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# **THE IMPACT OF OFFENCES AGAINST WOMEN TOURIST IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW<sup>1</sup>**

AUTHORED BY - ADITYA PRATAP SINGH

## **ABSTRACT**

Analyse cases of tourist assaults, their impact on local economies, and strategies for prevention. rising incidence of offenses by female tourists is influencing changes in security and policy at popular travel destinations.

India, a country well-known for its rich cultural heritage and wide range of tourism offerings, has had serious problems with crimes committed by female tourists. An extensive summary of the effects that these violations have on national vacation destinations may be found in this article. The article illustrates the complex effects on India's tourism sector and local populations Adby looking at high-profile occurrences, geographical variances, and their economic, reputational, and social ramifications. The article illustrates how such offenses impact local economies, harm the reputation of well-liked places, and sour relations between visitors and locals through thorough case studies. The review highlights both the advantages and disadvantages of the security protocols and regulations in place today. The article also covers preventative measures that are proactive in nature, such as tightened security measures, educational campaigns, and joint ventures between governmental agencies, travel boards, and local communities. It emphasizes how crucial it is to take a comprehensive approach to enhancing safety and rebuilding confidence in India's tourism industry. In order to solve the issues raised by crimes involving female tourists, the article promotes continuous changes and the implementation of best practices. Its goals are to make the traveller experience safer and friendlier for visitors from outside and to boost the expansion and goodwill of India's tourism sector.

**KEY WORDS:** Offenses, Tourism, Tourists, Women, India, Law

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Tourism is a vital sector that contributes significantly to the global economy, offering cultural exchange and economic benefits to destinations worldwide. However, the safety of women tourists has emerged as a critical concern. As women increasingly travel for leisure, business or exploration, they face unique risks, including rape, harassment, assault, theft, and various scams. These offences not only jeopardize the safety and well-being of women travellers but also impact the reputation of tourist destination. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach involving awareness, preventive measure, and robust legal frameworks to ensure that women can travel safely and confidently.

**According to the world economic forum at the global gender gap report published in 2022**, the global gender gap will finally be closed an incredible 132 years from now. This report highlights the continued gender gap in different areas of society; economic participation and opportunity, education, health, and health participation, the path to gender parity seems to come much faster than political empowerment and economic participation and opportunity.<sup>2</sup>

In their book chapter entitled Tourism Destination Competitiveness of India and China, **Kumar, Phuong-Dung & Duc-Thang (2016)** mentioned that India represents a unique and fascinating cultural landscape. However, the country does not appear to be tourists friendly or welcoming country. Negative news regarding heinous crimes splashed in media and other sources deters tourists from touring for a particular destination and dismays them.<sup>3</sup>

The U.K. government, on its official website (**Foreign Travel Advice, India**), while advising the tourists, mentioned that women travellers should be cautious when traveling in India even though they are in groups. Women are becoming victims of sexual assault verbal and physical harassment by individuals or groups of men, posing a high risk to their safety. This aspect indicates the risk perceived regarding the safety of tourists by foreign countries about India. The lower the risk factor, the higher will be the overall development of the nation. A 5-point Likert scale study found that Goa is popularizing western culture through Rave parties,

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<sup>2</sup> Johana Lucena, The role of Women in Tourism <https://www.unwto-tourismacademy.ie.edu/2022/11/unwto-the-role-of-women-in-tourism>

<sup>3</sup> Tourism Destination Competitiveness of India and China, Kumar, Phuong-Dung & Duc-Thang (2016)

Sunburn festivals, casinos, massage centres, spas, etc.<sup>4</sup>

The domestic cases of offences against women in India are increasing indecently and poses adverse impact on tourism policy, foreign women tourist might feel unsafe in travelling the country due to chances of being a victim of such offence. Various instances of such offences relating to Harassment of a sexual nature Forgery, rape, murder, cheating, and simple hurt dealing in immorality, Human trafficking, kidnapping, kidnapping and murderous attempts has been found to happen to the women tourists in India. The safety and security of tourists, especially women, are paramount concerns for any destination seeking to attract visitors. In recent years, India has grappled with incidents of criminal offenses against women tourists, which have not only posed serious threats to individuals but have also cast a shadow on the country's reputation as a tourist destination. These offenses, ranging from harassment to assault, have garnered significant attention both domestically and internationally, raising questions about the adequacy of safety measures and law enforcement in India's tourism industry.<sup>5</sup>

A country with rich cultural heritage also known for delivering high moral values to world following the ideal of “*Atithi Devo Bhawa*”, “*Vasudhaiv Kutumbhakam*” and “*Sarve Bhawantu Sukhinaha*” if unable to provide a mechanism to protect the tourists in its own country, poses a reputational damage to the whole nation. Correspondingly such offences might hinder the tourists from other countries as well as travelling of women to any tourist places.

