

COI Factsheets

Safe Country of Origin concept - India

February 2025



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This factsheet was peer-reviewed by a range of partners, including DG-HOME (international unit), the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), and the European External Action Service. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also provided valuable input into this process. This factsheet was drafted in accordance with the EUAA COI Methodology, which emphasises the use of diverse sources to ensure factual, balanced and reliable information.

While this factsheet was structured around the defining criteria of a safe country of origin as stipulated in the Asylum Procedure Regulation (EU) 2024/1348, the EUAA (and its partners) played no part in assessing whether such criteria were met for India to be designated as a safe country of origin at Union level. That assessment was performed entirely by the European Commission and was based on a range of relevant and available sources of information.

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COI Factsheet - Safe Countries of Origin (SCO)

India

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Sources were accessed between 7 January and 6 February 2025. Some additional information was added during the finalisation of this factsheet in response to feedback received during the quality control process, until 21 February 2025. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this document.

Legal and political situation – overview

System of government and political situation

India is a constitutional republic composed of 28 states and 8 union territories, with New Delhi serving as the national capital.¹ The country's political system is a parliamentary democracy, which is largely based on the British model.² India's government consists of the president as head of state, the executive branch led by the prime minister, the legislative branch comprised of a bicameral parliament with an upper and lower house (*Rajya Sabha* and *Lok Sabha*), and the judiciary, headed by the Supreme Court.³ In June 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured his third term in office.⁴

Demographics and migration profile

With a population of 1.44 billion,⁵ India is the most populous country in the world.⁶ India is home to thousands of different ethnicities,⁷ with the majority of the population belonging to Indo-Aryan (72 %) and Dravidian (25 %)⁸ ethno-linguistic groups.⁹ As of 2001, the country had 122 languages, further divided into numerous 'mother tongues'.¹⁰ The Constitution recognises 22 major languages, including Hindi,¹¹ and designates the use of Hindi and English for government purposes.¹² According to the latest available estimates (2011), Hindus constituted 79.8 % of the population, followed by Muslims (14.2 %), Christians (2.3 %), and Sikhs (1.7 %), and other religious minorities (2 %),¹³ such as Buddhists and Jains.¹⁴ The Constitution of India declares the country a secular state.¹⁵

The country's social system divides the Hindus into rigid hierarchical groups with Brahmins at the top and Dalits at the bottom, the last names often indicating a caste to which a person belongs.¹⁶ Officially, Dalits are designated as 'Scheduled Caste' (SC).¹⁷ India's numerous indigenous tribal

¹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, India, 13 January 2025, [url](#)

² Diplomat (The), The Crisis of India's Parliamentary Democracy, 10 May 2024, [url](#)

³ Chatham House, Democracy in India, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

⁴ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵ UNFPA, World Population Dashboard India, 2024, [url](#); BBC News, India country profile, 10 June 2024, [url](#)

⁶ Statista, Twenty countries with the largest population in 2024, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, India, 13 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸ US, CIA, India, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, India, 13 January 2025, [url](#); US, CIA, India, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰ India, Department of Higher Education, Language Education, 19 February 2021, [url](#)

¹¹ India, The Constitution of India [As on 1st May, 2024], 2024, [url](#), Eight Schedule; India, Ministry of Education, Indian languages, n.d., [url](#), p. 4

¹² India, The Constitution of India [As on 1st May, 2024], 2024, [url](#), Art. 343; India, Ministry of Education, Indian languages, n.d., [url](#), p. 4

¹³ Encyclopaedia Britannica, India, 13 January 2025, [url](#); US, CIA, India, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁴ Encyclopaedia Britannica, India, 13 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 7

¹⁶ Chatham House, Democracy in India, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Dalit, 3 February 2025, [url](#)

communities, Adivasi,¹⁸ are recognised by the Constitution as ‘Scheduled Tribes’ (ST). There are over 700 recognised tribes spread across most parts of the country.¹⁹

Indians constitute the largest diaspora in the world,²⁰ with more than 35 million Indians living abroad. The top 10 countries with the largest Indian population are the United States (5.4 million), the United Arab Emirates (3.56 million), Malaysia (2.91 million), Canada (2.87 million), Saudi Arabia (2.45 million), Myanmar (2 million), the United Kingdom (1.86 million), South Africa (1.7 million), Sri Lanka (1.6 million), and Kuwait (995 500).²¹ Among the EU, the largest Indian diaspora is found in Germany (260 900), followed by Italy (206 500), and France (119 000).²² In 2022, Indians ranked 5th among the top 10 nationalities ‘detected for illegal border crossings at the EU’s external land borders (7 169 detections), which marked a significant increase from 2021 (707 cases) and 2020 (140 cases).²³ According to the latest data comprising the years from 2010 to 2022, India was a top country worldwide in receiving remittances from abroad.²⁴ The country has a high level of internal migration to urban areas, mostly occurring intra-state.²⁵

