

Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis 2024-25



National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights-Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan

Introduction

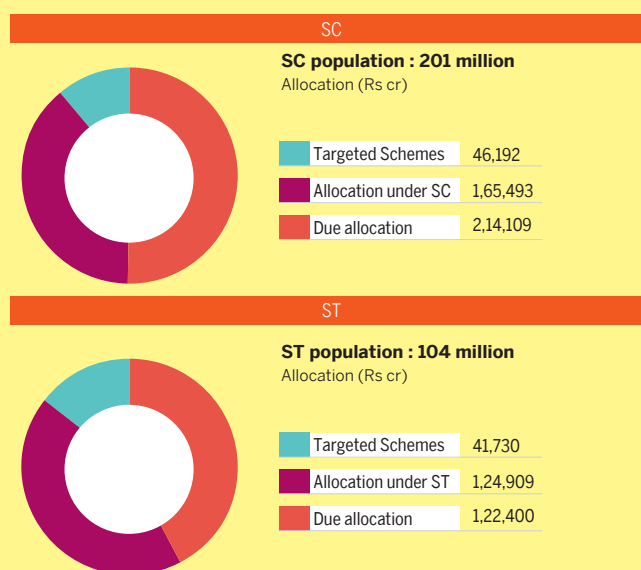
In February the Ministry of Finance presented the interim Union Budget 2024-25 given the general elections. On 23 July, the full budget of NDA 3.0 after the general elections was released setting the path for the government's agenda of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. There was a visible increase in allocations for the SCs and STs in the interim budget by 4% for SCs and 1.3% for STs, however the full budget reveals the projection for the SC, ST Budgets and the budgetary challenges that the communities have to deal with not only in this financial year but in the following 4 years ahead. Our analysis attempts to unpack the nature and quality of allocations and the schemes under the SC and ST budgets.

The popular sentiment with which the ruling party came to power was to bridge the gap between the Dalits and Adivasis and the rest of the population through its commitment to promoting socio-economic interest and inclusive development of SCs and STs. Even the finance minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving the quality of life for the citizens. However, the budget for this financial year does not reflect the same. It has facilitated several unparalleled declarations that need to be unpacked and compared to ground realities.

The allocation for Scheduled Caste stands at Rs. 165,493 Crores and Rs.124,909 Crores for the Scheduled Tribes. For the first time, 275 schemes for SC and 281 schemes for ST is allocated for the welfare of Scheduled Caste (AWSC) & Allocation for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes (AWST). However, if we place these figures, against the background of large-scale poverty among SC, and ST communities as well as against the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance – these schemes will not go far to address the purpose of reducing the development gap between SC/ST and the rest of the population. The proportion of targeted schemes is 83 for both SC & ST Budget, with Rs. 87,921.86 Cr (30%) allocated

Figure 1: Budget For Scheduled Caste & For Scheduled Tribes -FY 2024-25 (in Rs. Cr.)

	SC	ST
(a) Total Expenditure Budget Estimate FY 2024-25(Note-1)	51,89,144	51,89,144
(b) Total Eligible Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Note 2)	14,64,479	14,63,079
(c) Due Allocation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Schemes as per the New Guidelines of NITI Aayog (Note 1)	2,14,109	1,22,400
(d) Allocation for SC Schemes (as per Statement 10A) and ST Schemes (as per Statement 10B)	1,65,493	1,24,909
(e) % of Allocation (e) = (d)% of (b)	11.3%	8.5%
(f) Targeted Schemes	46,192	41,730
(g) % of Targeted Allocation (g)=(f)% of (b)	3.2%	2.9%
(i) Total Gap in allocation (Due Allocation- Targeted Schemes) (i) =(c) - (f)	1,67,917	80,670



Source: Gov of India -Budget Expenditure Profile 2024-25 Ministry of Finance.

*Note-1: Total Expenditure through budget and resources of public enterprises, as per statement-1.Expenditure Profile, FY 2024-25

* Note-2: Current system of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal,MSJE, Gol. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

Note-2: In the new guidelines SCSP and TSP are renamed as DAPSC (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Caste) & DAPST (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes)

Note-1: New System of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal,MSJE, Gol. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.



