

## **SECURING DIGNITY: A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE ON PERSONAL SECURITY IN INDIA**

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**Abstract.** Despite constitutional provisions and international human rights commitments, personal security remains a serious concern in India's complex social landscape. NCRB data reveals a consistent increase in threats, ranging from conventional crimes to emerging cybercrimes. This research views personal security as a multifaceted concept encompassing physical safety, cyber hygiene, protection of personal information and dignity, and psychological well-being. In India, socio-economic inequalities encourage various challenges such as terrorism, street crime, gender-based violence, crimes against children and marginalized groups, cybercrime, and environmental insecurity, all of which undermine human dignity and rights. Personal security is not limited to physical safety and protection; it includes protection from psychological violence and unauthorized access to personal information, ensuring privacy and a life of dignity. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which extends beyond mere survival to encompass a life of dignity with access to nourishment, shelter, education, health, and privacy. Analysis of crime statistics indicates a significant increase in violence and crime, along with systemic issues such as political interference, police arbitrariness, custodial deaths, and extrajudicial killings. External threats, including terrorism and border conflicts, further exacerbate security challenges, resulting in casualties and displacement. This study emphasizes the need for a holistic approach from the government and society, encompassing robust legal frameworks, law enforcement accountability, communal harmony, and the reduction of socio-economic inequalities. A collective action of government and society is required to ensure personal security and uphold human rights in India. This research underscores the urgency of collective action to create a safer and more dignified environment for all individuals, in line with the principles of human rights and constitutional liberties.

**Keywords:** Personal Security, Human Dignity, Gender-based Violence, Violence against Children, Self-centric Violence, Environmental Insecurities, Emergency Response Support System.

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## 1. Introduction

The United Nations (UN, 2015, p.4) stated in Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”. In the dynamic and diverse landscape of India, personal security is going to become a serious concern for the citizens. Presently, India is the most populous nation in the world, where more than 145 million people live. The NCRB reported that threats to individuals are consistently increasing, and Indian citizens are facing numerous security challenges. These concerns range from traditional threats to emerging cybercrimes. In the context of personal security, it takes on multifaceted dimensions, encompassing physical safety, cyber hygiene, and safeguarding personal information and dignity. Cultural diversity is a huge issue in India as the socio-economic disparities generate various security concerns for personal life, such as terrorism, street crime, robbery, snatching, cyber threats, etc. Human life is at greater risk. Recently, personal security has become an important issue in society, as no one is safe from the physical and psychological violence in Indian society. Every individual compromises ever in his life with his dignity.

**1.1. Personal Security.** Personal security is a concept that includes not only security from physical violence but also security from psychological violence. It refers to all the measures and practices that individuals take to protect themselves and their property from various potential threats. It protects personal information from unauthorized access. It provides the right to privacy and to live with dignity. Personal security is the all-round safety of an individual. Personal security includes physical safety, cybersecurity, mental and health wellness, financial security, access to education at an affordable cost, and emergency preparedness. The Human Development Report of 1994 stated that insecurities about human life are increasing consistently in all nations. The threats are found in several forms, such as threats from the state like political oppression, physical harassment and torture; threats from other states like invasion and illegal migrations; threats from other groups of people like ethnic cleansing and communal violence; threats from individuals or gangs against other individuals or gangs like robbery, crime, street violence, and murder; threats directed against women like harassment at work, gender discrimination, rape, and domestic violence; threats directed at children based on their vulnerability and dependence like child pornography and child abuse; and threats to themselves like suicide and drug addiction (The United Nations Development Programme, 1994, p. 30).

The Indian Constitution provides the right to life and personal liberty as fundamental rights. Part III of the Constitution states, “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law” (The Constitution of India, Article 21). Thus, it consists of two rights, like the right to life and the right to personal liberty. Since the right to life and personal liberty are considered natural rights, they are granted to all human beings who live in India, whether they are Indian citizens or foreigners. The Supreme Court of India has considered this right as the ‘heart of fundamental rights’. Without this article, all fundamental rights are meaningless. The right to life and personal liberty includes not only the right to survive but also the right to physical security, the right to live a complete life with dignity, the right to a livelihood, and the right to privacy. The state is responsible for providing security to individuals through a clean environment, health facilities, educational facilities, and maternity relief, creating just and humane conditions of work. The state ensures the dignity of every individual, securing life and personal liberty, because human dignity is an inseparable part of human life. Justice Bhagwati said that “the right to life includes that right to live with human dignity and all that goes along with it, namely, the bare necessities of life such as adequate nutrition, clothing, shelter, and facilities for reading, writing, and expressing oneself in diverse forms, freely moving about, and mixing and commingling with fellow human beings” (Singh, 2022, p. 198). Thus, right to life is not merely the physical act of taking breath, it includes a dignified life, respectful life and meaningful life in the society. State will provide them a healthy and pollution free environment as well as just environment that will be free from exploitation. Article 21 of Indian Constitution provides full liberty in a just society with making available all resources whatever an individual requires for a dignified life.

