

## Crime- Types of Criminal Offenses

Although there are many different kinds of crimes, criminal acts can generally be divided into four primary categories:

personal crimes

property crimes

inchoate crimes

statutory crimes and

financial crimes.

### Personal Crimes

Personal crimes are those that result in physical or mental harm to another person. They can be divided into two main categories, forms of [homicide](#) and other [violent crimes](#). Where the physical harm to another individual is so severe that it causes death, a defendant may be charged with any one of several types of homicide, including, for example, [first-degree murder](#), [voluntary manslaughter](#), or [vehicular homicide](#). Conversely violent crimes, which are also very severe, include:

- [assault and battery](#)
- [arson](#)
- [child abuse](#)
- [domestic abuse](#)
- [kidnapping](#)
- [rape](#) and [statutory rape](#)

### Property Crimes

Property crimes typically involve interference with the property of another. Although they may involve physical or mental harm to another, they primarily result in the deprivation of the use or enjoyment of property. Many property crimes are [theft crimes](#), including [burglary](#), [larceny](#), [robbery](#), [auto theft](#), and [shoplifting](#).

### Inchoate Crimes

Inchoate crimes refer to those crimes that were initiated but not completed, and acts that assist in the commission of another crime. Inchoate crimes require more than a person simply intending or hoping to commit a crime. Rather, the individual must take a “substantial step” towards the completion of the crime in order to be found guilty. Inchoate crimes include [aiding and abetting](#), [attempt](#), and [conspiracy](#).

In some cases, inchoate crimes can be punished to the same degree that the underlying crime would be punished, while in other cases, the punishment might be less severe.

## **Statutory Crimes**

Statutory crimes include those crimes, in addition to the crimes discussed above, which are prescribed by statute. Three significant types of statutory crimes are [alcohol related crimes](#), [drug crimes](#), [traffic offenses](#), and [financial/white collar crimes](#). These crimes are specifically prohibited by statute because society hopes to deter individuals from engaging in them. Alcohol-related crimes include a variety of offenses regarding how and where alcohol can be consumed, such as:

- Driving Under the Influence ([DUI/OWI/DWI](#))
- [Open Container Violations](#)
- [Minor in Possession of Alcohol](#)
- [Public Intoxication](#)
- [Underage DUI](#)
- [Boating DUI](#)
- [Selling and Supplying Alcohol to Minors](#)
- [Refusing to Perform a Field Sobriety Test](#)
- [Refusing to Perform a Breathalyzer or Provide a Blood Sample](#)

Drug crimes concern any involvement in the creation or distribution of drugs, including [drug possession](#), [drug manufacturing](#), and [drug trafficking](#). One area of criminal law that is currently receiving a great deal of attention is the regulation and prosecution of drug crimes related to [medical marijuana](#). Due to state trends toward the legalization of medical marijuana, this is an area of criminal law that is in flux.

Traffic offenses include crimes that may arise while an individual is driving a vehicle on public roadways. Because a [DUI/OWI/DWI](#) involves both alcohol and the use of a vehicle, it is considered both an alcohol related crime and a traffic offense. Additional traffic offenses include [driving on a suspended or revoked license](#), [driving without a license](#), [hit-and-run accidents](#), [reckless driving](#), and [vehicular assault](#). Where a traffic offense results in death, it can be charged as a far more serious crime, such as a form of [homicide](#).

## **Financial and Other Crimes**

Finally, financial crimes often involve deception or fraud for financial gain. Although white-collar crimes derive their name from the corporate officers who historically perpetrated them, anyone in any industry

can commit a white-collar crime. These crimes include many types of [fraud](#) and [blackmail](#), [embezzlement](#) and [money laundering](#), [tax evasion](#), and [cybercrime](#).

## **Crimes against women**

*Main article:* [Violence against women in India](#)

Police records shows incidence of crimes against women in India. Sexual assault against women in India though not common is present. Despite a large population statistically sexual assault in India is not rampant. Media is active in highlighting cases of Sexual assault against women.

## **Rape**

*Main article:* [Rape in India](#)

Rape in India has been described by [Radha Kumar](#) as one of India's most common crimes against women. In most of the rape cases, the culprit is known to the victim.

## **Dowry**

*Main article:* [Dowry system in India](#)

[Dowries](#) are considered a major contributor towards [violence against women in India](#). Some of these offences include physical violence, emotional abuses, and murder of brides and girls.<sup>[17][18][19]</sup>

Most dowry deaths occur when the young woman, unable to bear the harassment and torture, commits suicide. Most of these suicides are by hanging, poisoning or by fire. Sometimes the woman is killed by setting her on fire - this is known as [bride burning](#), and is sometimes disguised as suicide or accident.