Highlights of the Budget 2024-25

1. The total allocation for SCs is Rs 1,65,493 CRs and for STs it is Rs. 1,24,909 Crs which is almost similar to the interim budget except a slight increase for STs from Rs. 1,21,023 CRs
2. The trend of non targeted allocations continue and only about 3.2 % (Rs.46,195 Crs) is directly reaching the SCs and only about 2.9 % (Rs. 41,730 Crs) is directly reaching the STs
3. Violence continues to grow in the country however the amount allocated for the implementation of the PoA is only about Rs 550 Crs a very small increase from last year and this is definitely not sufficient to address the violence and atrocities against Dalits and Adivasis
4. The Namaste Scheme has got a slight increase from last year from Rs. 97.41 Crs to Rs.116.94 Crs however the allocation for the National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation Rs. 0.01cr
5. It is also sad to see that the allocation for the National Scheduled Caste Finance & Development Corporation Rs. 0.01 cr
6. The allocation for the post matric scholarship is Rs. 6349.97 for SCs which is slightly lesser than what they allocated last year and for STs it is Rs. 2374.15 an increase from last year which was Rs. 1970.77 Crs
7. There is a drastic reduction in funds for the development of Particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) from Rs. 256.14 Crs to a mere Rs. 20 Crs
8. A significant amount allocated for Eklavya Schools of Rs. 6399 Crs is a welcome move
9. For the National Overseas scholarship an amount of Rs. 95 Crs was allocated for SCs and about Rs. 6 Crs is allocated for STs

for targeted schemes. Rs. 202,479.35 Cr. (70%) is allocated for non-targeted schemes which are diverted away from the SC, STs right at the inception itself. These are defacto general schemes, with a mask of SC or ST budget schemes. They do not qualify as SC, or ST schemes that benefit the communities intended to do so.

This year's budget saw a systemic depreciation of dozens of critical schemes by starving them of necessary funds. For example, schemes like post matric scholarship, rehabilitation of bonded labour, self-employment of Safai Karamcharis, national fellowship for SC, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, IGNOU Open University, grants to voluntary organizations, land records modernization, etc which are few of the

direct benefiting schemes are denied necessary funds for SC & ST development.

The trend of non-targeted allocations both in statements 10A and 10B continues unabatedly. Good schemes are getting starved and irrelevant schemes allocation keeps increasing. This year, out of 275 schemes for SC, 237 schemes are non-targeted and without any strategy to give benefits to the community. Similarly, only 45 schemes out of 281 schemes for scheduled tribes have the potential to give direct benefits, while the rest of them are general in nature. Moreover, their outcomes do not spell any kind of clear roadmap for sustainable development of SC & ST communities.

2. Analysis of Utilization- Budget Credibility:

The concept of Budget Credibility is the extent the Govt utilizes the fund against the approved budgets at the end of each financial year. However, this budget credibility talks more about the deviation between the approved budget and fund utilization. Therefore, If the deviation is more than 10% then it can be considered as budget credibility. The issue of Budget credibility however is a common phenomenon across the country, as far as the Dalit (AWSC- Allocation for welfare of Scheduled Caste) and Tribal Budget (AWST-Allocation for welfare of Scheduled Tribes) is concerned.

As per statement 10 A under AWSC, in the Union Budget in FY 2019–20, the total fund allocation is Rs 81,341 Cr, of which the fund utilization is Rs 65,197 Cr resulting in 20% of funds being unspent, followed by 14% of funds in FY 2020–21. This underutilization violates the very concept of budget credibility. Similarly in the same financial year, under the AWST, 11% of funds were unspent. These figures are the actual expenditures available in statements 10A and 10B that are provided by the supreme audit department called CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) which can be a credible source of information.

As far as scheme-wise fund utilization is concerned, our deeper analysis reveals that many schemes are facing challenges in utilizing funds completely. However, the

new guideline on DAPSC & ST, mandates the state to spend the funds for schemes for these two communities with the approval of the Ministry and Financial Advisor to avoid divertible of funds. The next level of challenge is there are some important targeted schemes where the fund allocation is comparatively lesser amount of funds than non-targeted and general schemes and the fund utilization is also lesser than the non-targeted and general schemes, which is a major concern for the communities. Over the last five years, i.e., from FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22, some of the most important schemes, like "National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporations," where the total allocation was Rs 725.6 Cr for the SC communities, but utilization is Rs 280.2 Cr resulting in 61.4% of the funds being unutilized. There are some general schemes like "Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)/National Rural Drinking Water Mission Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Programme—Normal Programme," where the total fund allocation was Rs 18,603.6 Cr of which the total fund utilization is Rs 16,296.2 Cr resulted in 87.6% fund utilization. Some of the non-targeted schemes have fund utilization of more than 100%; for example, there is a scheme called "Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea (BE Rs.3855.6cr and AE Rs.4541.7cr) and Urea subsidy " where the total allocation was Rs 5,211.3 Cr of which the total fund utilization was Rs 8712.5 Cr, resulting in 167% of fund utilization. Under urea subsidy two schemes are there BE &AE is sum of both schemes namely Urea Subsidy payment for Indigenous urea and urea subsidy payment for import of urea.