The impact of such criminal offenses against women tourists extends beyond the immediate safety concerns. It reverberates through the tourism sector, influencing travellers' perceptions and decisions. Negative publicity surrounding safety issues can deter potential tourists from choosing India as their destination, leading to a decline in tourist arrivals and economic losses for the country. Moreover, the perception of a destination as unsafe for women can persist over time, creating long-term challenges for the tourism industry and hindering efforts to promote India as a welcoming and hospitable place for visitor. The circumstance of colourful crimes against excursionists in India poses a negative destination print and hinders the

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<sup>4</sup> U.K. government, on its official website (Foreign Travel Advice, India), <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india>

<sup>5</sup> Laksheeta Choudhary, Crimes against tourists in India: an overview, [www.ijert.org](http://www.ijert.org)

country's development. The pitfalls that excursionists face need to be anatomized most meetly, and applicable way need to be executed.

The particular article identifies the criminal acts undergone against the tourist specifically against the women and provides an analytical study of consequential effect of such crimes on the tourism policy and tourism economy of India. A study of various legislations and documents of domestic and international existence is also done to evaluate the protection mechanism of rights of women tourists.

### **CRIME REPORTED BY WOMEN FOREIGNERS**

Women are increasingly becoming victims of gang rape. Theft, assault, and assault on women with the purpose to violate their modesty are the offenses that are generally recorded. Harassment of a sexual nature Forgery, rape, murder, cheating, and simple hurt dealing in immorality, Human trafficking, kidnapping, kidnapping, and murderous attempts. In the Datia district, a Swiss tourist was raped by a gang, and in 2022, a Latvian woman was kidnapped, gang raped, and killed from a resort in Trivandrum, Kerala. Reports of misbehaviour by tour guides, cheating, and financial fraud are also common; however, physical crimes have increased more quickly than financial crimes.

**Delhi** recorded 27 cases of crime against foreigners in the year 2021, a drastic decline from 62 cases reported in 2020 and 123 in 2019. **Rajasthan** has shown a sharp reduction in registration of crimes from 16 in 2019 to just 4 in 2020 and two cases in 2021, which could be attributed to the sharp decline in tourist arrivals due to COVID-19.

The detailed official report provided by NCRB in 2022 is available here It lacks the detailing like gender and crime rate owing to the absence of overall tourist numbers. 409 cases (517 victims) were registered of crime against foreigners, 55 of these cases were – rape (12), abduction (5), insult/assault on women (27), and human trafficking (11). As with the above data, this too should be taken with a pinch of salt. Being aware of the systems that exist in India, how difficult it would be for a foreigner to get a complaint registered.<sup>6</sup> These are the number of registered cases; the number of victims is more than this. These numbers may look big to some and small to some esp. in the context of the crime rate. However, this should be

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<sup>6</sup> The sole speaks website <https://thesolespeaks.com/is-india-safe-for-women-travelers/>

seen in the cultural and legal context of India.

Recently A tourist from Rajasthan was allegedly assaulted with an iron rod by the owner of a juice centre after the tourist attempted to negotiate the price for a tender coconut at ‘Maddani’ the coconut tree lined road at Parra. And some more accident which is happened in recent is On March 1 2024, a woman tourist from Spain camping with her husband was allegedly gang raped in Dumka district, Jharkhand, while travelling to Nepal from West Bengal. The incident occurred as the couple rested in a makeshift tent in a deserted area at Kurmahat village. According to a police source, eight people passing through the area stopped and assaulted the husband and raped the woman. The culprits also looted Rs. 10,000.

In 2022, Sarah, a solo traveller from Australia, arrived in India with dreams of exploring the country's heritage. Her journey, however, took a harrowing turn when she fell victim to a serious assault in a popular tourist destination. Sarah’s story is not an isolated case but rather a stark reminder of the dangers faced by many women who travel to India. This article explores the broader impact of such incidents on women tourists and the tourism sector as a whole."

