clarity in POCSO Law also



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Minds**  
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