As of 2023, India had 613 000 internally displaced people (IDPs) due to conflict and 90 000 IDPs due to natural disasters.²⁶ Many IDPs have been displaced for decades because of the conflict in the northeastern states of Assam, Mizoram, and Tripura, as well as in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2023, there were 67 000 IDPs due to the conflict, with all of them displaced because of violence in Manipur.²⁷

In 2024, 8 676 Indian nationals applied for asylum in the EU27, which was comparable to 2023 (8 992 application) but represented a 66% decline from 2022 (25 761 applications). The recognition rate in 2024 was 2 %, marking a 1 % increase from the recognition rates of 2022 and 2023 (1 %).²⁸

As of the beginning of 2025, India hosts 273 408 refugees and asylum seekers, with the majority coming from Myanmar (99 881), Sri Lanka (83 301), China (73 402), and Afghanistan (11 680).²⁹

International legal instruments

India has been a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) since 1979. The

¹⁸ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Adivasi, 3 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁹ India, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Frequently Asked Questions, n.d., [url](#)

²⁰ IOM, World Migration Report 2024, 2024, [url](#), p. 23; Statista, Migration in India – statistics and facts, 19 September 2024, [url](#)

²¹ India, Ministry of External Affairs, Population of Overseas Indians, 26 November 2024, [url](#); Indian Express (The), Where do most Indians live abroad? Top 10 countries with the largest Indian diaspora, 9 January 2025, [url](#)

²² India, Ministry of External Affairs, Population of Overseas Indians, 26 November 2024, [url](#)

²³ Frontex, Risk Analysis for 2023/2024, August 2023, [url](#), pp. 16, 46

²⁴ IOM, World Migration Report 2024, 2024, [url](#), p. 37

²⁵ Statista, Migration in India – statistics and facts, 19 September 2024, [url](#)

²⁶ IDMC, 2024 Grid Report, 14 May 2024, [url](#), p. 70; IDMC, India, n.d., [url](#)

²⁷ IDMC, India, n.d., [url](#)

²⁸ EUAA, EPS data as of 3 February 2025.

²⁹ UNHCR, India, 2025, n.d., [url](#)

country has not signed the optional protocol to the ICCPR and the second optional protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. India has signed but not ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). India is a party of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two optional protocols, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).³⁰

India follows a dualist approach to international law, requiring international treaties to be incorporated into national legislation by an act of Parliament.³¹ Fundamental rights,³² such as the right to equality, the right to freedom of speech, the right to life and personal liberty are incorporated into the Indian Constitution.³³ In 1993, India adopted the Protection of Human Rights Act (last amended in 2019).³⁴ In 2005, the country adopted a legal act to protect women from domestic violence,³⁵ followed by the adoption of legal act to prohibit child marriage in 2006.³⁶ As of March 2023, India adopted 221 out of 339 recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review process,³⁷ including those aimed at eliminating caste discrimination, ensuring the rights to freedom of expression, and protecting religious minorities' rights.³⁸ However, as noted by UN Human Rights Committee in September 2024, the country lacked a comprehensive anti-discrimination law to ensure the full protection required under the ICCPR.³⁹

Security situation

The Indian government faces 'minor' challenges to its territorial control, primarily due to the presence of rebel groups in central India, the northeast, and the Kashmir valley,⁴⁰ who are responsible for the killing and abduction of military and law enforcement officers, government officials, and civilians.⁴¹ The government maintains control in these areas through laws that grant special powers to the armed forces,⁴² such as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958 and

³⁰ UN OHCHR, United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, [India], n.d., [url](#)

³¹ Ranjan, P., How India has approached customary international law?, The Indian Express, 11 January 2022, [url](#)

³² UN OHCHR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966, [url](#)

³³ India, The Constitution of India [As on 1st May, 2024], 2024, [url](#), Art. 14-18, 19, 21

³⁴ India, National Human Rights Commission, India, The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, n.d., [url](#)

³⁵ India, The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 13 September 2005, [url](#)

³⁶ India, India Code, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, [url](#)

³⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Council Adopts Universal Periodic Review Outcomes of India, Finland, and the Philippines, 27 March 2023, [url](#)

³⁸ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#)

³⁹ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 13

⁴⁰ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 6

⁴¹ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 2-3

⁴² Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 6

the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act of 1990,⁴³ as well as laws targeting unlawful activities and banning terrorist organisations.⁴⁴

