A TREND ANALYSIS OF VIOLENT CRIMES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAWANG AND WEST KAMENG DISTRICTS (2011 TO 2020)

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Abstract:

The study presents a trend analysis of violent crimes in Arunachal Pradesh from 2011 to 2020 with special reference to Tawang and West Kameng districts. The objective of the study is to analyze the trend of violent crimes in the state and two districts with the help of secondary data. The study is based on secondary data drawn from Crime in India, the annual crime reports published by the NCRB and data collected from the district police headquarters of the two districts. The introductory part of the paper gives conceptual framework of the crime followed by a brief description of the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Secondly, using crime statistics under the category of violent crimes, the study briefly aims to draw readers' attention to the status of various types of violent crimes in the state and districts over the course of 10 years. Comparative analysis of state crime statistics and two districts are done to find out the nature of crime trends. The several indicators citing the reason for the rising crimes in society are discussed. The main findings and conclusions from the examination of secondary data are summarized in the closing note, including any policy implications. Consequently, this paper attempts to give a concise overview of the incidence of crime registered under violent crimes in the state using statistical analysis obtained from secondary sources.

Key words: - Crime, incidence, trend, violent, reported

INTRODUCTION

Crime constitutes one of the most intricate problems facing humanity. Since the beginning of civilization, human society is witnessing the menace of crime. Violent crime is defined as one that results in a detrimental force being used or threatened against a victim. (2021) The majority of violent crimes are felonies, which are punishable by a prison sentence of one or more year's example Murder, Rape, Kidnapping etc. The frequent occurrence of violent crimes creates a sense of fear and insecurity among the people in the society resulting in a negative impact on the socio-economic development of the society. (NCRB, 2014)To maintain law and order in society, every society establishes a set of standards that all of its members must follow. Criminals are a person whose actions goes against social standards and disturb the peace of fellow members of society. A criminal is

referred to a person who commits a crime. Numerous social- economic and political factors, as well as mental disorder, alcoholism, drugs, social media influence, unemployment, peer influences etc., are among various reasons that contribute to the rise of crime in society. To tackle the rising crimes in the society, the four pillars of the criminal justice system; the police, prisons, courts and legal institutions must work together. Therefore, the mobility of the law enforcement agency and other branches of the criminal justice system to uphold social order is a prerequisite for progressive society.

What is Crime?

The word Crime is derived from Latin word **"***Krimos*'** which means *'to accuse'.* The concept of crime is very wide and its meaning and subject matter differs in different societal condition. According to *Garofalo*, an Italian Criminologist*" crime is an immoral and harmful act that is regarded as criminal by public opinion because it is an injury to so much of the moral sense as it possessed by a community."* (Myneni, 2017) According to renowned jurist *Stephen*, '*crime means an act which is both forbidden by law and revolving to the moral sentiments of the society'.* (Afzal Qadri, 2007) Crime is dynamic concepts so it is difficult to present one definite meaning. It can be understood from different viewpoints. An act which is considered as crime today may not be so in future and vice versa. Murder, rape, theft, cheating, burglary, counterfeit, incest, adultery etc were categorized as crime but some of the same act may not be considered as crime in some other countries because the moral ethics of society varies. (Sowmyya, 2014)

Crime is a very broad concept, and depending on the social context, it can have varied meanings and cover a variety of topics. However, criminal activity has always unquestionably posed a significant problem for all the nations. Each society has its own perspective of defining crime. For commission of crime, there should be a criminal intention and a criminal act. (Sowmyya, 2014) The criminal offence consists of two elements - Mental and Physical elements. These situations are articulated by the terms of Latin words *'mens rea'* (guilty mind) and *'actus reus'* (guilty act) because no crime is committed unless there is consensus of guilty mind and guilty act. (M.S, 2006) The Indian Penal Code also accords that a person cannot be punished and convicted unless it can be shown that he has a guilty mind. There must be an injury to constitute a crime. (Myneni, 2015) All these crimes may be broadly categorized into three main heads namely; a. Offences falling under Code of Criminal Procedure, b. Offence under Indian Penal code, c. Offences under Local or Special Laws or Enactments. (N, 2007)

Arunachal Pradesh is located across a vast geographical landmass with a total population of 13, 83,727 according to the 2011 census; the numerous tribes lived in relative isolation from the rest of the world. Except for barter trade, the tribes had no contact with the outside world. Each tribe's internal political and social structure was self-regulatory, and social institutions upheld normative systems. Within a framework of interdependent and close-knit ties, social life was integrated. Anti-social activities were regulated through social norms. The criminal justice system was inbuilt with a majority of ethnic groups in the form of village councils having their method for investigating crimes and administering justice in the past. (Dutta & Duarah,