Figure 2a: Scheduled Caste Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2024-25

Financial Year	2024-25 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	14,64,479
Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	2,14,109
% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline	14.62%
Allocation earmaked for SCs (Rs.Cr.)	1,65,493
% Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS	11.3%
Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.)	46,192
% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS	3.2%

*2024-25: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal,MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC(Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.
1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 14.37% in stead of 16.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile Narendra Jadav Committee
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2024-25

Figure 2b: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2024-25

Financial Year	2024-25 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	14,63,079
Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.)(*)	1,22,400
% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline	8.4%
Allocation earmaked for STs (Rs.Cr.)	1,24,909
% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS	8.5%
Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	41,730
% Targeted Scheme to STs to Total CS+CSS	2.9%

*2024-25: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal,MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for STs and has named it as DAPST(Development Action Plan For Schedule Tribes) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2024-25

Figure 2c: Scheduled Caste Budget : Due, Allocated, Targeted-5 yrs Trends

Financial Year	Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline	Allocation earmaked for SCs (Rs.Cr.)	% Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS	Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.)	% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS
2020-21 (BE)	8,98,430	1,39,172	15.49%	83,257	9.3%	16,174	1.8%
2021-22 (BE)	10,81,427	1,61,260	14.91%	1,26,259	11.7%	48,397	4.5%
2022-23 (BE)	12,30,836	1,82,976	14.91%	1,42,342	11.6%	53,795	4.4%
2023-24 (BE)	14,19,910	2,03,991	14.37%	1,59,126	11.2%	30,475	2.1%
2024-25 (BE)	14,64,479	2,14,109	14.62%	1,65,493	11.3%	46,192	3.2%
Total	60,95,082	9,01,509	14.79%	6,76,477	11.10%	1,95,033	3.2%

*FY 2024-25: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal,MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC(Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.
1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 14.37% in stead of 16.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile SCP & TSP Policy
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2020-21 to FY2024-25

Figure 2d: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in last 5 yrs Trends

Financial Year	Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline	Allocation earmaked for STs (Rs.Cr.)	% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS	Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	% Targeted Scheme to STs to Total CS+CSS
2020-21 (BE)	8,95,043	77,034	8.1%	53,653	5.9%	19,428	2.2%
2021-22 (BE)	10,77,460	88,077	8.2%	79,942	7.4%	27,830	2.6%
2022-23 (BE)	12,26,282	98,664	8.2%	89,265	7.3%	43,586	3.6%
2023-24 (BE)	14,18,244	1,15,672	8.2%	1,19,510	8.4%	24,384	1.7%
2024-25 (BE)	14,63,079	1,22,400	8.4%	1,24,909	8.5%	41,730	2.9%
Total	60,80,108	5,01,847	8.3%	4,67,279	7.69%	1,56,958	2.6%

*FY 2024-25: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal,MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPST(Development Action Plan For Schedule Tribes) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.
1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 8.2% in stead of 8.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile SCP & TSP Policy
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2020-21 to FY2024-25

3. Livelihood

One of the alarming crises on the rise is the crisis of sustainable livelihood, continuously shattered by the Climate-induced disaster. It is no new thing that India is one of the countries with an ever-increasing unemployment rate and depleting healthy ecosystems. It is an astounding fact that India is the world’s fifth-largest economy with a huge income inequality. According to the International Labour Organisation and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) report, India’s youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce. It further states that employment in the agriculture sector has gone up whereas unemployment has increased drastically from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022 among the youth with secondary and higher education. This report further claims that regular work decreased after the year 2018 and it is evident that the contractual working system is expanding which has increased the job insecurities among the youth and masses.