In central India, Naxalites, a Maoist-inspired left-wing rebel group, have a significant presence in some areas⁴⁵ and maintain parallel administrations.⁴⁶ In 2024, the BJP government in Chhattisgarh, a state with a significant tribal population, intensified counterinsurgency efforts against the rebels. The increase of operations resulted in violence against local villages and raised concerns over extrajudicial killings.⁴⁷ In 2024, South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) recorded 574 ‘terrorism related incidents’ in connection to Maoist insurgency, which was a decrease from 602 in 2023.⁴⁸ The number of fatalities in 2024 reached 400, including 80 deaths among civilians, compared to 148 fatalities, including 61 among civilians, in 2023.⁴⁹ In January 2025, SATP recorded 58 incidents, leading to 73 fatalities, including 3 civilians killed.⁵⁰

In the northeastern region of India, which includes Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura,⁵¹ ‘several smaller rebel groups’ are present,⁵² ‘with demands ranging from autonomy to secession.’⁵³ The security situation in the region improved by 2022,⁵⁴ following the government’s ceasefire campaign.⁵⁵

In May 2023, ethnic clashes erupted in Manipur,⁵⁶ between a predominantly Hindu Meitei community and a tribal⁵⁷ and mainly Christian Kuki (Kuki Zo) community.⁵⁸ The violence resulted in over 260 deaths,⁵⁹ with two-thirds of the killed being Kuki,⁶⁰ and large scale destruction of homes, churches, temples, schools,⁶¹ and businesses.⁶² The authorities responded with the deployment of security forces, daily curfews, and internet shutdowns,⁶³ but were unable to halt the violence. The conflict renewed in September 2024, with the number of displaced people

⁴³ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 21

⁴⁴ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 6

⁴⁵ Khan Global Studies, Internal Security Challenges in India: Types and Its Solutions, 28 February 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁶ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 6

⁴⁷ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸ SATP, India [Maoist Insurgency, Data Sheets, Number of Terrorism Related Incidents], 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹ SATP, India [Maoist Insurgency, Data Sheets, Fatalities], 1 February 2025, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰ SATP, India [Maoist Insurgency, Data Sheets, Number of Terrorism Related Incidents], 1 February 2025, [url](#); SATP, India [Maoist Insurgency, Data Sheets, Fatalities], 1 February 2025, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁵¹ India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Insurgency in North East, n.d., [url](#)

⁵² Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 6

⁵³ India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Insurgency in North East, n.d., [url](#)

⁵⁴ India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Insurgency in North East, n.d., [url](#)

⁵⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 6

⁵⁶ AI, Human Rights Chapter – India, 13 June 2024, [url](#), p. 3; EP, European Parliament resolution of 13 July 2023 on India, the situation in Manipur (2023/2781(RSP)), 13 July 2023, [url](#)

⁵⁷ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#)

⁵⁸ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁹ International Crisis Group, Finding a Way Out of Festering Conflict in India’s Manipur, 14 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁰ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#)

⁶¹ EP, European Parliament resolution of 13 July 2023 on India, the situation in Manipur (2023/2781(RSP)), 13 July 2023, [url](#)

⁶² USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 1, 22-23

⁶³ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 1

surpassing 60 000 since May 2023.⁶⁴ In February 2025, the federal government established a direct rule in Manipur.⁶⁵ As noted by the International Crisis Group the conflict in Manipur ‘continues to simmer.’ Despite the spatial segregation of the state into two parts by the federal government to separate the two communities, violence persists, as both sides breach the buffer zone and have both formed ‘military groups’. The state remains ‘deeply polarised’, with the police and the media ‘divided along ethnic lines.’⁶⁶

The situation in Jammu and Kashmir region has remained tense⁶⁷ after the government revoked its special autonomous status in 2019 and divided the region into two separate union territories directly governed by the central government.⁶⁸ A tight control by the government prevented the rise of violence.⁶⁹ In 2023 and 2024, SATP recorded 267 and 210 ‘terrorism related incidents’⁷⁰ and 134 and 127 fatalities, including 12 and 31 deaths of civilians, respectively.⁷¹

Instances of violence were reported at the India-Pakistan border in summer 2023, with Pakistani forces accusing India of killing several Pakistani civilians at the Line of Control (LOC),⁷² which divides the administration of Kashmir between the two countries.⁷³ Exchange of gunfire between Indian and Pakistani border guards was reported in autumn 2023.⁷⁴ In 2024, tensions between India and Pakistan along the LOC remained high.⁷⁵

Human rights situation

‘Significant human rights issues’ were reported across the country,⁷⁶ including a rise in violations of freedom of expression, religious freedom, and the right to association,⁷⁷ along with continued attacks on ‘religious, racial and ethnic minorities’ as well as ‘on women and girls on intersecting grounds.’⁷⁸ Since 2014,⁷⁹ under the BJP leadership,⁸⁰ the government has reportedly used Hindu

