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SAFETY OF WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract

In 2025, India has grown both in terms of economy and technology, and the gender equality conversation is becoming increasingly prominent. The National Crime Records Bureau reports a staggering 445,256 crimes against women in India in the year 2024. "Safety of Women" means wherever the women go she feels safe. She must not fear marriage because of risk of domestic violence. She must not fear to go outside because of increasing rape rates. Crimes against women are increasing in India at an alarming rate. India ranks abysmally low at the 128th position among the 177 countries in the Women Peace and Security Index. Daily, according to the data by NCRB, 88 rape cases take place certainly many are unreported. The Indian Constitution provides equality between men and women, yet it also permits the States to permit positive discrimination in favor of women by passing certain laws and rules in their respective States for women.

Keywords: Safety of women, crime against women, constitutional provisions for women, government initiatives for women, national commission for women

INTRODUCTION:

In 2025, India has grown both in terms of economy and technology, and the gender equality conversation is becoming increasingly prominent. Women are provided with ample opportunities in all walks of life, and yet, a critical question remains: are women really safe? The National Crime Records Bureau reports a staggering 445,256 crimes against women in India in the year 2024.¹¹ From domestic violence to rape, the safety of women is continuously jeopardized by those who perceive them as inferior.

Despite these challenges, India is making strides in women's safety. Today we have

more resources, legal reforms, and technological advancements aimed at protecting women.

Through this article, we delve into the statistics of crime in India against women, legal frameworks government initiatives, and technological innovations complying of startup programs related to women's safety.

"Safety of Women" means wherever the women go she feels safe. She must not fear marriage because of risk of domestic violence. She must not fear to go outside because of increasing rape rates. She must feel safe not only among strangers but also within her own family. A woman needs to be respected, her dignity needs to be respected by everyone to make her feel safe. If a woman feels secure in a state or a country, then it

¹¹ <https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/crime-in-india-2022-ncrb-report-over-445000-crimes-against-women-in-2022-one-every-51-minutes-murders-juvenile-crimes-uapa-offences-against-state-uttar-pradesh-delhi-kolkata-kerala/article67607146.ece>

helps in the real development of the nation.

STATISTICS ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA:

The crimes in India against women are increasing at an alarming rate. The National Crime Records Bureau has reported in 2023, crimes against women have increased by 4% in 2022. Here are some of the key statistics:

1. Cruelty by Husband or Relatives forms 31.4% of Total Crimes
2. Kidnapping and Abduction of Women forms 19.2% of Total Crimes
3. Assault with intent to outrage modesty forms 18.7% of Total Crimes
4. Rape forms 7.1% of Total Crimes

India ranks abysmally low at the 128th position among the 177 countries in the Women Peace and Security Index. Daily, according to the data by NCRB, 88 rape cases take place certainly many are unreported. Such is the insecure environment that awaits women even within our country itself.¹²

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN INDIA FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY: CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

The Indian Constitution provides equality between men and women, yet it also permits the States to permit positive discrimination in favor of women by passing certain laws and rules in their respective States for women. These may be laws passed on education opportunities for girl children, proper health services, employment opportunities at grassroots level, etc.

1. **Article 14:** This article discusses equal rights and opportunities for both men and women in the economic, political, and social sphere.
2. **Article 15(1):** This pertains to prohibition on discrimination of any citizen against

others on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, etc.

3. **Article 15 (3):** Special provision by which the State makes positive discriminations in favour of women.
4. **Article 16:** Equality of opportunities in matter of public appointments for all citizens.
5. **Article 23:** Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labor.
6. **Article 39(a):** The State shall direct its policy towards securing all citizens men and women, equally, the right to means of livelihood.
7. **Article 39(d):** Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
8. **Article 42:** The State shall make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
9. **Article 51 (A)(e):** To renounce the practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
10. **73rd and 74th Amendment Act 1992:** Reservation of 1/3rd of seats in local bodies of panchayats and municipalities for women.

“THE IMMORAL TRAFFIC (PREVENTION) ACT, 1956”:

This Act was enacted in the light of an international convention with the aim to suppress immoral traffic, protect women and children against exploitation, and ensure their safety and dignity. It criminalized activities such as running brothels, procuring persons for purposes of prostitution, and solicitation in public, with offenders given severe punishments by way of imprisonment and fines.

“THE DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT, 1961”:

The Act was formulated with the aim of eliminating the dowry system from society and establishing the concept of gender equality. Besides this, it was enacted to safeguard women from harassment and violence related to dowry and ensure their

¹² <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-records-51-cases-of-crime-against-women-every-hour-over-4-lakh-cases-in-2022-ncrb-report/articleshow/105731269.cms>

safety in a marital relationship. The act penalizes the giving, taking, and demand for dowry; and perpetrators face imprisonment and fines.

“THE INDECENT REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN (PROHIBITION) ACT, 1986”:

The law was enacted for the objectification and exploitation of women in advertisements and media. It criminalized the production, distribution, and exhibition of such materials that make women indecent. Offenders are liable for imprisonment and a fine. In addition, such materials can be seized and destroyed by the authority. It intends to promote the respect and dignity of women in society.

“PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005”:

This Act was brought in for the protection of women victims of domestic violence. This act has defined domestic violence as physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse. This Act aims to protect women's rights and ensure their dignity and safety at home. It contains various reliefs like monetary relief, protection orders, and residence orders for the safety of women and their well-being.

“THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013”:

Sexual Harassment Bill was enacted in order to eradicate and prevent this menace at work places. One of the mandatories of the Act is forming an Internal Complaints Committee, ICC, within every office and branch. These procedures include presenting complaints, investigation, and remedial measures for redressal. The objective of the legislation is to establish a safe environment with dignity and respect for the working women along with preventive mechanisms, awareness program, and efficacious grievance redressal mechanism.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN (NCW):

National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body established in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, of 1990. It was set up for:

1. Reviewing the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women
2. Recommending remedial legislative measures
3. Facilitating redressal of grievances
4. Advising the Government on all policy matters affecting women

It was set up with an idea of putting Indian women safe inside their houses and outside so they could become powerful to receive all the rights and facilities, hence becoming a better contributor at each and every phase of life.¹³

SAKHI – ONE STOP CENTRES:

Sakhi One Stop Centre scheme was introduced on 1st April 2015,

to help women who are being victimized at home or in any public place, or in any workplace. It is also available for girls below 18 years of age. The services offered under this scheme are:

1. Medical assistance
2. Psycho-social counselling
3. Shelter
4. Legal aid and counselling
5. Emergency service and Rescue service
6. Video Conferencing Facility
7. Assistance to women in lodging FIR/NCR/DIR

This service is open to all women regardless of caste, religion, class, region, marital status, or sexual orientation. The OSCC in Tamil Nadu is implemented with 100% financial assistance

¹³ <http://ncw.nic.in/commission/about-us>

from the Government of India.¹⁴

SWADHAR GREH SCHEME:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched Swadhar Greh Scheme on 1st January 2016. It has been a merging of two earlier schemes: one is the Swadhar Scheme of 2001-02 and the Short Stay Home Scheme of 1969. Its main purpose is to

provide rehabilitation support in institutions to the victims by giving shelter, food, clothing, and health along with economic and social security. Women could receive short-term housing for one year if they are victims of domestic violence, three years in the case of the victims belonging to other categories, and up to five years at maximum if they were more than 55 years old.¹⁵

STREE MANORAKSHA:

Stree Manoraksha project was launched by Smriti Irani on 2nd March 2022 in

collaboration between the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience, Bengaluru. It was initiated to support women suffering from mental trauma created by violence against them. It will train about 1400 counselors and more than 2000 other OSC personnel to provide Trauma-Informed care to women facing violence and abuse.¹⁶

MISSION SHAKTI:

Mission Shakti Scheme was initiated by the Government of India on 1st April, 2024. It is a scheme in mission mode directed towards intensifying interventions for women safety, security, and employment. It is supported by two sub-schemes, namely, 'Sambal' and 'Samarthyaa' dealing with safety and security of women. It immediately provides service and shelter for short-term to the victims of women in violence and distress by its

specialized 24 hours through national toll free helpline number that is i.e., 181 for support and 112 in case of an emergency. It offers services such as legal aid, temporary shelter and psycho-social counseling.¹⁷

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND STARTUPS:

SAFETIPIN:

Safetipin, which was launched in 2013, is an organization that engages with various stakeholders across the urban spectrum, including the government, to ensure that public areas are safe and secure for women. It collects data through its three mobile applications, namely, My Safetipin, Safetipin Nite, and Safetipin Site. Data collected is then shared with relevant stakeholders with recommendations. Among the data collected include broken walkpaths or areas where the streetlights are not working. These issues are resolved with the aid of stakeholders.¹⁸

MIRASYS INDIA:

Mirasys India, established in 2018, is an AI-based solution for extracting actionable information from video data. It acts as a deterrent that keeps women safe on the streets with real-time detection and prevention by on-site sensors and cameras placed in public areas, pedestrian areas, and colleges. It is a globally accepted provider of IP-based security solutions, which also includes Fire alarm systems, automatic number plate recognition solutions, and many more.¹⁹

SHE'S BIRDIE:

She's Birdie was established in 2019 by two sisters Amy Ferber and Ali Ferber Peters and is a company that makes personal alarms for women. It is an essential keychain-like device with a strobe light and alarm, activated on the removal of the device's top. In 2022, they added subscription-based business and safety features to their product, enabling real-

¹⁴ <https://www.tnsocialwelfare.tn.gov.in/en/state-resource-centre-for-women/one-stop-crisis-centre>

¹⁵ <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/swadhar-greh-scheme>

¹⁶ <https://nimhansstreeanoraksha.in/project-stree-manoraksha/>

¹⁷ <https://missionshakti.wcd.gov.in/about>

¹⁸ <https://safetipin.com/about-our-company/>

¹⁹ <https://mirasysindia.com/about-mirasys-india/>

time location monitoring and 24-hour call assistance through Bluetooth connectivity, all at the press of a single button.²⁰

SAFE LOCKET:

Safe Locket founded by Dhananjaya Gupta in 2019 is a high-tech wearable device for personal safety and protection. It is designed as an independent device, which does not need support from other factors, such as phone, Wi-Fi, or Bluetooth, etc. It can be used by a woman, child, or even the elderly. One can call for help within minutes in case of emergencies when using this locket. The device can be tracked at any given time, and it has an option for fall detect that will send a message to a safe contact in case of a fall. It intends to make India safer and bring technological advancements to the next level.²¹

YODDA ENABLE:

Yodda Enable, a technology-driven platform, was launched in 2021. This platform provides women with safety and security solutions. It offers an all-inclusive emergency response system that includes GPS tracking, instant alert buttons, a dedicated support network, and many more. It aims at providing its users a sense of security and peace of mind that they can access immediate help anytime to women and elders. Women can daily travel with a safe experience.²²

CONCLUSION:

This issue regarding the safety of women in India is quite multilateral in nature, yet further complicated by an increase in crimes. With such numerous problems, India is able to design relevant legislation, incorporate various technologies, and create novel schemes to enhance the condition of women in society. But it is not the role of government, it is our role too, it is the role of society to uplift

the women around us with education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and many more. Ultimately, empowering women is not just about their support, but it's intrinsically linked to the nation's overall development.

²⁰ <https://cxotoday.com/specials/companies-working-to-ensure-women-safety/>

²¹ <https://yourstory.com/2021/12/isro-iiit-entrepreneur-women-safety-device-safe-locket>

²² <https://www.yodda.care/>