1990)Following independence, the state has made great political and socio-economic progress. Various types of crimes have also increased along with socio-economic advancement coupled with population growth. Therefore, a systematic understanding of the crime situation in the state and its cause and impact on society is crucial for creating crime-free society.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There is a dearth of solid empirical research and evidence to arrive at a conclusion on crime trends. The information in official crime trend analyses varies based on the requirements of the registering agency. The crime data is susceptible to reductions as it moves through the different stage of criminal justice system. (Chakraborty, 2003) It discusses about the origin of crime and its dynamism on how it may change according to different societal condition (Sowmyya, 2014). It discusses the elements of crime in which the terms *mala in prohibita* and *mala in se*, which were used to distinguish between offences that were ethically and legally prohibited, should no longer be maintained. It might be feasible to arrive at a more helpful and intuitive idea by analyzing at mala in se from the perspective of equity theory and combining the concepts of intent and injury. (M.S, 2006) This work examines the crime rates in highest, lowest and turning points and analyses the long-term trends of serious violent and property crimes and investigates whether the crime trend in India follows the global crime trend. It also explores the similarities and differences in long-term trends between various crime types. (S, A, & K.M, 2015) Origin of concepts of crime, meaning, concepts and its definition were discussed. (Myneni, 2017) In order to determine the cause of crimes, it gives the theoretical framework used by eminent criminologists to classify crimes. This paper gives a general overview of crime and globalization with a focus on the multifarious impacts on society. (M.R, 2013)

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

 The main objectives of the paper are:

1. To analyze the trend of violent crimes in the state and the two districts (Tawang and West Kameng).
2. To present the status of different violent crimes recorded by Police in the state.

ANALYSIS OF THE VIOLENT CRIMES IN ARUNACHAL PRADEH

In Arunachal Pradesh, a total of 3804 cases between 2011 and 2020 under violent crimes were reported, see Table-1 below. Kidnapping and abduction were the crimes with the greatest numbers reported, accounting for 31.46% of all violent crimes with 1197 occurrences, with 119 on average every year. Rape was the next-highest percentage with 658 incidents and 17.29 %. Every year, an average of 65 rapes takes place. Third in line is murder, with 642 (16.89%) cases accounting for an average of 64 every year, followed by Arson 433 (11.38%) cases accounting for average of 43 yearly. Attempt to Murder with 412 (10.83%) cases, accounts for an average of 41 cases annually, Rioting accounts for 292 (7.67%) cases, with an average of 29 cases, dacoity accounts for 122 (3.20%) cases, with an average of 12 cases, and Culpable Homicide not amounting to Murder accounts for

48 (1.26%) cases, with the fewest cases occurring annually and an average of 4 cases. As a result, the state experiences 380 violent crimes annually on an average.

