STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What are different types of Security levels to VVIPs in India? What is Z+/Z/X?

Polity & Governance

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What are different types of Security levels to VVIPs in India? What is SPG/Z+/Z/X?

What is SPG Security? (Special Protection Group)

- Highest Level – Given ONLY to the Prime Minister of India
- SPG is India’s most elite protection force.
- Protects the sitting Prime Minister and their immediate family living with them.
- Uses highly trained commandos, threat-neutralization units, armored vehicles, bulletproof rings, and advanced technology.
- No other political leader receives SPG protection.

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What is Z+ Security?

Z+ is the highest security category for civilians in India after SPG.

It typically includes:

- Around 55+ security personnel
- NSG commandos in close protection
- State police for outer cordon
- Escorted movement with pilot and escort vehicles
- Security Categories in India — Explained
- India provides different levels of VIP security based on threat perception, assessed by central and state intelligence agencies.
- These categories determine how many personnel and what type of forces protect a person.
- Given to high-risk individuals such as: Senior national leaders, Important cabinet ministers, Some chief ministers, Persons facing extreme threat perception.
- Examples (publicly known): Amit Shah, Yogi Adityanath, Nitin Gadkari, Shivraj Singh Chouhan (based on news reports).

Z Security

- Around 22–30 security personnel, usually includes:
- CRPF or CISF commandos
- Local police cover
- Escorts for movement
- Given to important political figures, high-ranking officers, and individuals with moderate–high threat level.

Y+ Security

- Around 11–14 personnel, includes:
- 2–4 armed PSOs (Personal Security Officers)
- Escort vehicle (sometimes)
- Static guards at residence
- Given to mid-level threat individuals:
- State-level politicians
- Judges
- Activists
- Celebrities with strong threat perception

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Y Security

- Around 6–8 personnel, includes:
- 1–2 PSOs
- Mix of police + paramilitary protection
- Given to individuals with moderate threat or those requiring movement-based security.

X Security

- Lowest official security category.
- Includes:
- 1–2 armed PSOs only
- No escort vehicle
- No large team
- Given to individuals with low-level threat perception but still needing minimal protection.

How Are Security Levels Decided?

- Based on threat reports from:
- Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- State Intelligence
- Central security agencies

- Factors considered:
- Past attacks
- Public visibility
- Political sensitivity
- Terror risks
- Criminal threats
- Security is reviewed regularly and upgraded or downgraded.

Category	Protection Level	Main Providers
SPG	PM of India only	Special Protection Group
Z+	Very high	NSG + Police
Z	High	CRPF/CISF + Police
Y+	Medium-high	State + Central forces
Y	Medium	Police + PSOs
X	Low	1–2 PSOs

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