The objectives of personal security are to safeguard individuals from physical harm, be it inflicted by the state, external entities, violent individuals, sub-state actors, domestic abuse, or predatory adults. Generally, the primary concern revolves around crime, with a particular emphasis on violent offenses, contributing to heightened anxiety levels. Hence, personal security means people should be safe from harmful threats, keep their assets safe, and lead a dignified life free from physical and psychological violence. It is the protection of an individual and his or her property from violent threats such as theft, robbery or cyber-attacks. Personal insecurities have different forms, which have been given below:

1.1.1. *State-sponsored Violence.* State has legitimate power to use physical force as it is responsible to maintain law and order in the society. State-sponsored violence refers to the organized use of force, coercion, or brutality by the state or its security agencies

to achieve political goals. This form of violence is usually used to suppress opposition, regulate the public or retain political power. State-sponsored violence may be found in different forms like police brutality, extrajudicial killings, torture, fake encounters and mass arrests. It encourages the security agencies to commit human rights violations, undermining the democratic system and the rule of law. These activities may create an anarchic environment of fear and intimidation. Such violence creates hindrances to freedom of expression by suppressing opposition voices. State-sponsored violence not only inflicts immediate harm on individuals but also creates differences between the state and individuals. To address and prevent state-sponsored violence, states should be committed to implementing human rights and making the government transparent and accountable for their actions.

1.1.2. *Inter-state Violence.* Inter-state violence refers to violent activities between two or more sovereign states or nations due to aggression or any other conflict. This violence includes armed conflicts, wars or border disputes. Inter-state violence usually arises from geopolitical tensions, territorial disputes, historical enmities or a race of arms and resources. Now, the nature of the war has changed from traditional to proxy war. War or armed conflict between nations is never beneficial for any society or nation as it results in economic and human losses. The consequences of such conflicts lead to loss of life and economy, displacement of populations and social disturbances. The prevention of inter-state violence requires fostering diplomatic channels, promoting dialogue and mutual co-operation, and developing confidence-building measures (CBMs) to resolve conflicts and maintain international peace and security. The global order seeks to address inter-state violence through diplomatic relations, negotiations, and the intervention of international organizations.

Another form of inter-state violence is international terrorism. Now, international terrorism has become a global threat for each and every nation, where perpetrators target innocent people to fulfill their demands from the government. State-supported terrorism is more dangerous than other inter-state threats, such as pro-Pakistan terrorist groups that are active in India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir territory where many innocent people have been killed by these terrorist groups every year. Further, illegal migration is also a cause of inter-state conflicts, such as illegal migration from Bangladesh to India, which is a serious issue it creates tension between the states. In these states, the refugees or asylum-seekers, including women and children, are sexually assaulted and mistreated by the indigenous people. They usually face torture, killing, military or armed attacks, rape, beating, intimidation, forced recruitment, and arbitrary or inhumane conditions of

detention (“Executive,” 2000, p. 107-108). While the UDHR describes in Article 2 that “no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional, or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trusting, non-self-governing, or under any other limitation of sovereignty” (UN, 2015, p. 6) and the state shall provide the right to life, liberty, and security of the individual (UN, 2015, p. 8).

**1.1.3. *Ethnic Cleansing and Communalism.*** Ethnic cleansing is a heinous practice in which a group tries to remove or eliminate a particular ethnic, religious, or cultural group from a region through violence, forced displacement, or other coercive means in a systematic and organized way. This disgraceful phenomenon often arises from deep-rooted communalism, which refers to the division of society on the basis of ethnic or religious identity, fostering prejudice, discrimination, and animosity among different groups. Ethnic cleansing is a brutal expression of communalism because it involves deliberative targeting of particular ethnic or religious communities by the people who are seeking to homogenize a region by eliminating diversity. While Indian Constitution states that “the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them” (The Constitution of India, Article 15). Thus, as per the constitutional provision, no citizen should be discriminated against on the basis of religion, caste, creed, culture, sex, region or any other ethnic identity. Article 15 of Indian Constitution ensures the equal rights for all citizens preventing the discrimination among them. The state has provided different constitutional provisions for eliminating the differences between various cultures and religions. To address ethnic violence, the state should promote tolerance by fostering shared harmony.

