

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS 1

Methodology employed for calculating outbreaks and time series representation of malaria cases in districts with more than 2 outbreaks

Malaria Outbreak: Definition and Calculations

Malaria outbreak refers to a sudden and localized increase in the number of malaria cases within a specific geographic area or population over a relatively short period. Literature suggests several methods are available for calculating a malaria outbreak, for example Hook et al suggested, 95% CI method of a collective distribution ¹; the World Health Organization has suggested three methods for estimating the outbreak threshold: the Cullen method (which uses the monthly mean and two standard deviations of past 5 years of reported cases), the quartile method (which uses the 75th percentile of past 5 years observed cases), and the C-Sum method (which uses the mean of the cumulative cases of previous, current and following months malaria incidence data of the past 5 years) ². Besides these methods, a number of other methods have also been proposed for defining the outbreak threshold with varying degrees of success, and there so no clear consensus on the most suitable method ³⁻⁶. Of the three methods to define outbreak threshold suggested by the WHO, the quartile method is the most simplistic and the C-Sum method is the most sensitive to outbreaks. However, past experiences have shown that these methods are more prone to false alarms ⁷. In contrast, the mean+2sd method has been shown to be less sensitive to minor peaks, thereby preventing overreaction in areas of stable transmission with minor seasonal fluctuations. As most parts of India experience highly seasonal malaria transmission, in this study we have used different variations of the mean+2sd method for identifying historical outbreaks from time-series malaria data of the past decade. However, it is important to note that one disadvantage of this method is that it may miss malaria epidemics in regions of very low malaria transmission. Furthermore, these methods have been tested with weekly or monthly cases of malaria, and their applicability on annual case incidence data is not known. The rapid declining trend in malaria cases in India over the past decade suggests that a short-term moving average may be more appropriate for estimating the outbreak threshold as compared to the past 5 years data that the WHO recommends. Therefore, we have used a 3-year moving average in this study for estimating the outbreak threshold. The number of standard deviations that are added to this moving average determine the sensitivity of the outbreak detection method. We qualitatively tested the addition of standard deviations ranging from 2 to 5 at 0.5 step intervals on the overall sensitivity of the outbreak detection method and found that the use of 2.5 standard deviations resulted in the least number of false positives and false negatives. Therefore, in this study a 3-year moving average with 2.5 standard deviations was used as the threshold for detecting outbreaks from historical time-series malaria data. The

detailed calculation of malaria outbreak for Balaghat district of Chhattisgarh state in India has been shown as an example in Supplementary Table 1.

Supplementary Table 1: Calculation of malaria outbreak for a district

District	Year	Cases	3 Year Moving Avg.	3 Years Moving SD	$D+2.5 \times E$	Outbreak If $C > F$
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Balaghat	2008	2966	-	-	-	-
Balaghat	2009	2707	-	-	-	-
Balaghat	2010	1620	-	-	-	-
Balaghat	2011	1979	2431.0*	714.2**	4216.5	0
Balaghat	2012	2300	2102.0#	553.8##	3486.6	0
Balaghat	2013	2594	1966.3\$	340.2\$\$	2816.8	0
Balaghat	2014	7601	2291.0	307.6	3060.0	1 (Outbreak)
Balaghat	2015	5004	4165.0	2979.3	11613.2	0
Balaghat	2016	3111	5066.3	2504.1	11326.5	0
Balaghat	2017	1407	5238.7	2254.2	10874.1	0
Balaghat	2018	324	3174.0	1799.3	7672.3	0
Balaghat	2019	156	1614.0	1405.0	5126.5	0
Balaghat	2020	2794	629.0	679.0	2326.5	1 (Outbreak)

* Average of first three observations (2966, 2707, 1620)

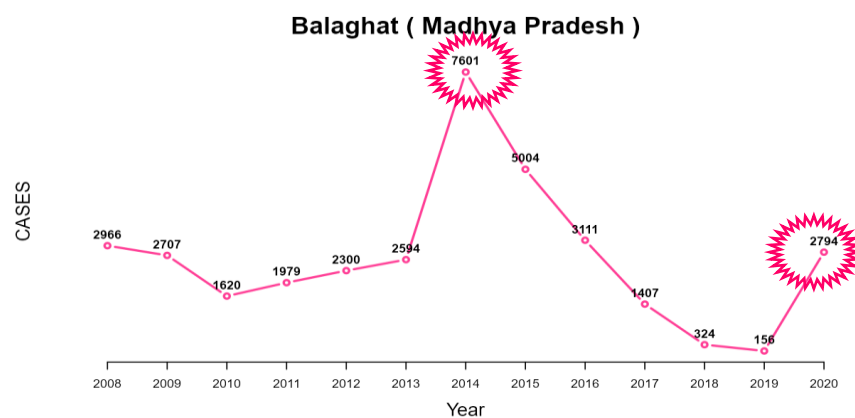
Average of next three observations excluding first one (2707, 1620, 1979)

\$ Average of next three observations excluding first one and two (1620, 1979, 2300)

** Standard deviation of first three observations (2966, 2707, 1620)

Standard deviation of next three observations excluding first one (2707, 1620, 1979)

\$\$ Standard deviation of next three observations excluding first one and two (1620, 1979, 2300)

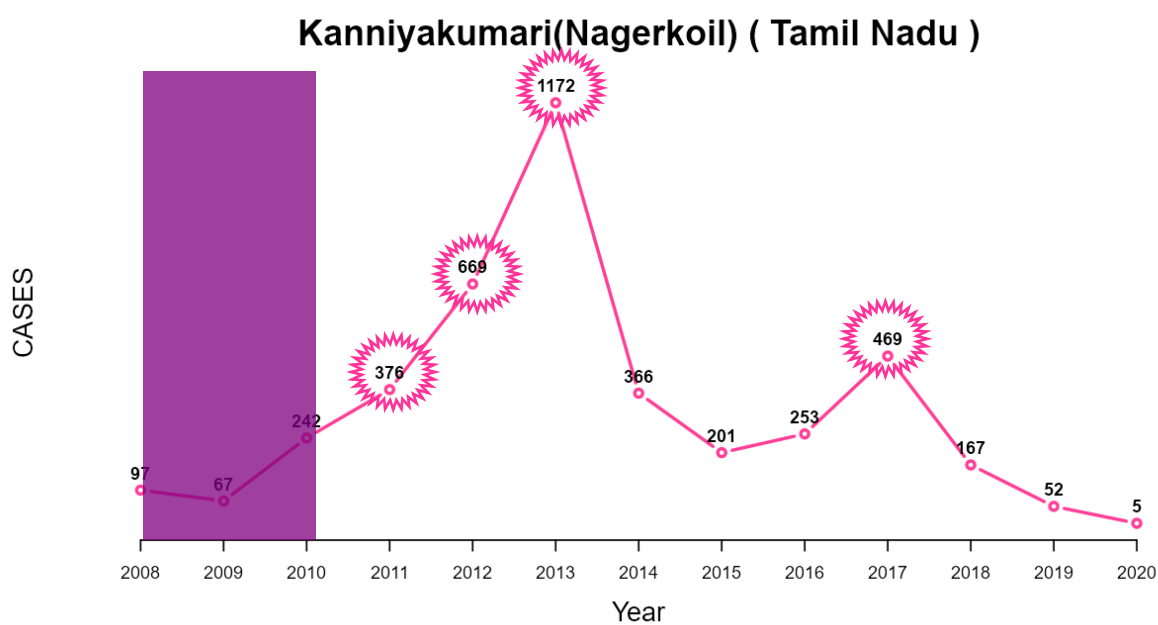


References

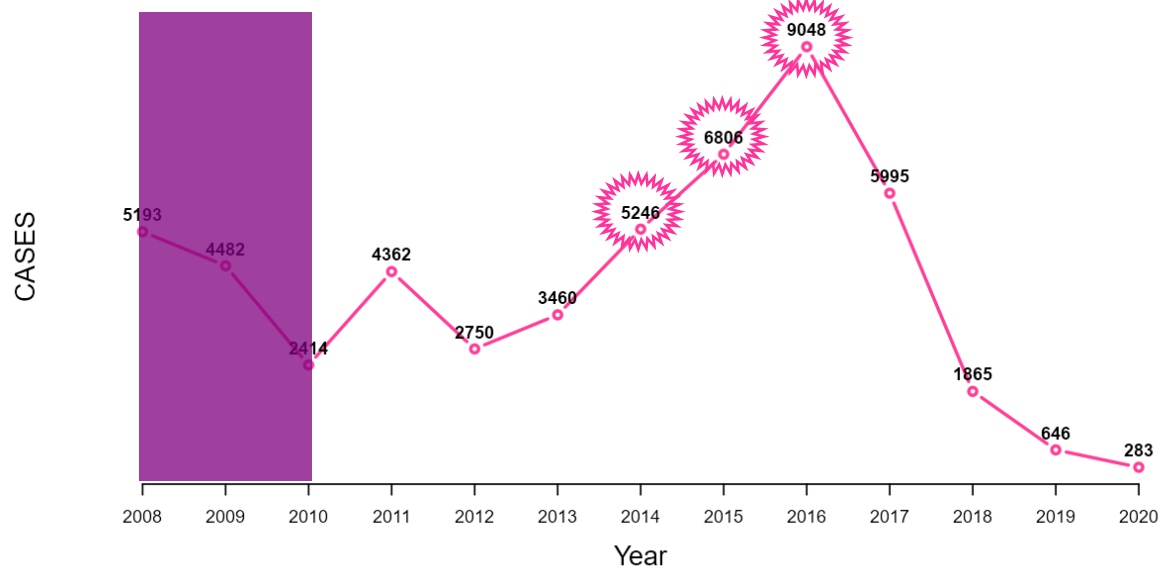
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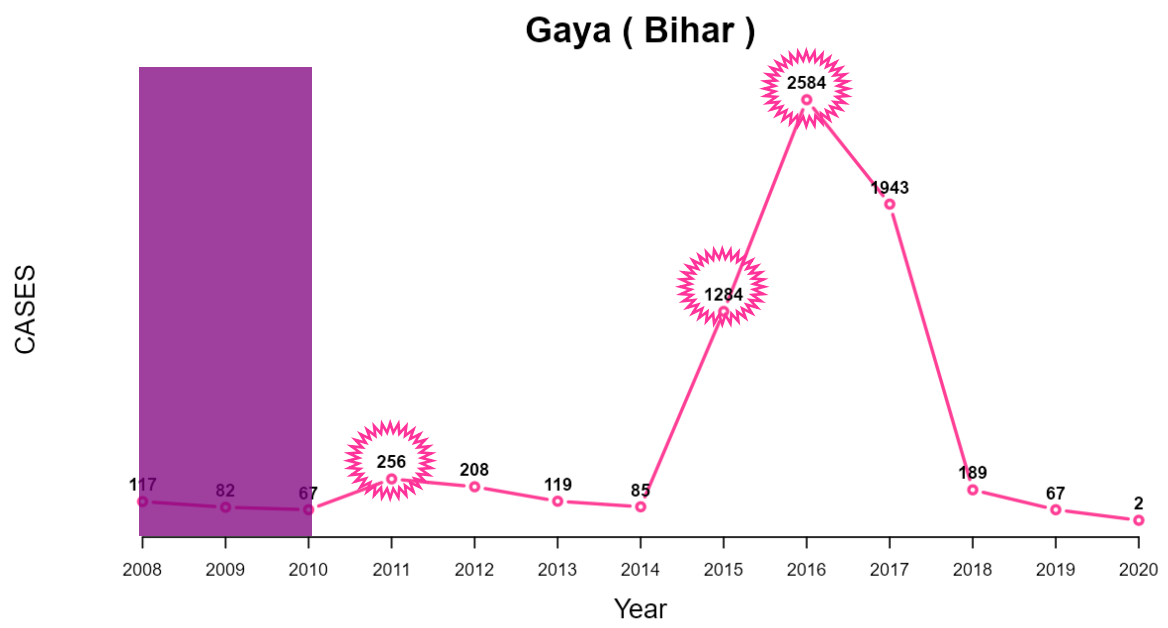
**Time series representation of
malaria cases over the span of ten years in districts
that experienced two or more Outbreaks**

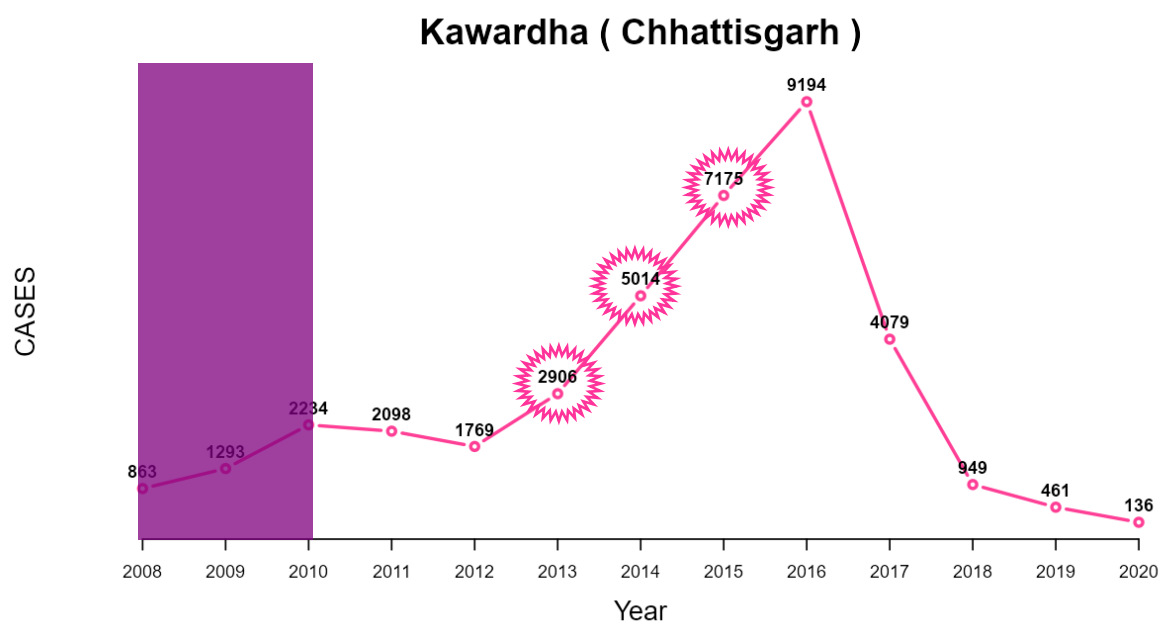
Districts (State)

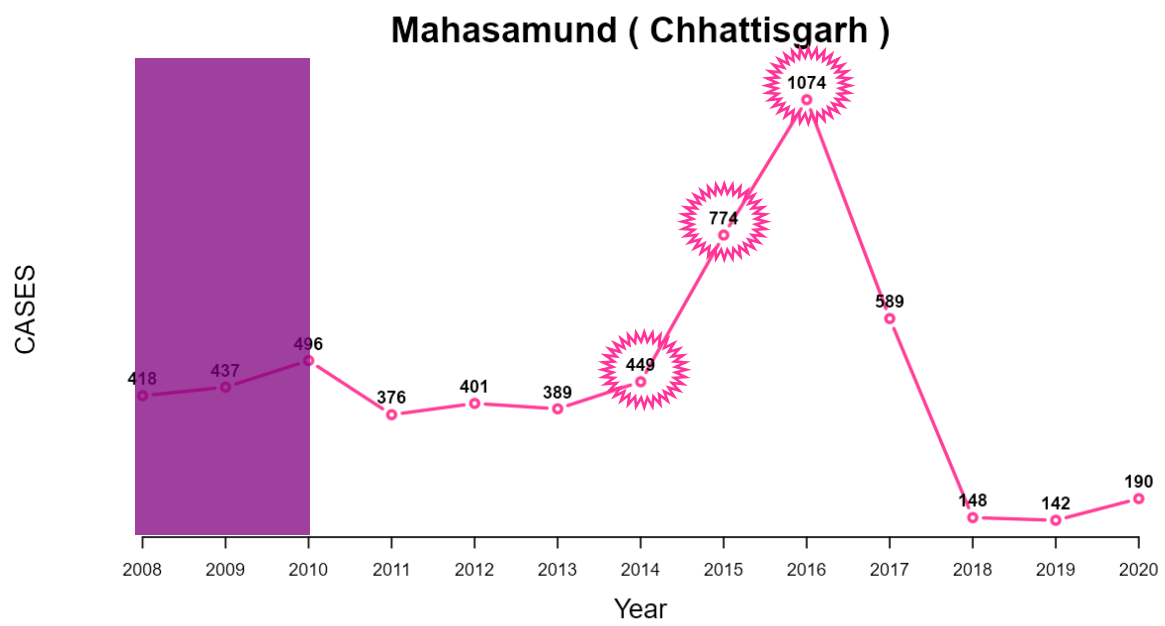


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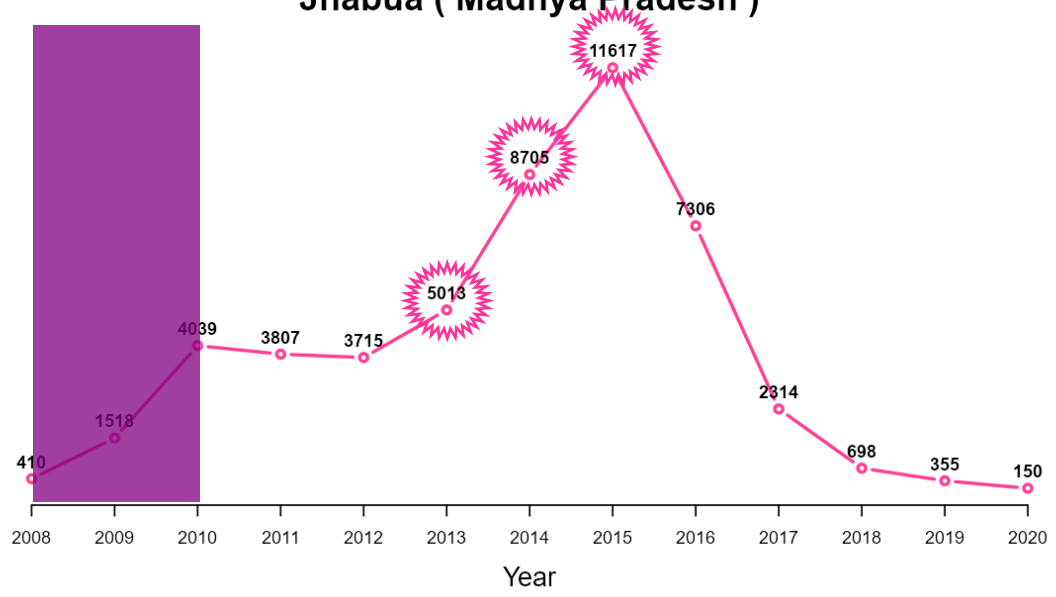


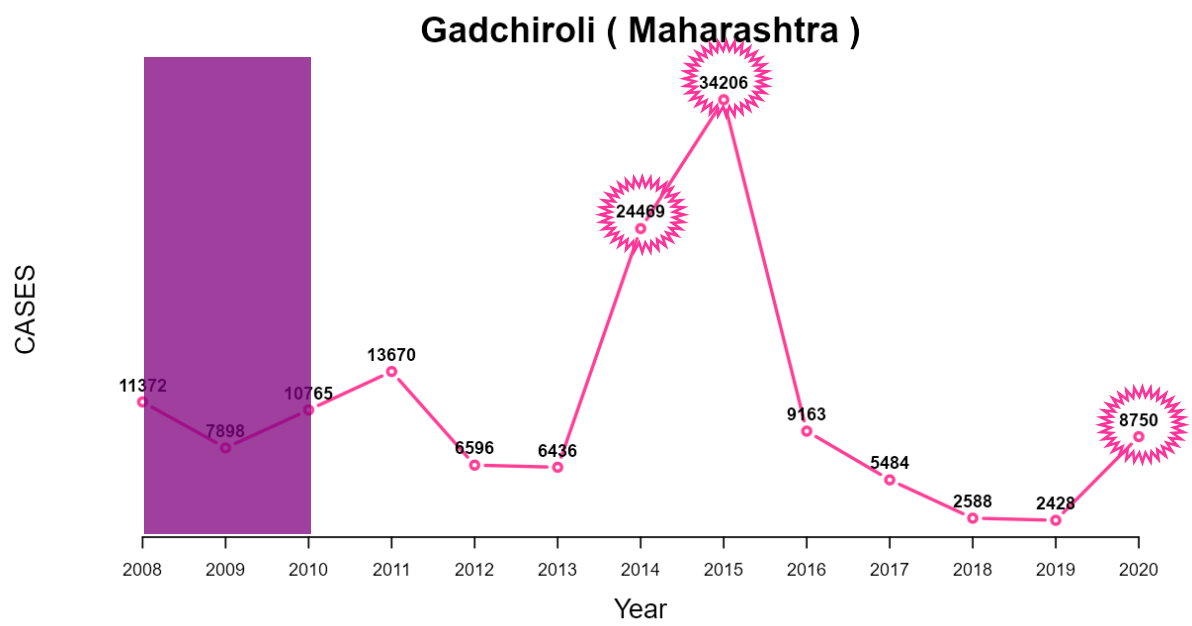




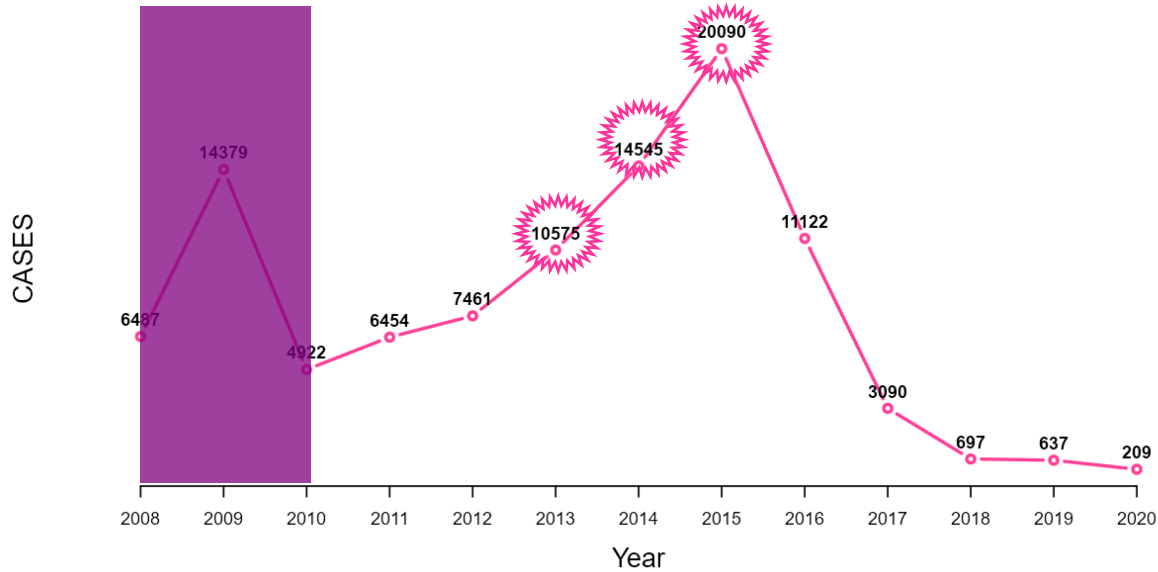
Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh)

