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NEWS

## Praja Foundation Annual Report, 2021: '98% cases of violent crime are awaiting trial' NDTV News

### HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP

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In the six years between 2016 and 2021, cases were completed (convictions/disposals) and, on average, only 2,401 cases of Class II were serious in Mumbai, according to the annual report of the Praja Foundation, 'State of Policing and Law and Order in Mumbai, 2022', released on Tuesday. The report says that in this race, it will take another 34 years to give judgment in all cases awaiting trial as of 2021.

This report is based on information obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act and data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Class II offenses include murder, attempted murder, crimes against women and convictions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, among others.

## HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP

<p><b>96%</b> of cases of crime against women (27,520 cases), children (8,949 cases) and POCSO (4,889 cases) are pending for trial as of 2021.</p> <p><b>TILL 2021</b>, about 60% POCSO trials took 1 to 5 years to be completed and 40% took 1 to 3 years to complete trials. As per POCSO Act, as far as possible, the trial must be completed within a year.</p> <p><b>IN 100 %</b> rapes of minor girls, accused were known to them in 2021. 54% rapes</p>	<p>of minors were on pretext of marriage.</p> <p><b>IN 2021</b>, Members of the Legislative Assembly asked six questions on crime against children and 14 on crimes against women and nine on the issue of drugs.</p> <p><b>APART FROM</b> Class II offences, the overall crime cases pending trials at the end of 2021 stand at 2.73 lakh cases and conviction rate in 2021 was 48%. Another 1.07 lakh cases are pending for police investigation.</p>
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As of 2021, a total of 82,108 Class II felonies, or 98% of the total cases, were awaiting trial. Only 1,240 cases were completed and 485 cases were withdrawn, transferred, suspended or cancelled. Of the 1,240 cases where testing was completed, 86% ended in acquittal or dismissal. Although the

number of convictions is only 14%, the conviction rate for crimes such as murder is better at 45%, rape at 24%, abuse at 21% and kidnapping/kidnapping at 20%.

Also, the report on serious crimes of class II states that 25,841 more cases are pending in the police investigation, including 16,713 from the previous year. This means that 68% of pending cases have increased by 8%, compared to 2017 when it was 60%. "This year (2022), we have removed the pendency to a large extent," Vishwas Nangre Patil, in charge of police, law and order, told The Indian Express.

Apart from backlogs in court, pendency due to police investigation can also be attributed to the vacancy in the Mumbai Police. Maharashtra police sources said that the authorization for all the forces was increased for the last time between 2007 and 2012.

"Vacancy in the Mumbai Police increased from 22% in 2018 to 28% in 2022. The vacancy in the ranks of the investigating police is also worrying. It is 24% for the post of Inspector of Police and 13% for Deputy Inspector of Police. Lack of human resources affects the duration and quality of research," said Milind Mhaske, CEO of Praja Foundation.

Link: <https://ndnewstv.com/praja-foundation-annual-report-2021-98-cases-of-violent-crime-are-awaiting-trial-ndtv-news/>