In addition to these particular cases, there are several similar situations that have been reported to police departments; however, relatively few of these cases wind up in courts or on trial, and many of these cases remain unresolved, prolonging the suffering of the victims. which isn't improving society and attracting tourists from abroad?

Every year, millions of women travel to India, drawn by its rich culture and vibrant landscapes. Yet, recent reports indicate a troubling trend: a significant number of these women experience crimes that mar their travel experience and cast a shadow over India's tourism industry. In 2023 alone, there were many reported incidents involving women tourists, highlighting a pressing issue that demands urgent attention."

### **INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS FEATURING THE RIGHTS**

There are several international conventions and declarations that are relevant to tourism, focusing on issues such as safety, empowerment, and rights. And There isn't a specific international convention solely dedicated to women tourists, but there are international frameworks and guidelines that address issues relevant to women in the context of tourism. International conventions related to tourism encompass a range of agreements and frameworks aimed at promoting sustainable tourism, facilitating travel, protecting cultural heritage,

protecting tourist from offences and enhancing cooperation among countries.

### **1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948**

The UDHR's principles have promoted responsible tourism practices, encouraging tourists to respect local cultures, environments, and communities. The UDHR has led to the development of human rights guidelines for the tourism industry, focusing on issues like labour rights, child protection, and access to justice for victims of human rights abuses. The UDHR's emphasis on dignity and well-being has contributed to the growth of sustainable tourism, prioritizing environmental and social responsibility. The UDHR's promotion of cultural exchange and understanding has fostered global understanding and peaceful coexistence through tourism.<sup>7</sup>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) doesn't explicitly mention tourism, but some articles are relevant to the rights of tourists and the impact of tourism on local communities.

### **2. International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights 1966**

The 1966 adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) has a major effect on the rights of female visitors. The accord acknowledges the significance of economic, social, and cultural liberties for every person, encompassing women travellers. Although tourism isn't specifically included in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1966, certain of its provisions are pertinent to visitor rights and the effects of tourism on local communities.

### **3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966**

Women travellers are greatly impacted by the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which supports and defends their civil and political rights while they are away from home. Although tourism isn't specifically included in the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), certain of its provisions are pertinent to visitor rights and the effects of tourism on local populations.

### **4. Convention on The Elimination of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women 1979**

The United Nations General Assembly ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979. One of the most significant international agreements supporting gender equality and women's

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<sup>7</sup> Jorge Ferraz, Tourism and Human Rights: A Complex Relationship  
<https://comum.rcaap.pt/bitstream/10400.26/35990/1/2021.01.001.pdf>

empowerment, it is sometimes referred to as the "Women's Bill of Rights". Traveling women are greatly impacted by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which upholds and defends their rights and dignity.<sup>8</sup>

International development initiatives, national legislation, and policies have all been impacted by the principles of CEDAW, which is essential in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment globally. CEDAW is a comprehensive international treaty that defines discrimination against women and establishes a framework for state action to abolish it, despite not having a specific focus on tourism. Its ideals are frequently implemented in a variety of industries, such as tourism, to protect women's rights and equitable opportunities. These clauses support gender parity and provide women travellers the freedom to travel with dignity and without facing prejudice or marginalization.

#### **5. Declaration on the Protection of Tourists and Tourism (1995)**

A UNWTO declaration, the Declaration on the Protection of Tourists and Tourism (1995), attempts to safeguard travellers and encourage the growth of sustainable tourism. Some of the regulations are pertinent to women's safety and well-being in tourism, even though it does not directly address women tourists. Although women tourists are not expressly included in these laws, they are nonetheless important for guaranteeing the security and welfare of all travellers, including female tourists. The Declaration's emphasis on deterring criminal activity, offering aid and support, and raising public awareness and education can aid in addressing harassment and violence against women in tourist environments.<sup>9</sup>

#### **6. International Code For The Protection Of Tourists (ICPT)**

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) approved the International Code for the Protection of Tourists (ICPT) in 2021. The ICPT is a non-binding collection of international standards for the safety of travellers, particularly women, in case of emergency and for the protection of travellers' consumer rights in the event that COVID-19 is not implemented. A framework for the safety of tourists, including women, is intended to be provided by the International Code for the safety of Tourists

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>

<sup>9</sup> <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/79519/1/Unit-5.pdf>

(ICPT), which was adopted in 2021.<sup>10</sup>

Promoting a secure and encouraging atmosphere for all travellers including women is the goal of the ICPT. States can help prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harassment and guarantee that female visitors have access to the support and assistance they require by putting these rules into practice.