**1.1.4. *Crimes by Gangs or Individuals.*** Crimes committed by gangs or individuals pose a significant challenge to societal safety and well-being. Gang-related criminal activities often include street crimes, organized crime, drug trafficking, extortion, and any other acts of violence. These activities not only threaten the immediate victims but also create a fearful environment in the communities. In this form of violence, the perpetrators commit different crimes in society, from petty theft to more serious offenses such as assault, robbery, or murder. The motives for the crimes may differ from man to man and from time to time. Cybercrimes are recently a considerable issue. Mostly, it is caused by economic insecurities, as economic insecurities are the mother of all insecurities and threats. While every state has laws to prevent these crimes, despite that, they are rising rapidly in the society. Social contract theorists claimed that the state was created by the people to maintain law and order by making rules. The people have authorized the state to rule over

them. So, the primary responsibility of the state is to maintain law and order, preventing all criminal and anti-social activities.

1.1.5. *Gender-based Violence.* The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines “any act that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or torcher to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life” (Gender Matters, 2019, p. 17). Gender-based violence is a pervasive and deeply rooted social issue in each and every society, whether it is developed or underdeveloped. It targets women and girls through physical, sexual, or psychological violence. In a patriarchal society, gender discrimination is a serious issue that treats men and women differently. The females are treated as just material. They can never enjoy the same rights as men enjoy. They are harassed in their homes, workplaces and public places. Gender-based violence includes physical violence, verbal violence and hate speech, sexual violence, socio-economic violence, harassment and sexual harassment at the workplace, domestic violence, and psychological violence (Gender Matters, 2019, p. 23-31). Physical violence is an act that results in pain and physical injury, conveying the message to the victim from the perpetrator, “I can do things to you that you do not want to happen” (Gender Matters, 2019, p. 24). Through verbal violence and hate speech, the perpetrator targets systematically and purposefully women and girls for harassing them through comments, jokes, or any other verbal abuse. Sexual violence is defined as non-consensual vaginal, anal, or oral penetration with another person. In this form of sexual violence, the perpetrator usually forces the female to do something against her will. Socio-economic violence means making a victim more vulnerable by taking away their earnings, not permitting the creation of separate income sources or making the victim unfit for work. Domestic violence and harassment at work are pervasive issues. Domestic violence means an act of physical or psychological violence that occurs within the family by the spouse or his relatives. It includes rape, beatings, and psychological abuse that lead to physical or psychological harm. While harassment at workplace is “unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment” (Gender Matters, 2019, p. 31). It consists of verbal and non-verbal harassment, both forcing the female to make physical contact. Verbal harassment includes making sexual comments, while non-verbal harassment means looking the female up and down, stalking, making sexual gestures, etc. And lastly, psychological violence attacks on the dignity and integrity of people, and it includes isolation or confinement, disinformation, and threatening behavior. Women and girls usu-

ally have to compromise with their integrity and dignity.

1.1.6. *Violence against Children.* Violence against children is a serious crime in a community. It encompasses various forms of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Children are usually violated in their homes, schools and communities by perpetrators. The consequences of violence against children can be profound, affecting their physical and mental health, hindering their development, and perpetuating cycles of trauma. Some anti-social elements make children drugs abusers and encourage them to commit crimes at a young age. In the digital age, the internet is playing a crucial role in the child community. The Internet is promoting technological crime, and children are trapped as victims. It includes cyberbullying, online harassment, child pornography and the distribution of explicit or harmful content. While the internet provides valuable educational and recreational opportunities, it also serves as a platform for malicious activities that can affect negatively on children's well-being and health. Such forms of violence can have severe consequences, affecting children's mental health, self-esteem and overall development. Recently, 13.6 percent of the total users of the internet are children between the ages of 5 and 12, who are unaware of digital threats (Kemp, 2023, para. 3).