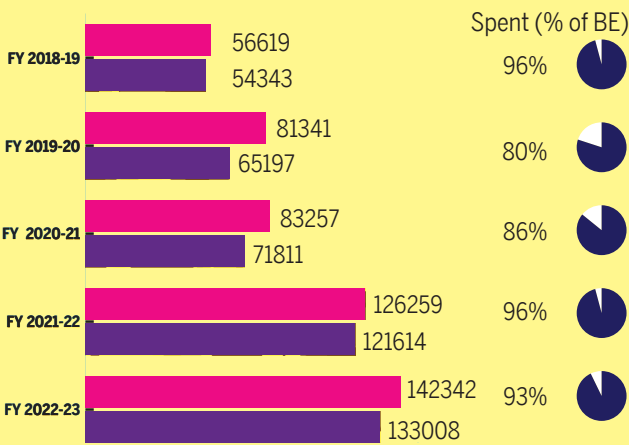
In this FY, RS. 3761.75 cr. under AWSC and RS.2808.23 cr. under AWST has been allocated under the NRLM, and Rs.65.25 cr from AWSC and RS.12.47 cr from AWST has been allocated for the NULM .There has been decrease in National Livelihood Mission for both Rural and Urban. In the last FY 2023-24, allocation for NULM under AWST and under AWST was Rs.0.0cr in BE but in Revised Budget (RE) as Rs.113.87 cr. and Rs.21.76cr was allocated under AWSC and AWST respectively. And allocation for NRLM was Rs. 3532.29 cr. under AWSC and Rs. 2472.60 cr. under AWST in FY 2023-24. One of the biggest employment schemes of the country i.e. MGNREGA is allocated Rs.11000cr. under AWSC and Rs10000.00cr. under AWST which was Rs 10500.00 cr (AWSC) and Rs.7350.00 cr(AWST) in the last FY 2023-24. Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana Rs. 60.50 cr. (AWSC) and Rs.31.35 cr. (AWST) has been allocated for this FY 2024-25. Which is less than the allocation for the last FY 2023-24 (Rs.76.63 cr. under AWSC and Rs.39.70 cr. under AWST).

There has been an increase in allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) and this is one of the major schemes for Scheduled Caste. The allocation for this FY under AWSC is Rs.2150.00 cr. which was Rs2050.00 cr. in the Last FY. Similarly, under the PM Jan Jatiya Vikas Yojana (PMJVM) under AWST is Rs152.32 cr. has been allocated for this FY which was Rs.288.49cr in the last FY.

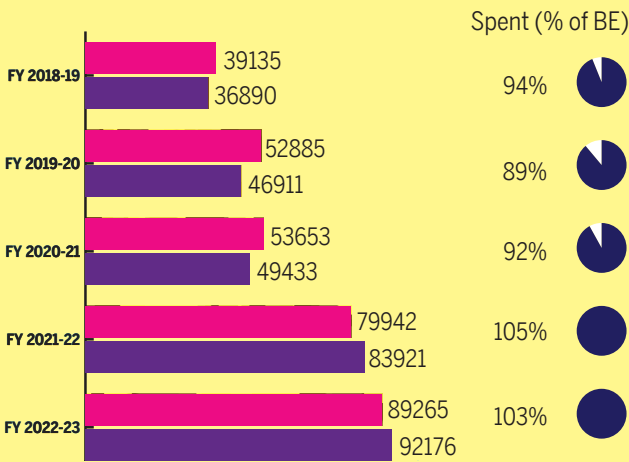
Figure 3: Utilisation of funds for Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Schemes in Union Budget FY18-19 to FY22-23 (Rs.Cr)

■ Budget Estimate ■ Actual Expenditure

Budget for SCs



Budget for STs



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile of 2018-19 to 2024-25 Ministry of Finance

4. Sanitation and Frontline Workers:

Despite the MS Act of 2013, the Supreme Court’s order for conducting a nationwide survey and fresh survey in the Urban Areas, no action has been taken by the government which indicates the lack of political will to address the issues of the people engaged in Sanitation work in the country. As per the report by WaterAid, there are 5 million people engaged in sanitation work 50% of whom comprises women in the urban areas and 1,82,505 families are engaged in some form of Manual Scavenging work. Deaths in the septic tanks and manholes are common sights in the cities. In his Lok Sabha Speech, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment,

Shree Ramdas Athawale said that 443 people have died between 2018 and 2023 and contradicting this statement, as per the report of Safai Karamchari Andolan in their report stated 1760 deaths. One can only imagine how many such deaths are not recorded officially.

The NAMASTE Scheme and Open Defecation Free-ODF program are some of the flagship programs of the government that are related to sanitation. NAMASTE aims for full mechanization of the sanitation work in the country and under the ODF program, a total of Rs.10.9 cr. Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) were built from the year of its inception in the year 2014. But even to this day, the presence of insanitary dry pits are still in existence in the country which are cleaned manually by the women in the wee hour. Schemes for rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) had zero allocation in the previous FY after the introduction of NAMASTE, but it is ironic to see that the Sanitation issues are seen merely as technical and mechanization issue.