Table- 1

VIOLENT CRIMES RECORDED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

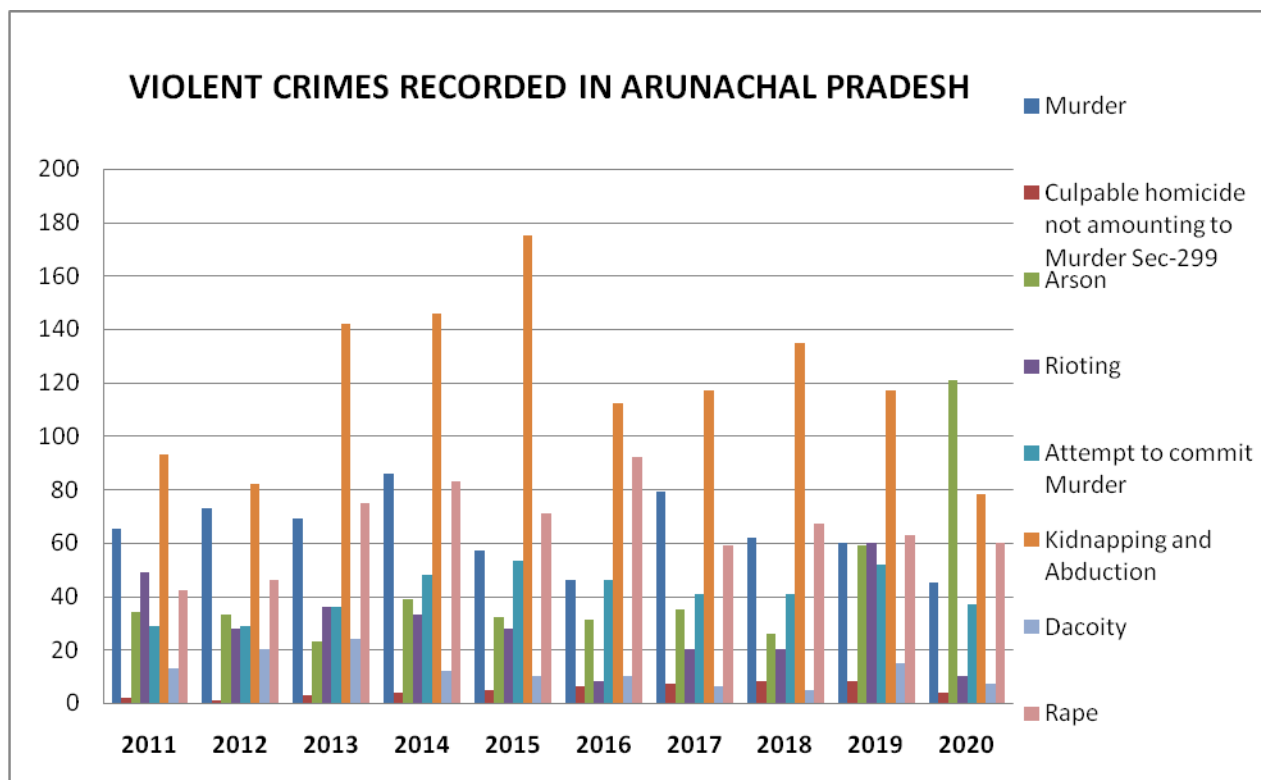|									
VIOLENT CRIMES									
YEAR	**Murder (Sec.302 IPC)**	**CH not amounting to Murder Sec-299**	**Arson (Sec.435,436 &438 IPC)**	**Rioting (Sec.146/147-151& 153 A IPC)**	**Attempt to Murder (Sec-307 IPC)**	**Kidnapping & Abduction (S. 363-369IPC)**	**Dacoity (Sec. 395/397 IPC)**	**Rape (Sec.375/376 IPC)**	**TOTAL**
2011	65	2	34	49	29	93	13	42	327
2012	73	1	33	28	29	82	20	46	312
2013	69	3	23	36	36	142	24	75	408
2014	86	4	39	33	48	146	12	83	451
2015	57	5	32	28	53	175	10	71	431
2016	46	6	31	8	46	112	10	92	351
2017	79	7	35	20	41	117	6	59	364
2018	62	8	26	20	41	135	5	67	364
2019	60	8	59	60	52	117	15	63	434
2020	45	4	121	10	37	78	7	60	362
TOTAL	642	48	433	292	412	1197	122	658	3804

Table source: Ncrb data on Crime in India, Ministry of Home affairs GOI, 2011-2020 Vol.I ,II,III (data accesed on April 25-30th 2022) ***Note**:NA means data unavailable *** CH** means Culpable Homicide

* Crime Rate =Number of cases reported/Population in lakhs

According to the above Fig.-A, the number of violent crimes peaked in 2014 with 451 incidents (11.85%) of all reported crimes. This was followed by a slow decline to 434 incidents in 2019 (11.40%) and 431 incidents (11.33%) in 2015. The incidence of violent crimes increased slightly between 2011 and 2020, from 327 (8.59%) instances in 2011 to 362 (9.51%) cases in 2020, according to the Table-1. The violent crime rate in the state was 274.9 per 100,000 people. Fig. A, however, reveals a shifting pattern of crimes; there was a sharp rise in crimes from 2013 with 408 cases to 451 in 2014 and from 364 (9.56 %) in 2018 to 434 (11.40 %) in 2019, which represents an increase of 1.84 % however, the number again falls to 1.89 % from 2019 to 2020.