## **TOURISM LAW IN INDIA**

Tourism is a major assiduity in India, attracting a big number of Travellers, but it suffers from the lack of specific legislation. Tourism has served society to a significant extent by furnishing jobs for numerous people, but it has also harmed the society and the terrain. Excursionists can be observed causing annihilation in sightseer areas, contaminating the terrain and scribbling on monument walls, damaging public property and giving a poor name to their home nation or state. On the other hand, indeed in the history, trippers weren't granted complete freedom; they were regarded with dubitation, and a report of their conduct was periodically presented to the monarchs for their crimes and wrongdoings. They were penalized in agreement with the laws of their separate countries and fiefdoms. While utmost principles and ethics were considered while assigning corrections to evildoers, no forbearance was granted in the case of serious offences.

The term "tourism laws" refers to a collection of national, state, and international laws that govern many facets and operations of the travel industry. For instance, travel legislation may include rules governing work, hospitality, or public health.

Laws pertaining to tourism originate from a number of sources. For instance, there are 51 distinct sources (states plus the federal government) in the United States that contribute to tourist law. These comprise statutes, administrative law, common law, treaties, and the constitutions of the federal and state governments. Similar to this, although tourism isn't mentioned expressly, it is included in India's Union list, Concurrent list, and State list. For instance, rules pertaining to emigration, aviation, shipping, and the protection of forests, wild animals, and birds fall under the union list; laws governing domestic pilgrimages, theatres, and other venues fall under the state list. throughout relation to these topics, different laws

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<sup>10</sup> [https://www.unwto.org/international-code-for-the-protection-of-tourists#:~:text=Adopted%20by%20resolution%20732%20\(XXIV,duties%20and%20rights%20regarding%20the](https://www.unwto.org/international-code-for-the-protection-of-tourists#:~:text=Adopted%20by%20resolution%20732%20(XXIV,duties%20and%20rights%20regarding%20the)

have emerged at various points throughout time.<sup>11</sup>

This implies that nearly every facet of tourism ought to be regulated by a single piece of legislation, yet as it is, there are numerous laws that either directly or indirectly control and regulate the industry. These fall into one of the following categories:

- 1) Laws related to trans-border movements and protection of tourists including Passport Act, customs, visa regulations, foreign exchange regulations, immigration laws, etc.
- 2) Laws related to transportation like aviation regulations, railways, road and water transport; fares and tariffs, etc.
- 3) Hospitality laws related to food, lodging, guests and hosts rights and liabilities, entertainment, classification, grading, rating of hotels, etc.
- 4) Consumer Protection Laws related to health, hygiene, service quality standards, etc.
- 5) Industrial laws dealing with contracts, partnership, sale of goods and Laws related to land use, infrastructure development, etc.
- 6) Laws on Human Resource Development and Labour laws related to employees' working conditions, wages, etc.
- 7) Laws regarding the functioning of tourism organizations at various levels.
- 8) Conservation related laws on environment protection, heritage preservation, Antiquities, monuments and historical sites, etc.
- 9) Laws related to sustainable tourism development
- 10) Laws for regulating the service providers and the quality of services etc.<sup>12</sup>

Therefore, laws pertaining to the tourism sector include Labour laws, conservation laws, sector-specific laws pertaining to various aspects of tourism, and constitutional laws. These laws serve to protect the interests of all industry stakeholders while ensuring the sustainable and equitable growth of the tourism sector.