## **Domestic violence**

*Further information:* [Domestic violence in India](#)

[Domestic violence in India](#) is endemic. Around 70% of women in India are victims of domestic violence, according to [Renuka Chowdhury](#), former Union minister for Women and Child Development.

The National Crime Records Bureau reveal that a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes, a woman is raped every 29 minutes, a [dowry](#) death occurs every 77 minutes, and one case of cruelty committed by either the husband or relative of the husband occurs every nine minutes. This occurs despite the fact that women in India are legally protected from domestic abuse under the [Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act](#).

## **Organised crime**

*Further information:* [Organised crime in India](#)

## Illegal drug trade

India is located between two major illicit [opium](#) producing centres in Asia – the [Golden Crescent](#) comprising [Pakistan](#), [Afghanistan](#) and [Iran](#) and the [Golden Triangle](#) comprising [Burma](#), Thailand and [Laos](#). Because of such geographical location, India experiences large amount of drug trafficking through the borders.<sup>1</sup> India is the world's largest producer of licit opium for the pharmaceutical trade. But an undetermined quantity of opium is diverted to illicit international drug markets.

India is a transshipment point for heroin from [Southwest Asian](#) countries like [Afghanistan](#) and [Pakistan](#) and from Southeast Asian countries like Burma, Laos, and Thailand. Heroin is smuggled from [Pakistan](#) and Burma, with some quantities transshipped through Nepal. Most heroin shipped from India are destined for Europe. There have been reports of heroin smuggled from [Mumbai](#) to [Nigeria](#) for further export.

In [Maharashtra](#), [Mumbai](#) is an important centre for distribution of drug. The most commonly used drug in Mumbai is Indian heroin (called *desi mal* by the local population). Both public transportation (road and rail transportation) and private transportation are used for this drug trade.

Drug trafficking affects the country in many ways.

- [Drug abuse](#): Cultivation of illicit narcotic substances and drug trafficking affects the health of the individuals and destroy the economic structure of the family and society.
- [Organised crime](#): Drug trafficking results in growth of organised crime which affects [social security](#). Organised crime connects drug trafficking with corruption and [money laundering](#).
- Political instability: Drug trafficking also aggravates the political instability in [North-West](#) and [North-East India](#).

The most common drugs used in India are [cannabis](#), [hashish](#), [opium](#) and heroin. In 2006 alone, India's law enforcing agencies recovered 230 kg heroin and 203 kg of [cocaine](#). However, studies reveal that most of the criminals caught in this crime are either Nigerian or [US](#) nationals.

Several measures have been taken by the [Government of India](#) to combat drug trafficking in the country. India is a party of the [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs](#) (1961), the [Convention on Psychotropic Substances](#) (1971), the [Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs](#) (1972) and the [United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances](#) (1988). An Indo-Pakistani committee was set up in 1986 to prevent trafficking in narcotic drugs. India signed a convention with the [United Arab Emirates](#) in 1994 to control drug trafficking. In 1995, India signed an agreement with [Egypt](#) for investigation of drug cases and exchange of information and a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) of the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Drugs with [Iran](#).

## Arms trafficking

According to a joint report published by [Oxfam](#), [Amnesty International](#) and the [International Action Network on Small Arms](#) (IANSA) in 2006, there are around 40 million illegal small arms in India out of approximately 75 million in worldwide circulation. Majority of the illegal small arms make its way into the states of [Bihar](#), [Chhattisgarh](#), [Uttar Pradesh](#), Jharkhand, [Orissa](#) and [Madhya Pradesh](#). In UP, a used [AK-47](#) costs \$3,800 in black market. Large amount of illegal small arms are manufactured in various illegal arms factories in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and sold on the black market for as little as \$5.08.

Chinese pistols are in demand in the illegal small arms market in India because they are easily available and cheaper. This trend poses a significant problem for the states of [Bihar](#), Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra, [West Bengal](#), Karnataka and [Andhra Pradesh](#) which have influence of [Naxalism](#). The porous Indo-Nepal border is an entry point for Chinese pistols, AK-47 and [M-16 rifles](#) into India as these arms are used by the Naxalites who have ties to Maoists in Nepal.