1.1.7. *Self-centric Violence.* Self-centric violence encompasses those actions where an individual perpetrates harm upon oneself, often driven by internal struggles, mental health issues or overwhelming stressors. This violence includes self-cutting, substance abuse, or other forms of self-destructive actions. It is crucial to recognize that individuals engaging in self-centric violence are often dealing with deep emotional pain and distress. It threatens one's own well-being, encompassing issues like suicide and drug addiction. It is the result of distress.

1.1.8. *Environment-based insecurities.* Every nation is exploiting nature very fast in the name of economic development resulting in different crises for human beings. However sustainable development is accepted as a better solution to resolve challenges regarding environmental issues at global and national level. Now, environmental degradation is a severe crisis. It consists of global warming, the depletion of ozone layers, air and water pollution, etc. The most important impact of environmental degradation is the increase in skin, respiratory, and cancer diseases. Most important issue is that men have crossed six planetary boundaries out of nine. Secretary-General of the UN warned that there is no planet 'B' as the Earth is only a planet which is suitable for us to survive. So, the earth would have been secure in effective way. In the Indian context, three most popular cities (Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai) are come in the top ten most polluted cities of the World.

Thus, individuals realize they are unsafe in society. So, personal security has become a major issue in the society. There are fearful environment and minorities are feeling insecure. They are afraid of losing their identities and lives. Most of the states are failed to provide personal security to its citizens. Muscle and money power plays an influential role in the community. Communal factors and ethnic identities are used by politicians for their political benefits. It has been found that a lot of innocent people were killed in ethnic and communal riots during the election. Anti- social elements are making society anarchic, where everyone is insecure.

## 2. Personal Security in India

India is a multicultural nation where there are regional and cultural diversities on the grounds of religion, language, culture, race, creed and tribes. Cultural diversities are creating threats for human beings in different ways. Although the UN forces its member states to implement human rights strictly in their respective territories so that the people can survive in society fearlessly, the states are not serious about the willful implementation of human rights. The Supreme Court of India admitted that the right to life and personal liberty (Article 21) is the soul of fundamental rights. Human beings do not feel secure in society. People are facing various severe threats to their personal security and compromising with their dignity.

First of all, people are not feeling secure in their state. Some scholars claim that state is an instrument of oppression. For retaining political power, the politician-police nexus works, where the police misuse power at the behest of politicians and try to suppress the opposition's voices. The ruling party tries to impose restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and speech. The police have arrested many people misusing the power under the sedition law during the protest against the government or on expression their view. The Rights and Risks Analysis Group stated that 2955 people were killed in fake encounters during 1998-2018 (Right and Risk Analysis Group [RRAG], 2018, para.1). The below table (Table 1) shows the total number of registered cases since 2018 that were registered against state police personnel for violating human rights. The report indicates that various fatalities were found in police custody, and police personnel were arrested and charged, but no one was convicted for human rights violation.

Secondly, proxy wars took place in which enemy states have changed the nature of attacks. Pro-Pakistan terrorism, soldiers killing at the border, attacks on patrolling teams by the enemy state, and illegal immigration are some of the serious threats to Indian citizens. Thousands of people were killed due to the proxy war between India and Pakistan. The

**Table 1. Cases Registered against State Police Personnel for Human Rights Violation (Source: Ministry of Home Affairs [MHA], Annual Reports 2020-2022). [T-Total, A- Arrested and C- Convicted])**

Financial Year	2018			2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Cases	T	A	C	T	A	C	T	A	C	T	A	C	T	A
Fake Encounters	4	0	0	10	2	0	3	2	0	6	0	0	6	15	0
Deaths in Custody	3	9	0	15	8	0	7	4	0	7	10	0	9	8	0
HR Violations by Police	89	40	0	49	23	0	20	8	0	26	16	0	30	41	0

Pakistani military violates the ceasefire frequently and misbehaves with dead corpses, like beheading, etc. Sino-India border disputes have also resulted in human loss during face-off at borders like Doklam or Galwan Valley military clashes. Illegal immigration from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan is also a severe threat to humanity because the migrants or refugees are living in inhumane conditions that compromise with their dignity. Although they have applied for getting Indian citizenship, they have not gotten it yet. They have been detained and deported to their respective nations. Illegal immigration has been consistently going on from Bangladesh and Myanmar till now.