⁶⁴ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵ Reuters, India imposes direct rule on its restive Manipur state, 13 February 2025, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Finding a Way Out of Festering Conflict in India’s Manipur, 14 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶ International Crisis Group, Finding a Way Out of Festering Conflict in India’s Manipur, 14 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 29

⁶⁸ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 29; AI, Human Rights Chapter – India, 13 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 2-3; HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), pp. 6, 29

⁷⁰ SATP, India [Jammu & Kashmir, Data Sheets, Number of Terrorism Related Incidents], 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹ SATP, India [Jammu & Kashmir, Data Sheets, Fatalities], 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷² CFR, Conflict Between India and Pakistan, 9 April 2024, [url](#); Reuters, Pakistan says civilian killed by Indian gunfire on Kashmir boundary, 21 August 2023, [url](#)

⁷³ Clary, C., The 2021 India-Pakistan Ceasefire: Origins, Prospects, and Lessons Learned, USIP, 6 February 2024, [url](#), p. 1

⁷⁴ AA, Pakistan, India trade fire across Kashmir border, 27 October 2023, [url](#); CFR, Conflict Between India and Pakistan, 9 April 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁵ IISS, The Armed Conflict Survey 2024: Editor’s Introduction, 12 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁶ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: India, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 1

⁷⁷ AI, Human Rights Chapter – India, 13 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁷⁸ UN, India: UN experts urge corrective action to protect human rights and end attacks against minorities in lead up to elections, 7 March 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁹ AI, Human Rights Chapter – India, 13 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁸⁰ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 7

nationalist rhetoric and employed ‘divisive policies’ affecting religious minorities.⁸¹ Reports indicate that government officials have engaged in hate speech and incited violence against religious groups,⁸² including Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs.⁸³ Prime Minister Modi has also used hate speech against Muslims in his electoral campaign.⁸⁴ The media faced increasing restrictions from the authorities and owners of media companies,⁸⁵ as well as restraints due to self-censorship.⁸⁶

The application of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts and counter-terrorism legislation has led to widespread human rights violations in such areas as Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam, including ‘unlawful killings, prolonged arbitrary detention, sexual violence, forced displacement and torture.’⁸⁷

As far as **religious freedom** is concerned, laws prohibiting ‘unlawful’ religious conversions were introduced in 12 Indian states (Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand).⁸⁸ The laws aim at the protection of Hindu religious identity⁸⁹ and criminalise coercion to convert someone with penalties of up to ten years in prison.⁹⁰ While enforcement of the laws varied across the states,⁹¹ in several of them the legislation was misused and ‘applied in ways that restrict and violate the right to freedom of religion.’⁹² For example, in Haryana, the law bans conversion or attempts to convert a person ‘by marriage or for marriage’⁹³ effectively criminalising ‘consensual inter-faith marriages.’⁹⁴

As reported by UN Human Rights Committee, ‘thousands’ of Christians and Muslims were coerced to convert to Hinduism during *ghar wapsi* (homecoming) ceremonies in the past decade.⁹⁵

⁸¹ EP, European Parliament recommendation of 17 January 2024 to the Council, Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission [...], 17 January 2024, [url](#)

⁸² AI, The State of the World’s Human Rights; India 2023, 24 April 2024, [url](#); UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 45

⁸³ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 13

⁸⁴ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 10

⁸⁶ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024, India, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁷ UN, UN Human Rights Committee publishes findings on Croatia, Honduras, India [...], 25 July 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸ Bharatiya, M, National Law School of India University, Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill 2024: A Short Commentary, National Law School of India University, 30 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁹ US, Library of Congress, State Anti-conversion Laws in India, 30 December 2020, [url](#)

⁹⁰ USCIRF, Issue Update: India’s State-Level Anti-Conversion Laws, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁹¹ USCIRF, Issue Update: India’s State-Level Anti-Conversion Laws, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 1

⁹² UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 47

⁹³ USCIRF, Issue Update: India’s State-Level Anti-Conversion Laws, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁹⁴ AI, Human Rights Chapter – India, 13 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁹⁵ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 47

Considering the topic of Since the BJP came to power in 2014, several states have introduced stricter laws regarding cow protection, imposing harsher penalties for cow slaughter,⁹⁶ with a number of right-wing Hindu nationalist groups, including Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a paramilitary volunteer organization,⁹⁷ taking part in attacks against minority groups ‘under the guise of protecting cattle.’⁹⁸ The presence of numerous groups dedicated to cow protection was reported, with activist leaders estimating a number of 300 000 individuals involved in these groups in 2023.⁹⁹ In numerous cases, ‘cow activists’ used **extrajudicial violence**,¹⁰⁰ searching for vehicles transporting cattle,¹⁰¹ intruding into homes,¹⁰² and attacking people engaged in cow trade and slaughter.¹⁰³ As a result, Muslims,¹⁰⁴ Christians,¹⁰⁵ and Dalits¹⁰⁶ faced increased numbers¹⁰⁷ of vigilante attacks due to their consumption of beef¹⁰⁸ or involvement in transporting and slaughtering cattle.¹⁰⁹ The attacks often ended in lynchings of Muslims and Christians and demolition of their homes and places of worship.¹¹⁰