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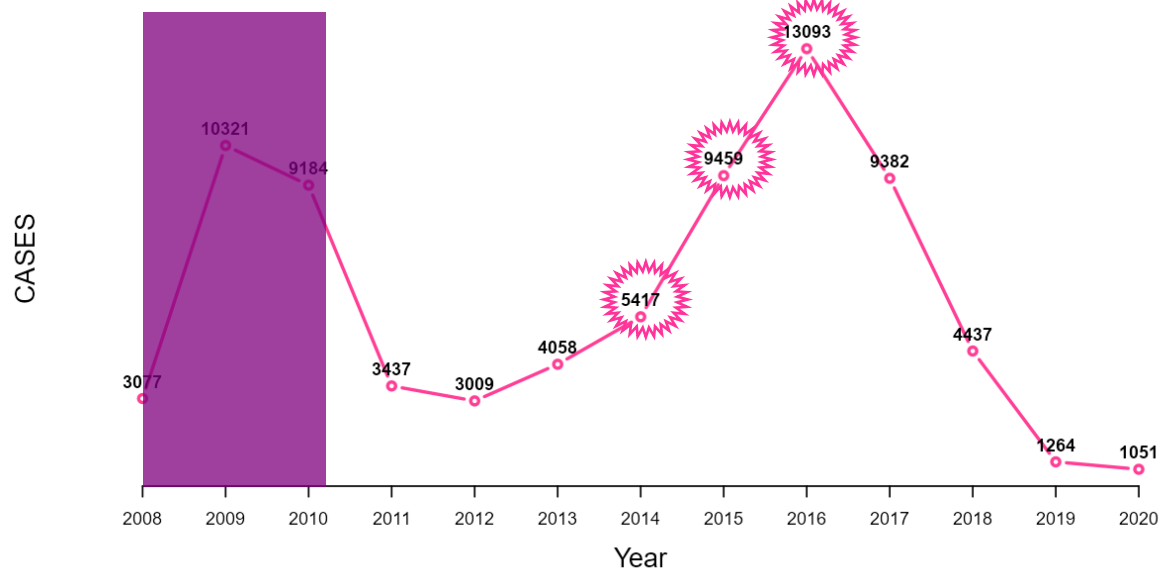


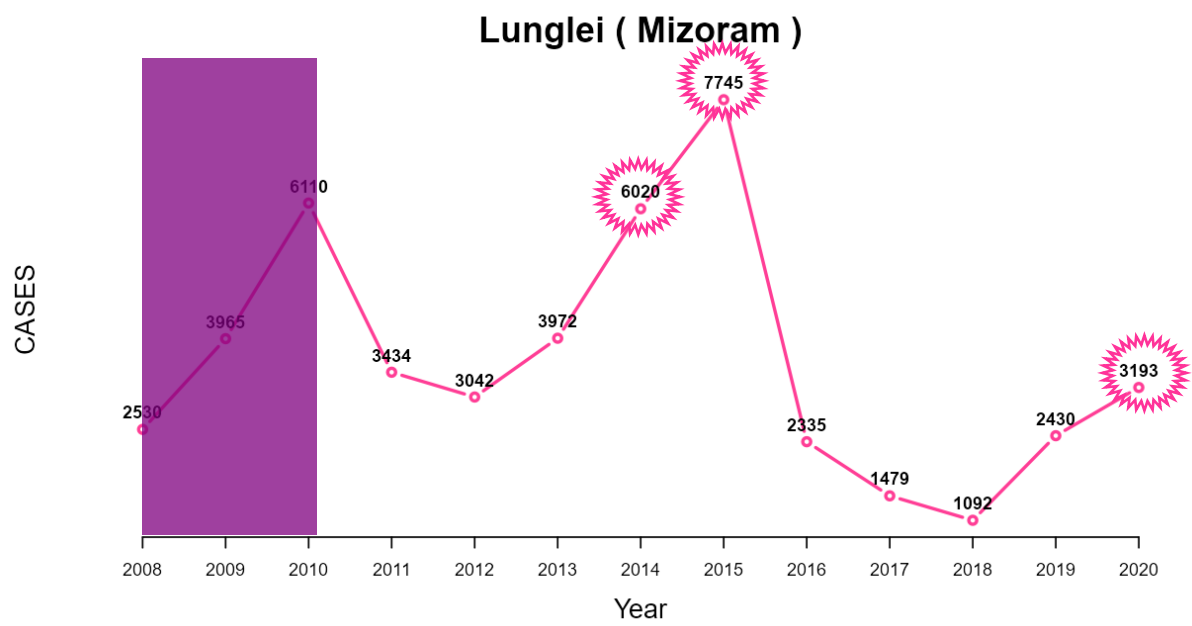


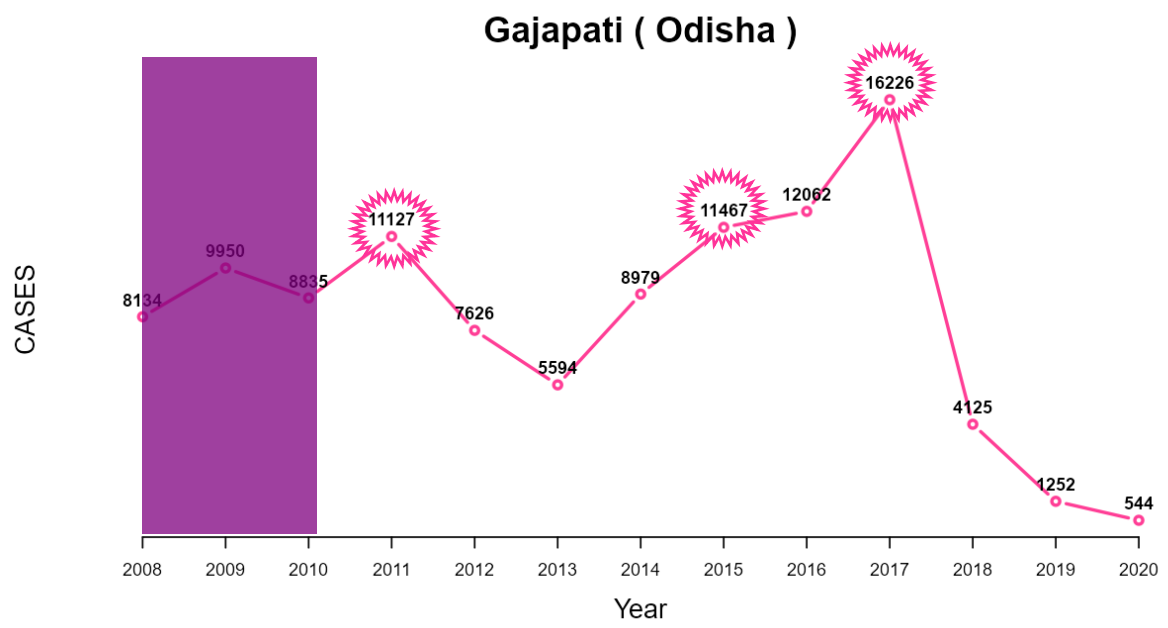
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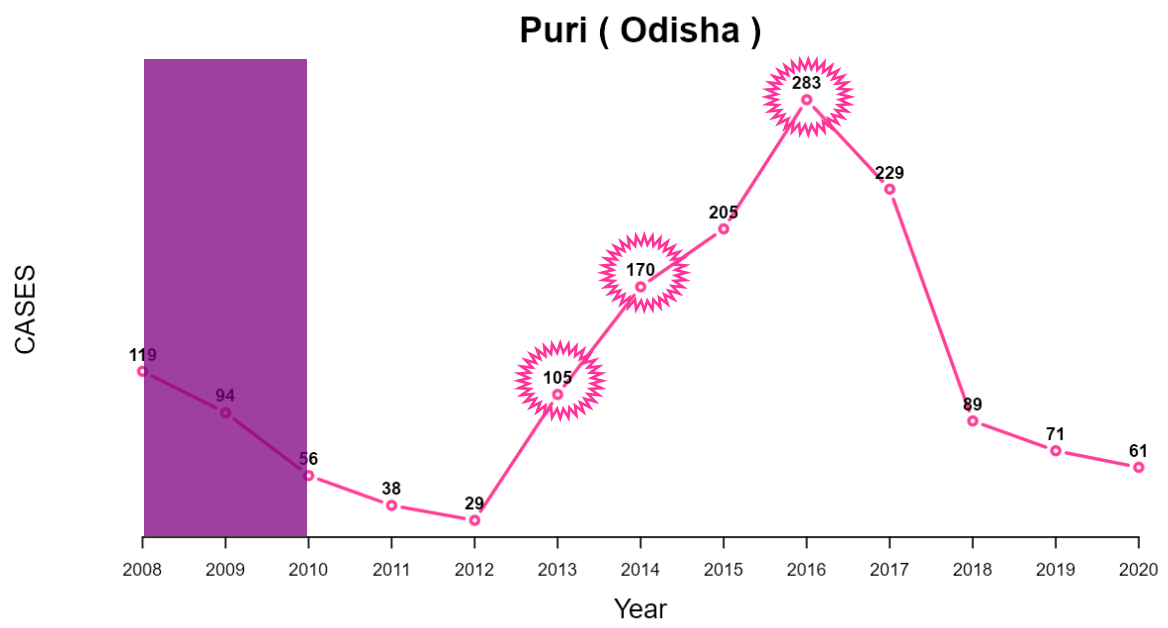


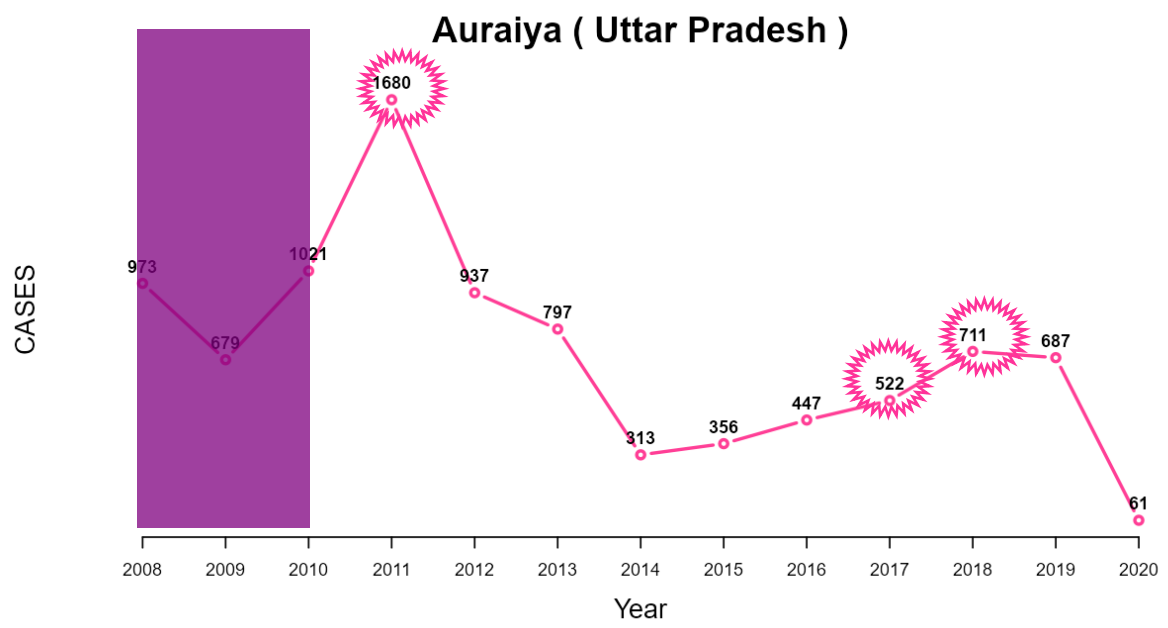
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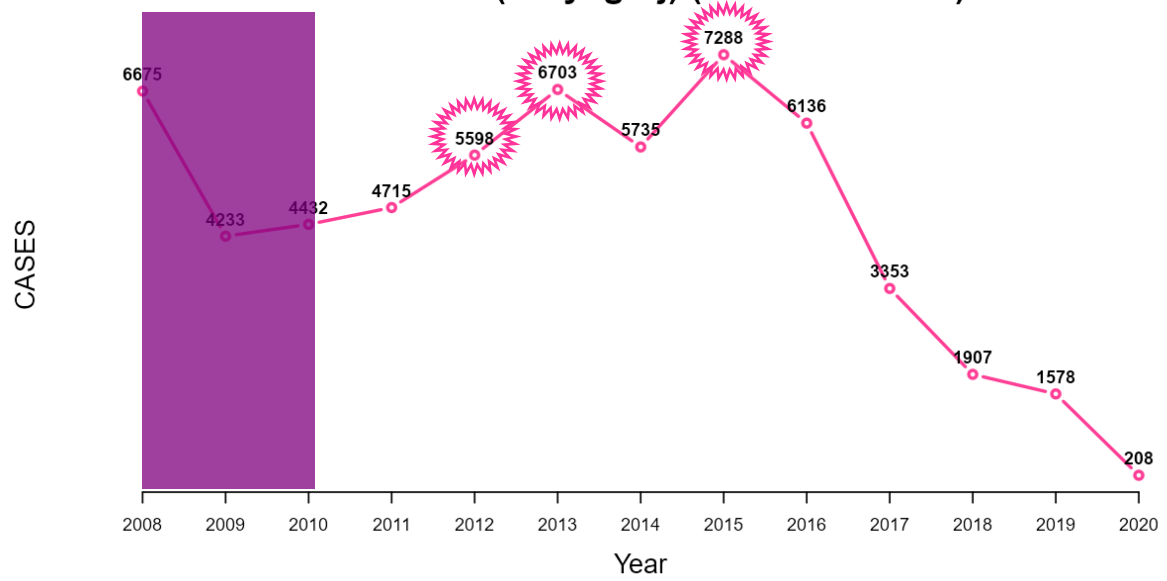


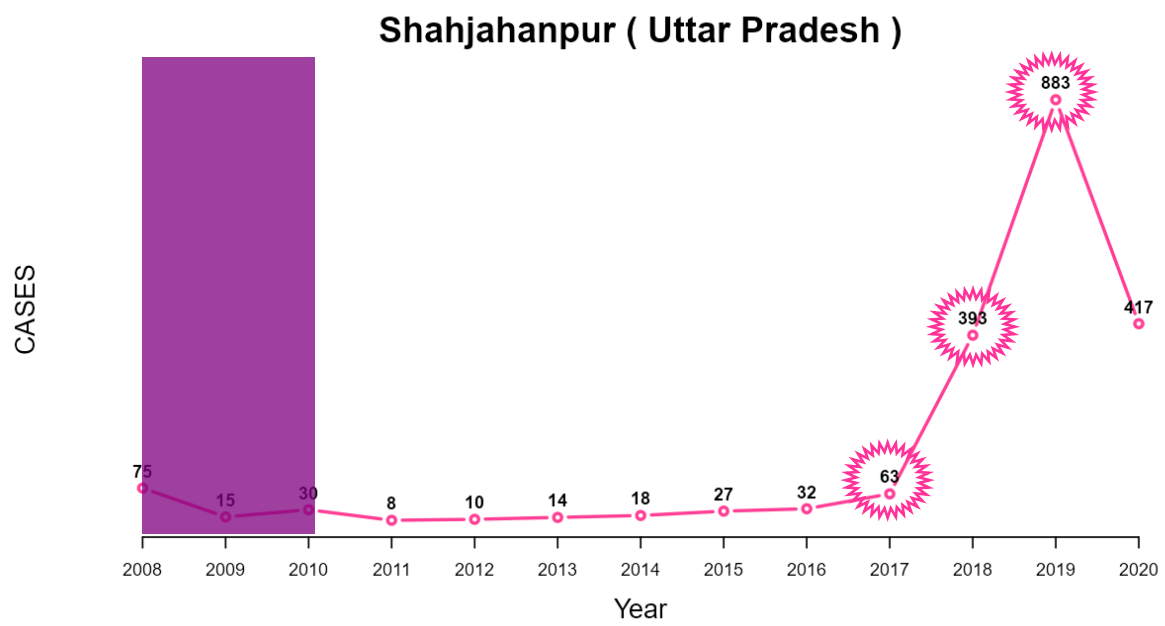


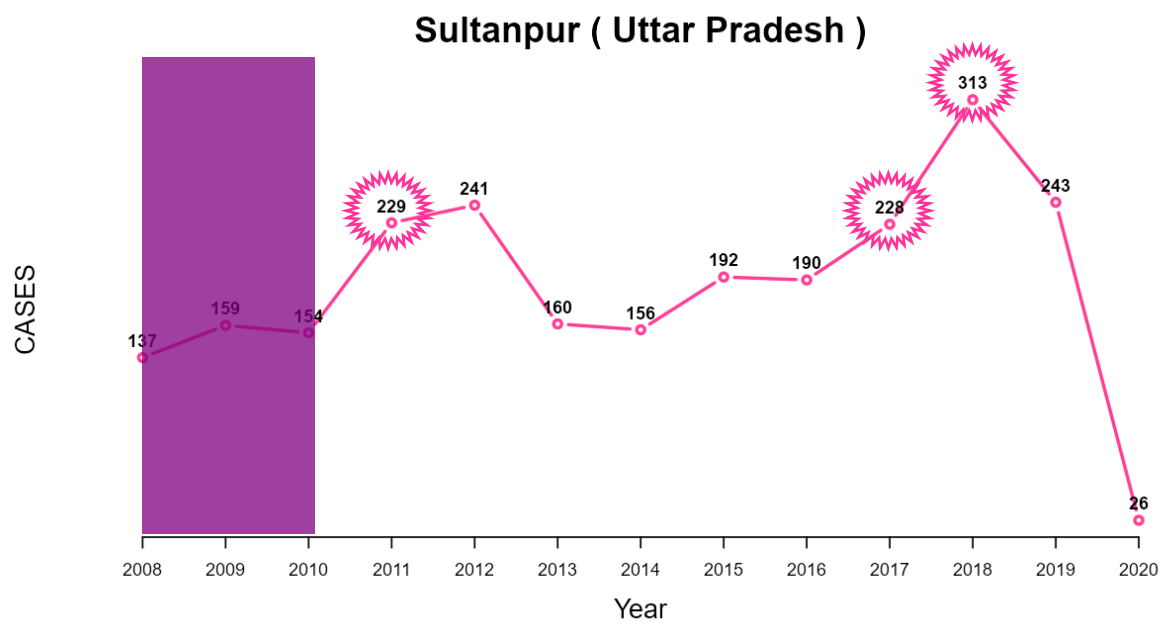


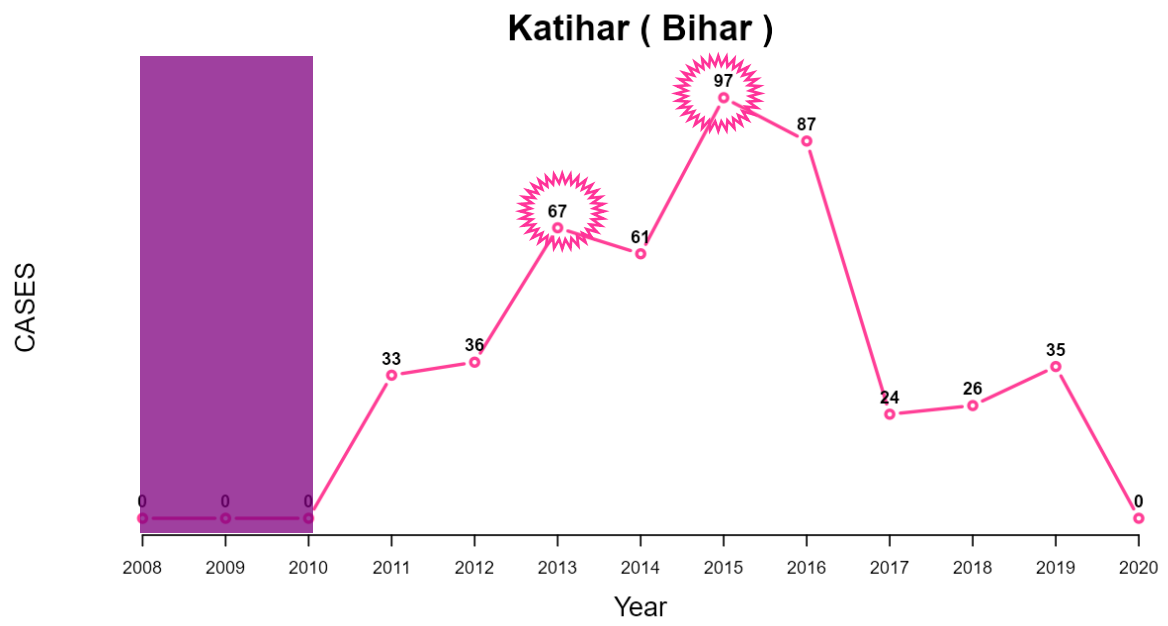


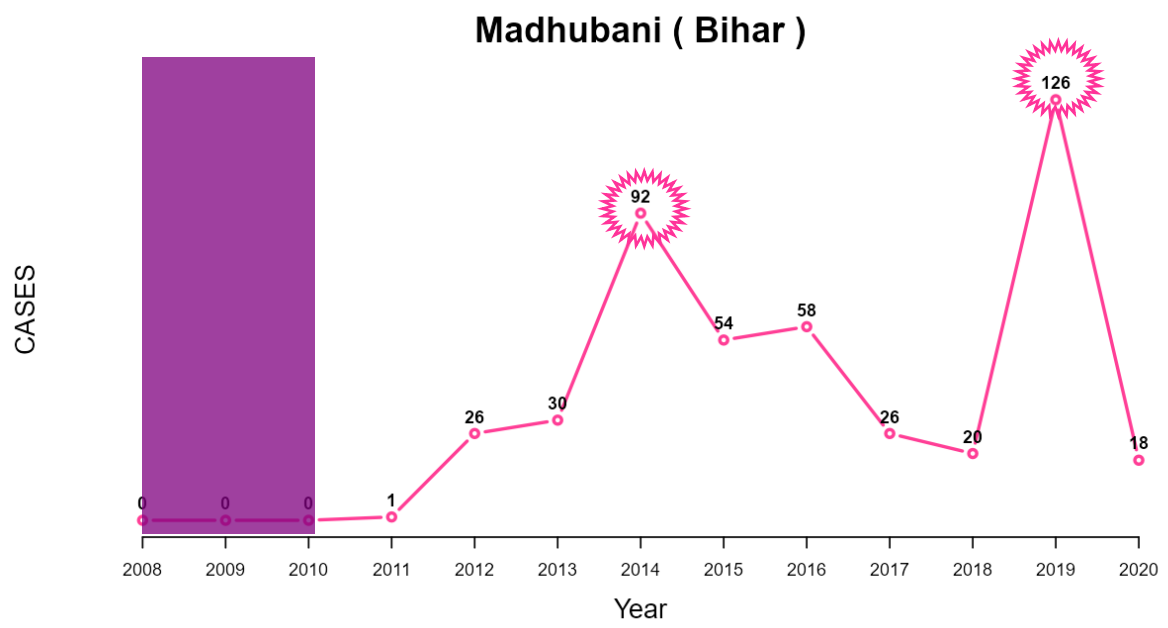
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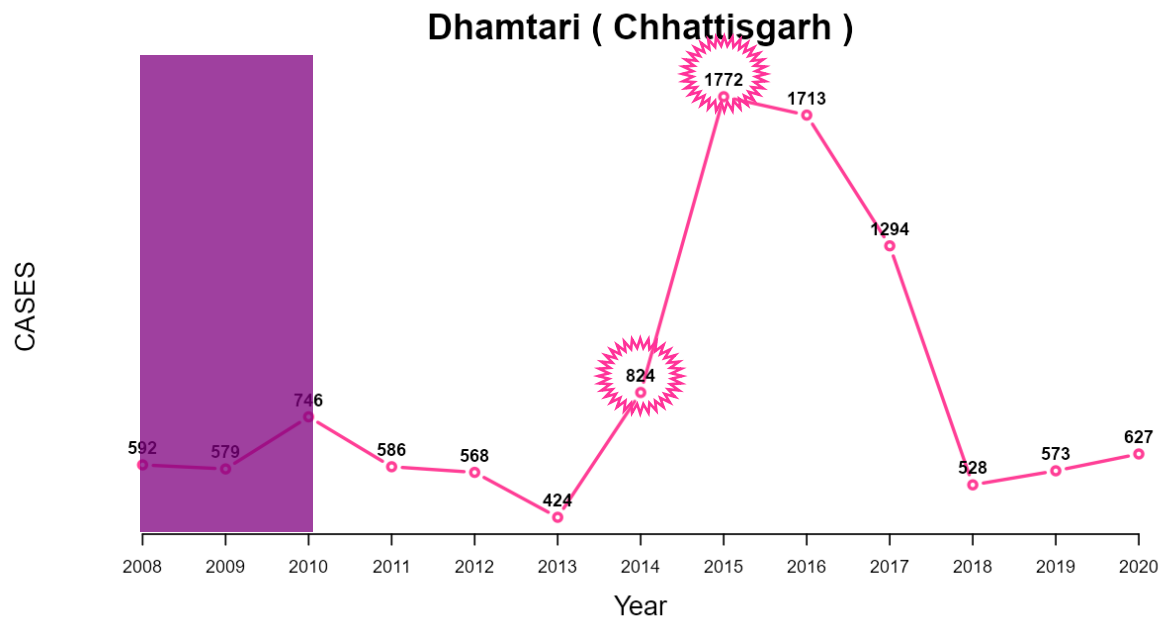