In this FY 2024-25, Rs 116.94.cr. has been allocated under the NAMASTE scheme from the SC budget, and a larger portion of the money is targeted for mechanization purposes. Rs.0.01.cr has been allocated to National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation under AWSC. which was Rs.10.00 cr. in the last FY 2023-24. The official website clearly shows that only 58,098 people were identified as MS and were provided with OCTA (One-time cash assistance), from the last two years, there has been no update or addition to that status. The Supreme Court of India has ordered a fresh survey to be taken in the urban areas. Another major program called the Swachh Bharat Mission was introduced in the year 2014, In the last FY 2023-24, Rs. 1354 cr. was allocated for SBM- Grameen and for this FY 2024-25, the same amount i.e Rs.1354.90cr. has been allocated under AWSC and Rs.615.90 cr. has been allocated under AWST. It is to be noted that the Contractual system is one of the biggest bottlenecks of secure sanitation work, workers are treated like machines and shockingly no officers have been charged in case of sewage death whereas the Factories Act of 1948, section 36 directs an authority to check the safety limit inside the confined space and shall be legally charged for the discrepancies. But no such action have been taken while hundreds of workers are dying from preventable deaths. The issues around Sanitation work in India are more than just Mechanisation but more of

Human rights aspects, adequate wages and income security, a Safe and dignified working environment, and complete elimination of manual handling of human waste. A multidimensional approach is needed to address the issues of Sanitation work in India.

5. Public Health:

Scheduled Caste face discrimination in schools, workplaces, and restaurants, but the impact on health outcomes is often overlooked. Studies show that individuals aged 50 or older in scheduled Caste and indigenous tribes have poorer health and higher disability levels than dominant caste people. The infant mortality rate for Dalits is 40% higher than the general population, and they are more likely to suffer from anemia or stunted children. Oxfam India reports that Dalits' life expectancy can be up to fifteen years less than other groups. Caste significantly impacts health outcomes in India due to discrimination, limiting access to quality healthcare. A 2007 survey revealed that Dalits face barriers in private health centers and clinics, and healthcare workers often refuse to visit these areas. A 2021 study by Oxfam found that 20% of scheduled Caste suffer from discrimination in hospitals or by healthcare professionals. People in scheduled Caste report that once healthcare workers learn their status, they provide less information about health services and programs. Caste inequality negatively impacts health outcomes by causing deep poverty among scheduled Caste, with one in three Dalits living in multidimensional poverty, including monetary, education, and basic infrastructure, limiting access to public hospitals¹. India's universal healthcare scheme, Ayushman Bharat, has struggled to take on services since its launch in 2018. The senior management of Ayushman Bharat is baffled by the slow uptake of universal health program services among target group². Massive corruption in the payment of insurance claims was found in the audit report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the first two phases of the scheme Ayushman Bharat. One of the abiding goals of Ayushman Bharat is to help achieve universal health coverage. The program will be effective in achieving its mission by providing adequate and affordable healthcare to all Indians³

As compared to the last financial year, this FY 2024-25 there has been an increase in the allocation for the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

(PMJAY) with support from Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) which is Rs. 1232.25 Cr for SC and Rs. 715.15 Cr for ST. The total allocation for the affordable medicine scheme like the Jan Aushadi Scheme has also increased where Rs. 23.62 Cr is given for SC and Rs. 12.24 Cr for ST. Under the department of Health and Family welfare, Rs. 9158.05 Cr has been allocated for SC and Rs. 4744.53 Cr to the STs. Under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN), Rs. 2512.27 Cr has been allocated to the SCs and Rs. 1334.51 Cr to the STs which comes under the Department of School Education and Literacy.

6. Education Justice:

Pre- Matric Scholarship

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was a prominent Dalit political leader who understood the importance of social justice in India. Ambedkar devoted most of his life improving the social status and welfare of Dalit Indians in the early 20th century. In 1945, he founded the People's Education Society with the idea of giving Dalits more rights to education. He believed that higher education would help the Dalits become more conscious of their situation and motivate them to aspire to the greatest positions held by Hindus. He therefore thought that they would use their political power and influence to bring an end to their enslavement⁴. The goal of expanding elementary school attendance has been the focus of several endeavours over the past 150 years to better the lives of India's Dalits. People can increase their income and engage in the economy by getting an education. Several recommendations, both conventional and contemporary have been put forward on how to address issues related to Dalit primary school enrolment. Dalits found a safer learning environment in night classes and Dalit schools, even though they did not address caste-related issues⁵. The Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students, launched in 2012, was initially intended to help SC/ST parents send their children to the 9th or 10th standard to reduce dropout rates, but the government has announced that it will no longer be offered to students in classes 1 to 8, as it will be covered by RTE⁶.