According to the latest official figures, 813 cases of extrajudicial killings (‘encounter killings’¹¹¹) perpetrated by the police were recorded between 2016 and 2022 across the country,¹¹² with most of the cases reported in Chhattisgarh (259), followed by Uttar Pradesh (110) and Assam (79).¹¹³

The **death penalty** was confirmed in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS),¹¹⁴ adopted in 2023 to replace the Indian Penal Code of 1860.¹¹⁵ The BNS increased the number of offences punishable by the death penalty from 12 to 18.¹¹⁶

Offences punishable by the death penalty include murder, some circumstances of rape and mob lynching, organised crime or terrorism act that result in someone’s death, kidnapping, abetment

⁹⁶ ACLED, Cow Protection Legislation and Vigilante Violence in India, 3 May 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁷ Bridge, A Georgetown University Initiative, Factsheet: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), 18 May 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁸ ACLED, Cow Protection Legislation and Vigilante Violence in India, 3 May 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁹ Reuters, India’s far-right cow vigilantes bolster clout before high-stake elections, 29 December 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰ Reuters, India’s far-right cow vigilantes bolster clout before high-stake elections, 29 December 2023, [url](#); Wired, ‘Cow Vigilantes’ in India Are Attacking Muslims and Posting It on Instagram, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰¹ BBC News, Deaths raise fresh fears over cow vigilantism in India, 8 May 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰² Wired, ‘Cow Vigilantes’ in India Are Attacking Muslims and Posting It on Instagram, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³ SCMP, ‘They’re criminals’: why cow vigilante violence in India has surged under Modi 3.0, 15 September 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#); USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 72

¹⁰⁵ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 45

¹⁰⁶ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 72

¹⁰⁷ SCMP, ‘They’re criminals’: why cow vigilante violence in India has surged under Modi 3.0, 15 September 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 72

¹¹⁰ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 45

¹¹¹ Fact Checker, Encounter Killings: Fivefold Rise in Pending Cases, No Convictions in 6 Years, 25 July 2022, [url](#)

¹¹² USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 4; Fact Checker, Encounter Killings: Fivefold Rise in Pending Cases, No Convictions in 6 Years, 25 July 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³ Fact Checker, Encounter Killings: Fivefold Rise in Pending Cases, No Convictions in 6 Years, 25 July 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁴ India, The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, 25 December 2023, [url](#), Chapter II (4); D Judiciary, Dispute on Death Penalty, 18 September 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁵ Lexology, Changes Brought Forth by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁶ D Judiciary, Dispute on Death Penalty, 18 September 2024, [url](#)

to mutiny or waging war against the government, and providing false evidence that leads to someone's execution.¹¹⁷

In 2023, Indian district session courts handed down 120 death sentences, a decrease from 165 in 2022. Among these, 64 sentences were for murder involving a sexual offence, 42 for murder, and 10 for terrorism-related crimes.¹¹⁸ As of the end of 2023, 561 individuals were on death row, with no executions recorded.¹¹⁹

Detention centres and prisons suffer from severe overcrowding, poor sanitation, and inadequate access to basic services such as medical care,¹²⁰ clean drinking water, and sufficient food.¹²¹ As of December 2022, the average prison occupancy rate was over 131 %, with nearly 76 % of the prison population being in pre-trial detention.¹²² Poor conditions were especially reported regarding female prisoners,¹²³ including pregnant or lactating women, and children.¹²⁴ Despite the legal requirement for juvenile detainees to be held in rehabilitative facilities,¹²⁵ they are sometimes detained in adult prisons, especially in rural areas.¹²⁶ Detainees frequently are not allowed to contact their family or advocates.¹²⁷

According to the US Department of State (USDOS), 'police and prison officials often failed to comply with a Supreme Court order to conduct regular checks to monitor custodial violence.' Detainees have access to complaint mechanisms through national and state human rights commissions, but few prisoners use them due to fear of retribution from prison officials or guards.¹²⁸

Specific profiles

The overview below is not an exhaustive list of profiles that may face specific human rights concerns.