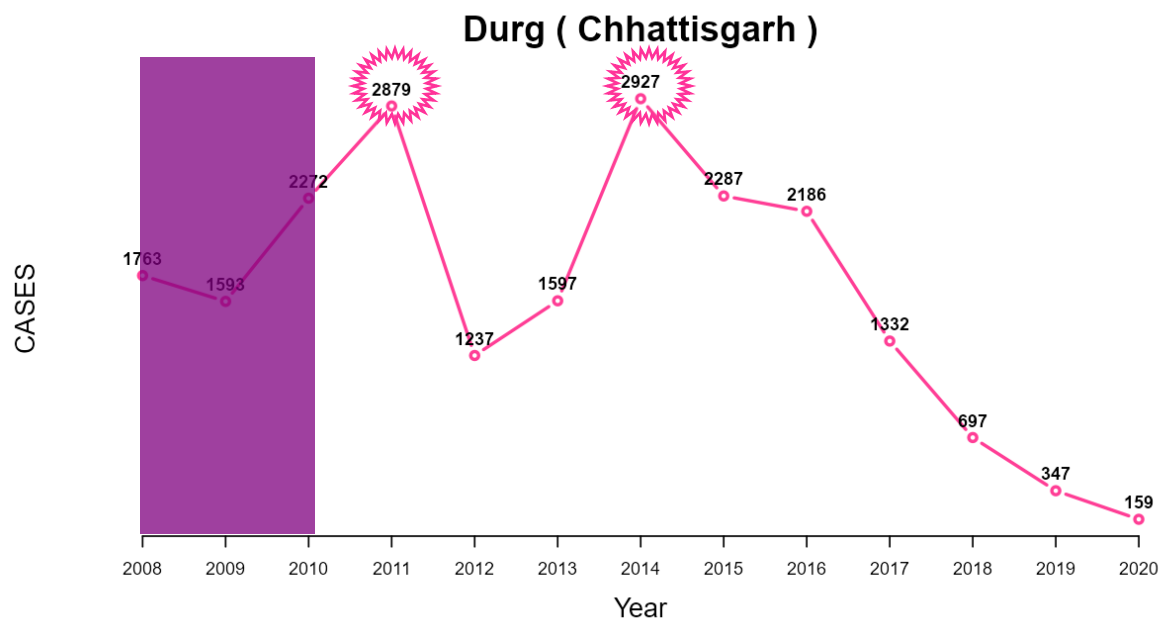




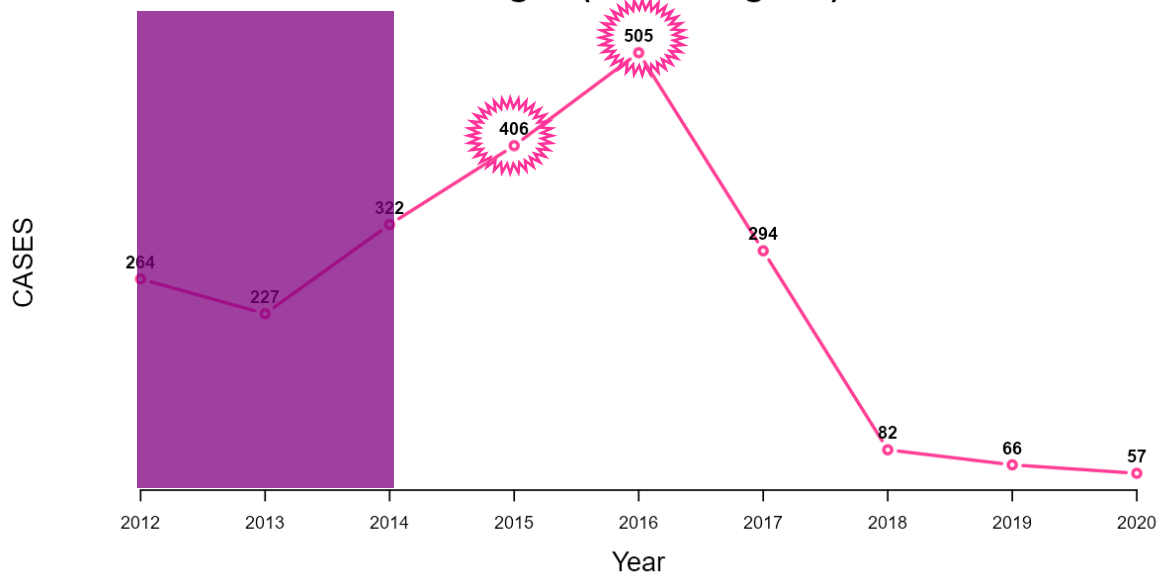


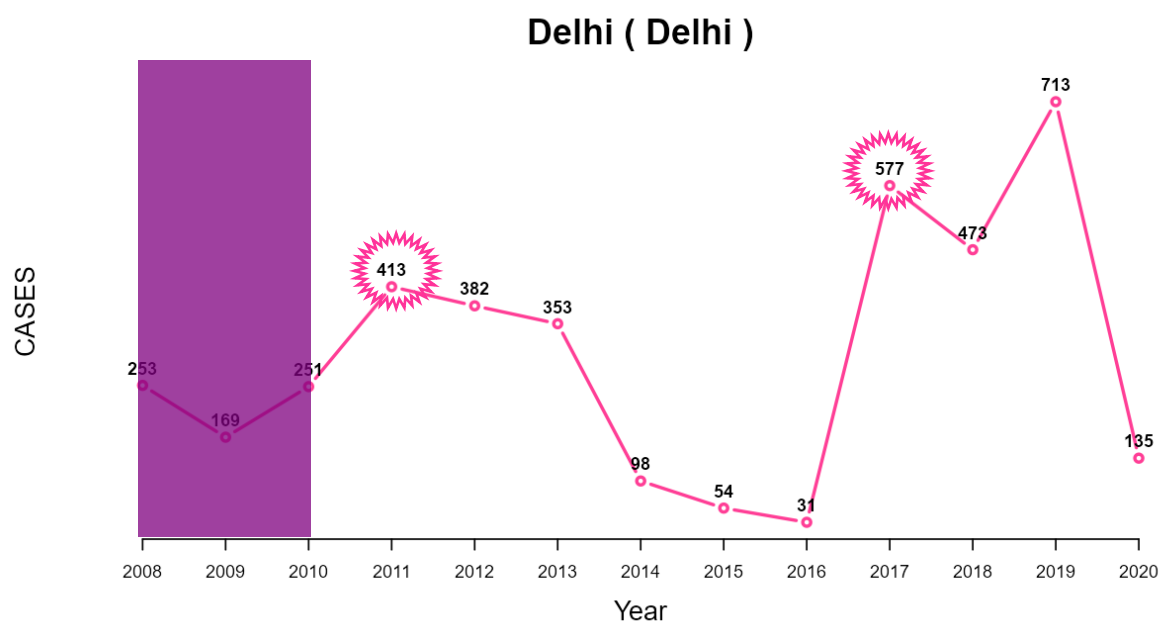


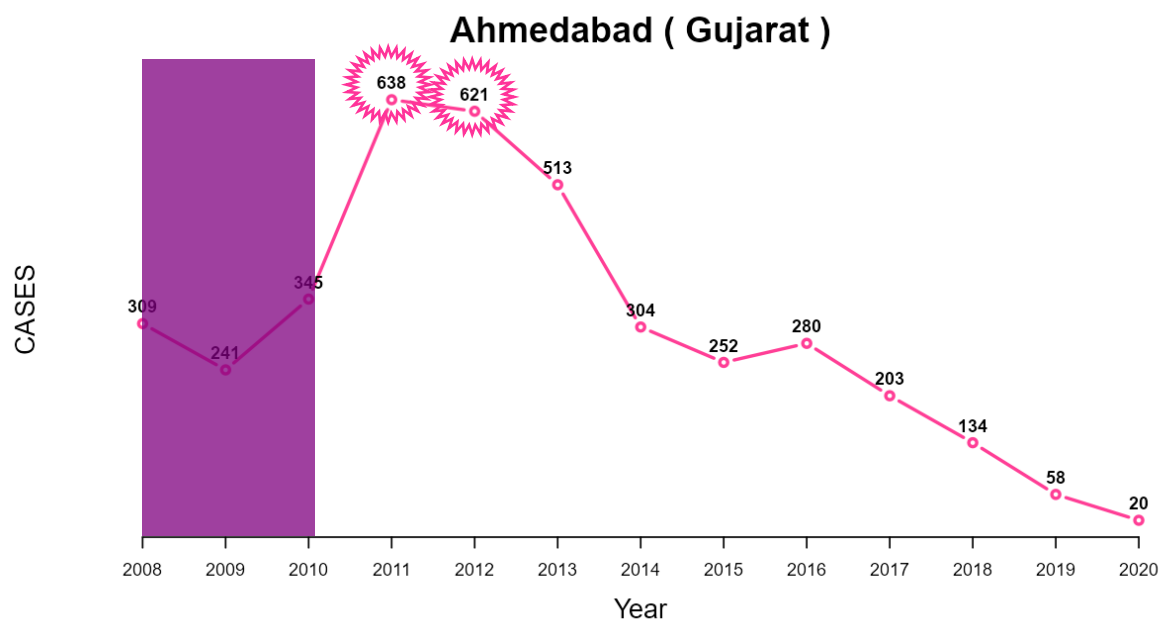


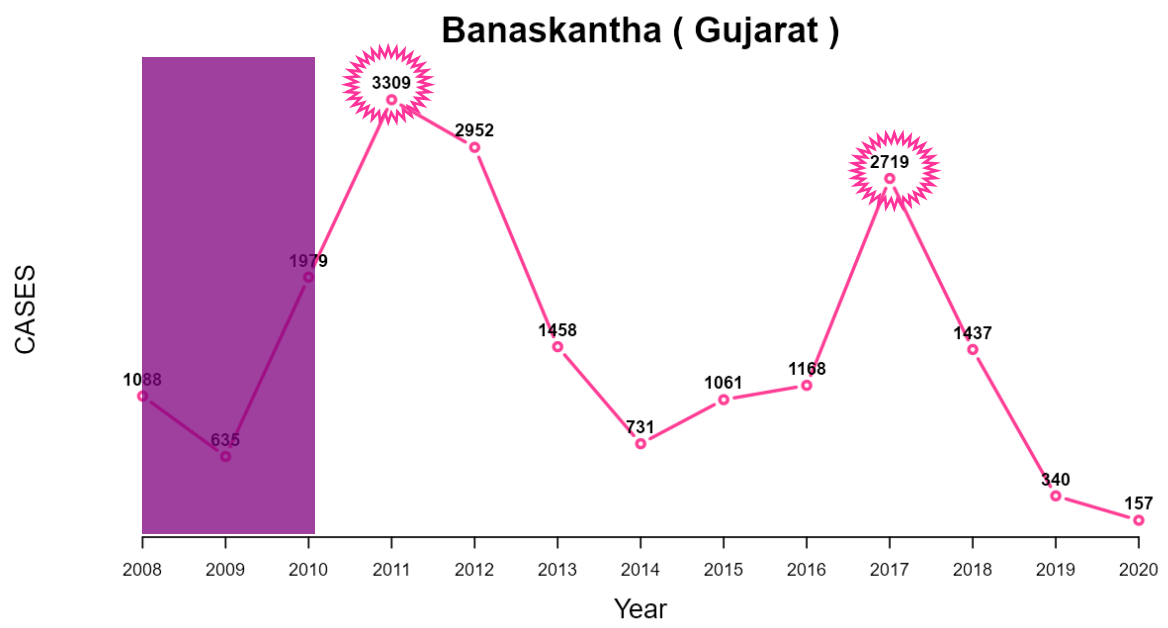


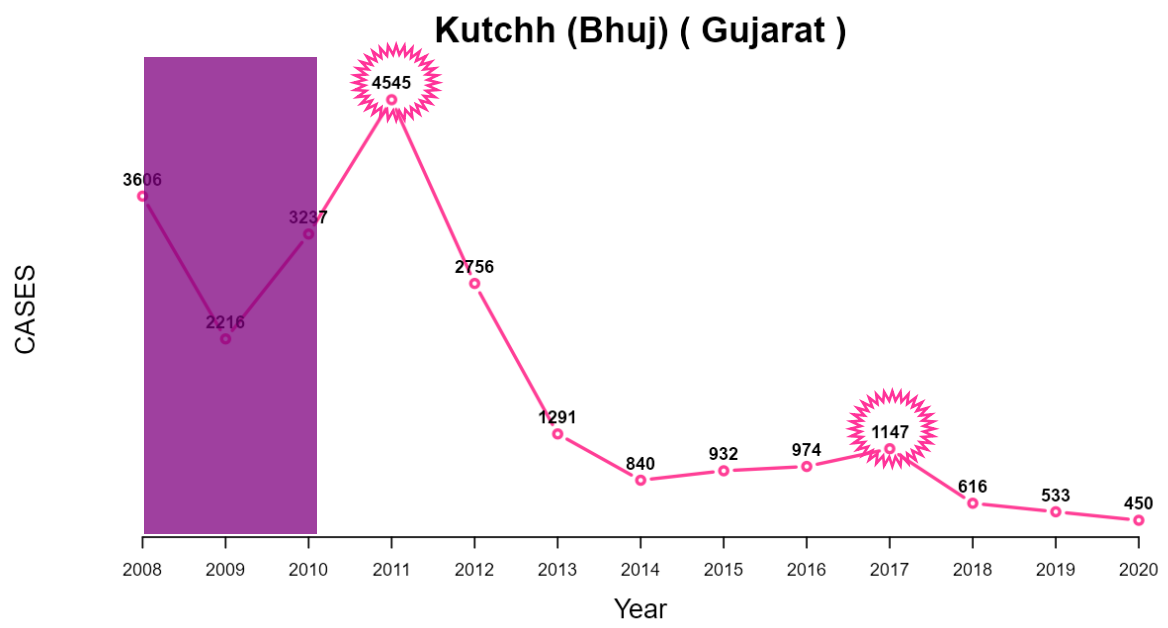
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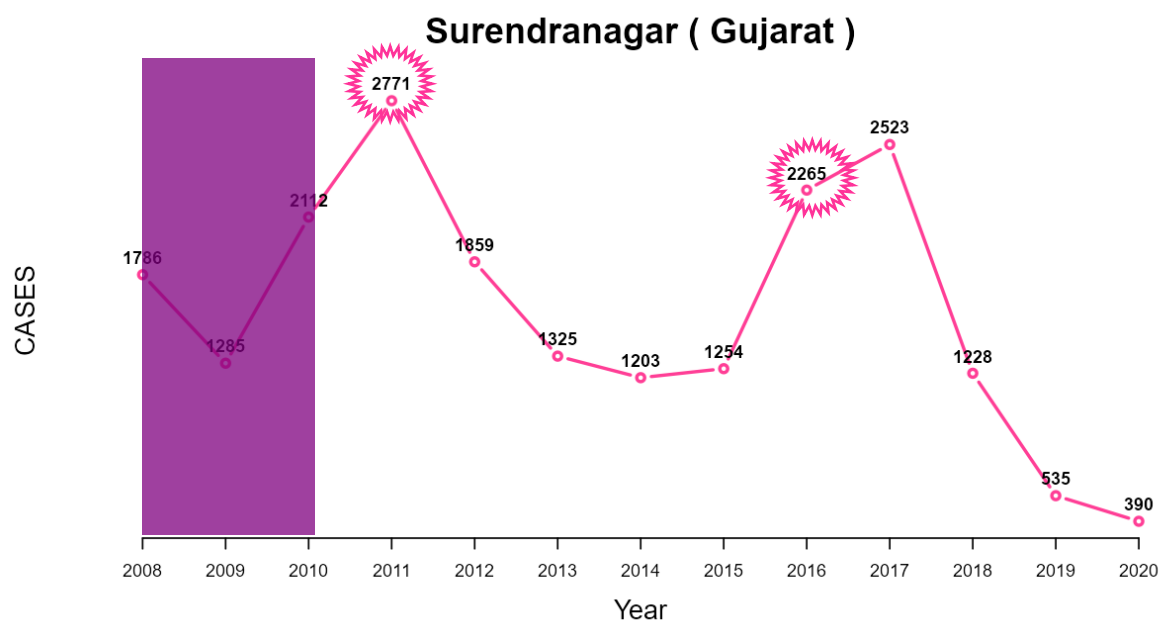