The consequences of international terrorism are very harmful for human beings, as they result in the deaths of innocent people. On April 22, 2025, four terrorists gunned down many innocent people in J & K. 26 tourists were dead and 15 persons were injured (The Hindu; 23 April 2025). Table 2 indicates that the activities of terrorists affect all communities, including civilians, security personnel, and terrorists. Pro-Pakistan terrorist groups and insurgent groups are active in Jammu and Kashmir territory. Many civilians were killed during the encounters between the security forces and terrorist groups. Details are given below:

**Table 2: Total Casualties during the Encounters between Security Forces and Terrorist Groups (Source: MHA; Annual Reports from 2018 to 2023)**

Year	Total Incidents	Fatalities			
		Civilian	Security Forces	Terrorists	Total
2019	135	42	78	163	283

2020	140	33	56	232	321
2021	153	36	45	193	274
2022	151	30	30	193	253
2023	72	14	33	87	134
Total	651	155	242	868	1265

Thus, a total of 651 terrorist attacks occurred in Jammu and Kashmir territory, where a total of 1265 casualties were found during the encounters in the last five years, and 155 of them were innocent people. The NCRB reported that recently, terrorist activities and fatalities have been reduced.

Thirdly, ethnic cleansing and communal riots are critical issues in India. It has a long history. Millions of people were killed during the ethnic violence and communal riots before independence. Major fatalities took place during the partition of India. A historian claimed that between half a million to 2 million people were died in the violence (Satia, 2019, para. 1). Post- independence, this partition was the root cause of tension between India and Pakistan. Thousands of people were killed or displaced in Kashmir genocide (1990–91) and Sikh riots (1984). The Manipur conflict is the latest instance of ethnic cleansing that has resulted in over 75 casualties and set fire to at least 1700 homes and religious places in 2023. More than 35,000 people are currently displaced, and many of them are living in the relief camps (United States Institute of Peace, 2023). A newspaper expressed that there were a total of 2,76,273 cases of rioting in India. (“India witnessed”, 2022, March 29). Violence is very common before or during the election in India.

Fourthly, criminal incidents are persistently increasing. Every person feels unsafe physically and psychologically in Indian society. The NCRB reported the following numbers of crime incidences that occurred in the last five years:

**Table 3. Crimes Committed between 2017 and 2021 (Source: MHA, Annual Reports 2020-21 to Annual Reports 2022-23)**

Crime Head	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
IPC	30,62,579	31,32,955	32,25,597	42,54,356	36,63,360
SLL	19,44,465	19,41,680	19,30,561	23,46,929	24,32,950
Total	<b>50,07,044</b>	<b>50,74,635</b>	<b>51,56,158</b>	<b>66,01,285</b>	<b>60,96,310</b>

Table 3 shows that a total of 50,07,044 cognizable crimes were registered in 2017, comprising 30,62,579 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 19,44,465 Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes, but the number of IPC and SLL cases is increasing every year. In 2020, more crimes were registered due to COVID-19, as unemployment also increased. In 2021, a total of 36,63,360 IPC cases were registered, compared to 32,25,597 in 2019. Thus, the table indicates that crimes are rapidly increasing day by day. The NCRB reported that more than 4 lakh cases of violent crimes occurred in the last five years (MHA, Annual Reports 2020-21, p. 37). And the conviction rate of the IPC crime cases is less than fifty percent. Fifth, gender-based crime is a considerable threat as it is rapidly growing and the government has failed to regulate these crimes. Gender-based crimes comprising rape, gang rape, kidnapping and abduction, dowry death, domestic violence, molestation and eve-teasing, and women trafficking, etc., are growing drastically in numbers. However, the Indian government has made various laws to prevent and regulate these crimes. Table 4 shows that the crimes against women have increased despite the different preventive acts and policies. In 2014, a total of 3,37,922 cases were registered for gender-based crimes. But it has been increased to 4,45,256 in 2022. The given details indicate that women and girls are neither safe in society nor inside the house as most of the rapes have been committed by the relatives or knowing persons. Head-wise crimes against women are given below:

**Table 4: Gender-based Crimes (Source: MHA, Annual Reports 2015-16 to Annual Reports 2022-23)**

Year	Total Crimes against Women	Rape/ Gang Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Domestic Violence	Dowry Deaths
2014	337922	36735	57311	119538	10050
2015	327394	34651	59277	113403	8894
2016	338954	38947	64519	110378	7621
2017	359849	32559	66333	104551	-
2018	378277	33356	72751	103272	7166
2019	405861	32033	72780	125298	7115
2020	371503	-	62300	111549	6966
2021	428278	31677	75369	-	-