¹¹⁷ India, The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, 25 December 2023, [url](#), Sections 70 (2), 101, 103 (1), 103 (2), 140 (2), 147, 160, 230 (2); Lawgical Shots, Death Penalty or Capital Punishment in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁸ AI, Death Sentences and Executions 2023, Amnesty International Global Report, 2024, [url](#), p. 25

¹¹⁹ AI, Death Sentences and Executions 2023, Amnesty International Global Report, 2024, [url](#), p. 21

¹²⁰ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 8; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 39

¹²¹ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 39

¹²² WPB, India, 31 December 2022, [url](#)

¹²³ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 11; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 39

¹²⁴ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 39

¹²⁵ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 8

¹²⁶ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 8; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 39

¹²⁷ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 39

¹²⁸ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 9

Journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society activists - Journalists, human rights defenders, and activists face physical and online harassment and attacks.¹²⁹ Authorities use national financial and investigation agencies against journalists, human rights defenders, civil society activists, and critics of the government,¹³⁰ employing politically motivated prosecutions under tax and foreign funding regulations, as well as the counter-terrorism law.¹³¹ In July 2018, the counter-terrorism law was expanded to enable the authorities to designate individuals, next to organisations, as terrorists.¹³²

In 2024, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) ranked India 159th out of 180 countries in its World Press Freedom Index. Journalists critical of the government face harassment, threats, violence, criminal prosecution, and arbitrary arrest¹³³ and detention.¹³⁴ Violence against journalists from police officers, criminal groups, and corrupt officials has also been reported.¹³⁵ Hindu nationalist supporters have labelled journalists critical of the BJP-led government as ‘traitors’ and ‘anti-national’,¹³⁶ with female journalists being particularly targeted by online hate campaigns.¹³⁷

Since 2018, over 60 activists, whistle-blowers, journalists, and human rights defenders involved in anti-corruption activities were killed.¹³⁸ Human rights defenders advocating for women, religious minorities, and marginalised communities faced widespread threats and violence.¹³⁹

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - While the Constitution ensures equality of opportunity,¹⁴⁰ lower castes and tribal communities face barriers to education and employment.¹⁴¹ The government has addressed this by reserving places for members of SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the public sector and universities, which has improved social mobility.¹⁴² However, members of SCs and STs continued to face hate crimes, violence, and discrimination,¹⁴³ particularly in rural areas,¹⁴⁴ as well as sexual violence.¹⁴⁵ In the period from 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2023, members of SCs faced an increasing number of mob attacks by Hindu nationalist groups.¹⁴⁶

¹²⁹ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 11

¹³⁰ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#); UN, India: UN experts urge corrective action to protect human rights and end attacks against minorities in lead up to elections, 7 March 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹³² FIDH, India: the Observatory mourns the death of G.N. Saibaba, 15 October 2024, [url](#)

¹³³ RSF, India, n.d., [url](#)

¹³⁴ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 10

¹³⁵ RSF, India, n.d., [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 10

¹³⁶ RSF, India, n.d., [url](#)

¹³⁷ RSF, India, n.d., [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 10

¹³⁸ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 11

¹³⁹ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 50

¹⁴⁰ India, The Constitution of India [As on 1st May, 2024], 2024, [url](#), Art. 16, 21A.

¹⁴¹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 24

¹⁴² Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 24

¹⁴³ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 24

¹⁴⁴ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 60

¹⁴⁵ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁴⁶ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 24

Discrimination against STs has reportedly worsened in recent years.¹⁴⁷ Moreover, ST members are overrepresented in the prison population.¹⁴⁸ Laws designed to protect Indigenous and tribal communities from forced land acquisition and social discrimination are inadequately enforced.¹⁴⁹ According to the latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 57 582 crimes were registered against SCs and 10 064 against STs in 2022, reflecting an increase of around 13 % and 14 %, respectively, from 2021. The most common offence against individuals from both groups fell under the category of ‘simple hurt’.¹⁵⁰

Muslims - Discrimination of Muslims has worsened in recent years,¹⁵¹ marked by a decline in social mobility and an increase in mob violence by Hindu nationalist groups.¹⁵² In several states, BJP-supporting authorities employed collective punishment of Muslims for ‘communal clashes or dissent,’ and demolishing their homes, businesses, and places of worship without due process, a practice referred to as ‘bulldozer justice’,¹⁵³ which led to forced evictions¹⁵⁴ and displacement.¹⁵⁵ In November 2024, the Supreme Court ruled such demolitions were illegal and produced guidelines to ensure due process.¹⁵⁶ Hate crimes, communal violence, punitive demolitions, and forced evictions remained unpunished.¹⁵⁷

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), adopted by the parliament in 2019 and enforced in March 2024,¹⁵⁸ allows fast-track pathways to citizenship for Hindus, Parsis, Christians, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh¹⁵⁹ who entered India before 31 December 2014, effectively excluding Muslim refugees from access to citizenship, based on religious criteria.¹⁶⁰ The CAA and the evidence required for the inclusion in the National Population Register and the National Register of Citizens have raised concerns over the potential statelessness of the Muslim population, in particular, of over two million Muslims in Assam who