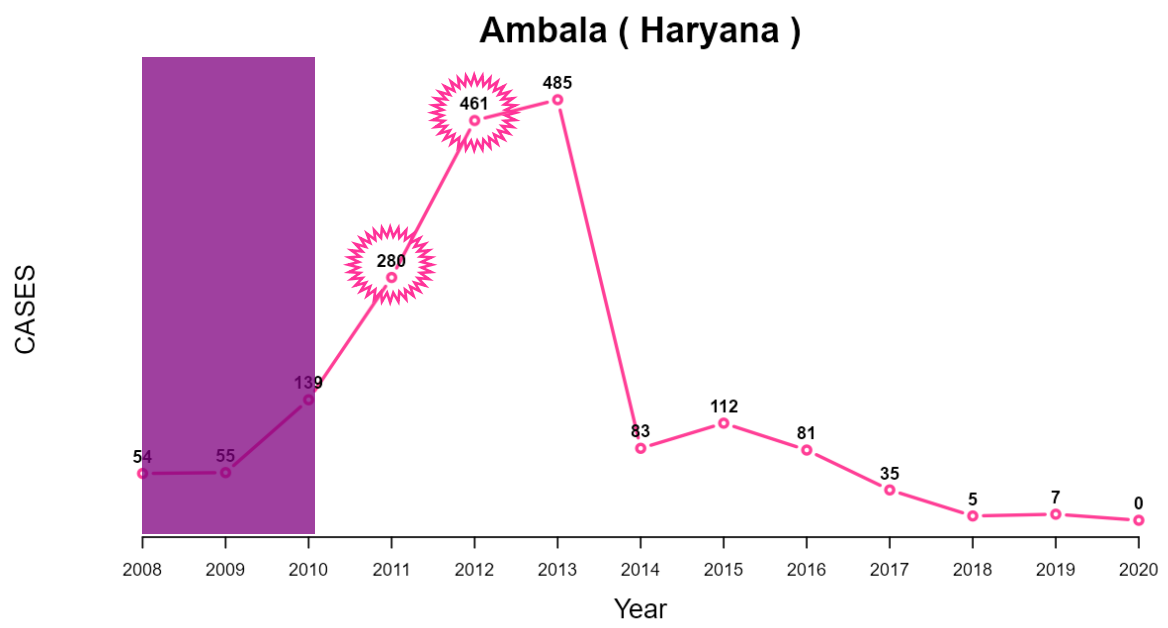


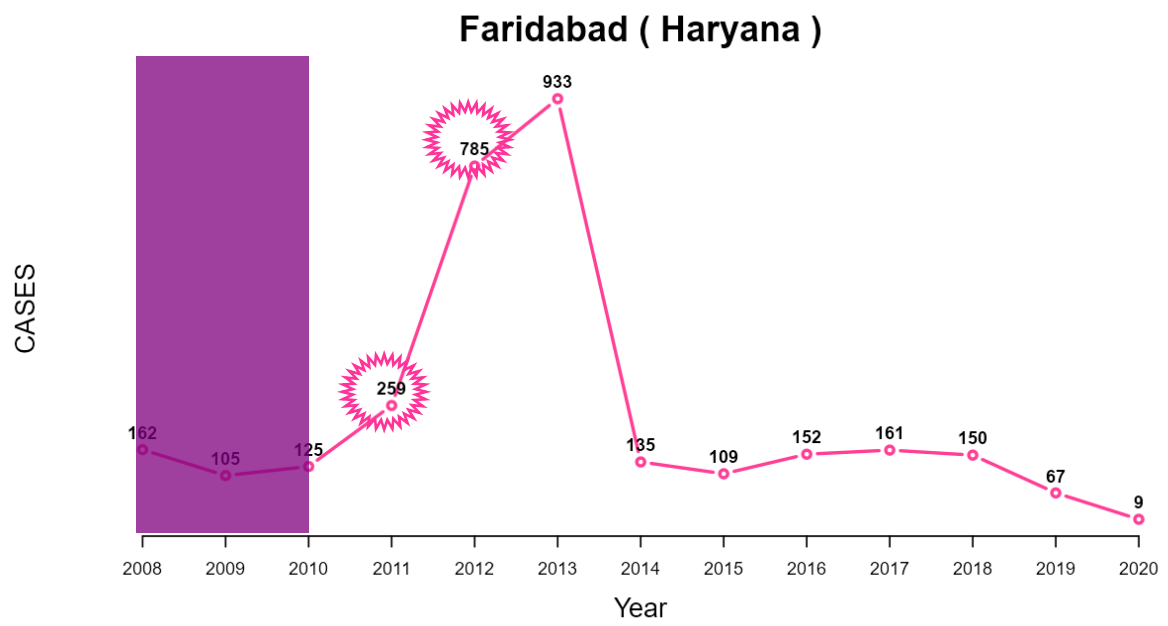


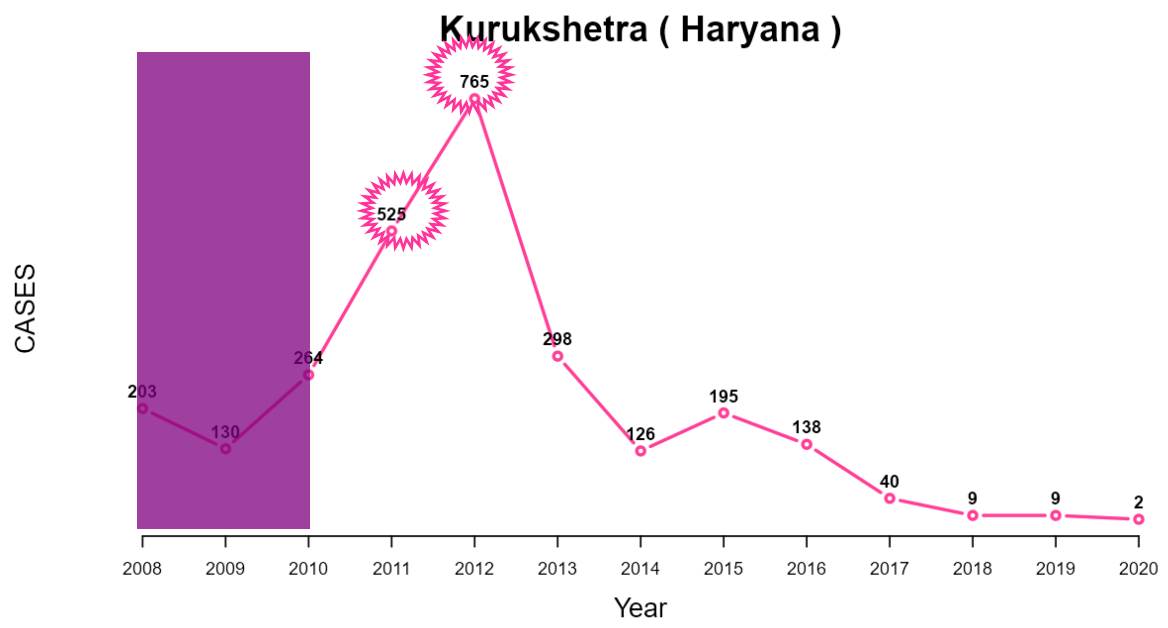


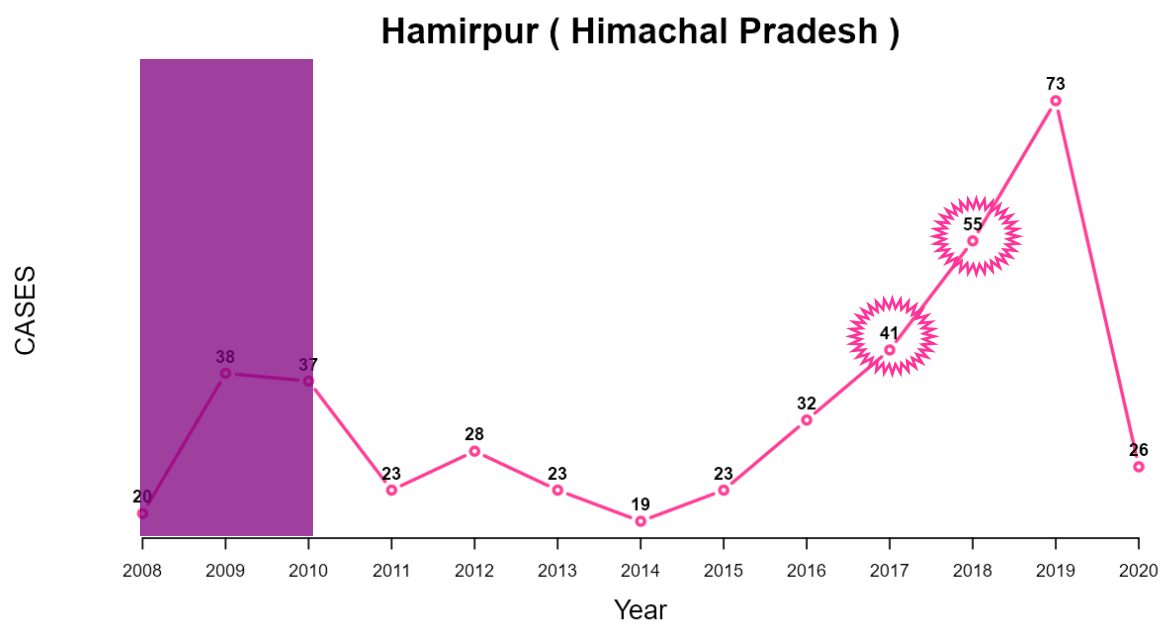


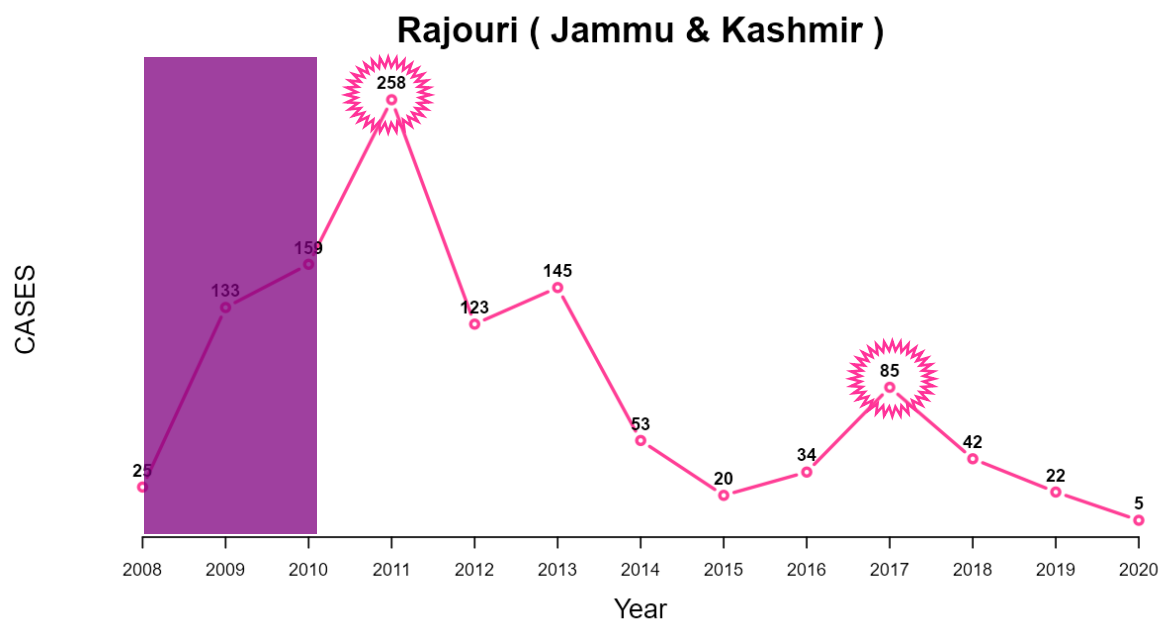






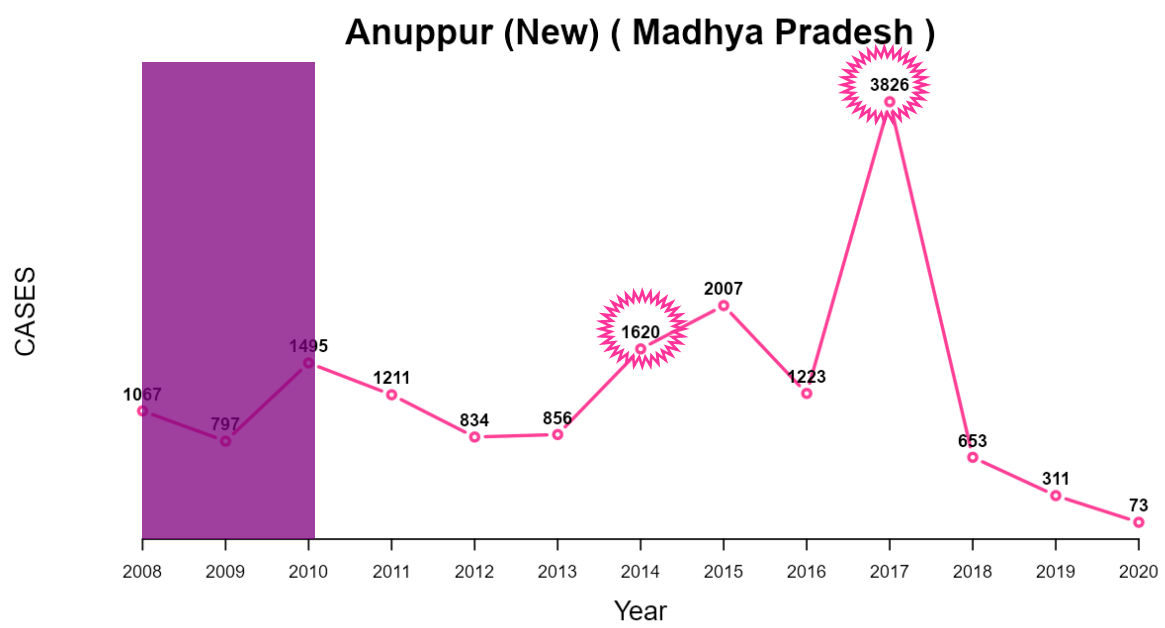


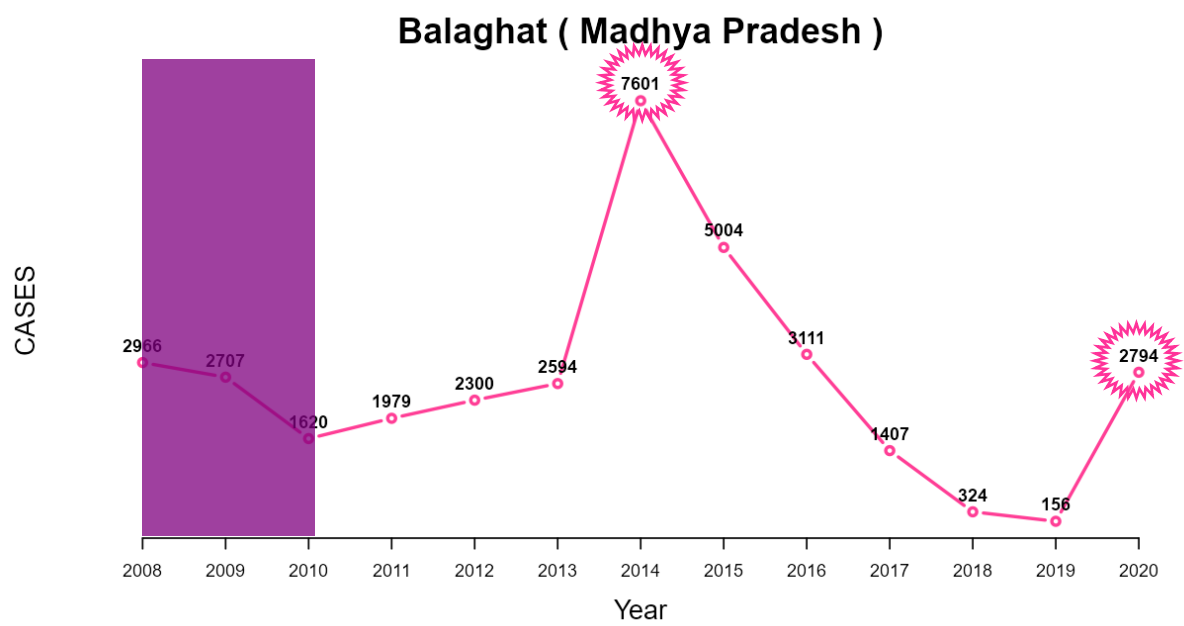


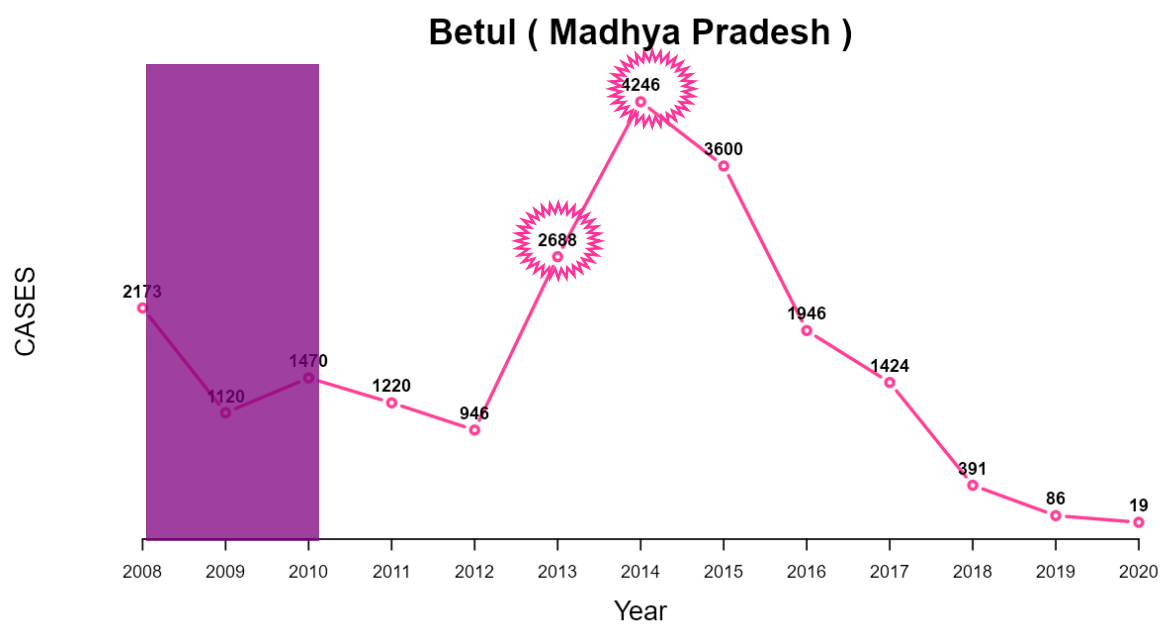


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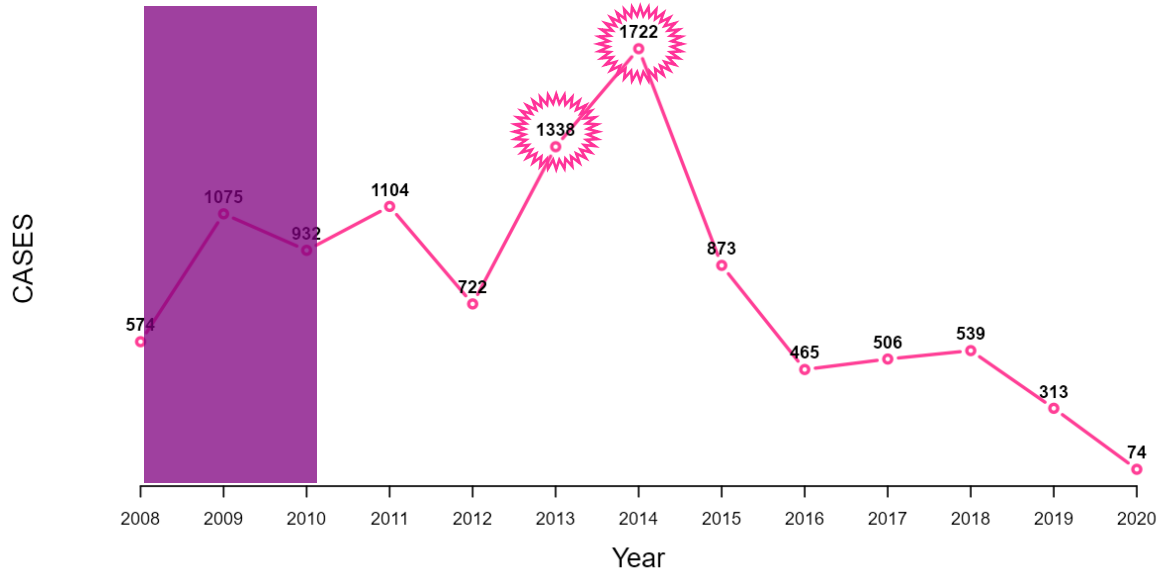






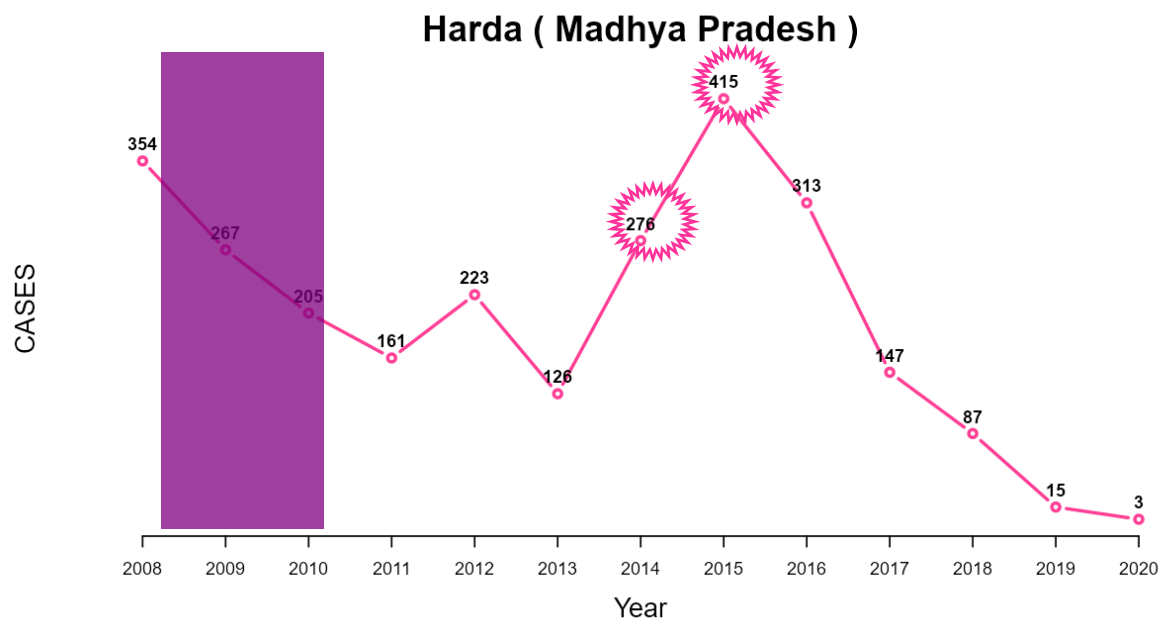


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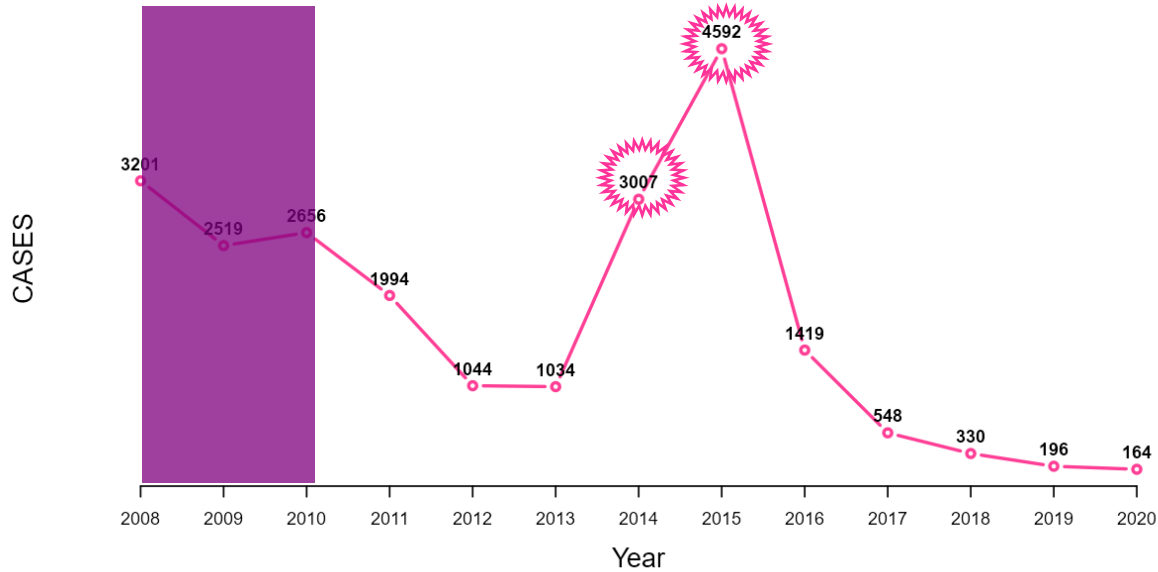


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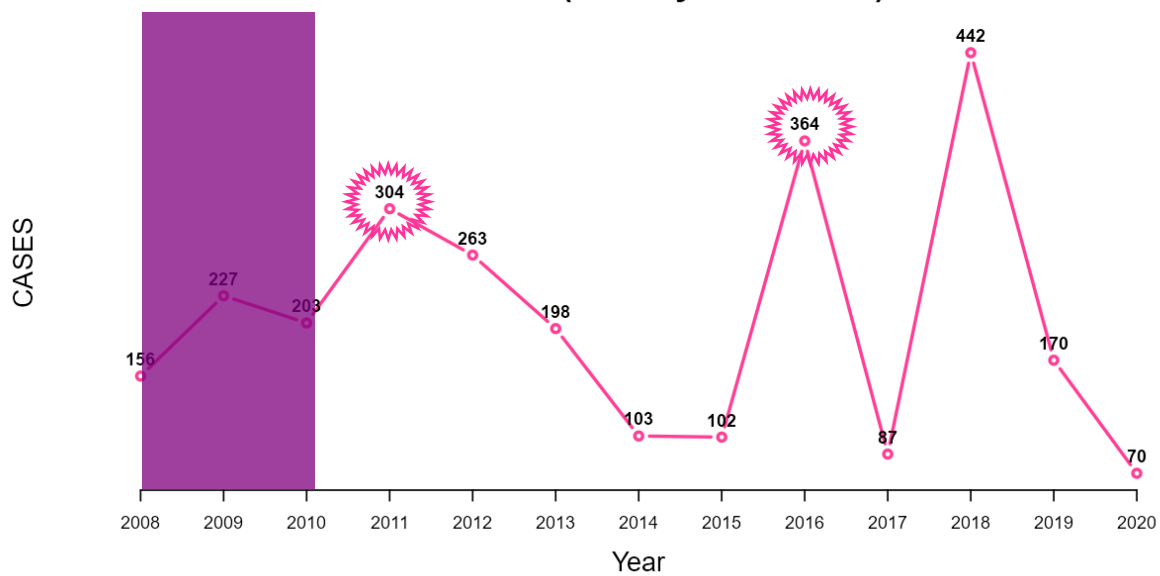




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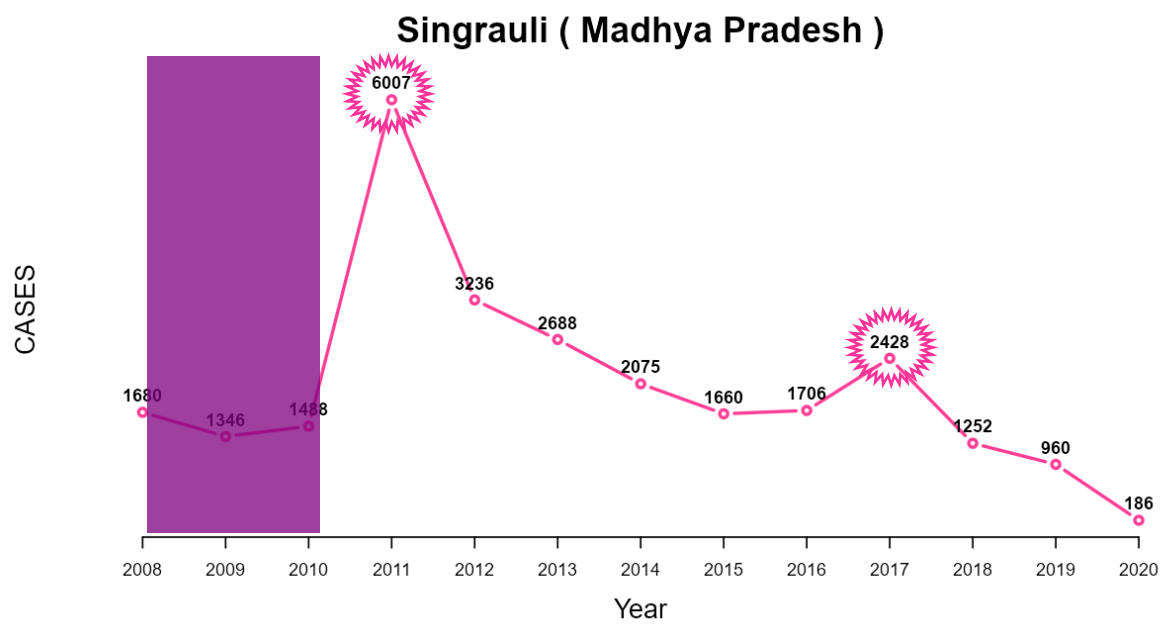


