



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



27th November, 2023

53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

www.tathastuics.com

9560300770, 9560300554

enquiry@tathastuics.com



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	FEMICIDES AT A TWENTY-YEAR PEAK ACROSS GLOBE
2.	ALL-INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

FEMICIDES AT A TWENTY-YEAR PEAK ACROSS GLOBE

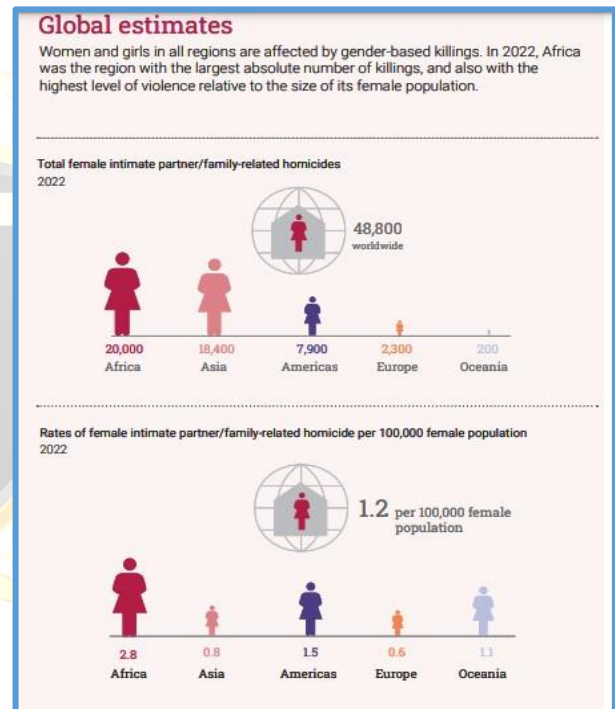
SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#), [UNODC](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

The release of a comprehensive study by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** and **UN Women** has provided detailed insights into the alarming rise in **gender-related killings**. The study sheds light on the gravity of the situation and the **need for urgent intervention**. The **staggering figure of 88,900 women and girls intentionally killed in 2022** marks the **highest in the past 20 years**. In India, **dowry-related reasons** continue to be the **leading cause of femicide**.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE RECENT REPORT:

- **High Female Homicide Numbers (2022):**
 - ✓ Nearly **89,000 women and girls intentionally killed** in 2022.
 - ✓ **Highest yearly number** in the past two decades.
- **Gender-Motivated Killings:**
 - ✓ Majority of women and girls killed for **gender-related reasons**.
 - ✓ **In 2022, 48,800 killed by intimate partners or family members.**
- **Daily Average:**
 - ✓ **Over 133 women or girls killed every day** by family members (2022).
- **Disproportionate Impact:**
 - ✓ **Despite men being 80% of homicide victims**, women face higher risks in the home.
 - ✓ **Women represent 53% of all home killings** and 66% of intimate partner killings.
- **Regional Disparities (2022):**
 - ✓ **Africa surpassed Asia in female homicide numbers.**
 - ✓ Africa had the highest number of victims relative to its **female population (2.8 per 100,000 women)**.
- **Diverging Trends in the Americas (2017-2022):**
 - ✓ Central and South America saw declines.
 - ✓ **Northern America had a 29% increase.**
 - ✓ **Caribbean recorded an 8% increase.**
- **Limited Data in Africa and Asia:**
 - ✓ Limited data makes trends unclear in Africa and Asia.
 - ✓ Some Asian countries show potential femicide risk decrease.
- **Global Data Improvement:**
 - ✓ Increasing global data availability on gender-related killings.