Sixth, a lot of crimes against children under the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws are also registered in India. Murder, rape, and child abuse are traditional threats to

children. But now, the children are trapped through the internet, such as through cyber-bullying, online harassment, child pornography, suicide, and so on. Many children have committed suicide while playing online games like PubG. In 2020, there were 1,28,531 registered cases of crime against children and 1,49,404 and 1,62,449 cases have been registered in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Recently, minor rapes and child pornography are growing and these are considered heinous crimes in every society. The crime rate against minor girls is growing rapidly. In 2021, the NCRB reported a total number of 53,874 cases registered under the POCSO Act of 2012. In 2021, a total of 37,444 juveniles were captured in 31,170 incidents. Among them, 32,654 juveniles were apprehended for offenses falling under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), while 4,790 juveniles were taken into custody for offenses under the Special and Local Laws (SLL). The majority of these juveniles were aged between 16 and 18, and all of them were drug addicts as drug addicted adolescents commit crime for petty money.

Seventh, self-centric threats are the gifts of economic insecurities like poverty, unemployment and the backwardness of society. Sometimes, people become distressed psychologically and commit suicide. At a young age, children and youth start taking drugs and alcohol. The Comprehensive National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted a survey and reported that about 15 crore people were alcoholics, 2.9 crore people were taking cannabis and 1.86 crore people were addicted to opioids in the age of 18-75 years. Other than it, 30 lakh minors were alcoholic and 40 lakhs minors were opioids addicted. Thus, 21.7 crore people were addicted to different substances like alcohol, cannabis, opioids, sedatives, and inhalants. Cocaine, hallucinogens, etc. (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, para. 2).

Environmental insecurities are major issues for human lives in developed and developing countries. States are exploiting nature for development and dumping waste in open areas and rivers. Pollution is at a high level too. Due to different types of pollution, individuals are suffering from different fetal diseases like respiratory and cancer diseases. Due to air pollution, patients with respiratory diseases have grown up and water pollution has resulted in liver diseases. Thus, environmental issues are creating a dangerous threat to human lives. Cancer cases and mortalities have been increased in India, which is given below since 2018:

Cybercrime is a new threat to personal security as it is a technological threat in which cyber criminals do the fraud with mobile or artificial intelligence through hijacking the victim accounts or doing the financial fraud. Sometimes, they detain the victim digitally

**Table 5. Estimated Incidences of Cancer Cases and Mortality (Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 2023)**

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Estimated Cancer cases	13,25,232	13,58,415	13,92,179	14,26,447	14,61,427
Estimated Mortality	7,33,139	7,51,517	7,70,230	7,89,202	8,08,558

using always new techniques and tricks for cheating the victims. Mostly petty crimes are not registered.

### **3. India's Policies and Safety Measure towards the Betterment of Personal Security**

The Indian government has been very serious about preventing violence against human beings and enhancing the safety of every individual since 2014, and the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several steps for the welfare of vulnerable sections of society. It has focused on strengthening the legal framework and technology-based initiatives to provide personal security to individuals, especially SC, ST, and women, such as ITSSO, NDSO, She-Box portal, Cri- MAC, etc.

The NDA government amended the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in 2015 and 2018. In 2018, the government removed the provision requiring preliminary inquiry and approval before arrest to facilitate swift action by the police. The Government of India launched the 'National Helpline against Atrocities' for registering complaints and tracking the status of complaints. The Central Government provides funds to states and union territories for the effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, the Prevention of Atrocities Act, the judicial system, and victim assistance.

An umbrella scheme, Mission Shakti, provides security and empowers women through 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'. A women's helpline number has been launched under the 'Emergency Response Support System' to provide them with emergency and non-emergency assistance, which is the internationally recognized mobile number 112 across India. To curb rape cases, the government amended the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and provided for stricter punishment for rape and the death penalty for the rape of a minor girl below 12 years of age. Fast Track Courts have been established for speedy judgments in rape and POCSO cases. Several provisions have been added to the new law 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita' to increase the punishment for crimes against women. 'Triple Talaq' has been banned under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 for the protection of Muslim women. Several initiatives for women's empowerment

and their safety are funded by the 'Nirbhaya Fund' under the Ministry of Home Affairs. ITSSO, NDSO, Cri-MAC, and the She-Box portal are technology-based measures that facilitate information sharing on heinous crimes and other issues. This aids in effective monitoring and investigation. ITSSO monitors and tracks the timely completion of police investigations in sexual assault cases, and NDSO identifies repeat offenders and issues alerts. Police stations and higher offices share information on heinous crimes and other inter-state crimes related to sexual assault under Cri-MAC (Crime Multi-Agency Centre). The government has launched a website, 'digitalpolicecitizenservice.gov.in', for crimes against women.