The Indian government has launched several measures to boost tourism in the nation. The inconceivable India crusade launched by the Ministry of Tourism has successfully attracted excursionists worldwide. The government has also introduced visa installations, which have made it easier for foreign excursionists to visit India. The development of structure and the

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<sup>11</sup> Tourism Legislations And International Agreements:  
<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/79519/1/Unit-5.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [Travel and Tourism Laws in India – Team Attorneyslex](https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/11391/3/Unit-16.pdf)  
<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/11391/3/Unit-16.pdf>

enhancement of connectivity has also contributed to the growth of the tourism assiduity in India. India's trip and tourism assiduity has enormous implicit for growth, and it's anticipated to continue to grow in the coming times. still, there are several challenges that the assiduity faces, similar as the need for proper structure, hygiene, and safety enterprises. The assiduity must address these issues to ensure that excursionists have an affable experience and continue visiting the country.<sup>13</sup>

Specifically talking about the criminal law regarding the protection of women tourist no such law in India is found to be seen, the identification of criminal activities and redressal of victim is performed under the general criminal laws i.e. **Indian Penal Code** and **Criminal Procedure Code**. Some other special legislation (not directly related to tourism policy and laws) provides mechanism to identify specific criminal activities done against women tourist as such: **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Protection and Redressal) Act 2013, Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012, Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA) 1956.**

In the current context, tourist regulations are no different from those that apply in India's judiciary and legislation. There are a number of laws that impact or are related to tourism, both directly and indirectly. The rules governing tourism are diverse and may be split into two categories:

- To begin with, there are broad regulations that apply to this business in unexpected ways due to its unique qualities, such as damages for disappointment.
- Second, the industry-specific rules, ranging from historic common innkeepers and carriers' doctrines to the maze of municipal, state, federal, and international regulations that presently regulate this business.<sup>14</sup>

Neither central nor state tourism laws have been passed by the Indian government. On the other hand, **The National Tourism Policy**, which was created in 2002 with the intention of fostering the expansion of the tourism sector, contains fundamental guidelines for safeguarding the rights of travellers and travel agencies.

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<sup>13</sup> Nidhi Mishra, Tourism law: Importance, <https://leverageedu.com/learn/tourism-law/>

<sup>14</sup> Dr. C B Naveen Chandra, Tourism and law, <https://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1901132.pdf>

## CONSEQUENCES OF OFFENCES

The issue of offences against women tourists in India is a complex and sensitive topic that has garnered significant attention both domestically and internationally. The issue of offences against women tourists in India is indeed complex and multifaceted, shaped by a combination of cultural, social, economic, and institutional factors. India, as a country with a rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes, attracts millions of tourists annually. However, alongside its appeal as a tourist destination, India has also faced scrutiny and criticism due to incidents of violence and harassment against women travellers. There are some hypothetical questions arising out of the identified offences against women tourist such as: -

- What happens when the allure of a foreign land is overshadowed by fear and violence?
- India, with its ancient history and diverse cultural heritage, has long been a sought-after destination for global tourists. When the offences against women tourist happens and no such mechanism is present to consider and tackle the situation the reputation of tourism policy and tourist places with significant heritage gets affected in serious manner.
- The international outrage against the tourism policy of the country due to the identified offenses directly affects the relation between the tourists and the inhabitants of the country which adversely affects the community balance.

A brief study of such consequences has been briefly done below: -

- 1. Economic Impact:** Tourism is a vital part of India's economy, contributing significantly to employment and growth. However, the safety of women tourists has become a growing concern, threatening to undermine the industry's success. With numerous reports of offences against female travelers, it's crucial to understand the impact of these incidents on both the victims and the tourism sector. In India, crimes committed against women visitors can have a significant economic impact on the country's tourism industry, employment, investment, and allied industries. In order to protect visitors and local populations, it is critical to address these concerns through comprehensive safety measures, policy reforms, and support networks. This is because doing so will not only save money on increased security and legal fees but also harm India's reputation over the long run.
- **Decline in Tourist Arrivals:** The number of foreign visitors may decline as a result of violent incidents against female tourists. Travel advisories and unfavourable press might discourage prospective travelers, which lowers tourism earnings overall.