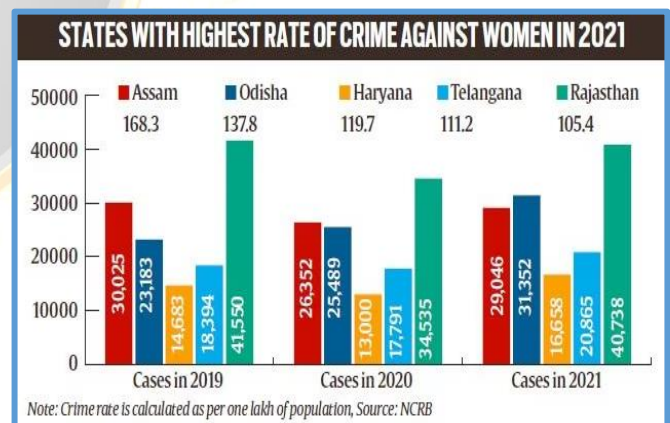
- ✓ **74 countries (2009-2015) to 99 countries (2016-2022)** reported **female intimate partner/family-related homicide data**.
- ✓ UN supports the implementation of the Statistical Framework for gender-related killing measurement.

THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC): A BRIEF OVERVIEW

- **Establishment and Headquarters:**
 - ✓ **Established:** In 1997, UNODC is a key global entity in combating illicit drugs, international crime, and addressing terrorism.
 - ✓ **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria.
- **Mission and Focus Areas:**
 - ✓ **Mission:** Leads the UN program on terrorism and addresses issues related to illicit drugs and international crime.
 - ✓ **Educational Initiatives:** Works globally to educate people about the dangers of drug abuse.
 - ✓ **Action Against Illicit Drugs:** Strengthens international efforts against illicit drug production, trafficking, and related crime.
 - ✓ **Initiatives:** Launches initiatives, including alternatives to illicit drug cultivation and projects against money laundering.
- **Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform:**
 - ✓ **Objective:** Improves crime prevention strategies and supports criminal justice reform.
 - ✓ **Rule of Law:** Aims to strengthen the rule of law globally.
 - ✓ **Transnational Organized Crime:** Addresses the threats of transnational organized crime and corruption.

RECENT CASE AND REPORT ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA: [NCRB REPORT](#)

- **Reported Crimes in 2021:**
 - ✓ **Total Female Adult Victims:** 7739 murdered.
 - ✓ **Including Children:** 8405 female victims.
 - ✓ **Surge in Crime Cases:** **428,278 cases registered in 2021**, compared to 405,326 (2019) and 371,503 (2020).
- **Specific Crime Categories (2021):**
 - ✓ Murder with Rape/Gang Rape: 284 cases.
 - ✓ Dowry Deaths: 6753 cases.
 - ✓ Abetment to Suicide of Women: 5292 cases.
 - ✓ Cruelty by Husband or Relatives: 136,234 cases.
 - ✓ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act: 507 cases.



Factors Contributing to Gender-Based Violence in India:

- **Gender Inequality:**
 - ✓ **Issue:** Persistent **gender disparities** contribute to violence against women.
 - ✓ **Impact:** Unequal treatment fosters an **environment conducive to abuse**.
- **Patriarchal Norms and Values:**
 - ✓ **Challenge:** **Deep-rooted patriarchal norms** perpetuate power imbalances.
 - ✓ **Effect:** **Hierarchical structures** normalize control and domination.



- Lack of Resources and Support Services:
 - ✓ **Concern:** Limited access to resources and support for survivors.
 - ✓ **Consequence:** Women face challenges in seeking help and escaping abusive situations.
- Research on Intimate Partner Homicide:
 - ✓ **Insight:** Extensive studies establish a connection between intimate partner relationships and violence.
 - ✓ **Finding:** Women more susceptible to being killed by their intimate partners.
- World Health Organization's Study:
 - ✓ **Study Focus:** Multi-country analysis on women's health and domestic violence.
 - ✓ **Major Insight:** Intimate partner homicide is a prevalent cause of female homicides globally.
- UNODC Global Study 2023: India's Situation
 - ✓ **Indian Scenario:** While there has been a slight decline in gender-based killings in India over the past decade, issues like dowry-related violence persist.
 - ✓ **Leading Causes in India:** Dowry consistently remains the leading cause of gender-related deaths in India, with honour killings and murders related to witchcraft accusations forming a smaller share.

