Rising Trend of Juvenile Involvement in Violent Crimes in India

Adolescence and Rising Juvenile Violence

The British miniseries *Adolescence* follows a 13-year-old boy, Jamie, who murders his classmate, Katie. While critically acclaimed for its direction and storytelling, the series is more significant for initiating a global dialogue on adolescent mental health, cyberbullying, misogyny, and juvenile violence.

Key Social Issues Highlighted

- **Cyberbullying and Online Misogyny**: The series reflects the dangerous influence of digital spaces on young minds.
- **Incel Subculture**: Addresses the rise of misogynistic ideologies online that affect adolescent boys.
- **Behavioural Shifts in Adolescents**: Examines the complex emotional and psychological environments teenagers now navigate.

Juvenile Violent Crime: A Global Pattern

- Violent crimes by juveniles are increasing worldwide, including in the UK and India.
- **UK Trends (2016–2020)**: The share of juveniles apprehended for violent crimes rose from **50% to 57%**.
- **Types of Violent Crimes**: Include rape, murder, bodily harm, robbery, arson, and dacoity. Non-violent crimes like theft, forgery, and fraud are excluded from this analysis.

Indian Context and Recent Incidents

- **Hubli (Karnataka)**: A 13-year-old stabbed his 15-year-old friend after an argument.
- **Chennai (Tamil Nadu)**: Seven minors were arrested for the gang-rape of a 13-year-old girl.
- **Overall Decline in Juvenile Crime**: Total juvenile cases dropped from **37,402 (2017)** to **33,261 (2022)**.
- **Rising Share of Violent Offences**: From **32.5% (2016)** to **49.5% (2022)**.

State-Wise Distribution of Juvenile Violent Crimes

- **Highest Incidence**: Madhya Pradesh (21.8%), followed by Maharashtra (18%).
- **Others Notable States**: Rajasthan (9.6%), Chhattisgarh (8.4%), Tamil Nadu (5.8%), and Delhi (6.8%).
- **High Proportion States**: Jharkhand (67%), Tripura, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh all with over 60% of juvenile crimes being violent.
- **Exception**: Odisha reports only 10% violent juvenile crimes despite being in the same region.

Way Ahead

- **Strengthen Preventive Measures**: Early intervention through schools, community programs, and mental health awareness.
- **Regulate Digital Exposure**: Enforce stricter cyber-monitoring to curb harmful online influences.
- **Strengthen Juvenile Justice Systems**: Improve rehabilitation over punishment and ensure fast-track handling of violent crimes.

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- **Improve Data Collection**: More nuanced, timely data will help identify hotspots and trends for better policymaking.
- **Enhance Parental and Community Role**: Inculcating empathy, discipline, and emotional coping mechanisms in adolescents.

<mark>Conclusion</mark>

The rise in violent crimes among juveniles, as highlighted both in fiction (*Adolescence*) and reality, reflects deep-rooted psychological, social, and systemic issues. India, like many nations, must urgently address the complex challenges of adolescence in a digital age through a balanced mix of awareness, policy reform, and community engagement.

Chart 1: The % of juveniles apprehended for violent crimes out of all the juveniles apprehended **in select nations** (2016-2020)
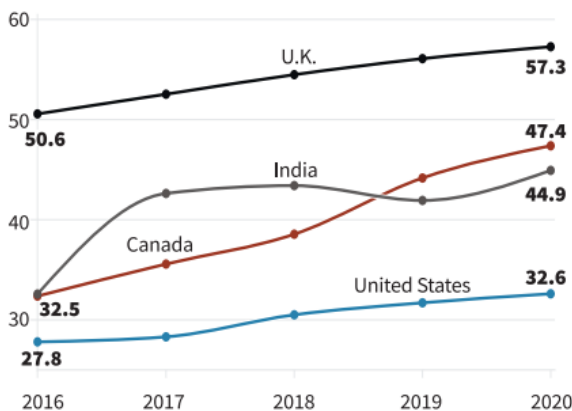

Chart 2: The % of juveniles apprehended for violent offences out of all the juveniles apprehended **in India** (2016-2022)
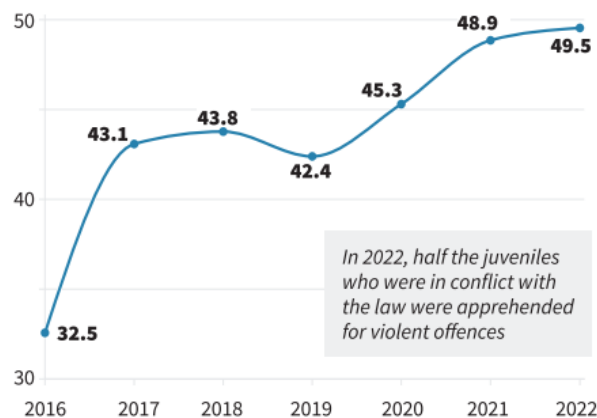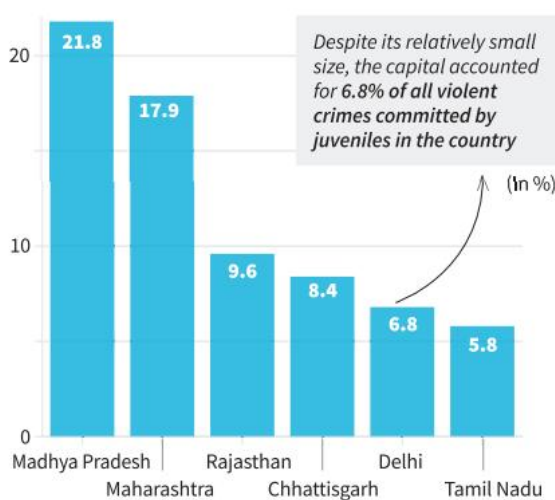

In 2022, half the juveniles who were in conflict with the law were apprehended for violent offences

Chart 3: State-wise breakdown of violent crimes committed by juveniles in India (2017-2022). Only top States are depicted

Despite its relatively small size, the capital accounted for 6.8% of all violent crimes committed by juveniles in the country

A State-wise breakdown of violent crimes committed by juveniles in India shows that Madhya Pradesh accounted for 21.8% of all such cases, followed by Maharashtra with 18%

Map 4: The proportion of violent crimes among all juvenile offences within each State (2017-2022)

The darker the colour, the higher the proportion of violent crimes among all juvenile offences in the State

Jharkhand: **67.1%** | Rajasthan 52.3% | M.P. 60.6% | Maharashtra 49.4% | Odisha: **10%**