¹⁴⁷ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 24

¹⁴⁸ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁴⁹ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 59

¹⁵⁰ The News Minute, NCRB data shows increase in crimes against SCs and STs, UP and Rajasthan on top, 7 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹ CFR, India’s Muslims: An Increasingly Marginalized Population, 18 March 2024, [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 24

¹⁵² Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 24

¹⁵³ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴ AI, Human Rights Chapter – India, 13 June 2024, [url](#), p. 2

¹⁵⁵ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 15

¹⁵⁶ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷ AI, India 2023, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁵⁸ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 55

¹⁵⁹ AI, Human Rights Chapter – India, 13 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 1-2; Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 6; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 55

¹⁶⁰ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 55

already hold Indian citizenship and could be at risk of statelessness,¹⁶¹ due to requirement to produce evidence that their families lived in India before 1971.¹⁶²

Christians - The laws preventing forced conversions have been used to arrest ‘398 Christians’, the majority of whom were ‘Protestant pastors and church members, arrested in Uttar Pradesh between the introduction of the anti-conversion law in 2020 and the end of 2023.’¹⁶³ In several BJP-led states, Christians faced attacks by Hindu mobs over allegations of ‘illegal conversions.’¹⁶⁴ Mob groups reportedly disrupted church services and other Christian gatherings, often using violence, with attacks on churches and pastors remaining largely unpunished.¹⁶⁵ Reports indicated that police either assisted vigilante groups in disrupting services or failed to intervene, instead arresting Christians on forced conversion allegations.¹⁶⁶ Attacks also targeted Adivasis practising Christianity.¹⁶⁷

Women - While India officially recognises women’s rights and gender equality,¹⁶⁸ women continue to face widespread discrimination,¹⁶⁹ both in professional and family environments, and violence.¹⁷⁰ Sexual violence remains an ‘endemic’ issue,¹⁷¹ with limited access to justice for survivors.¹⁷² Reports indicate that women and girls face forced¹⁷³ and child marriages,¹⁷⁴ domestic violence,¹⁷⁵ ‘honour crimes’, marital and gang rape,¹⁷⁶ sexual abuse at work,¹⁷⁷ acid attacks, public humiliation, and accusations of witchcraft. Women and girls from Indigenous, ethnic and religious minorities, and lower caste communities face exacerbated levels of violence.¹⁷⁸

The most recent NCRB data reported 445 256 crimes against women in 2022, revealing an increase from 2021 and 2020. Most of the offences involved ‘cruelty by husband or his relatives’

¹⁶¹ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 55

¹⁶² Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), pp. 6-7

¹⁶³ Release International, Voice of Persecuted Christians, India, Hundreds of Christians arrested under India’s anti-conversion laws, 11 December 2023, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵ Prosecution.org, India: Where the Church is Attacked from Every Angle, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶ USDOS, India 2023 International Religious Freedom Report, April 2024, [url](#), pp. 1-2

¹⁶⁷ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 15

¹⁶⁸ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 16

¹⁶⁹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 16, 24-25

¹⁷⁰ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 57; Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), pp. 12, 24-25

¹⁷¹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 12; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 21

¹⁷² HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁷³ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 56

¹⁷⁴ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 21

¹⁷⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 13; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 21

¹⁷⁶ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 21

¹⁷⁷ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 21

(31.4 %), followed by kidnapping and abduction (19.2 %), assaults (18.7 %), and rape (7.1 %).¹⁷⁹ The legal definition of rape under the BNS does not encompass marital rape.¹⁸⁰ Between 2019 and 2021, the prevalence of child marriage was 23.3 %.¹⁸¹ Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is not addressed in national law, with litigation in the Supreme Court seeking to ban it since 2017.¹⁸² FGM/C is particularly prevalent among the Dawoodi Bohra community in central and western regions.¹⁸³

LGBTIQ persons - India decriminalised same-sex relationships in 2018¹⁸⁴ and enacted the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act (TPRA) in 2019.¹⁸⁵ In October 2023, the Supreme Court declined to grant legal recognition to same-sex marriages, leaving the matter to the Parliament.¹⁸⁶ Following this, the government issued a directive recognising partners in LGBTIQ relationships as part of the same household.¹⁸⁷ Despite these legal steps, LGBTIQ persons in India continue to face discrimination and violence from both ‘private and public actors’.¹⁸⁸ Reports noted that police officers used threats in attempts to stop LGBTIQ persons from filing discrimination complaints,¹⁸⁹ while arbitrary arrests and the use of derogatory language were also reported.¹⁹⁰ In addition, ‘societal prejudice and harassment’ against LGBTIQ persons persisted, with intolerance evident in both urban and rural areas.¹⁹¹ As noted by the UN Human Rights Committee, despite legal advancement in safeguarding the rights of transgender people, ‘harassment and discrimination’ towards this group also persisted.¹⁹²

