



**High Commission of India
Canberra**

PRESS RELEASE

In a recent purported poll titled "The world's most dangerous countries women 2018" conducted by Thomson Reuters Foundation, India has been listed as a dangerous country for women.

2. The ranking by the foundation is based on a perception poll conducted with 548 respondents on the basis of response to six questions. The results have not been derived from any kind of data and are solely based on subjective opinions of the 548 respondents who have been defined by Reuters as 'experts focussed on women's issues'. However, information on their credentials, country of expertise or qualifications are not available.

3. The ranking of India appears to be clearly inaccurate and not a reflection of reality as India is far ahead in the areas on which opinion poll was conducted. Moreover, several initiatives have been taken by the Government of India for the safety of women such as One Stop Centres, 24 hours Women helpline numbers in 31 states including legal aid and legal counselling, medical aid, shelters etc.

4. Several initiatives taken by Ministry of Tourism towards ensuring the safety and security of tourists visiting the country are detailed below:

- A 24x7 Toll free, multilingual tourist info helpline on 1800111363 or 1363 has been launched to provide support service.
- A Welcome card with "Tips to enjoy your stay" is being handed over to foreign tourists on arrival.

- Guidelines have been issued to States / UTs to stress the importance of safety and risk management, assist in identifying best practises to ensure a pleasant experience to the tourists.
- State Governments / UT Administrations have been encouraged to deploy Tourist Police in one form or the other and some states have already done so.
- Social media campaigns have been launched with the objective of sensitizing the importance of good conduct and behaviour toward tourists and to reinforce the spirit of 'Atithidevo Bhava'.
- A social media key influencers' campaign "The Great Indian Blog Train" has been organised in Feb 2018 where bloggers shares their experiences in India which are being viewed and read by their large follower base.

5. It is pertinent to mention that the ratio of women tourists in the total foreign tourists is about 40-41% and there is no change in this ratio over the past 8 years. According to the International Passenger Survey (2015-16), over 80% female passengers are fully satisfied with the personal security and safety in India and 18% partially satisfied.