HOW THEY HAVE TO BEAR THE BRUNT

FOR ALL INDIA
NGO'S FINDINGS
Total number of women screened in 2016 | 1.28 lakh
 ➤ Of these, approximately 28% needed counselling for gender-based violence

Physical violence
 | It ranges from slapping to choking, restraining a woman to prevent her from seeking help, etc

Sexual violence
 | Rape, trafficking, virginity testing, etc

Psychological
 | Threat of violence, humiliation, etc

Economic violence
 | Prohibiting a woman from working, excluding her from financial decision etc

Total number of women screened in 2017 | 1.53 lakh
 ➤ Approximately 23% got counselling for gender-based violence

Total number of women screened in 2018 (till Sept) | 1.34 lakh
 Approximately 29% of them got counselling

IN MUMBAI
Total number of women screened in 2016 | 9,036
 ➤ 2,531 needed counselling for violence

Total number of women screened in 2017 | 11,721
 ➤ 2,696 needed counselling for violence

Total number of women screened in 2018 (till Sept) | 5,312
 ➤ 1,540 needed counselling

IN MAHARASHTRA
 ➤ National Family Health Survey or NFHS 4 found 21.4% (26.2% women in rural areas & 16.4 in urban) women experienced spousal violence
 ➤ In NFHS 3 it was 30.7%

(Source: UNFPA)

CHALLENGES IN INDIA:

- Data Inadequacy in India:
 - ✓ Disturbing lack of femicide-specific recording in India's crime data.
 - ✓ Limited understanding of gendered violence and its manifestations.
- Underreported Violence:
 - ✓ Various forms of violence against women within families go unnoticed.
 - ✓ Domestic abuse cases often treated as non-cognizable offenses.
- Clear Definitions Needed:
 - ✓ Lack of clarity on femicide definition in India and globally.
 - ✓ Various forms, including honour crimes, dowry murders, and discrimination-related deaths.
- Data Discrepancies:
 - ✓ Lack of consistency in India's National Crime Records Bureau's data collection.
 - ✓ Difficulty in comparing data over years, hindering comprehensive understanding.
- Misclassification of Cases:
 - ✓ Female homicides often recorded as regular homicides, impacting accurate reporting.
 - ✓ Failure to identify motives and circumstances behind women's deaths.
- Implications for Policy Changes:
 - ✓ Lack of accurate data hinders advocacy for policy changes.
 - ✓ Difficulty in comprehending the extent of gender-based violence.





GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INITIATIVES FOR THE SAFETY OF WOMEN:

Government Initiatives for Women's Safety	Details
Nirbhaya Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Objective: Dedicated fund for women's safety and security projects.✓ Execution: Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal authority for appraising/recommending proposals/schemes under Nirbhaya Fund.
Investigation Tracking System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Tool Launch: "Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences" launched by MHA.✓ Purpose: Monitor and track time-bound investigations in sexual assault cases.✓ Law Support: Aligned with provisions of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018.
National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Launch: NDSO inaugurated to facilitate nationwide tracking of sexual offenders.✓ Scope: Database contains records of over 5 lakh sexual offenders.
Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Activation: Operationalized in 20 States/UTs.✓ Key Feature: Single emergency number (112) for computer-aided dispatch to distressed locations.
Cyber Crime Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Portal Launch: Cyber-crime reporting portal introduced.✓ Capacity Building: Cyber Crime Forensic Labs established, training imparted to personnel in cyber-crime resolution.
One Stop Centres and Women Helpline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Schemes Introduced: One Stop Centres and Universalisation of Women Helpline.✓ Objective: Provide integrated support, assistance, and emergency response to women affected by violence.
Mahila Police Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Engagement Initiative: Mahila Police Volunteers act as intermediaries between police and the community.✓ Facilitation: Supports women in distress and strengthens community-police collaboration.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Need for Accountability:**
 - ✓ **Government's Role:**
 - Urgent need for **standardizing methods to identify** and count femicides.
 - Addressing **institutionalized invisibility of gendered violence.**
- **Multi-Faceted Approach:**
 - ✓ **Holistic Strategies Needed:**
 - Initiatives for education, awareness, and cultural shift.
 - Stricter laws, law enforcement, and support services crucial.
- **Promoting Gender Equality:**
 - ✓ **Challenging cultural norms** normalizing violence against women.
 - ✓ **Advocacy for gender equality and women's rights as fundamental solutions.**
- **Justice Dharmadhikari Committee-**
 - ✓ To prevent crime against women Govt. has constituted committee under the chairmanship of retired Justice Shri. Chandrashekhara Dharmadhikari.