Legal remedies against human rights violations

In 1993, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established as an independent body¹⁹³ under the Protection of Human Rights Act.¹⁹⁴ The NHRC, accountable to the Indian

¹⁷⁹ Frontline, Over 4.45 lakh crimes against women in 2022, one every 51 minutes: NCRB, 6 December 2023, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 21

¹⁸¹ The Hindu, Child marriages halved since the introduction of law preventing them: Women and Child Development Ministry, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸² USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 54

¹⁸³ FGM/C Research Initiative, India, n.d., [url](#); USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 54

¹⁸⁴ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 12; USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 66

¹⁸⁵ International Bar Association, India’s new law on the protection of rights of transgender people, n.d., [url](#); USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 67

¹⁸⁶ AI, India: Failure to legalise same-sex marriage a ‘setback’ for human rights, 17 October 2023, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 17

¹⁸⁹ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 66; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 17

¹⁹⁰ UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 17

¹⁹¹ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 71

¹⁹² UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 17

¹⁹³ India, The National Human Rights Commission, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁹⁴ India, National Human Rights Commission, About the Organisation, n.d., [url](#)

parliament, is tasked with investigating and providing remedies for human rights violations as well as promoting public awareness of human rights.¹⁹⁵ As per the Code of Civil Procedure (1908), the NHRC holds ‘the powers of a civil court’, including the authority to summon witnesses, collect evidence, request public records, etc.¹⁹⁶ The NHRC closely cooperates with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice as well as various NGOs.¹⁹⁷

Next to NHRC, State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) are found in 27 Indian states (except Mizoram).¹⁹⁸ Complaints to the NHRC and to the majority of SHRCs can be submitted online through the Human Rights Commission Network (HRCNet) portal, where users can also track the status of their cases.¹⁹⁹ In 2023 and 2024, the NHRC registered nearly 79 400 and 65 00 complaints respectively, down from over 112 300 complaints in 2022.²⁰⁰ The NHRC does not have the authority to enforce its recommendation or handle human rights violations involving military and paramilitary personnel.²⁰¹ Furthermore, the armed forces are not required to report custodial deaths to the NHRC, leading to limited investigations and prosecutions of extrajudicial killings by government security forces.²⁰²

As of September 2024, there were insufficient judicial and administrative remedies to address discrimination against religious minority groups.²⁰³ Although the Indian judiciary is considered ‘largely independent from the legislative and executive branches,’ in the period from 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2023, as reported by the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the Supreme Court, traditionally a defender of minority rights, frequently aligned with the government or Hindu nationalist organizations close to it.²⁰⁴ In the same period, the Supreme Court supported the government’s position on religious conversions, dismissed petitions concerning hate speech directed at Muslims by Hindu nationalist leaders and postponed hearings of petitions against the CAA.²⁰⁵ Furthermore, authorities failed to take proper action against BJP supporters involved in attacks against Muslims and penalised the victims of these attacks, including through unlawful demolitions of their homes and properties.²⁰⁶

Access to justice was reportedly inadequate for rape victims²⁰⁷ and ‘particularly difficult’ for women and girls with disabilities, facing barriers when filing complaints of sexual violence. It was

¹⁹⁵ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 51

¹⁹⁶ India, The National Human Rights Commission, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁹⁷ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 50-51

¹⁹⁸ India, National Human Rights commission, State Human Rights Commissions [select the state], n.d., [url](#)

¹⁹⁹ India, HRCNet, Online Complaint Filing, n.d., [url](#)

²⁰⁰ India, National Human Rights Commission, Complaints Statistics, n.d., [url](#)

²⁰¹ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 51

²⁰² USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 22

²⁰³ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 13

²⁰⁴ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 7

²⁰⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 7, 11

²⁰⁶ HRW, India, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁰⁷ USDOS, India 2023 Human Rights Report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 52-53

also reported that appellate courts systematically disregarded the testimonies of women and girls with disabilities.²⁰⁸

The rule of law was undermined by corruption affecting ‘all levels’, including the government, the police, and the judiciary,²⁰⁹ with the lower courts being particularly affected.²¹⁰ As reported by Transparency International, 89 % of the Indian population considered corruption of the government ‘a big problem.’²¹¹

²⁰⁸ HRW, Children’s Rights to Access to Justice and Effective Remedies, 23 August 2024, [url](#)

²⁰⁹ UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of India, 2 September 2024, [url](#), para. 11; Bertelsmann Stiftung, India Country Report 2024, n.d., [url](#), p. 12

²¹⁰ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024, India, n.d., [url](#)

²¹¹ Transparency International, Corruption Perception Index, n.d., [url](#)

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