- **Decrease in Tourist Spending:** Lower tourism means lower revenue for neighborhood establishments including motels, eateries, and retail stores. This may have a negative impact on the income of those in the tourism industry.
  - **Job Losses:** Employment losses in the tourist industry, notably in lodging facilities, tour companies, and transportation services, may result from a drop in tourism-related revenue. Small companies that rely on tourists may also be negatively impacted, which could have wider negative effects on the local economy.
  - **Reduced Investment:** Fears of safety and security may discourage potential investors from funding tourism infrastructure or related businesses. This may hinder the creation of new initiatives and hinder the industry's economic expansion.
  - **Increased Security Costs:** The public and commercial sectors may incur higher expenses as a result of the requirement for stronger security measures to safeguard tourists. This includes spending on law enforcement training, surveillance, and other preventive actions.
  - **Legal and Compensation Costs:** It costs a lot of money to handle court cases involving offenses against female travelers. This covers the price of court cases, requests for compensation, and victim support programs.
  - **Impact on Related Sectors:** A number of associated industries, including as hospitality, transportation, and cultural services, are supported by tourism. These industries may experience a downturn in tourism, which could result in more significant economic difficulties.
  - **Impact on Local Communities:** Reductions in visitor numbers may cause more severe economic downturns in areas that rely significantly on tourism. This may deepen already-existing economic divides and fuel social unrest.
  - **Economic Inequality:** Women may experience disproportionate economic effects, especially if they work in low-paying tourism-related industries. Their financial security and well-being may be impacted by losing their job or seeing their income decline.
- 2. Reputational Damages:** Offenses against women tourists have the potential to cause serious reputational harm to India's tourism sector, which could result in fewer visitors, fewer arrivals, and financial losses. Repairing this damage will take a large financial outlay for public relations, safety precautions, and tactical changes. For the tourism

industry and local economies to reap long-term advantages, a positive reputation must be restored and maintained through proactive steps and effective management. Nonetheless, in recent years, concerns have been raised about the safety of female tourists. Attack and harassment incidents have drawn criticism from across the nation and around the world, indicating a serious problem for the nation's tourism industry.

- **Travel Advisories and Warnings:** International organizations and foreign governments may issue unfavorable travel advice in response to incidents of violence against female tourists. These alerts have the potential to drastically lower the number of prospective tourists who might think that India is dangerous.
- **Erosion of Trust:** In the travel and tourism sector, trust is vital. Information concerning assaults or harassment can give the impression that India is not a safe place to go, which could discourage travelers from visiting.
- **Reduction in Visitor Numbers:** A damaged reputation may cause a dramatic decline in the number of visitors. Travelers choosing locations they believe to be safer as a result of this reduction have an impact not only on current income but also on potential tourism in the future.
- **Impact on Market Segments:** Certain demographics, such families and single women tourists, may be discouraged from traveling to India in particular, which could result in a decline in these important market sectors.
- **Damage to Reputation:** Continued problems with visitor safety could harm India's standing as a tourism destination. Long-term tourism prospects may be impacted by the time and financial commitment required to restore a positive reputation.
- **International Media Attention:** High-profile events frequently garner international media attention, which can intensify unfavorable opinions. The idea that India is dangerous can spread like wildfire and damage India's reputation as a whole.
- **Long-Term Media Impact:** Over time, a negative impression of safety issues can be reinforced by persistent media coverage, making it difficult for tourism officials to combat the unfavorable publicity.

**3. Community Dynamics:** This is a sobering fact of life for many Indian women vacationers. The safety of these tourists has emerged as a crucial concern as the nation continues to draw tourists from throughout the globe. The impact of crimes committed against women tourists on Indian communities can be profound, since it can influence social cohesion, employment opportunities, local economics, and cultural customs.

Reduced tourism income can cause financial hardship, heightened social unrest, and difficulties preserving communal togetherness. Communities may react by strengthening security, broadening their economic base, and making adjustments to their environment. In order to mitigate these effects and restore social cohesion and economic stability, local governments, corporations, and community members must work together.

- **Local Attitudes Towards Tourism:** If residents of the community believe that tourism causes more harm than good, they may grow hostile toward it. This could further hinder the tourism industry's recovery and result in a decline in local support for tourism-related initiatives.
- **Impact on Community Pride:** Local pride and identity can be impacted by reputational harm and unfavorable media coverage, especially in areas where tourism is valued both culturally and economically.
- **Shifts in Cultural Practices:** Communities may change customs or behaviors in reaction to risks to the safety of tourists. This could involve altering public behavior to raise perceptions of safety or changing the way cultural events are organized.
- **Loss of Cultural Exchange:** A downturn in tourism may result in less opportunities for cross-cultural interactions, which are frequently beneficial to travelers as well as locals. This may reduce the positive effects of cross-cultural encounters and the vitality of the local cultural scene.
- **Community Frustration:** Residents may become frustrated with the drop in tourism revenue, especially those who are directly impacted by the loss of income. Social tensions and a decline in community cohesiveness may result from this.
- **Increased Crime and Social Issues:** As economic pressures rise, local crime rates and other social problems like drug misuse and domestic violence may rise during economic downturns.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

### **STRATEGIES**

A mix of strengthened legislative frameworks, better infrastructure, public education campaigns, and increased law enforcement are necessary for effective prevention and response tactics for crimes against women tourists. In the wake of an occurrence, victim care, in-depth investigation, and open communication must be the main priorities. Long-term plans

need continual assessment and development in order to guarantee visitors' security and welfare. To create a safe and welcoming environment for all visitors, cooperation between the government, tourism companies, and local communities is important.