Nevertheless, India's crime trend increased by 28% in 2020 compared to 2019, due to flouting covid-19 related lockdown norms. (2021)

Figure-A

VIOLENT CRIMES RECORDED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ANALYSIS OF CRIME TRENDS IN THE DISTRICTS

The two westernmost districts of Arunachal Pradesh Tawang and West Kameng have a total of 1,36,963 populations which Tawang having 49,950 population and West Kameng with 83,013 total population according to the census 2011. **(2022)** The following (Table-2) shows a total of 165 numbers of violent crimes recorded in the districts which constitute 120.4 per 100000 crime rates and at the state level the violent Crime rate composed of 274.9 per 100000. The highest number of crimes recorded under violent crimes in the districts was Murder with 48 cases which represent 29.09% of total violent crimes. Next in rank comes Kidnapping and Abduction recorded in 39 cases which accounts for 13.33% it is followed by 37(22.42%) incidence of Rioting cases. Under Rape 22 cases were recorded which accounts for 13.33%. Under Attempt to Murder 8(4.84%) cases, 5(3.03%) cases under Arson and only one case were recorded under Culpable Homicide not amounting to Murder in the year 2011.

Table- 2

VIOLENT CRIMES RECORDED IN TAWANG AND WEST KAMENG DISTRICTS

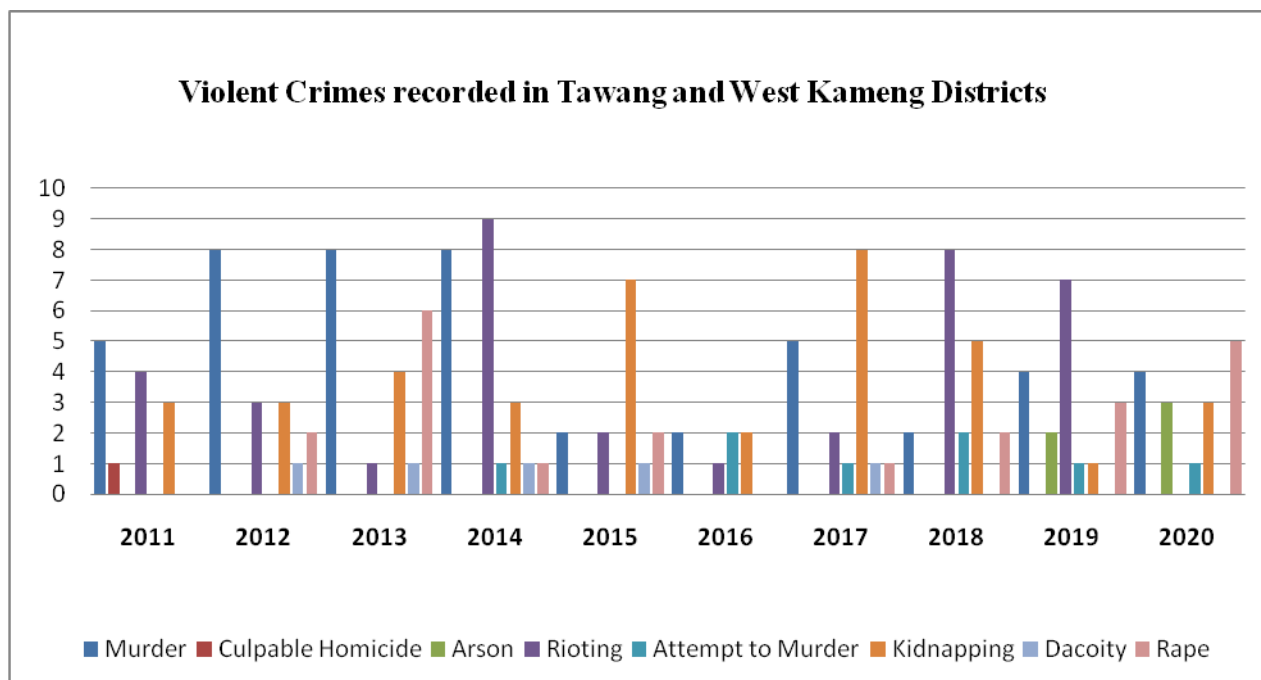|									
VIOLENT CRIMES									
YEAR	**Murder (Sec.302 IPC)**	**C H not amounting**	**Arson (Sec.435,436 &438 IPC)**	**Rioting (Sec.146/147-151& 153 A IPC)**	**Attempt to Murder (Sec-307 IPC)**	**Kidnapping &Abduction**	**Dacoity (Sec. 395/397 IPC)**	**Rape (Sec.375/376 IPC)**	**TOTAL**
2011	5	1	NA	4	0	3	0	0	13
2012	8	NA	NA	3	0	3	1	2	17
2013	8	NA	NA	1	0	4	1	6	20
2014	8	NA	NA	9	1	3	1	1	23
2015	2	NA	NA	2	0	7	1	2	14
2016	2	NA	NA	1	2	2	0	0	7
2017	5	0	NA	2	1	8	1	1	18
2018	2	0	NA	8	2	5	0	2	19
2019	4	0	2	7	1	1	0	3	18
2020	4	0	3	0	1	3	0	5	16
TOTAL	48	1	5	37	8	39	5	22	165