ALL-INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE

SOURCE: [INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

Constitution Day Address: President Draupadi Murmu delivered the inaugural address at the Supreme Court's Constitution Day celebrations. Murmu emphasized the **need for diversity in the judiciary**, especially in terms of **gender and caste representation**. Identified **cost and language as significant barriers** to accessing justice for the majority of citizens. Proposed the **establishment of an all-India judicial service to recruit judges** from varied backgrounds through a merit-based, competitive, and transparent process.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ALL-INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE (AIJS):

- **Law Commission's 14th Report (1958):**
 - ✓ The concept of AIJS was initially introduced in the 14th report of the Law Commission in 1958.
- **Centralized Recruitment for District Judges:**
 - ✓ AIJS proposed a system where the recruitment of district judges would be conducted centrally through an all-India examination.
- **State Allocation:**
 - ✓ Selected candidates would be allocated to states based on the AIJS model, resembling the structure of All-India Civil Services.
- **Aim of AIJS Creation:**
 - ✓ The primary objective was to eliminate the involvement of the judiciary and executive in the appointment of judicial officers, ensuring a more independent and transparent selection process.
- **Constitutional Amendments and Law Commission's Recommendations:**
 - ✓ **Amendment to Article 312:** The Constitution was amended under Article 312 to accommodate the creation of AIJS, reflecting the significance and seriousness of the proposal.
 - ✓ **Law Commission's Support:** The Law Commission, in alignment with the need for AIJS, recommended its establishment to enhance the efficiency and independence of the judicial system.



ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF AIJS:

- **Judicial Vacancies:**
 - ✓ Law Commission reports, including the 1987 report, emphasized the need for an increased judge-to-population ratio (50 judges per million) compared to the existing ratio (20 judges per million).
 - ✓ The surge in pending cases, especially post-COVID-19, underlines the demand for swift and routine filling of judicial vacancies.
- **Reduction in Pendency:**
 - ✓ Timely filling of vacancies through AIJS is seen as a solution to the issue of pending cases, contributing to a more expedited judiciary.
- **Addressing Vacancies:**
 - ✓ AIJS could help address the significant number of vacancies, approximately 5,000, across the country, leading to a more robust judiciary.

CASES PENDING IN HIGH COURTS		ALL INDIA: 59,57,454	
High Court	Pending cases*	High Court	Pending cases*
Allahabad	10,26,417	Telangana	2,58,932
Rajasthan	6,05,215	Patna	2,20,403
Bombay	5,92,583	Andhra Pradesh	2,35,482
Madras	5,63,595	Calcutta	2,15,859
Punjab & Haryana	4,50,527	Odisha	1,85,567
Madhya Pradesh	4,17,003	Gujarat	1,58,512
Karnataka	2,96,965	Delhi	1,05,814