**D. S. v. State of Rajasthan (2019)**, This case dealt with the rape of a female tourist in Rajasthan and the subsequent legal proceedings. The Rajasthan High Court reinforced the necessity of thorough and sensitive handling of cases involving sexual offences against women, including tourists. The court addressed issues related to evidence collection and victim support.<sup>15</sup>

**M. S. vs. State of Kerala (2022)**, In one instance, a foreign woman who was visiting Kerala on holiday suffered a sexual attack. The Kerala High Court emphasized that thorough investigation and victim protection are essential, especially when dealing with foreign nationals. The state was also ordered by the court to enhance the procedures for handling and disclosing these offenses.<sup>16</sup>

**Jaswinder Singh vs. State of Punjab (2023)**, In this case, a foreign visitor to Punjab was allegedly the victim of sexual assault and harassment. The Punjab and Haryana High Court emphasized how crucial it is to protect international visitors and guarantee prompt justice. The court stressed that in these situations, authorities must act quickly and decisively to protect visitors' safety and security.<sup>17</sup>

however, I would like to add few more to address issue more efficiently:

1. Sufficient monitoring is necessary since a location for tourists that is devoid of crime may have the best surveillance. Regular travel allows for the duplication and unexpected verification of India's most popular tourist destinations.
2. Need for more law enforcement personnel, more officers can be stationed at popular tourist destinations within their respective states and Union Territories of India.

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<sup>15</sup> (2019) 4 SCC 199

<sup>16</sup> (2022) 6 SCC 114

<sup>17</sup> (2023) 6 SCC 233.

3. More authority should be granted to the police, traffic police, forest guards, and coastline guards to combat illicit activity in tourist areas.
4. Courts ought to have the discretionary authority to resolve issues that are brought before them, including those pertaining to offenses and tourism.
5. In order to protect tourists' safety and wellbeing as well as the integrity of the tourism sector, appropriate legislation that expressly address offenses against tourists are imperative.
6. Community Support, to obtain firsthand knowledge about the area and its visitors, law enforcement officers can engender the support of the local populace.
7. Outstanding assistance for female overseas visitors, since there are several task forces supporting visitors and numerous studies and news reports have brought attention to crimes against women, one specific task force dedicated to female tourists exclusively helps female travellers with any problem.
8. Need for Campaigns and Programs, Students, community members, NGOs, and other organizations can run a variety of awareness campaigns and programs to disseminate the word about the importance of foreign visitor arrivals to the country's development.

### **CONCLUSION**

In addition to endangering the safety and well-being of individual tourists, offenses against women tourists in India have a profound and multifaceted impact on the country's global reputation as a tourist destination. These offenses also erode the confidence of potential female travelers, which lowers tourism revenue and impacts local economies that depend on tourism.

In India, the tourism sector is the largest service sector. Heritage, cultural, medicinal, commercial, and sports tourism are all offered. India is a secular nation where we uphold the social mores, cultural norms, and moral standards. We uphold the Sanskrit Sloke "Yatra Nari Pujante Ramante Thatra Devta" in honor of all women, and we believe in "Athithi Devo Bhava" and respect for women. However, the absence of any other relevant laws or tourism acts today presents numerous challenges for women tourists in India.

The ideal is to establish a legal frame for the applicable development and operation of conduct connected to tourism. In proposition, this will help guard traditional customs and natural coffers. Also, guests and stint companies are handed with introductory legal security. Still,

there is conspicuous absence of enforcement of tourism laws far and wide, so it is accessible that well-known countries battle to watch and legislate laws intended to cover callers.

Ultimately, creating a safer environment for women tourists will not only enhance India's image as a welcoming and secure destination but also contribute to broader societal progress. The successful implementation of protective measures will reflect positively on the country's commitment to gender equality and human rights, fostering a more inclusive and respectful atmosphere for all tourists and visitors.

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