In [North-East India](#), there is a huge influx of small arms due to the insurgent groups operating there. The small arms in North-East India come from insurgent groups in Burma, black markets in [Southeast Asia](#), [Pakistan](#), Bangladesh, [Nepal](#) and [Sri Lanka](#), black market in [Cambodia](#), the People's Republic of China, insurgent groups like the [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam](#), the [Communist Party of India \(Maoist\)](#), the [Communist Party of Nepal \(Maoist\)](#), Indian states like [Uttar Pradesh](#) and pilferages from legal gun factories, criminal organisations operating in India and South Asian countries and other international markets like [Romania](#), Germany etc. Illegal weaponry found in North-East India includes small arms such as the [M14](#), [M16](#), [AK-47](#), [AK-56](#), and the [AK-74](#), but also [light machine guns](#), Chinese [hand grenades](#), [mines](#), [rocket-propelled grenade launchers](#) and [submachine guns](#) etc.

The [Ministry of External Affairs](#) and [Ministry of Home Affairs](#) drafted a joint proposal to the United Nations, seeking a global ban on small-arms sales to non-state users.

## Poaching and wildlife trafficking

Illegal wildlife trade in India has increased. According to a report published by the [Environmental Investigation Agency](#) (EIA) in 2004, India is the chief target for the traders of wildlife skin. Between 1994 and 2003, there have been 784 cases where the skins of tiger, leopard or [otter](#) have been seized. [Leopards](#), [rhinoceros](#), [reptiles](#), birds, insects, rare species of plants are being smuggled into the countries in Southeast Asia and the People's Republic of China. Between 1994 and 2003, poaching and seizure of 698 otters have been documented in India.

[Kathmandu](#) is a key staging point for illegal skins smuggled from India bound for [Tibet](#) and PRC. The report by EIA noted there has been a lack of cross-border cooperation between India, [Nepal](#) and the People's Republic of [China](#) to coordinate enforcement operations and lack of political will to treat wildlife crime effectively. The poaching of the [elephants](#) is a significant problem in Southern India and in the North-Eastern states of [Nagaland](#) and [Mizoram](#). The majority of tiger poaching happen in [Madhya Pradesh](#), Uttar Pradesh, [Orissa](#), West Bengal, [Assam](#) and [Arunachal Pradesh](#).

Other crime

### **Petty crime**

Petty crime, like [pickpocketing](#), theft of valuables from luggage on trains and buses have been reported. Travelers who are not in groups become easy victims of pickpockets and purse snatchers. Purse snatchers work in crowded areas.

### **Confidence tricks**

Many scams are perpetrated against foreign travellers, especially in [Jaipur](#), the capital of [Rajasthan](#). Scammers usually target younger foreign tourists and suggest to them that money can be made by privately transporting gems or gold, or by taking delivery abroad of expensive carpets, avoiding customs duties.

Such incidents occupy the traveller for several days. The traveller is then passed to a new scam artist who offers to show the foreign traveller the sights. Scam artists also offer cheap lodgings and meals to foreign travellers so they can place him or her in the scam artist's physical custody and thus make the foreigner vulnerable to threats and physical coercion. In the process, the foreigner loses his passport.

Besides these, there are also unofficial guides to watch out for. They can be found all over India such as at crowded transportation hubs and at tourist attractions. A common ruse at transportation hubs is to claim that there is no train to your destination or to claim that a place is closed. The aim is to get you to take their expensive private transport or to an expensive hotel where they get a cut. As for the guides at tourist attractions, these could be temples, mosques, or places such as the Varanasi Ghat. You will end up receiving unsolicited services and then asked to pay a big tip for them.

### **Taxi scam**

There are also taxi scams present in India, whereby a foreign traveller, who is not aware of the locations around Indian airports, is taken for a ride round the whole airport and charged for full-fare taxi ride while the terminal is only few hundred yards away. Overseas Security Advisory Council in a report mentioned the process about how to avoid taxi-scam. This crime is known in other areas of the world as "long-hauling".

- [Offence against the person](#), [Violent offence](#), [Sexual offence](#), [Offence against property](#),
- [Forgery](#), [personation](#) and [cheating](#), [Firearms and offensive weapons](#), [Offences against the state/offences against the Crown and Government](#), or [political offence](#), [Harmful or dangerous drugs](#), [Offences against religion](#) and [public worship](#), [Offences against public justice](#), or [offences against the administration of public justice](#), [Public order offence](#), [Commerce](#), [financial markets](#) and [insolvency](#), [Conspiracy](#), [incitement](#) and [attempt](#) to commit crime, [Offences against public morals](#) and [public policy](#), [Motor vehicle offences](#), [Inchoate offence](#), [Juvenile delinquency](#), [Victimless crime](#).