* Table Source : Data collected from District Police Headquarter SP Office Tawang and West Kameng

Districts, 2019.[1] ***Note: NA** means data unavailable *** CH** means Culpable Homicide

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Note:- 1. Crime data for 2011-2015 was collected from Office of Superintendent of Police, Tawang and   Bomdila.

2 Data from 2016 to 2020 was collected from Official website on Crime Statistics Arunachal Pradesh. https://www. Crime Records || Arunachal Pradesh Police (arunpol.nic.in)

3. For calculating crime rates total population was taken from census 2011.

Figure-B

Violent Crimes recorded in Tawang and West Kameng Districts

The murder recorded 48 cases, which accounts for 29.09 % of all violent crimes, the highest number of violent crimes recorded in districts. Kidnapping and abduction are ranked second, with 39 cases (13.33 %) in total. Rioting cases, with 37 cases (22.42 %), are ranked third and 22(13.33 %) Rape cases were reported. Only one case was registered under Culpable Homicide, while 8 (4.84%) cases were under Attempt to Murder and 5 (3.33%) cases under Arson. From 2011 to 2020, the year 2014 had the maximum number of violent crime cases with 23 number of cases, accounting for 13.93% of all reported crimes. Next in 2013, 20 incidences of violent crime was recorded which constitutes 12.12 % followed by 2018 with 19 i.e., 11.51%. 2016 reported the lowest crimes with 7case which accounts to 4.24%. In Tawang and West Kameng districts, violent crimes were reported in an annual average of 16 cases.

According to Table-2, Murder case is highest among all violent crimes in the districts. There are at least two Murder cases a year and 8 Murder cases were frequently reported in each of the years 2012, 2013, and 2014. Annually, an average of 4 murders can be seen in the districts. The number of Rioting cases is also high, with the highest numbers recorded in 2014 with 9 cases and 2018 with 8, which is a very alarming trend to observe in a region with a relatively small population. There were six rape cases in 2016 and eight Kidnapping cases in 2017. There are about an average of 3 cases per year of rioting and Kidnapping, as well as 2 rapes cases on average annually. As a result, the numbers of heinous crimes like Murder, Rape, Rioting, Kidnapping and Abduction is increasing in these districts, while the number of crimes under the categories of Culpable Homicide, Arson, Dacoity, and Attempt to Murder is decreasing in comparison to other violent crimes. The violent crimes in the districts increased by 1.8% from 13(7.87%) cases in 2011 to 16(9.69%) cases in 2020.

VIOLENT CRIMES IN THE STATE AND DISTRICTS: A COMPERATIVE ANALYSIS

The Murder case in the state doesn't vary much; it stays at an average of 64. Because of the severity of the crime, it will be considered a growing trend until there is no significant decline in heinous crimes like Murder. After recording the highest number of 86 cases in the state and 8 cases in districts in 2012, 2013 and 2014, the murder trend in the districts has gradually decreased in the following years. In both the series' Culpable Homicide numbers have exhibited a steeper downward trend. With 121 cases of Arson in the state, it has been increasing noticeably over the past few years with highest in 2020.

The number of Rioting incidents is gradually rising both in the state and in the districts. Attempt to Murder indicate a diminishing tendency at the district level, but they have been steadily rising at the state level over time. Kidnapping and Abduction exhibit an ongoing upward trend in the state through 2019, but there are inconsistencies with slight increases or decreases in the districts. The number of Dacoity cases in the state and its districts has dropped from 24 cases in 2013 to 7 cases in 2020. The numbers of Rape cases are increasing rapidly in the state every year, with 2016 observing the highest incidence with 92 cases.

Apart from 2011 and 2016, the number of reported Rape cases in the districts increases modestly each year. The state's crime trends altogether reveal notable variations over the course of the study period. For instance, crime has been steadily increasing in districts up until 2014, but it then sharply decreased between 2015 and 2016 again it increases in 2017 and 2018 before gradually declining in the years that followed. The state-level crime trends also exhibit variability. For instance, from 2011 to 2012, there is a little decline, from 2012 onward, there is an increase until 2014, and then there is a decline through 2018, after which there is a sharp upsurge in 2019 and again modest decline in 2020. The state's crime trends, therefore, fluctuate depending on the nature of crime and socio-political phenomenon. Violence crimes like Murder, Rape, Rioting, Arson and Kidnapping shows an upward tendency, while Attempt to Murder, Culpable Homicide, and Dacoity show a downward trend.