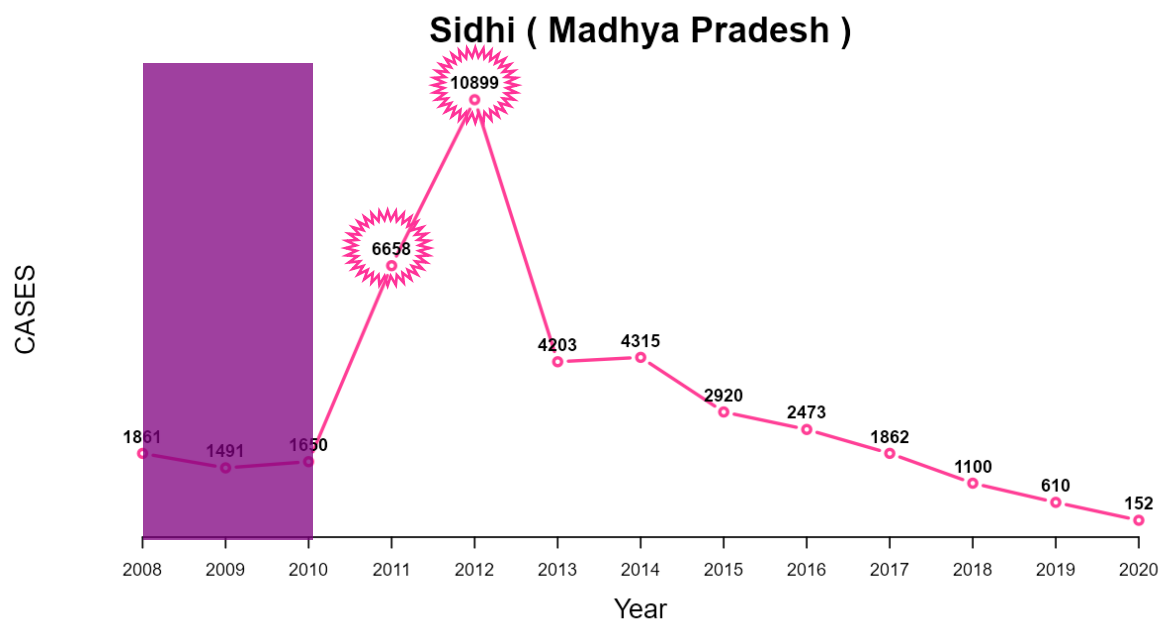
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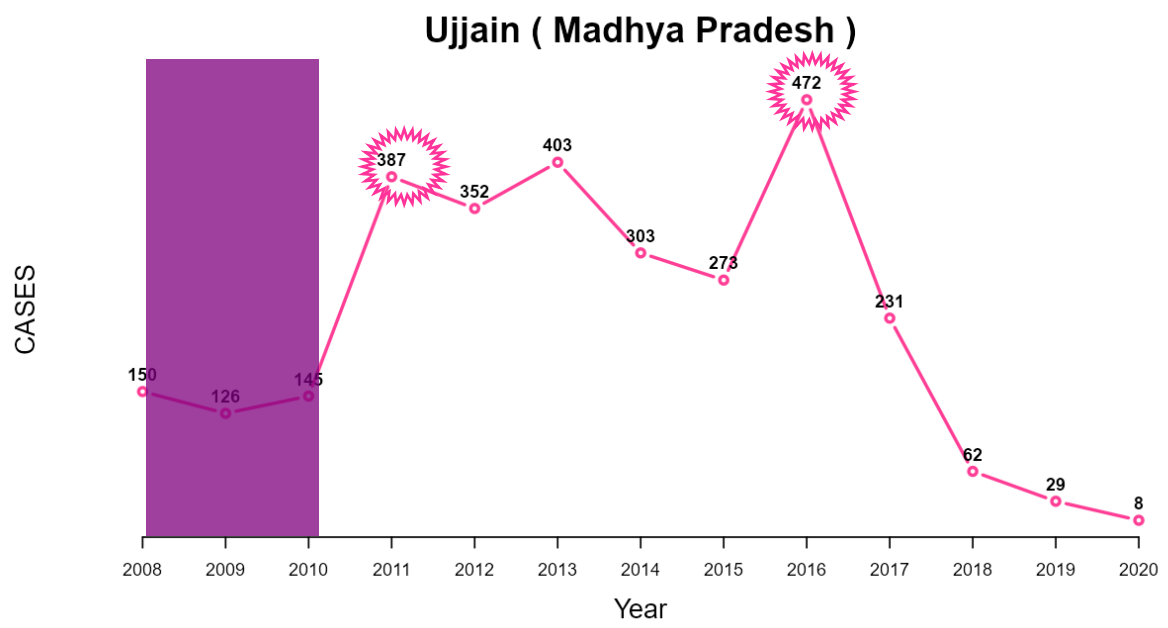


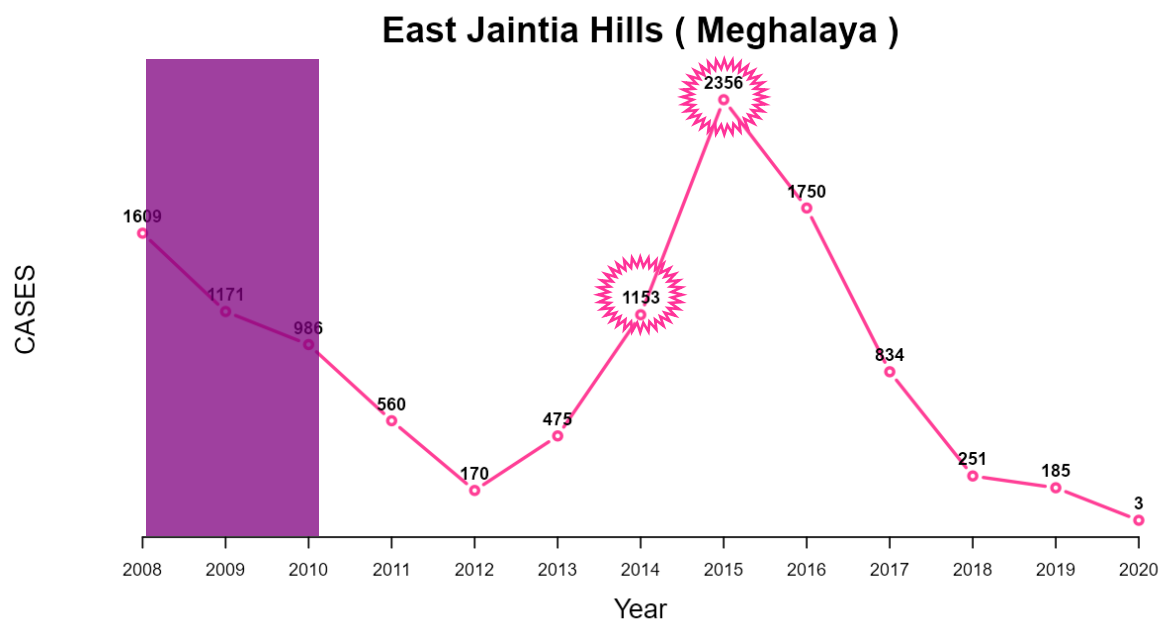
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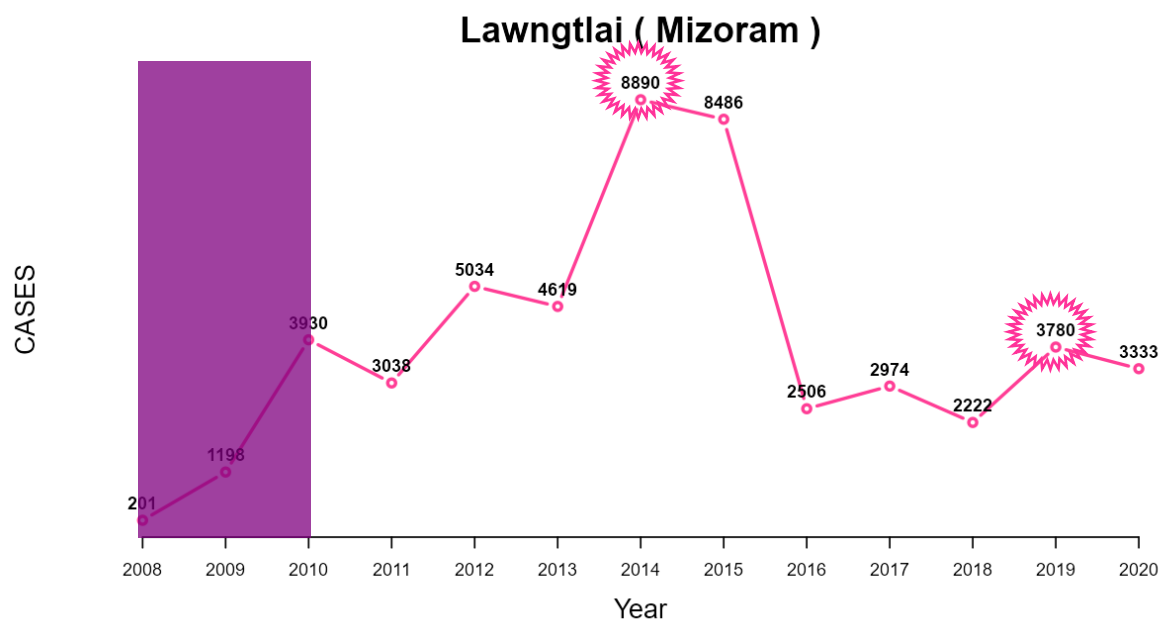






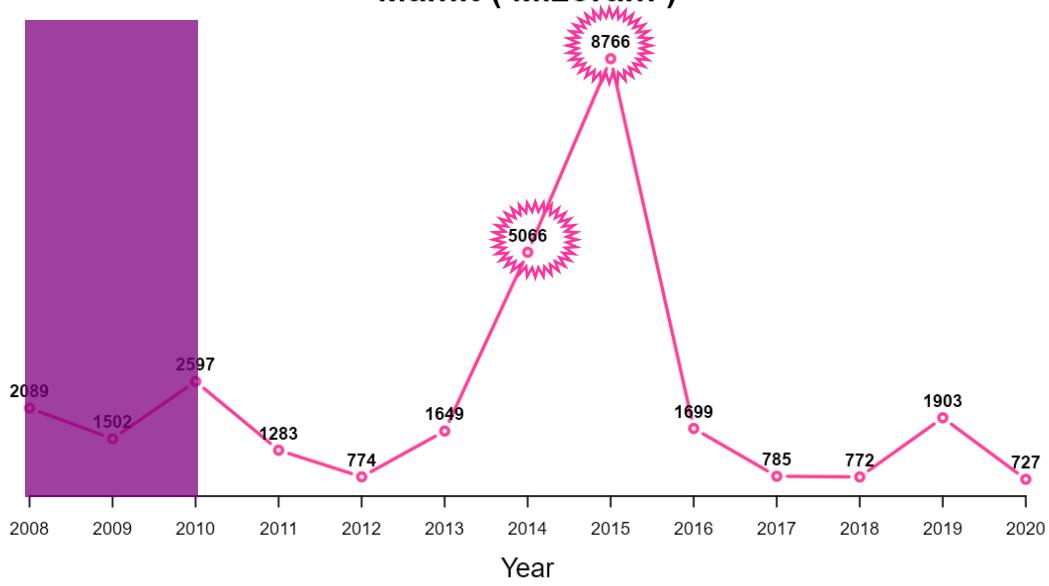


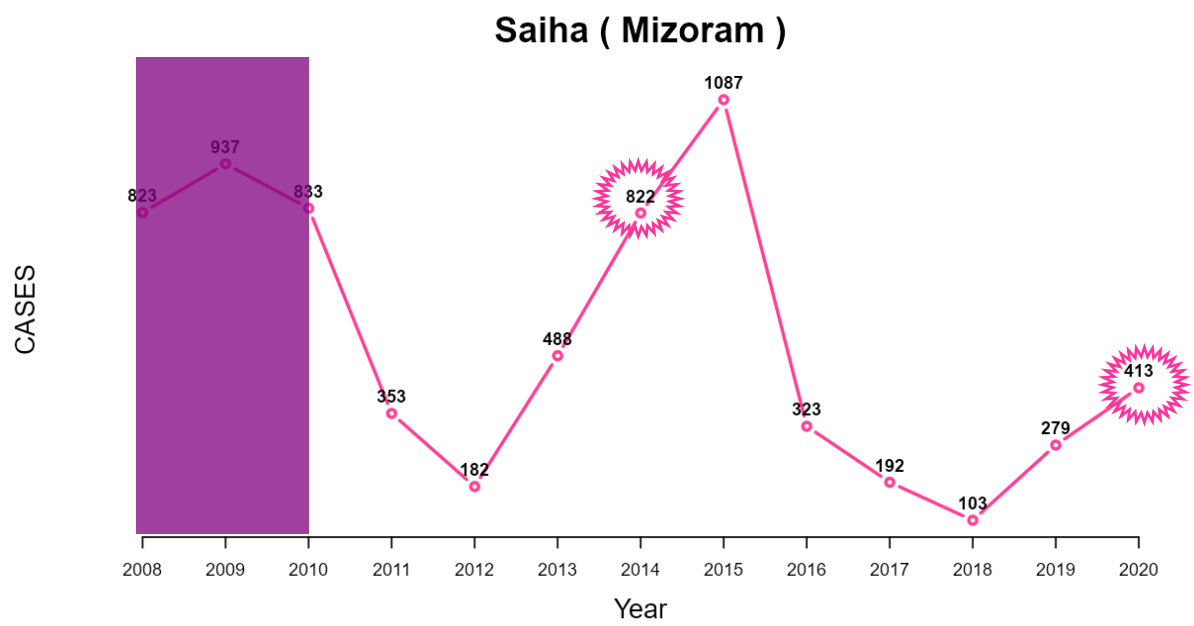


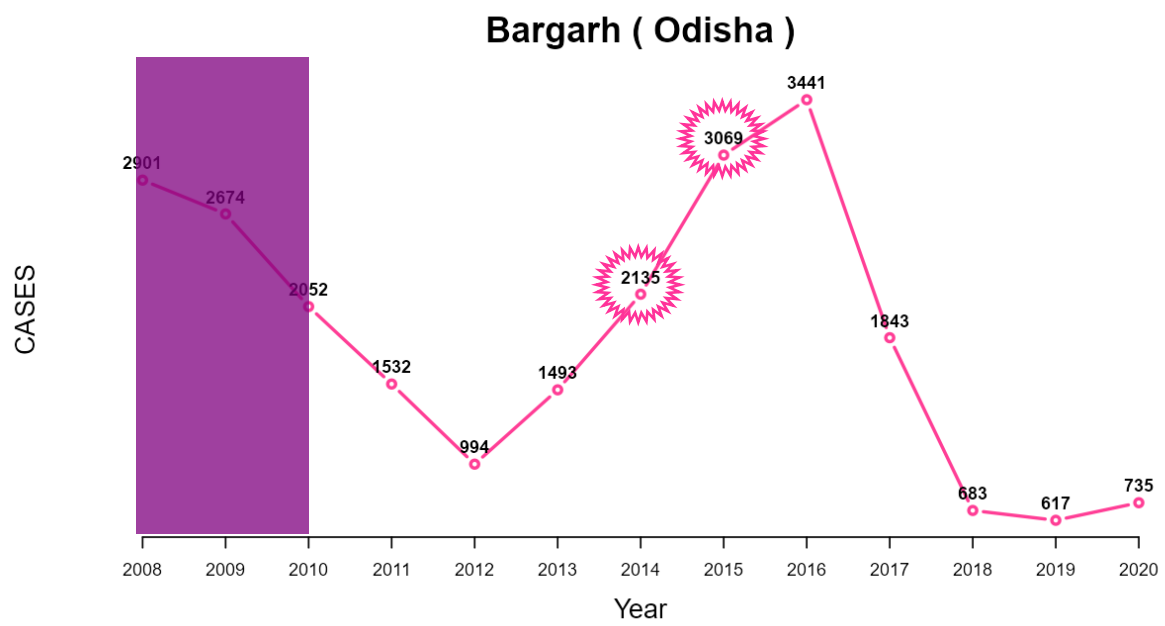


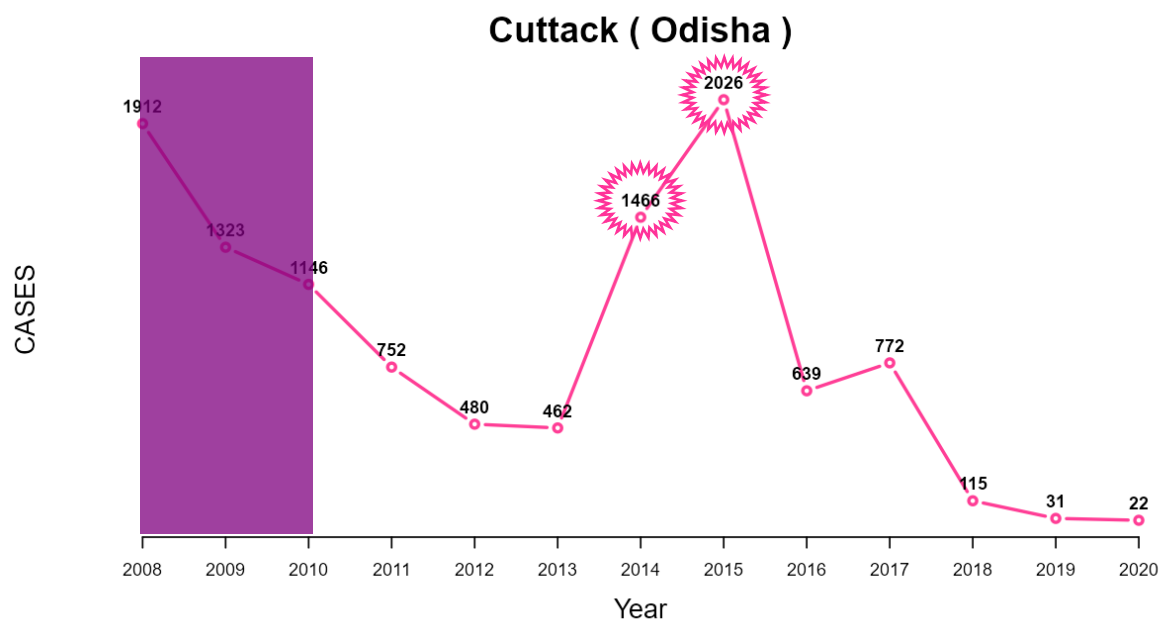
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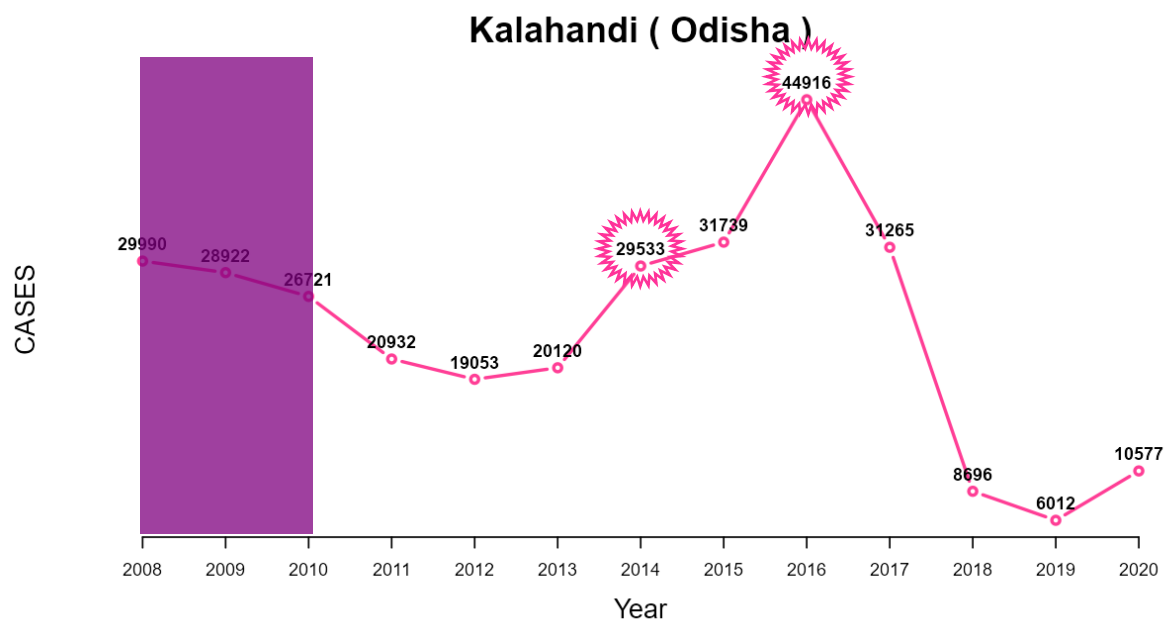
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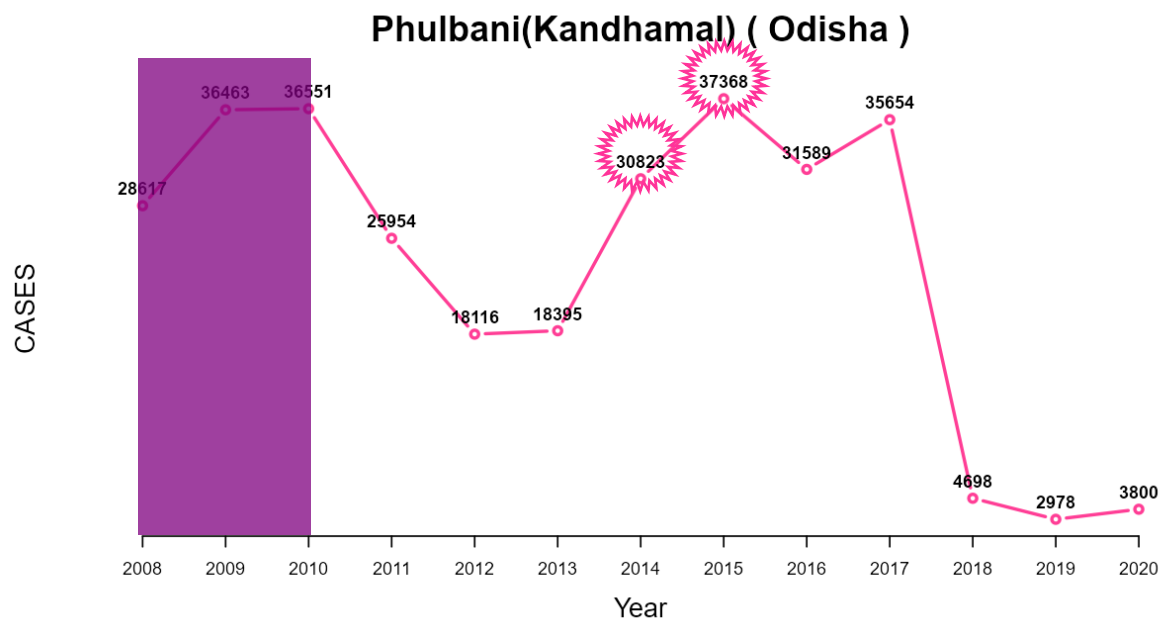