*As of July 22, 2022



- **Transparency and Efficiency:**
 - ✓ The establishment of AIJS promises a **transparent and efficient recruitment process for judicial officers.**
- **Just and Fair Recruitment:**
 - ✓ A competitive recruitment process under AIJS is **expected to ensure a just and fair selection of the best talents across the nation.**
- **Combating Malpractices:**
 - ✓ AIJS is seen as a means to **curb malpractices such as corruption and nepotism** in the recruitment process.
- **Restoring Public Faith:**
 - ✓ A transparent recruitment system is **believed to restore public faith in the judiciary of the country.**
- **Merit-Based Recruitment:**
 - ✓ The **proposal for an all-India judicial service based on merit, competition, and transparency reflects a commitment** to ensuring that the judiciary comprises individuals chosen for their **capabilities and talents, fostering a more competent and effective legal system.**
- **Social Empowerment:**
 - ✓ The suggestion to recruit judges from **varied backgrounds and promote talent from lower levels to higher levels** is a step towards **empowering individuals from less-represented social groups, contributing to a more equitable legal landscape.**

CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS:

- **Federalism and Basic Structure Doctrine:**
 - ✓ Critics view AIJS as a **challenge to federalism and the basic structure doctrine**, considering it an encroachment on states' powers granted by the Constitution.
- **Dichotomy Between Articles 233 and 312:**
 - ✓ AIJS raises concerns about the **potential conflict between Article 233, granting states the power to appoint district judges, and Article 312, enabling the creation of All India Services.**
- **Language and Cultural Concerns:**
 - ✓ There is apprehension about **outsiders lacking familiarity with local customs and languages, potentially affecting the quality of judicial decisions, especially in culturally sensitive cases.**
- **Non-Uniform Vacancies:**
 - ✓ The **non-uniform distribution of vacancies across states, with most at the subordinate level, raises questions about the effectiveness of AIJS, which primarily focuses on district judge recruitment.**
- **Commercialization of Education:**
 - ✓ The potential proliferation of **coaching institutes could lead to the commercialization of legal education.**
- **Impact on State Quotas:**
 - ✓ **Communities benefiting from state quotas may lose reservation opportunities** under the central government after the implementation of AIJS.
- **Recent Discussions and Challenges:**
 - ✓ **Ministerial Meetings (2017):** Points like **eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, and reservations for AIJS were discussed in meetings** chaired by the **Minister of Law and Justice.**
 - ✓ **Parliamentary Consultative Committee (2017) and Committee on SCs/STs (2021):** AIJS was deliberated in parliamentary meetings, **indicating ongoing consideration.**
 - ✓ **Lack of Consensus (Current Status):** The existing **divergence of opinions among major stakeholders** has prevented a consensus on the establishment of AIJS.



WAY FORWARD FOR AIJS:

- **Systemic Reforms:**
 - ✓ States should focus on cleaning up systemic issues within their respective judicial systems, addressing concerns related to delegated authorities, uniform exam conduct, and providing grievance redressal mechanisms.
- **Transparency and Accountability:**
 - ✓ Implementing transparent and accountable recruitment mechanisms, restructuring delegated authorities, and ensuring uniformity in examination conduct can restore faith in the lower judiciary.
- **Localized AIJS Entrance Exams:**
 - ✓ Address language and cultural concerns by conducting AIJS entrance exams at zonal levels, allowing judges to be posted closer to their places of origin.
- **Focus on State-specific Solutions:**
 - ✓ Instead of relying on a centralized solution, states should identify and address their unique challenges in judicial recruitment to improve efficiency.
- **Reconsideration of Centralization:**
 - ✓ Reconsider the centralization of services, taking into account the recurring vacancies in various central services like IAS, IPS, and armed forces.
- **Evidence-Based Approach:**
 - ✓ Instead of relying on unproven solutions, base decisions on an evidence-based approach that considers the specific challenges faced by the lower judicial system.
- **Collaboration and Dialogue:**
 - ✓ Foster collaboration and open dialogue between the central government, state governments, and High Courts to collectively work towards enhancing the efficiency of the judiciary.



