National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI), 2025

Prelims – *Current event of National and International importance| Issues related to women and safety.*

Why in News?

Recently, National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety released based on a survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities.

- The report aims to capture ***unreported harassment, lived experiences, and perceptions of safety*** beyond official crime figures.
- **Released by –** National Commission for Women (NCW).
- **National safety score -** India received a national safety score of **65%.**
- **Categories -** "Much above", "Above", "Below" or "Much below".

Safest cities	Low ranked cities
Kohima, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai lead national safety rankings.	Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar, and Ranchi were placed at the bottom of the index.
Kohima and other top-ranked cities were associated with stronger gender equity, civic participation, policing and women-friendly infrastructure.	Cities like Patna and Jaipur faced challenges due to Weak institutional responsiveness, Deep-rooted patriarchal norms, Deficient urban safety infrastructure.

- **Safety Among Women –** Six in ten women felt safe in their city, but **40%** still considered themselves **not so safe or unsafe**.

CATEGORY	Score	Details
COVERAGE	12,770	Across 31 cities
PERCEPTION OF SAFETY	60%	Felt safe
	40%	Felt "not so safe" or unsafe
TRUST IN AUTHORITIES	75%	Lack confidence in complaints
	25%	Believe system works
COMPLAINT (GENERAL)	33%	harassment victims lodge complaints
	67%	Remain silent
COMPLAINT (WORKPLACE)	22%	Incidents formally reported
	16%	reported cases see action taken

- It revealed sharp drops in perceptions of safety at night, educational institutions 86% safe, especially in daylight, but safety perceptions fall sharply at night or off-campus.
- **Incidents of harassment -** 7% of women reported experiencing harassment in public spaces in 2024.
- This figure doubled to 14% for women under 24, indicating that young women are a high-risk group.
- **Underreporting -** The report revealed that two-thirds of harassment incidents go unreported, meaning that official National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data misses the majority of cases.
- **Harassment hotspots –** Neighbourhoods (38%) and public transport (29%) were most often flagged as harassment hotspots.
- **Responses to harassment -** Women's reactions varied, with 28% confronting the harasser, 25% leaving the scene, and only 20% reporting to authorities.
- **Trust in redressal mechanisms - Low confidence** - Confidence in authorities is weak, with only one in three victims filing a formal complaint.
- **Lack of action -** Of the complaints filed, only 22% were formally registered, and action was taken in only 16% of those cases.
- **Trust gap** - As many as 75% of women expressed a lack of confidence in the effectiveness of police and legal agencies.
- **Workplace safety - Perceived safety** - 91% of women felt safe in their workplaces.
- **POSH awareness gap** - However, over half of the women (53%) were unaware of whether their organization had implemented a Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) policy.
- **Positive measures –** The growing presence of women police officers and

female drivers in public transport as effective confidence-building steps.

- In many union territories, 33% of police personnel are now women, and this has made a decisive difference in building trust.
- Enhanced CCTV coverage under smart city projects has improved monitoring and deterrence of crimes in public spaces.
- Cybercrime and data privacy risks has led to increased focus on strengthening digital protections for women.

Reference

The Hindu| National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety

