

Bursting at the seams



The prison establishment is characterised by overcrowding, uneven utilisation of annual budgets by States, and a shortage of prison staff at various levels.
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Prison data for the year ended 2014 from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that the overall occupancy rate in jails continues to remain high, above 100. The occupancy rate, which is defined as the number of inmates staying in jails against the authorised capacity for 100 inmates, was at 117.4 and lower than the previous year's 118.4, indicating that the overcrowding has eased slightly. The occupancy rate was much higher at 129.2 in 2008 but had reduced to 112.1 in 2011 before climbing again. The rate exceeded 100 only in central jails (121.1) and district jails (132.7) for the year under review.

The total budget for prison expenses for all States remained underutilised by about 11 per cent during the 2014-15 fiscal year, with the expenditure at Rs.3,600.80 crore compared with the budgeted amount of Rs.4,036.87 crore. The worst performer was Odisha, which used only 54.95 per cent of its allocated budget, followed by Goa (60.98), Telangana (66.25), and Bihar (69.86). The north-eastern States were the best performers, making full or near-optimum use of their funds. The southern States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

also fared well. Himachal Pradesh alone overshot its annual budget, spending Rs.27.32 crore against the budgeted Rs.26.30 crore.

The NCRB data for 2014 showed that a total of 1,702 prisoners died in jails. Of them, 195 died of unnatural causes, which include suicide, murder by inmates, assault by outside elements, firing, negligence/excess by jail personnel and others. Odisha recorded the highest incidence of unnatural deaths at 44, followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana, each recording incidence in double digits.

The most overcrowded State was Chhattisgarh, with an extremely high rate of 258.9, followed by Uttar Pradesh (167.1), Punjab (139.2), and Madhya Pradesh (133.7). Tamil Nadu had the lowest occupancy rate among key States (71.5). Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Bihar, and Telangana recorded rates below 90.

Uttar Pradesh continued to hold the top spot for the number of undertrials, followed by Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab. Most key States recorded a rise in the number, with the exception of Punjab, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

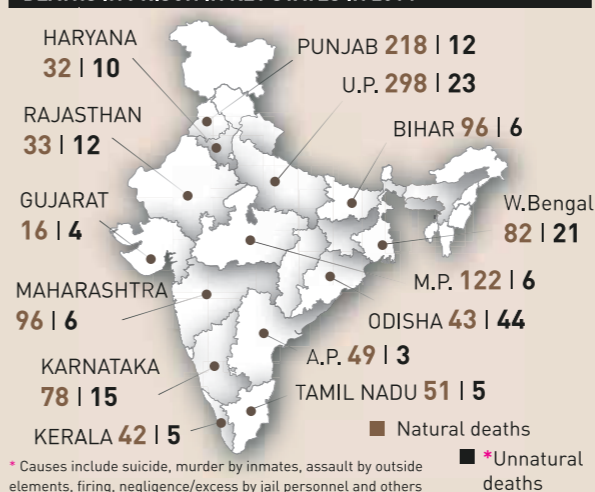
DISTRIBUTION OF UNDERTRIALS (TOP STATES)

	UNDERTRIALS	
	2013	2014
Uttar Pradesh	58,100	62,515
Bihar	26,609	26,800
Maharashtra	19,331	19,895
Madhya Pradesh	17,568	19,188
Punjab	18,506	15,467
West Bengal	16,471	14,050
Jharkhand	14,048	13,790
Odisha	10,965	11,553
Haryana	10,623	11,124
Delhi	10,154	10,171
Rajasthan	13,246	14,608

STATE EXPENDITURE ON INMATES IN 2014-15 (IN RS.CRORE)

	Total	Per inmate (in Rs.)
Uttar Pradesh	154.38	17,500.2
Bihar	179.97	57,507.4
Delhi	117.99	85,193.3
Madhya Pradesh	98.45	27,022.2
West Bengal	70.06	34,910.4
Maharashtra	63.13	22,654.7
Jharkhand	59.33	33,545.5
Haryana	59.93	32,148.5
Chhattisgarh	49.55	29,987.3
Telangana	48.97	81,550.7
Punjab	47.32	18,196.7
Odisha	41.41	27,908.3
Tamil Nadu	38.84	24,470.0
Karnataka	33.83	23,792.6
Andhra Pradesh	30.19	37,917.5
Rajasthan	29.99	14,732.7
Assam	23.42	28,063.1
Gujarat	22.44	18,783.3
Kerala	24.41	34,496.7
Minor States		
Jammu & Kashmir	9.72	42,556.6
Uttarakhand	7.44	18,370.8
Himachal Pradesh	4.14	19,531.0
Nagaland	3.36	75,885.7
Mizoram	2.89	27,419.4
Manipur	2.18	33,873.6
Tripura	2.09	23,035.2
Meghalaya	1.36	16,751.7
Sikkim	1.03	9,272.3
Arunachal Pradesh	0.91	71,878.0
Goa	0.73	13,997

DEATHS IN PRISON IN KEY STATES IN 2014



OCCUPANCY RATE IN KEY STATES (2014)

STATES	CAPACITY	POPULATION	OCCUPANCY RATE 2014	OCCUPANCY RATE 2013
All States	3,47,359	4,02,623	115.9	117.0

OVERCROWDED STATES

STATES	CAPACITY	POPULATION	OCCUPANCY RATE 2014	OCCUPANCY RATE 2013
Chhattisgarh	6,382	16,525	258.9	261.0
U.P.	52,780	88,221	167.1	172.0
Punjab	18,679	26,007	139.2	147.3
M.P.	27,247	36,433	133.7	128.7
Uttarakhand	3,188	4,055	127.2	107.9
Jharkhand	14,363	17,688	123.1	127.9
Himachal	1,732	2,120	122.4	118.1
Rajasthan	17,191	20,359	118.4	116.1
Kerala	6,190	7,078	114.3	119.5
Haryana	16,647	18,642	112.0	104.0
Maharashtra	25,181	27,868	110.7	111.6
Karnataka	13,381	14,221	106.3	107.8
Assam	8,192	8,346	101.9	101.9

UNDERCROWDED STATES

STATES	CAPACITY	POPULATION	OCCUPANCY RATE 2014	OCCUPANCY RATE 2013
Gujarat	12,332	11,948	96.9	98.3
West Bengal	20,916	20,069	96.0	110.7
A.P.	8,405	7,964	94.8	95.5
Telangana	6,848	6,005	87.7	-
Bihar	37,205	31,295	84.1	87.6
Odisha	18,012	14,840	82.4	80.4
J&K	3,011	2,284	75.9	78.1
Tamil Nadu	22,201	15,874	71.5	66.6

Categories of inmates (2014)

TYPE OF JAIL	CONVICTS	UNDERTRIALS	DETENUES	OTHERS	TOTAL
Central jail	85,348	95,519	2,760	759	1,84,386
District jail	36,144	1,43,138	331	82	1,79,695
Sub-jail	3,203	37,507	22	43	40,775
Women's jail	1,302	1,646	52	1	3,001
Borstal school	104	723	19	17	863
Open jail	3,786	13	-	-	3,799
Special jail	1,553	4,225	53	0.9	5,832
Others	77	108	-	-	185
Total	1,31,517	2,82,879	3,237	903	4,18,536

STRENGTH OF JAIL OFFICERS AND STAFF IN KEY STATES 2014