From the data above, it can be seen that the state's crime rate is significantly influenced by political phenomena. Both in 2014 and 2019, there were elections for the state assembly, and incidentally, the crime graph reveals that both years saw the highest numbers of crimes. Consequently, it has been noted that crime consistently rises during election time. The crimes that have political overtones may be the cause. The change in the socio-economic and political situation greatly contributes to the increasing number of crimes. (S, A, & K.M, 2015)

The total numbers of violent crime incidents in 2020 are displayed in descending order. The most plausible reason for the declining trend could be the covid-19 outbreak, which led to a lockdown that restricted people's movement in public spaces. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that all crimes are not reported to the police, all reported crimes are not registered and not all trials end in a conviction. Since police reports are limited they cannot be taken into account as an accurate representation of the number of crimes committed. (Chakraborty, 2003)

The crime rate of Arunachal Pradesh increased from 188.7 in 2018 to 190.9 in 2019 and declined to 164.5 in 2020 with 2817, 2877, and 2503 numbers of a case registered under total cognizable IPC(Indian Penal Code) and SLL (Special and Local Law) crimes respectively. According to NCRB data, the crime rate in India

is from 385.5 in 2019 to 383.8 in 2020. In 2020 number of Rape, Kidnapping and crime against children have decreased but numbers related to disobeying public servants have increased to 21%. Among all the states in India, Nagaland continues to have the lowest registered crime rate (64.4 per). (2022)

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Among all the crimes reported over the years, the largest incidences of crime were reported in 2014, followed by 2019 so far the violent crimes are concerned. The state assembly elections were also held in 2014 and 2019 hence, it is assumed that the number of crime incidences increases inevitably during political events like elections. Both at the district and state levels, it is revealed that the overall trend in violent crime from 2011 to 2020 has somewhat decreased specifically in 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown were viewed as the most likely causes for a decline in violent crimes in 2020. Many crimes also went unreported to the police for a variety of reasons. One of the most probable reasons in the state could be the prevalence of alternative justice delivery systems i.e., traditional village councils in the tribal villages, which are easily accessible to the people. The gap between the reporting and recording of crimes also could be the reason for showing the declining crime rate. Examples of crimes against women, such as domestic violence, insults, and cruelty by a husband, remain unreported for a multitude of reasons. Given that there are yearly rises and declines in the incidences of specific crime categories, long-term patterns demonstrate that there is no consistent rise or fall in crimes in the state. It is believed that violent crimes, in particular, have a modest upward trend in the districts. No single pattern of crimes is visible from the data. It decreases in a particular year after increasing in the previous year, crime trends reveals fluctuation. Crimes under Culpable Homicide show a decreasing trend in both the state and the districts, but crimes relating to Arson are on the rise in the state.

Trend analysis of recorded crime in the state and its two districts demonstrates that the violent crimes are somewhat on the decline, particularly in the year 2020. However, generalizing crime trends merely based on a single crime category is not justifiable since there are numerous other categories of crimes that people encounter every time. The decline in criminal activity is a highly positive indicator for society because real social advancement can only occur in a crime-free society. Credit for combating the rising crime in the state goes to good governance and more specifically the law enforcement agency for its preparedness and proactive role in tackling any crime situation in the state. Though, there is no dearth of offenders in society, it is necessary to keep strict vigilance over anti-social behavior in the society to avert any criminal activity. To check the rising crimes in society, strict criminal laws and a just judicial system must be established to wipe all forms of crimes in society. To check the growing threat of crimes like cybercrime, drug abuse, fraud etc., the law enforcement agencies need to remain informed with cutting-edge technology. Police need to cultivate a community-friendly attitude to encourage people to come forward and report any atrocity that encounters them as increased reports of crime is an indication of better policing.

IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE SCOPE FOR RESEARCH

This research analysis on crime trends will help in understanding the crime situation in Arunachal Pradesh, specifically in Tawang and West Kameng districts. This work will further aid the law enforcement agency of the

state to understand the nature of heinous crimes in the state as well as its readiness to plan future courses of action to combat the crime problem of the state.

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