

India (Present and Outlook)

	Overall	Crime	Kidnap	Corruption/ Extortion	Terrorism	Civil Unrest
India	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial

Crime

- Petty crime is common in India, and criminals may target foreign nationals and tourists due to perceived affluence. Pickpocketing, purse snatching, and the theft of unattended valuables are especially common on public transportation, including overnight trains, and in crowded locations such as markets and restaurants.
- Crimes against women, particularly sexually motivated crimes, frequently occur in India and foreign women are often the subject of unwanted attention. This culminates in a range of sexual harassment, including verbal abuse, groping, and staring, and in some instances, can escalate to rape, assault, and kidnapping. This is particularly prevalent in Goa and Delhi, although across India there is a latent threat of this sort of criminal activity.
- Mafia-style criminal groups are fairly common in India, and these groups have been known to carry out violence against police and civilians if their operations are infringed upon. These groups engage in a range of criminal markets, such as drug and human smuggling.

Kidnap

- Organized criminal groups (OCGs) and opportunistic criminal actors continue to kidnap individuals linked to various public and private sectors in India, including medium and high-net-worth businesspeople and their relations. Kidnappers typically target domestic nationals, although there have been some cases of foreign nationals being targeted.
- The threat of kidnapping is elevated in parts of the country, including in urban centres and in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir where the security situation is unpredictable. Serious crime against foreign nationals is less likely across India; however, given the opportunity, opportunistic criminal actors may look towards foreign nationals as potential targets due to perceived wealth.
- In terms of *Modus Operandi*, India's criminal groups and opportunistic actors deploy a diverse range of operability that is based on planning, resources, and geographical location. Victims are often ambushed whilst in transit after work or school, with evenings being a particularly common time of day for abductions to take place. Children and adolescents are frequently targeted, although these

incidents often involve an insider in conjunction with criminal elements. Ransom demands can range greatly depending on the victim's socio-economic background, from a thousand rupees to several million. Kidnappers have also been known to increase the ransom figure as time goes on.

- According to the Global Organized Crime Index, India has a large human trafficking market which primarily targets young women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The main hubs for sex trafficking are Kolkata and Mumbai, where traffickers have been known to use false promises of employment and online scams to attract young women. Men are also sometimes targeted and trafficked to neighbouring countries as forced labour.

Extortion

- Corruption remains pervasive across all levels of Indian society with Transparency International scoring it as 40/100 (1 being most corrupt and 100 being most clean) in their 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). According to their study, 89% of people believe that government corruption is a big problem and 39% of public service users paid a bribe in 2022. Police personnel may be susceptible to corrupt practices and have been known to solicit bribes.

Terrorism

- Insurgency and armed conflict remain a concern in India, according to the Global Terrorism Index, India is ranked 13 out of 163 countries for terrorism. There are several anti-Western terrorist groups that are active in India, including Islamist extremist groups such as Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami, Harakat ul-Mujahidin, Indian Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Lashkar-e Tayyiba. Past terror attacks have targeted public spaces, including those frequented by foreign nationals.
- India's most active insurgent group is the Maoists ("Naxalites"), who primarily target Indian government assets and officials, although trains, police stations and government buildings have also been attacked. On 26 April 2023, ten policemen and a civilian were killed in a Naxal IED ambush in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh.
- The threat of terrorist activity is elevated on national and religious holidays such as Independence Day (15 August), Republic Day (26 January), Eid and Diwali.

Civil Unrest

- In India, demonstrations, strikes, and mass gatherings occur frequently and can occasionally turn violent. These events rarely target foreign nationals directly, although travellers are advised to avoid mass gatherings entirely due to the possibility of escalation.
- In Manipur State there have been multiple violent demonstrations and ethnic clashes in recent years, likely as the country heads into a volatile political period with a general election scheduled for between April – May 2024. Curfews have been imposed in several districts of the state to curb



violence, although civil unrest may still break out indiscriminately.

- There have been several incidents of stampedes during mass gatherings in India which have resulted in civilian casualties. Many of these incidents have taken place at religious festivals, which often see large groups of people gathering in relatively small areas. As seen on 1 January 2022, when 12 people were killed during a stampede at a Hindu shrine in Kashmir.