PRELIMS POINTERS:

TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
CASHEW EXPORT	<p>WHY IN NEWS? APEDA will be facilitating export of over 30 tonnes of cashew from Tamil Nadu and Kerala on World Cashew Day</p> <p>ABOUT CASHEW CROP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Introduction and Origin: The cashew crop, <u>native to Brazil in Latin America, was introduced to India by the Portuguese in the 16th century (1570).</u>❖ Climatic Conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soil and Climate: <u>Well-drained deep sandy loam soils, ranging from sandy to laterite, are ideal for cashew cultivation. It thrives in hot humid conditions, particularly in Indian coastal areas.</u>• Temperature: Suitable temperature ranges from <u>20 to 38°C.</u>• Relative Humidity: Thrives in <u>relative humidity between 60 to 95%.</u>• Rainfall: Requires annual precipitation in the range of <u>2000 to 3500 mm.</u>• Extreme Conditions: Cashew plantations are <u>not conducive to extreme low temperatures and frost.</u>❖ Cultivation Expansion: Cashew cultivation is <u>expanding to non-traditional areas, including the plains of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, and parts of the North East hill region.</u>❖ Global Position: <u>India holds the second-largest share in the world's cashew nut production and export.</u>❖ Top Export Destinations: The UAE, the Netherlands, Japan, and Saudi Arabia are among India's major export destinations for cashew nuts.
AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUS (H9N2)	<p>WHY IN NEWS? there is an outbreak of human cases of avian influenza virus (H9N2) and clusters of respiratory illness in children in northern China.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Virus Type: H9N2 is a subtype of the Influenza A virus, mainly affecting birds.➤ Transmission to Humans: Although primarily a bird flu, isolated instances of human infections have been documented.➤ The virus can jump from birds to humans, prompting concerns about its potential to trigger human influenza pandemics.➤ Geographical Distribution: H9N2 has been identified in various countries, especially in Asia and the Middle East.

CLASSIFICATION OF INFLUENZA:

- ✓ The WHO categorizes the influenza virus, responsible for illnesses, into four types: A, B, C, and D.
- ✓ Epidemic-Causing Viruses: According to the CDC, only influenza A and B viruses are capable of causing epidemics.
- ✓ Type C Virus: The C type typically induces mild respiratory illness.
- ✓ Type D Virus: This type mainly affects cattle and is not known to infect humans.
- ✓ Subtypes of Influenza A: Among the influenza A virus, only subtypes are identified, based on two surface proteins: hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N).



- **Human Health Implications:** Human infections with H9N2 typically result in mild respiratory symptoms. The worry stems from the potential for the virus to reassort with other influenza viruses, giving rise to new strains with heightened virulence or transmissibility.
- **Vaccine:** H9N2 viruses display significant antigenic diversity, posing challenges for vaccine development. Targeting multiple strains may be necessary for effective immunity.
- **Global Health Concern:** H9N2 contributes to broader concerns regarding avian influenza viruses with pandemic potential.
- **WHO's risk assessment:** Indicates a low likelihood of human-to-human transmission and a low case fatality rate among reported human H9N2 cases.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR ORGANISATION

WHY IN NEWS? India becomes Chair of International Sugar Organisation (ISO) for 2024 to lead global sugar sector

- India pays highest cane price in the World to sugarcane farmers
Despite Record high Global Sugar Prices, India ensures the Cheapest sugar to its people
India achieves 12% ethanol blending with petrol in ESY 2022-23

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR ORGANISATION (ISO):

- ✓ **Apex Global Authority:** The ISO stands as the supreme international organization overseeing sugar and its related products, boasting a membership of around 90 countries.
- ✓ **Historical Origin:** Its inception traces back to the International Sugar Agreement of 1968.
- ✓ **Headquarters:** The ISO is headquartered in London.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA:

- ✓ **Global Standing:** India holds the distinction of being the largest consumer, constituting a 15% share, and the second-largest producer, contributing to a 20% share, of sugar globally.
- ✓ **Geographical Distribution:** The sugar industry in India is geographically dispersed across two primary production zones:
 - **Northern Zone:** Encompassing Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab.
 - **Southern Zone:** Encompassing Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ **Climate Influence:** The southern regions, with a tropical climate, are conducive to higher sucrose content, resulting in greater yield per unit area compared to the northern counterparts.