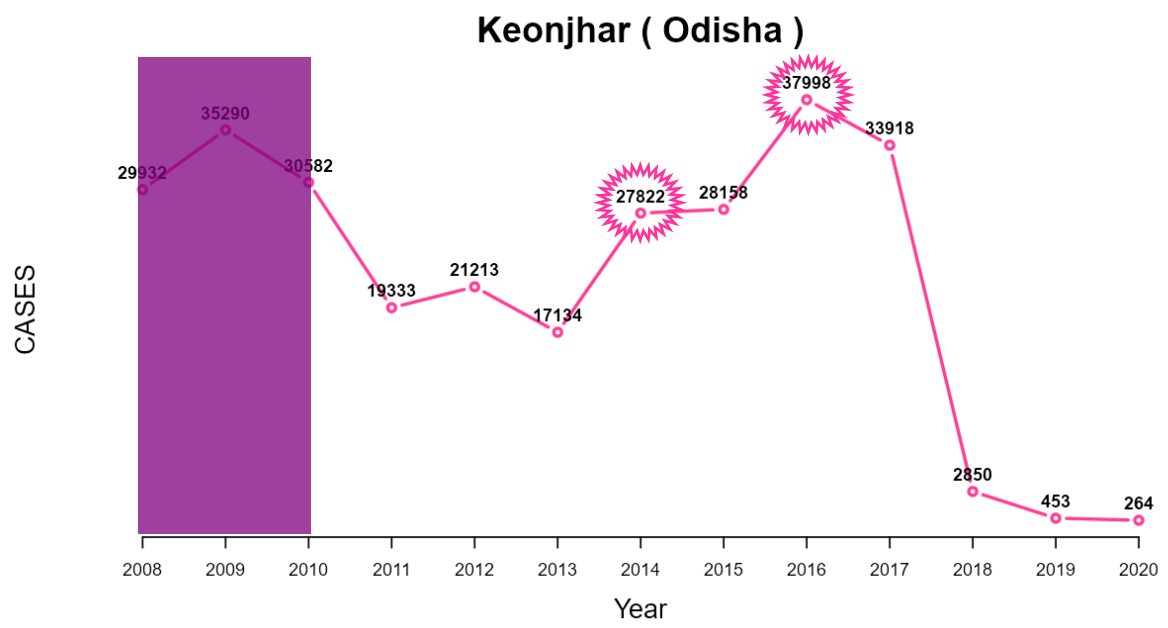


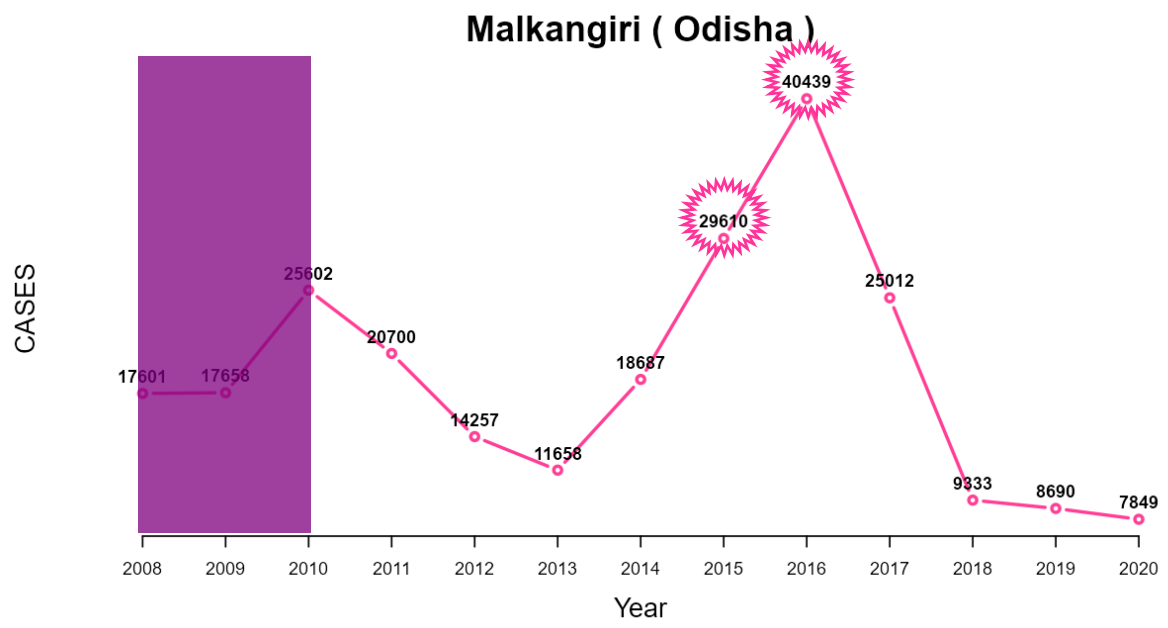


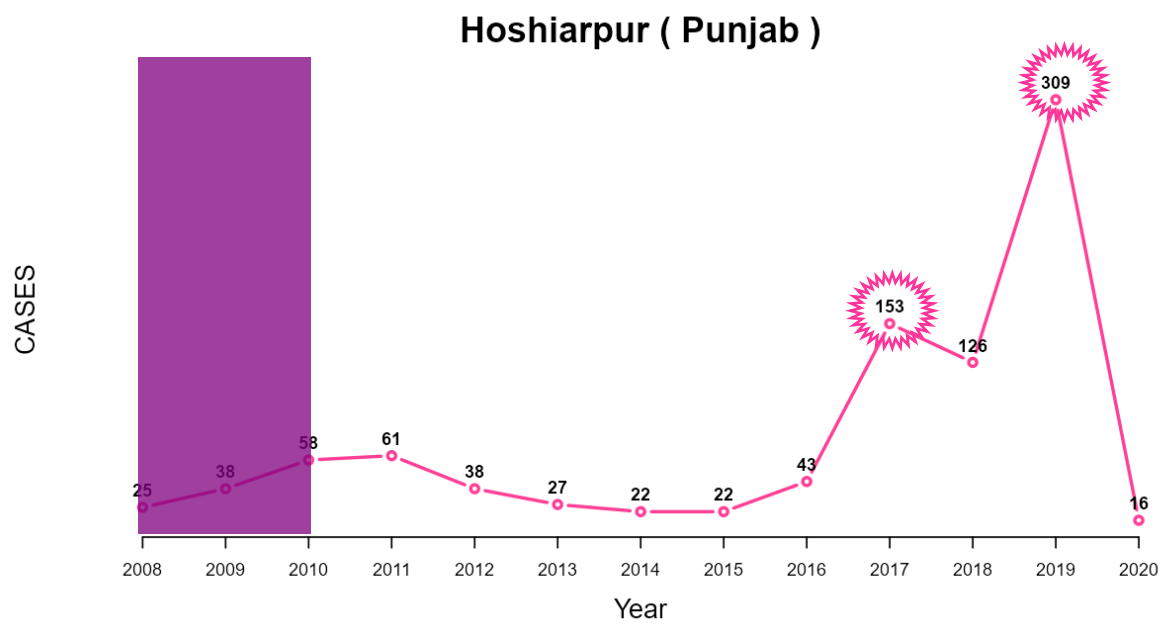


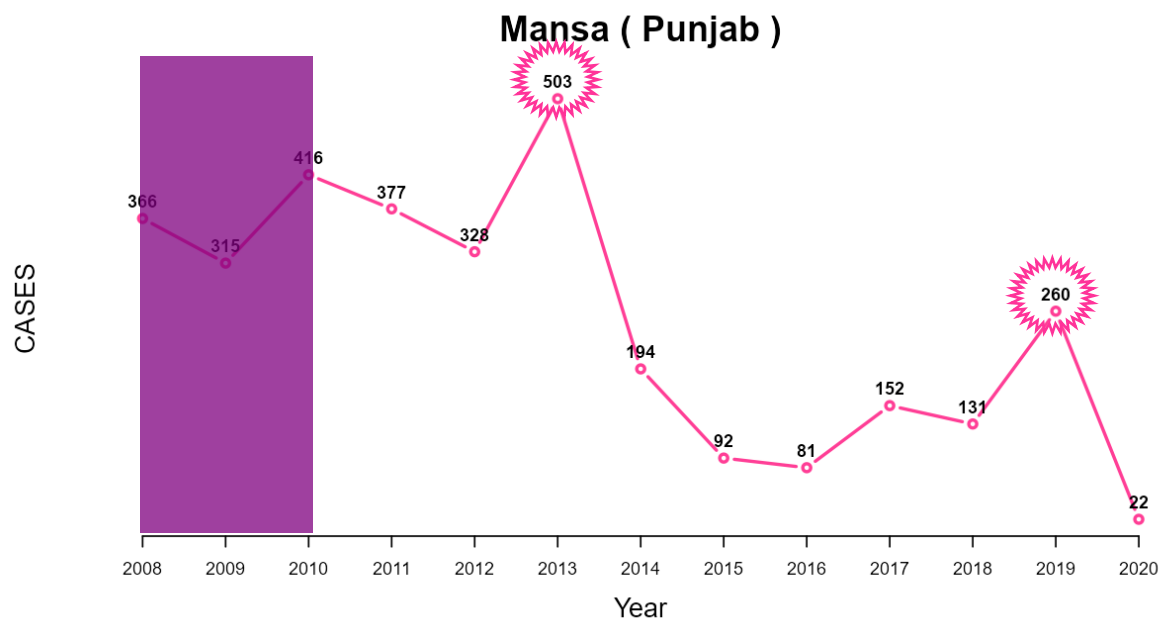




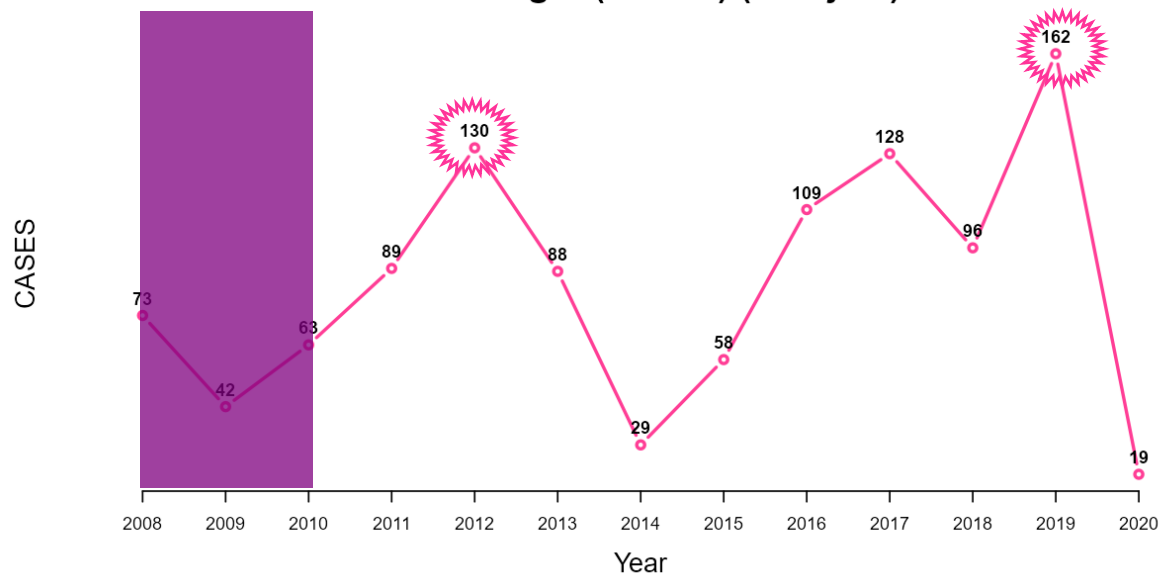


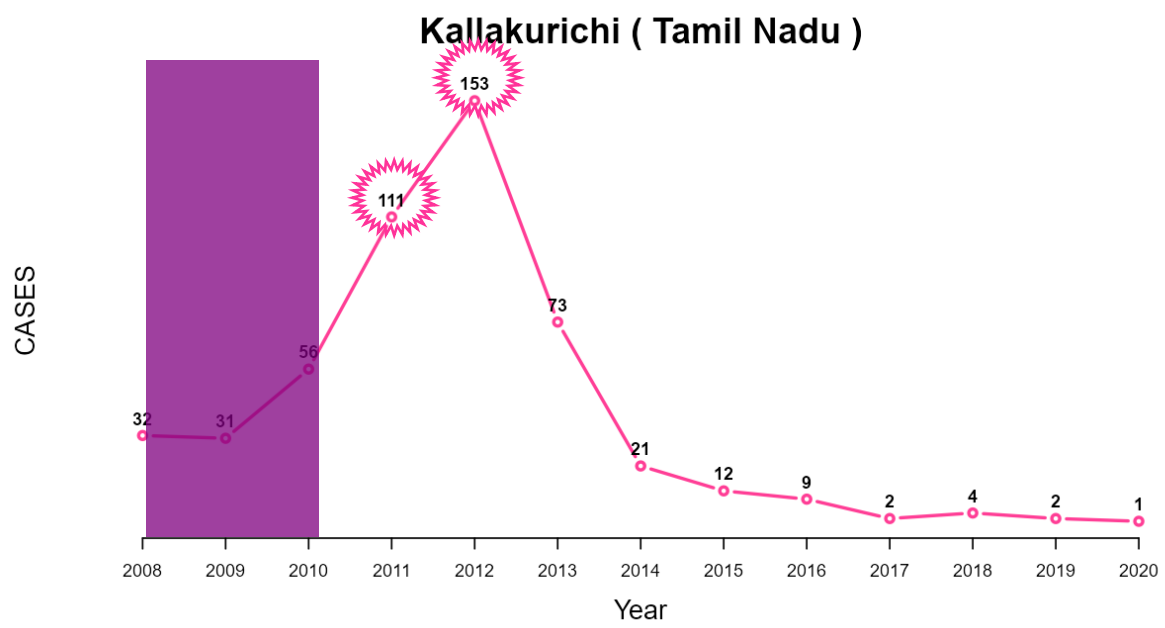


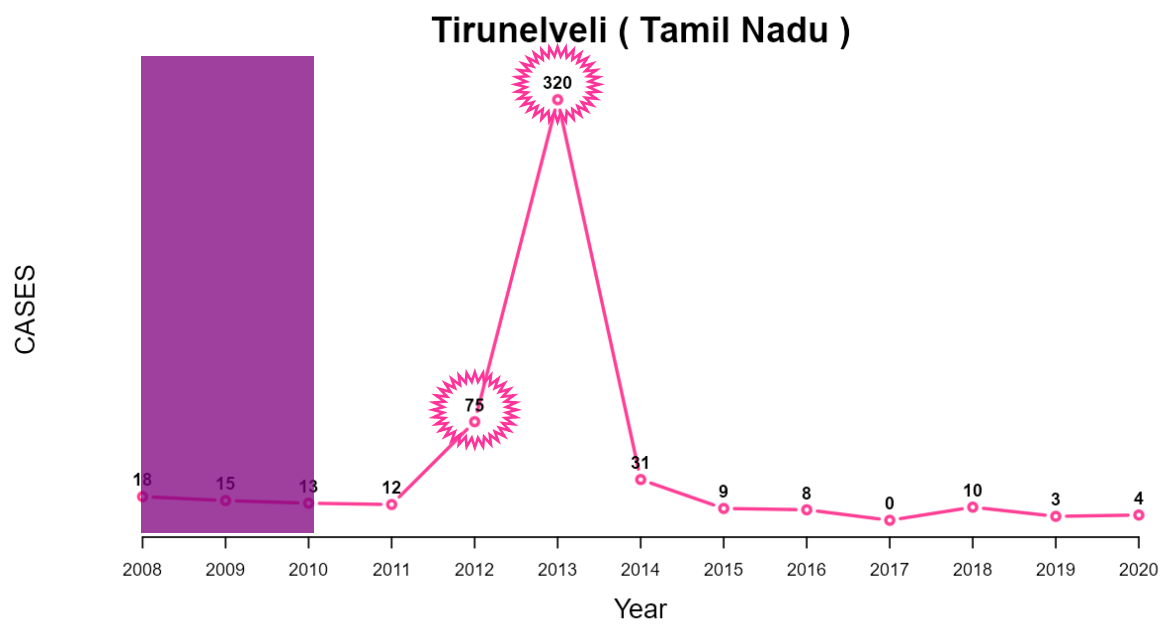


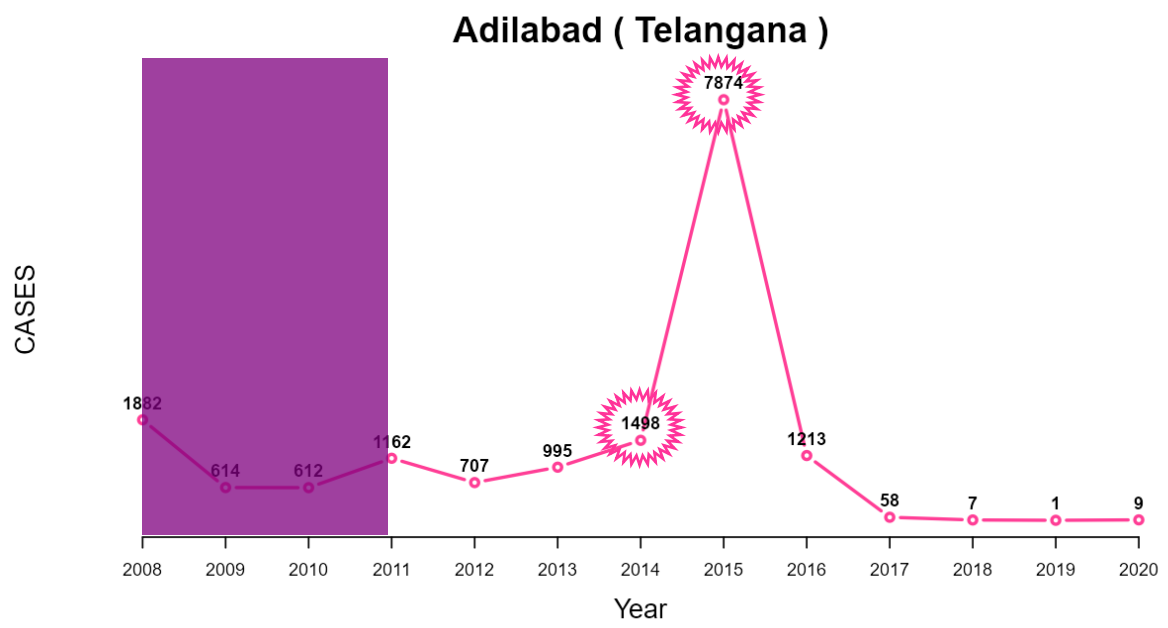


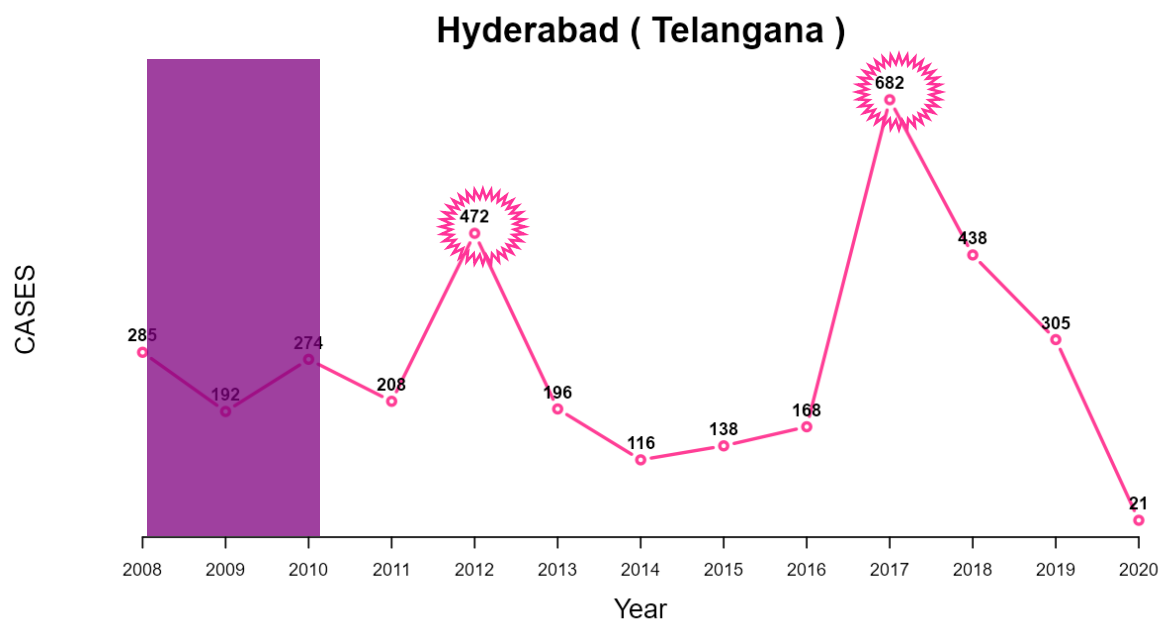
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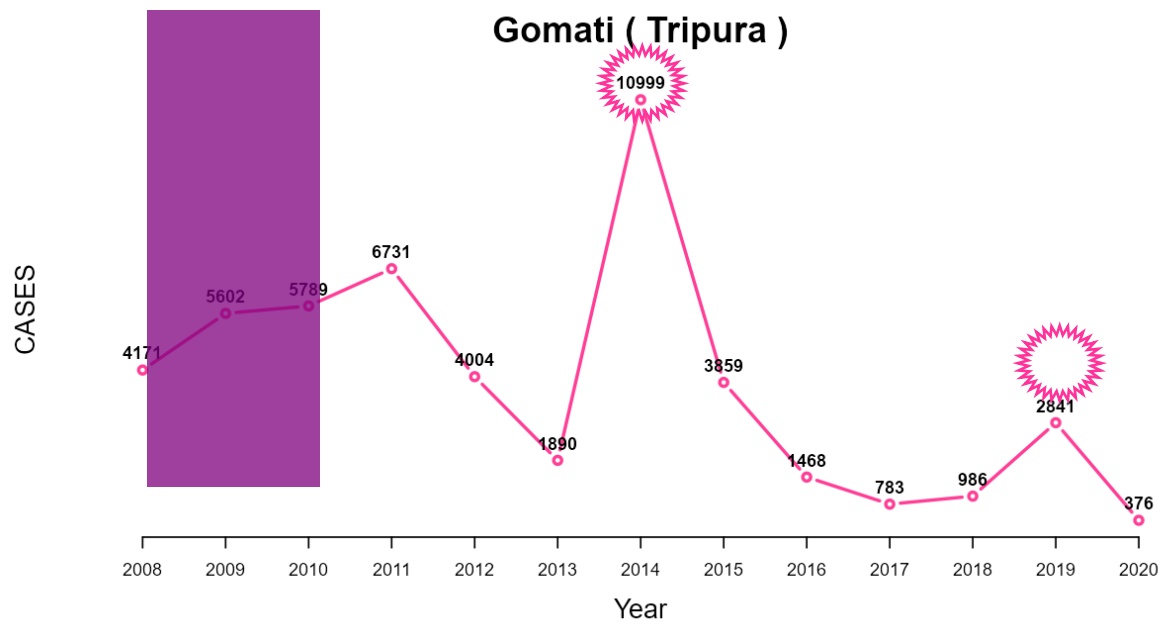