Safe City projects have been launched in eight cities: Ahmedabad, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Lucknow. Cybercrime prevention against women has been implemented in 14 states, and the government has established Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all districts of the country. Forensic labs have also been upgraded for prompt action against crime. The Delhi Police has recruited social workers and counselors to encourage women to come forward and report crimes without fear or shame. 14,82,481 girls from schools and universities have been trained in self-defense techniques (MoHA: Press Release, March 2021). Thus, the government has implemented several policies and measures to protect vulnerable sections of society from violence. This strengthens the legal framework and institutional support to provide personal security.

#### **4. Findings**

The findings of the research are as follows:

- The Supreme Court of India acknowledged that the right to life and personal liberty are not enough to provide security for individuals to live with dignity.
- Fake encounters, custodial deaths and illegal detentions indicate human rights violations. Not even one police personnel were convicted till now.
- External threats are serious threats like pro-Pakistan terrorism, border conflicts and illegal immigration that result in casualties for innocents.
- Ethnic cleansing and communal riots remain significant challenges resulting in fatalities, displacement and economic loss for society today.
- Criminal cases are persistently increasing, creating unsafe feelings both physically and psychologically. Cybercrimes are rapidly growing.

- Gender-based crimes, including rape, kidnapping, domestic violence and human trafficking, are escalating every year despite preventive laws. It indicates that the moral mentality of the people is declining.
- Crime rates against minors especially girls are growing, with a substantial number of cases reported under the POCSO Act.
- Economic insecurities, poverty, unemployment, and societal backwardness contribute to self-centric threats and drug abuse including alcohol, cannabis, opioids, and other substances, affecting a significant portion of the population leading to psychological distress and suicide.

On the whole, India faces a complex web of challenges ranging from internal human rights issues and external threats to rising criminal activities and societal insecurities. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires a comprehensive and concerted effort from both the government and society of India.

## 5. Recommendations

- India should prioritize establishing a strong and effective mechanism for implementing human rights that does not act under political pressure, irrespective of their position or affiliation. They would be accountable and responsible for human rights violations. The United Nations should take strict action against those member states where human rights violations are occurring.
- India should establish independent regulatory bodies to monitor police conduct, investigate complaints of misconduct or allegations and ensure transparency in these security agencies. These bodies should have the power to investigate complaints fairly and independently. They should have power to punish those responsible people for their misconduct if they are found guilty.
- Democratic institutions should be strengthened. All the sedition laws should be abolished. It should be ensured by a robust system of checks and balances. The institutions should reduce the risk of power abuse.
- India should develop and strengthen border security measures to effectively tackle proxy wars, terrorism and illegal immigration. The government should engage in diplomatic efforts to resolve border disputes and improve relations with neighboring countries to mitigate external security threats.

- The government should promote inter-community dialogue, tolerance and understanding to prevent communal tensions and violence through social harmony. During the election, Election Commission of India should take strict action against those political parties and political leaders that encourage communalism and ethnic cleansing for their political benefits.
- Law enforcement capabilities and resources should be enhanced to effectively combat criminal activities, including organized crime, cybercrime and violent offenses. The community policing initiatives should be implemented to foster trust between law enforcement agencies and communities, thereby improving crime prevention and detection. Although it is very difficult to develop trust between state, security agencies and people, it is essential for a just society because dissatisfaction may give birth to insurgency or revolt. Therefore, trust between the agencies and communities are must.
- The Indian government should strengthen legal frameworks and law enforcement mechanisms to prevent and respond effectively to gender-based violence and violence against children.
- Target-oriented policies should be implemented to address socio-economic disparities, including poverty, unemployment and lack of access to education and healthcare.
- Human rights education and awareness campaigns should be promoted to foster a culture of respect for human dignity, diversity and inclusion. The awareness may empower communities about their rights and avenues for redress in cases of human rights violations or criminal activities.
- The civil society should have power to coordinate with security agencies and law enforcement agencies so that these agencies and civil society work together for regulating the crimes.

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