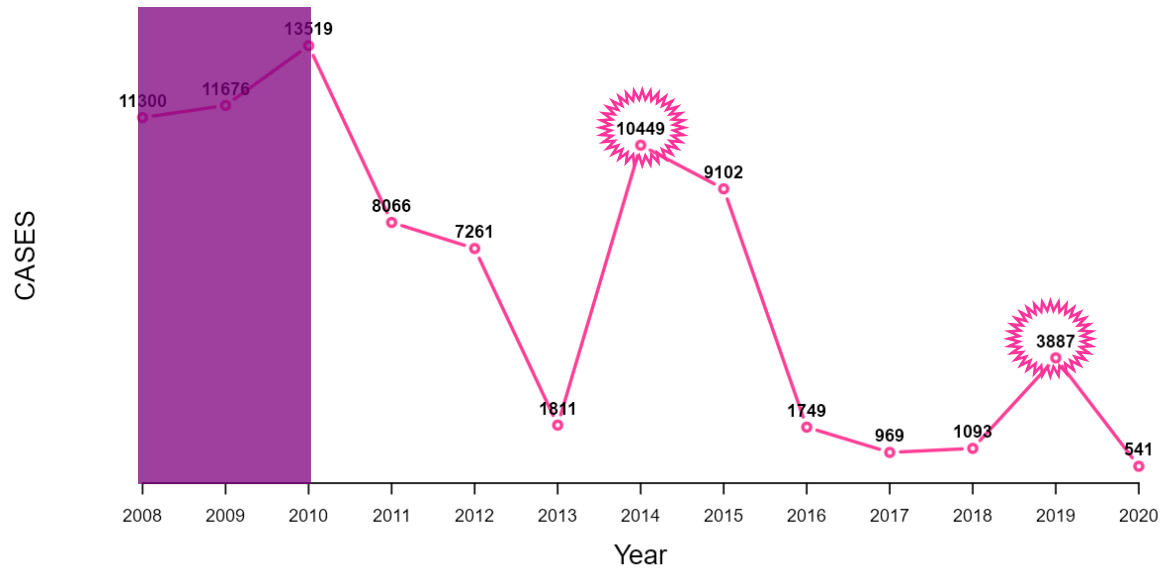


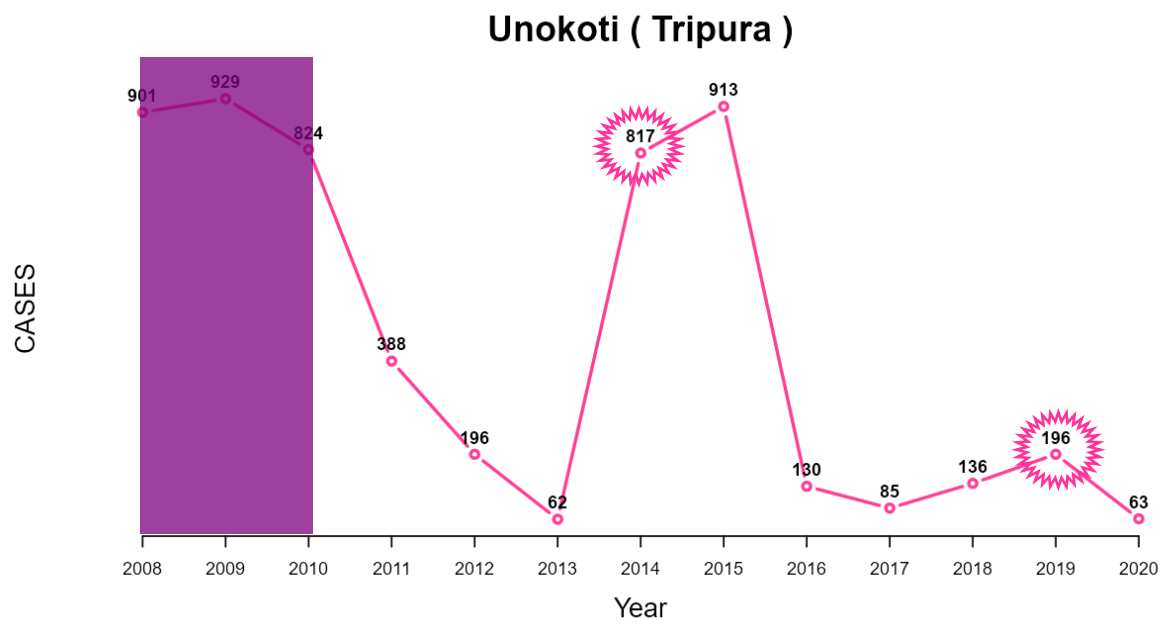




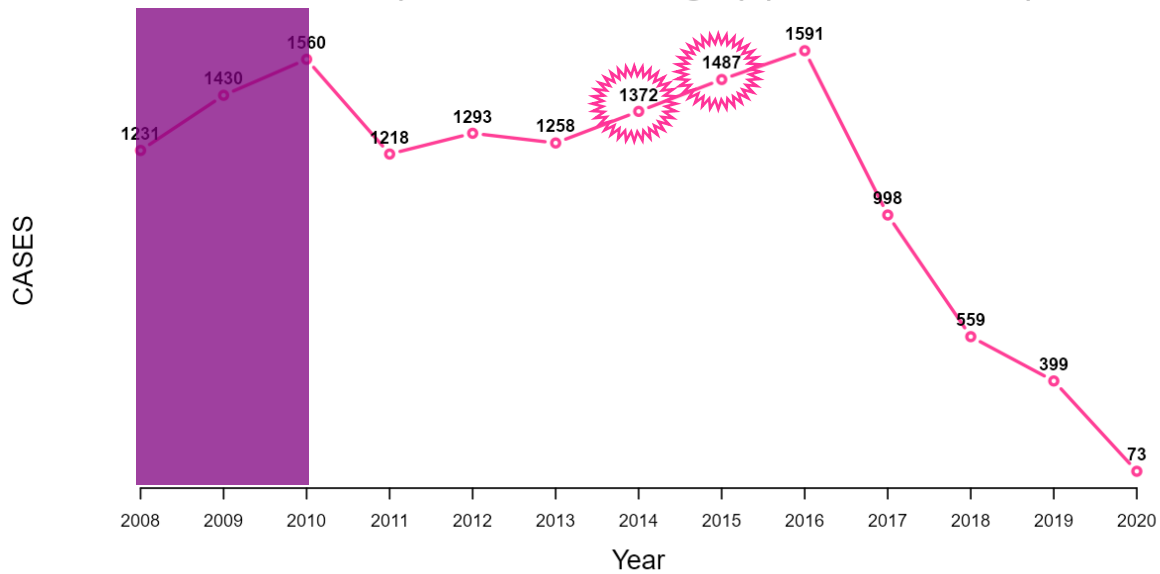


South Tripura (Tripura)

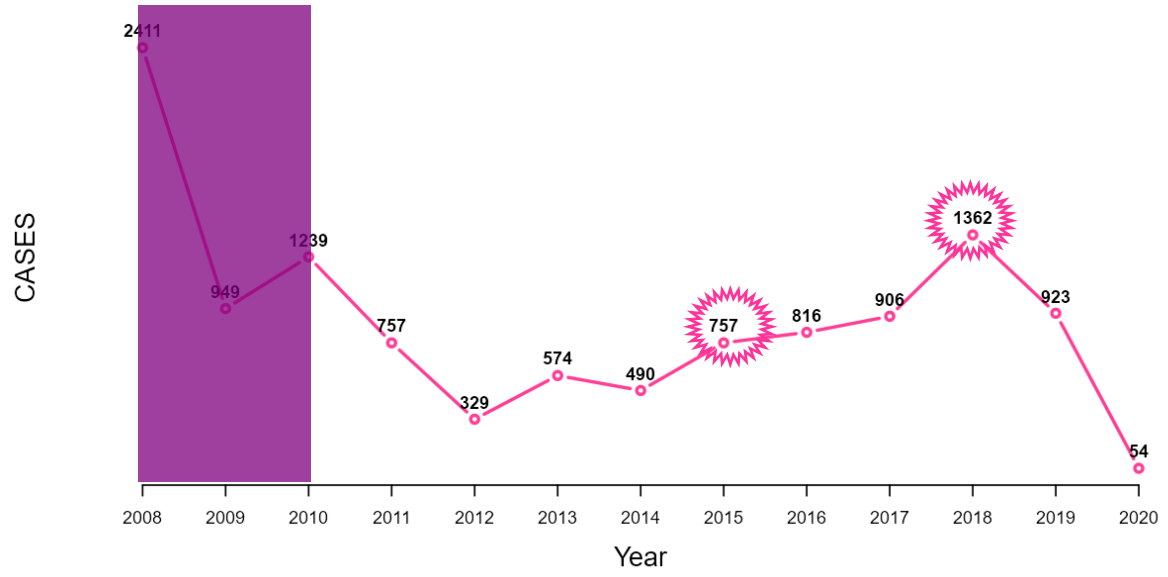


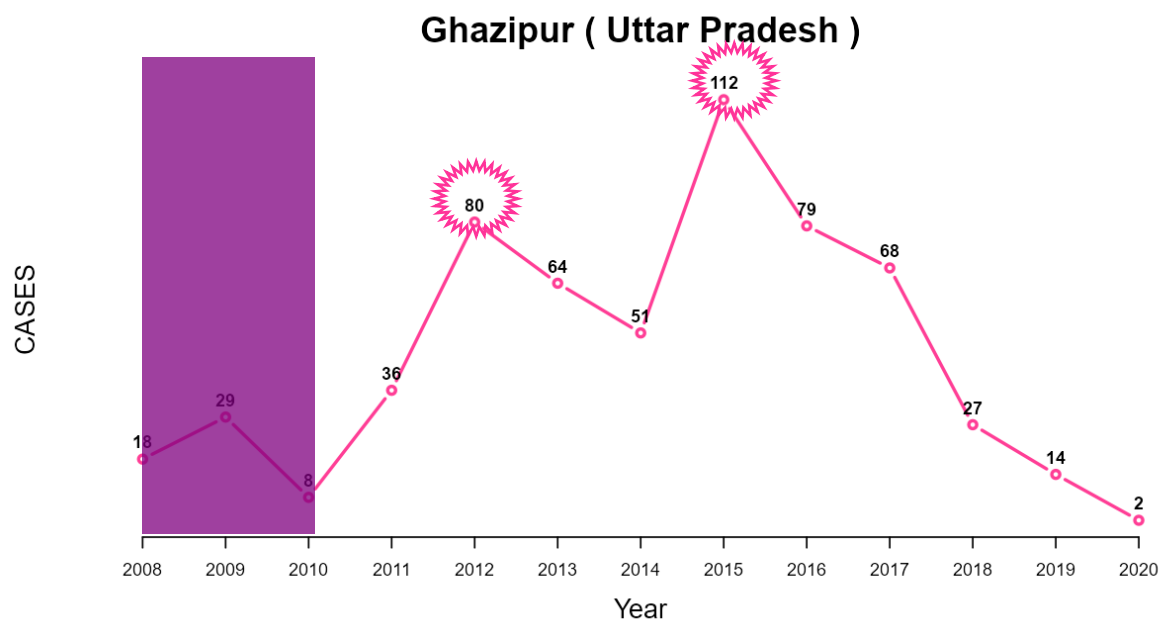


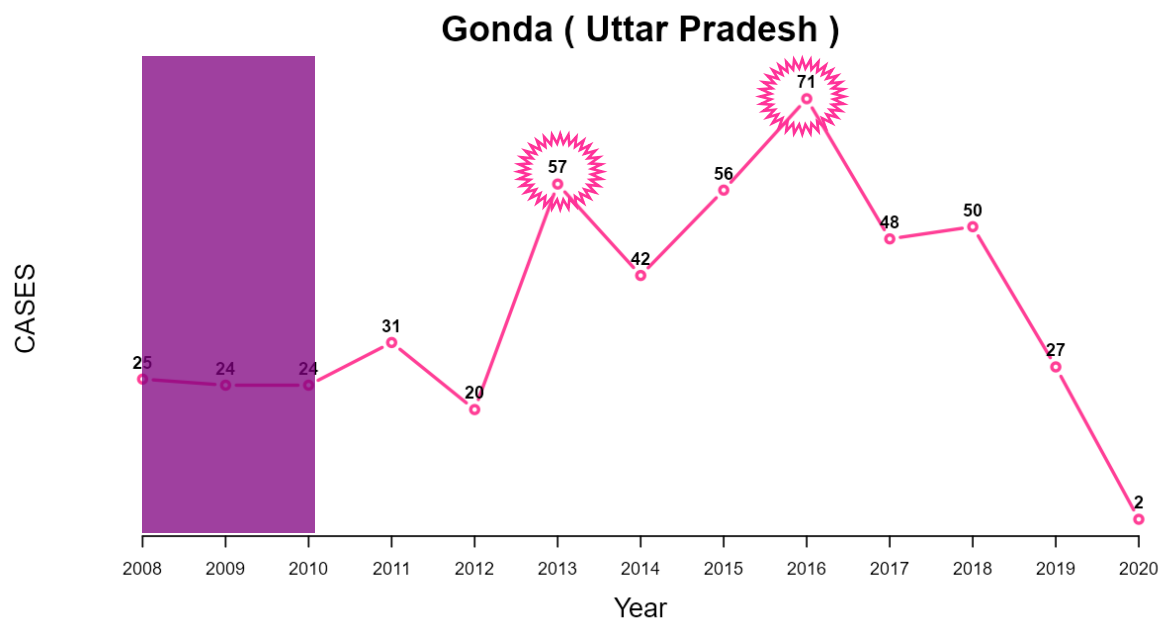
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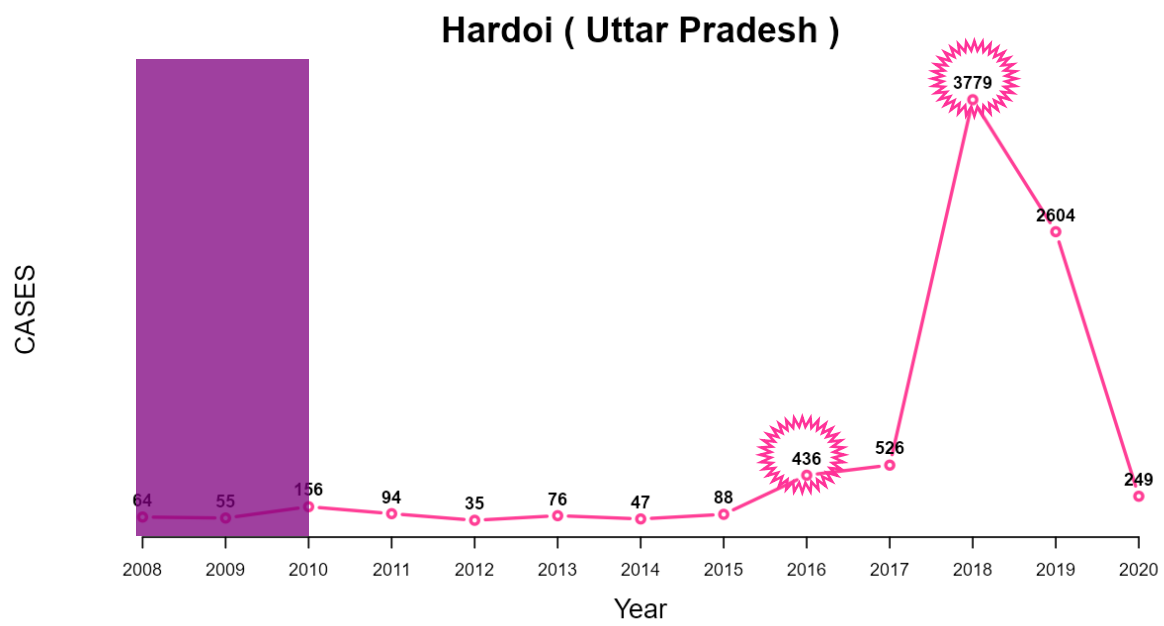


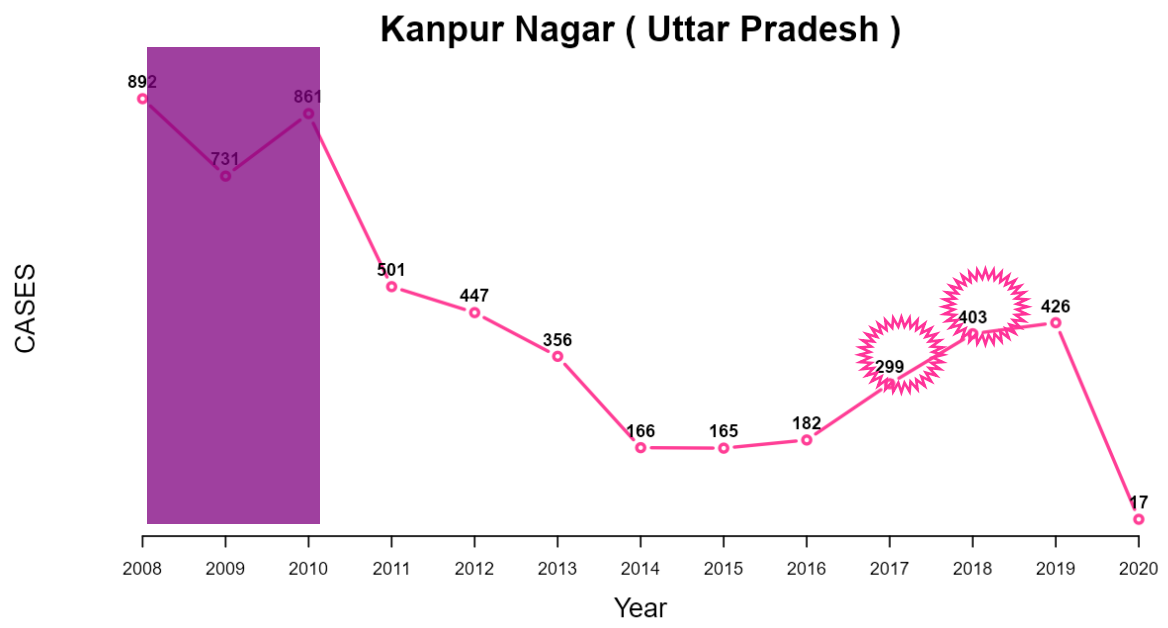
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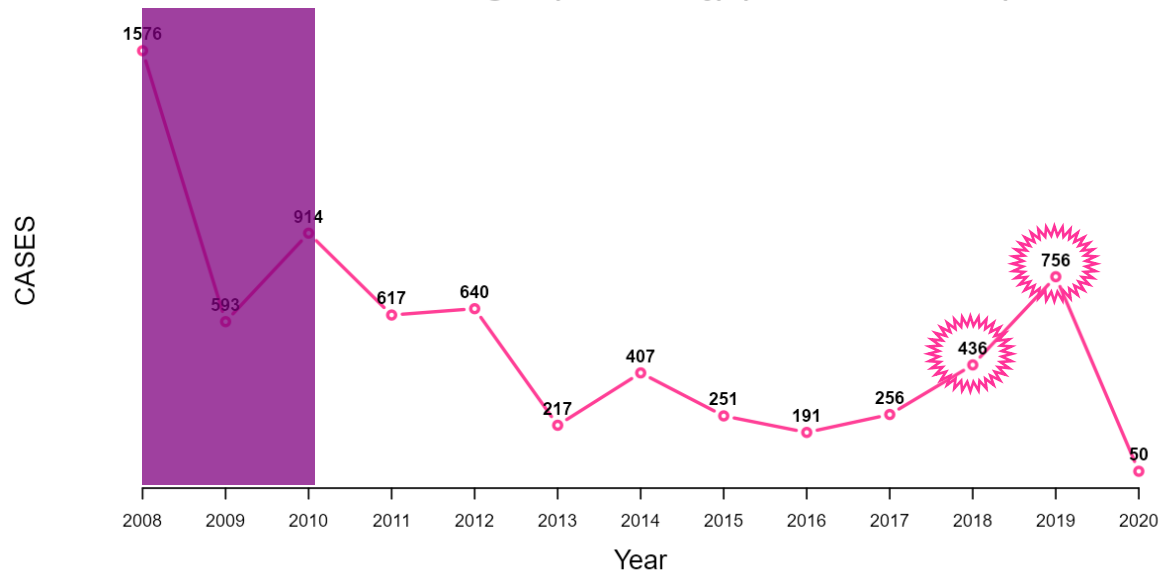


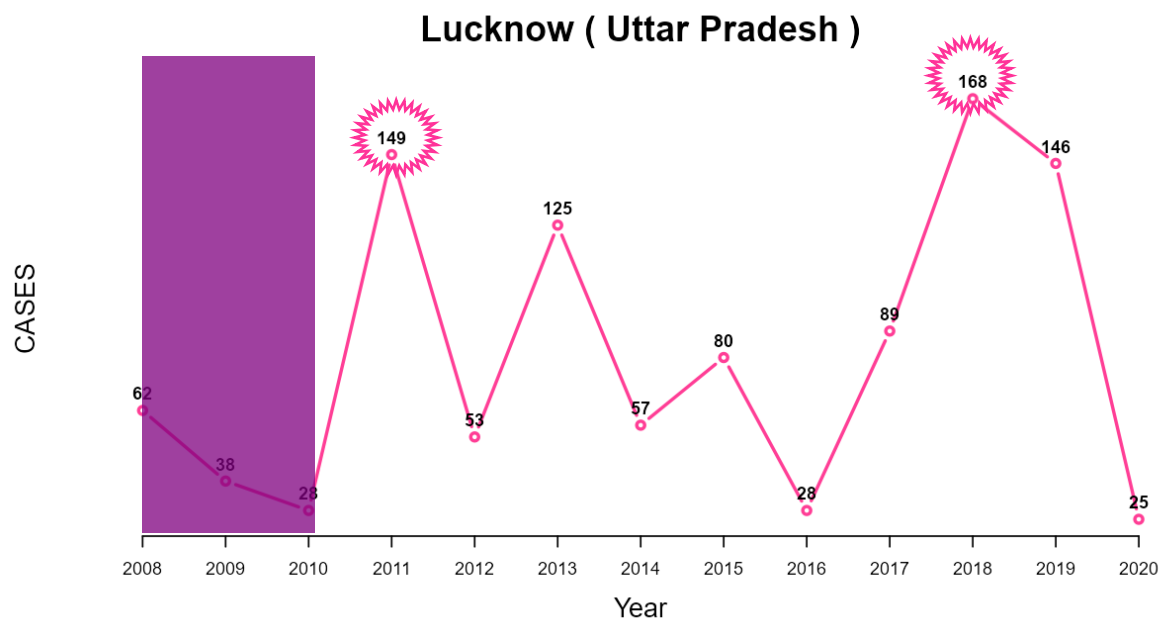






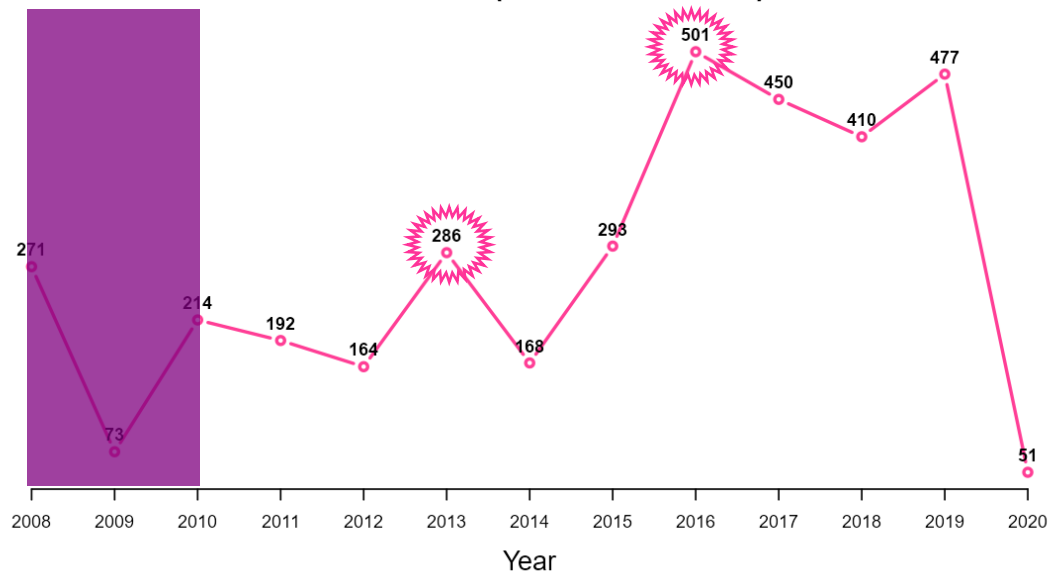
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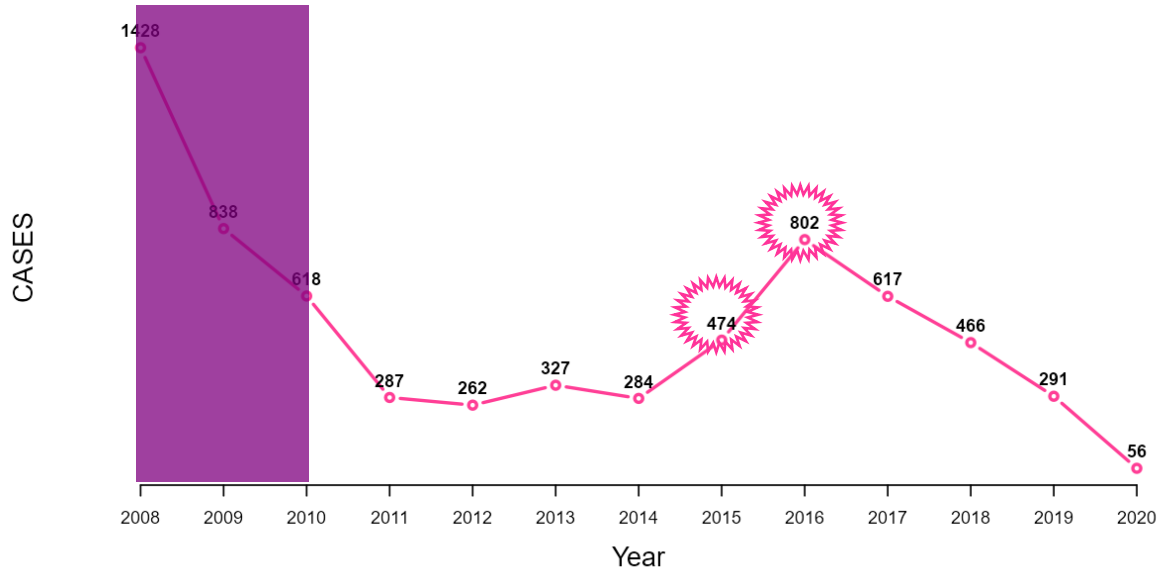


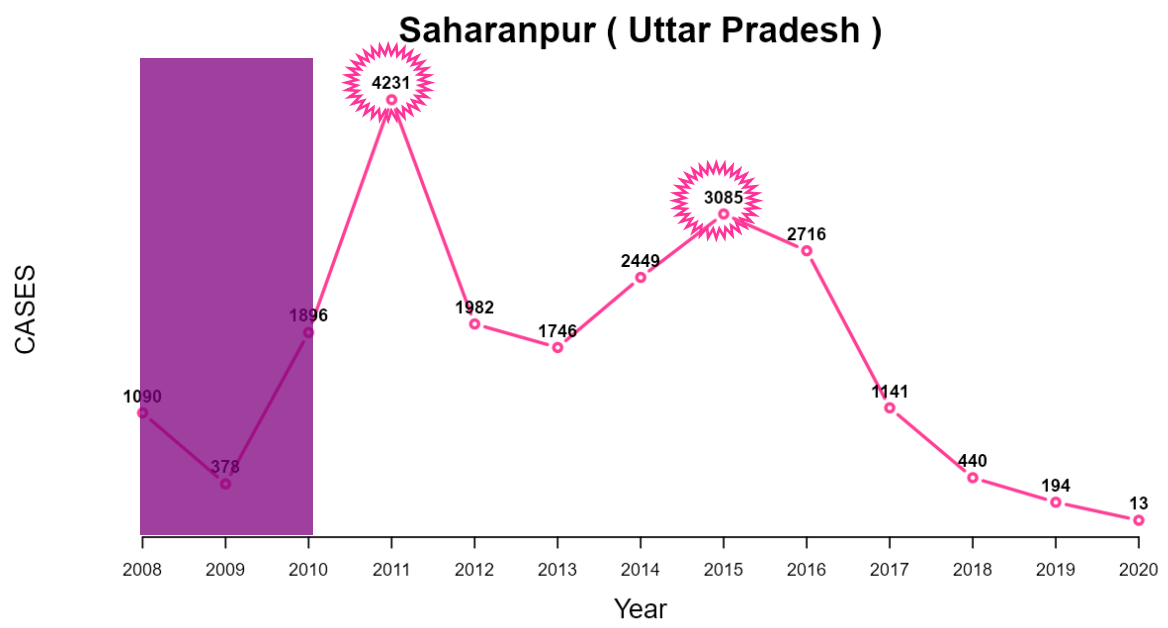
Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)

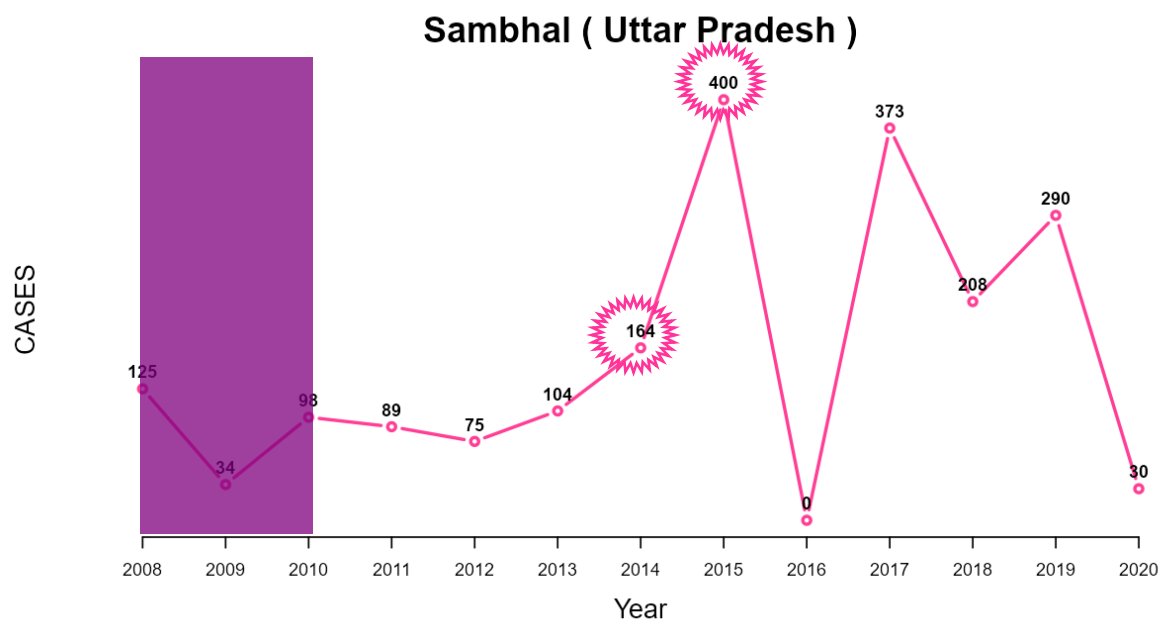
CASES



Rampur (Uttar Pradesh)

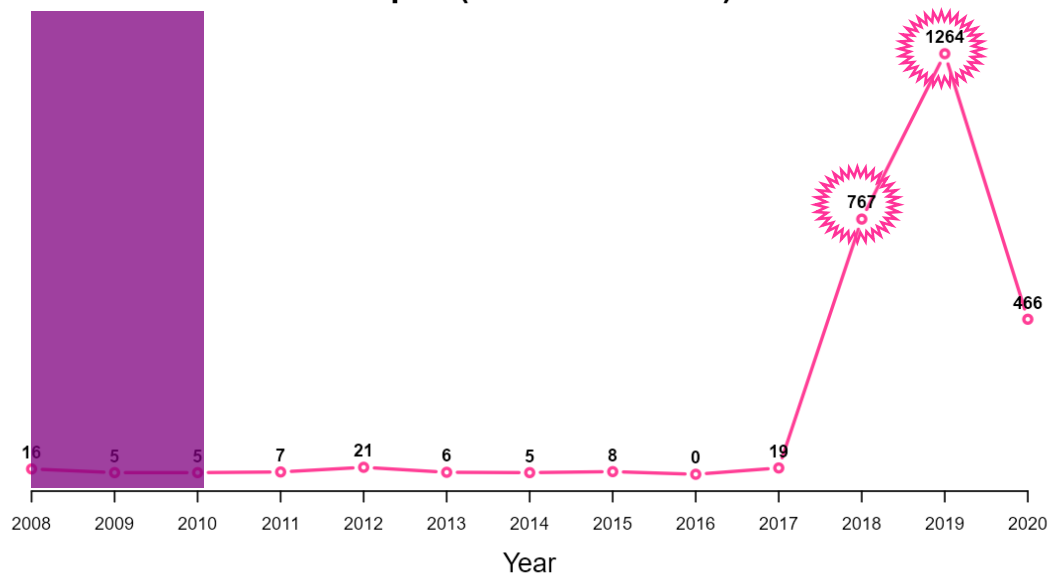






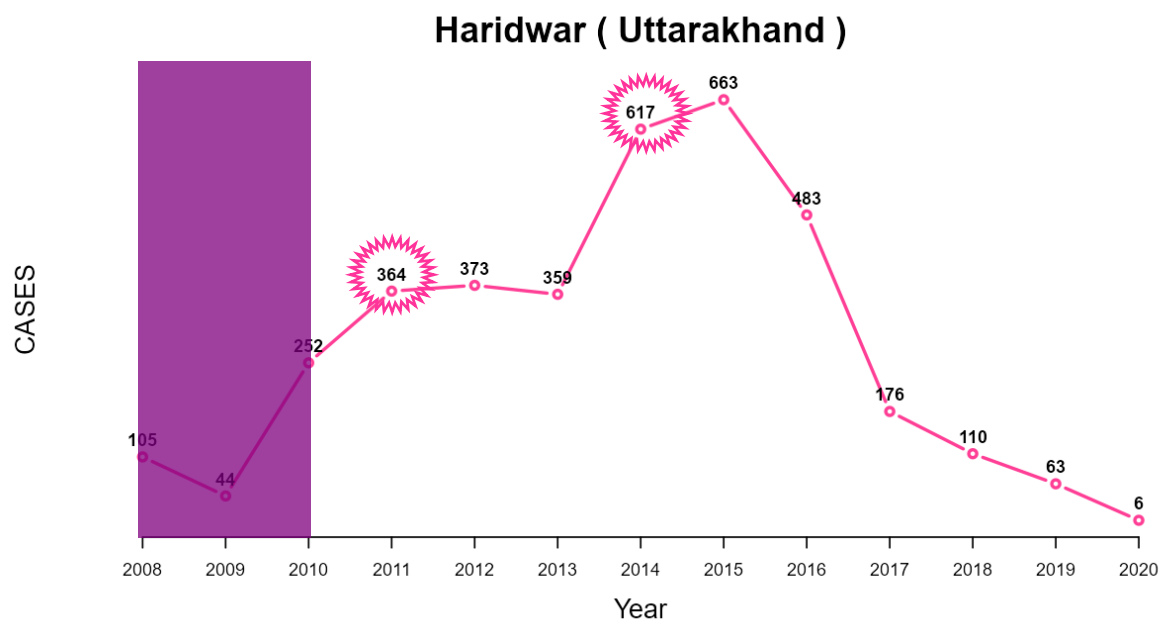
Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh)

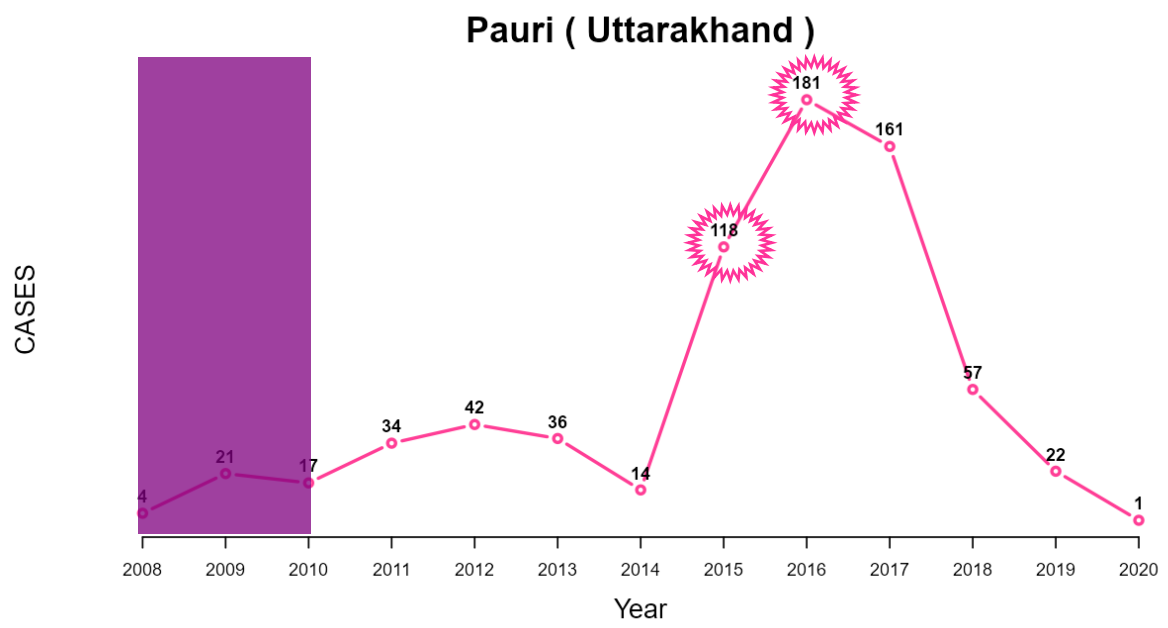
CASES



Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)

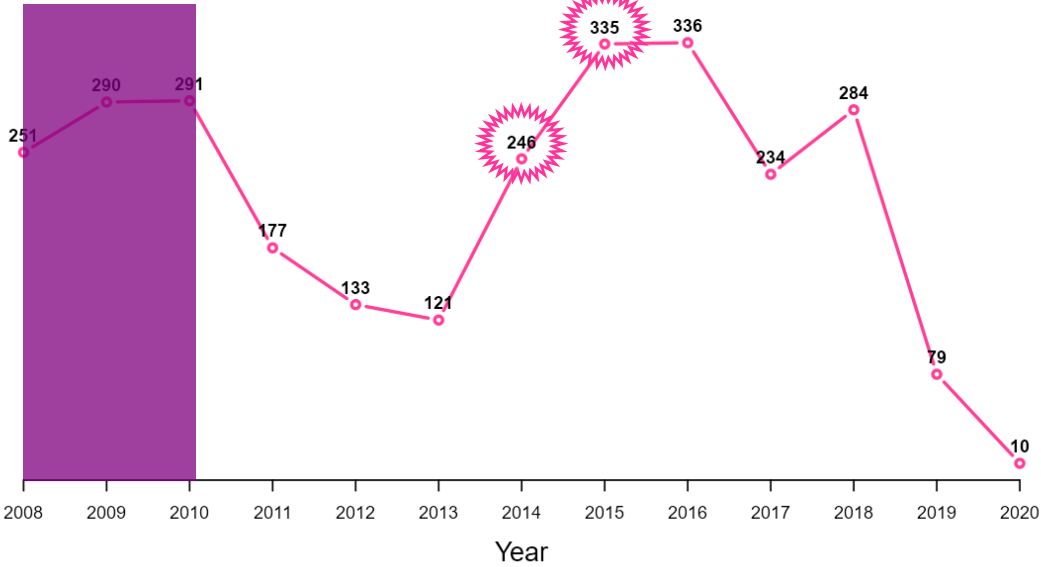






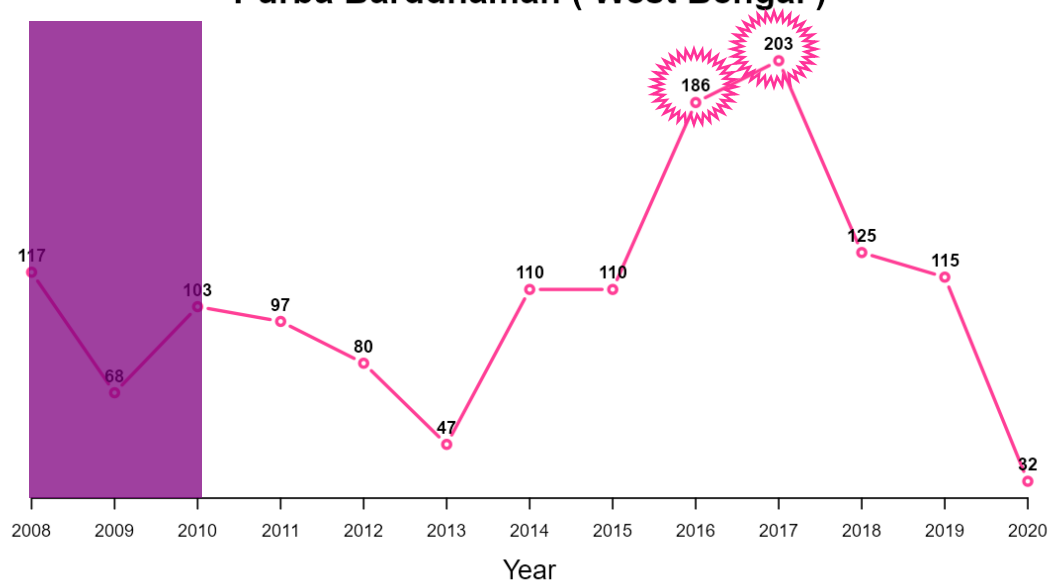
Dakshin Dinajpur (West Bengal)

CASES

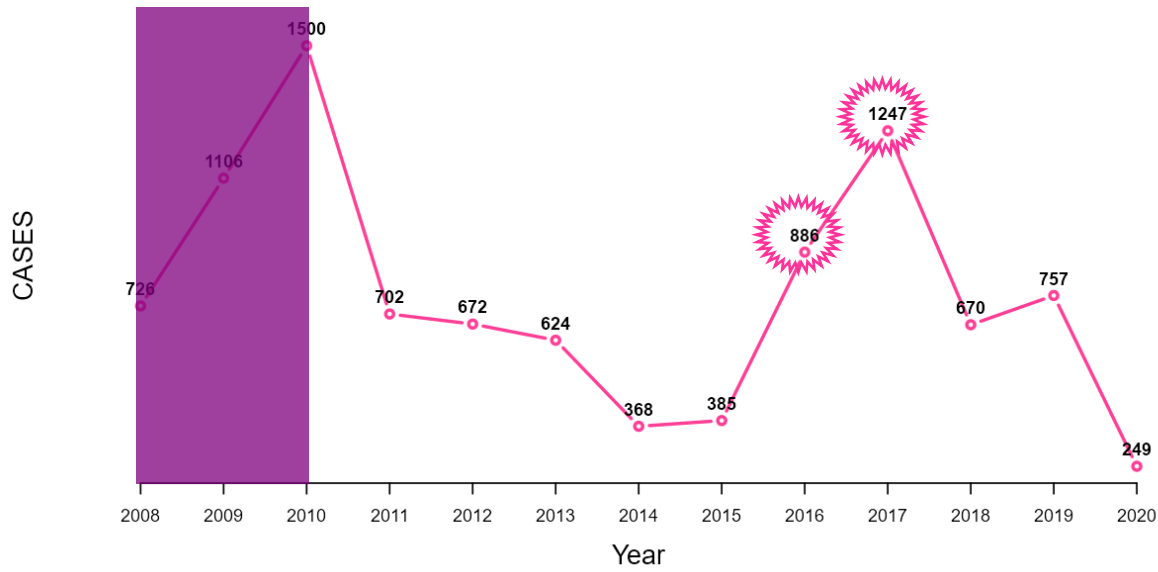


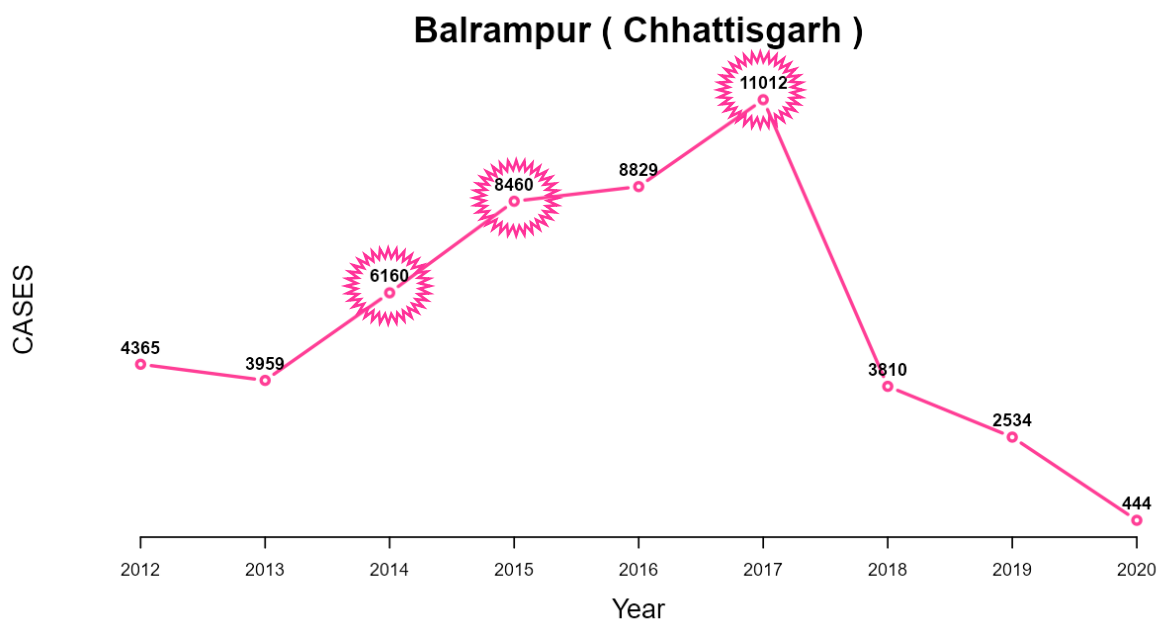
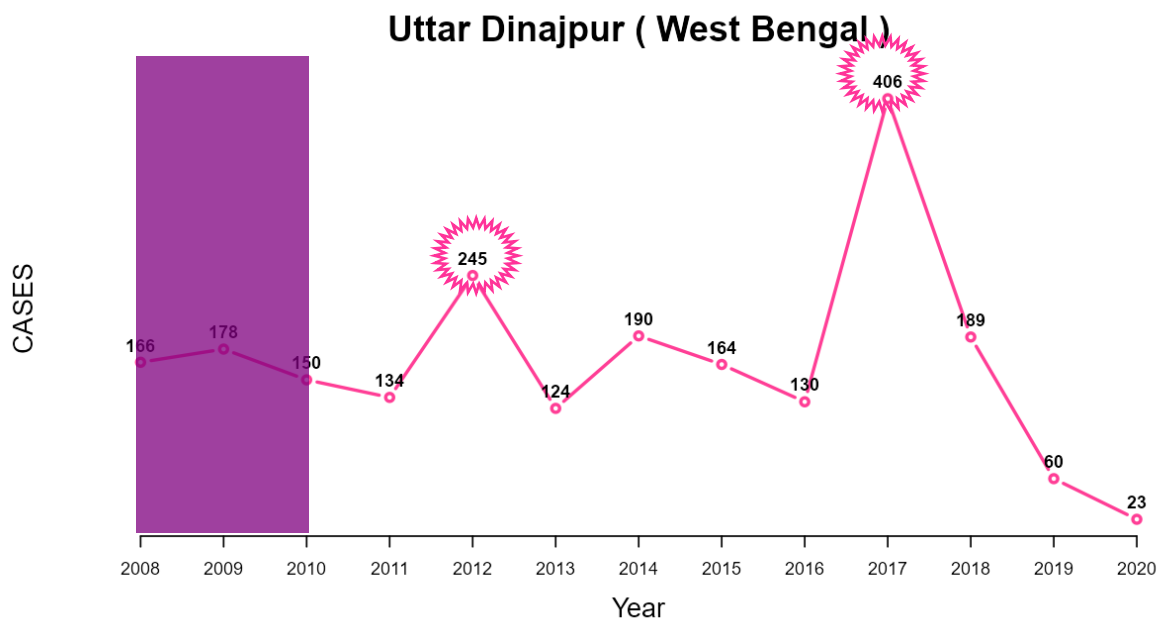
Purba Barddhaman (West Bengal)

CASES



24-Parganas (South) (West Bengal)





Bijapur (Chhattisgarh)

CASES