This FY 2024-25 the allocation for the Pre-Matric Scholarship is Rs. 500 Cr for SC and others and Rs.

440.36 Cr. for STs. The pre matric scholarship for ST has increased from Rs. 411.63 cr in FY 2023-24 to Rs. 440.36 Cr in FY 2024-25, the amount for the SC remains the same. The Central Share of scholarships awarded under the Pre- and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes is disbursed directly into the beneficiary's account using the Aadhar Based Payment System (APBS) as of FY 2022–2023.

Post Matric Scholarship

India's number of Higher Education Institutions has grown significantly since 1947, reaching 56,205 (AISHE 2020-21). However, the literacy rate among Dalits remains low at 66.1 percent, far below the national average of 73% (Census of India 2011). Despite the institutionalization of affirmative policy through proportional representation, Dalits often lack the economic, social, and cultural capital to access and negotiate these educational spaces. The transition to higher education is not easy for Dalits⁷. Those who gain entry through merit-based entrance examinations face challenges, hostility, and discrimination from dominant -caste peers, faculty, and administration who hegemonize secular spaces to rehearse caste practices. The 'casteless' savarnas use innovative strategies to identify the caste of the 'other' and replicate caste relations in modern democratic premises. In engineering institutions like IITs, the JEE rank or selected branch specialization becomes a proxy for caste identity. Dalit students pursuing post graduate and doctoral studies from central universities say that administration, staffed by upper Caste, tends to identify caste location based on scholarships awarded to them⁸. The Indian government acknowledged in Parliament in 2023 that over 19,000 marginalized students from marginalized communities dropped out of central varsities and elite public institutions over five years. To address this, the government is implementing fee reduction, institute establishment, scholarships, and priority access to national-level scholarships⁹.

In this union budget 2024-25 the allocation PMS for the Scheduled Caste is Rs. 6349.97 Cr and for Scheduled Tribe its Rs. 2374.15 Cr. The PMS for ST has increased from Rs. 1970.77 Cr in 2023-24 to Rs. 2374.15 Cr in 2024-25 the same has been decreased in case of SCs from Rs. 6359.14 CR in 2023-24 to Rs. 6349.97 Cr in 2024-25.

1 <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/caste-out#:~:text=to%20the%20disease.,The%20infant%20mortality%20rate%20for%20Dalits%20is%2040%20percent%20higher,than%20that%20of%20other%20groups.>
2 Pandey, N., Jha, S., & Rai, V. (2021). Ayushman Bharat: service adoption challenges in universal healthcare system. South Asian Journal of Business and Management Cases, 10(1), 35-49.
3 Grewal, H., Sharma, P., Dhillon, G., Munjal, R. S., Verma, R. K., & Kashyap, R. (2023). Universal Health Care System in India: An In-Depth Examination of the Ayushman Bharat Initiative. Cureus, 15(6).

4 Nambissan, Geetha B. "Equity in Education? Schooling of Dalit Children in India." Economic and Political Weekly 31.16/17 (1996): 1011-1024.
5 Sharma, et.al., (2023), India's Dalits: Education and Progress, Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR), Volume 10, Issue 1
6 <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/union-government-stops-pre-matric-scholarship-for-sc-st-obc-and-minority-students-of-class-1-to-8-and-explains-why/article66195791.ece>
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8 <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2023/07/10/democracy-denied-the-fraught-realities-of-higher-education-for-dalits-in-india/>
9 <https://www.fairplanet.org/story/dalit-scholars-protest-exposes-casteism-in-indias-higher-education/>

Focusing on higher education spending for the SC and ST, the Department of Higher Education has allocated Rs. 4173.60 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 2122.30 Cr for ST. Even though there is an allocation increase of 3.5% under AWSC and 2.9 % under AWST by the Ministry of Higher Education, none of the schemes featured in the AWSC and AWST are targeted for education of SC and ST students. For example, the scheme Grants to Central Universities (CUs) has been allocated Rs. 1103 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 536 Cr under AWST; the University Grants Commission (UGC) allocating Rs. 425 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 225 Cr under AWST so on and so forth.

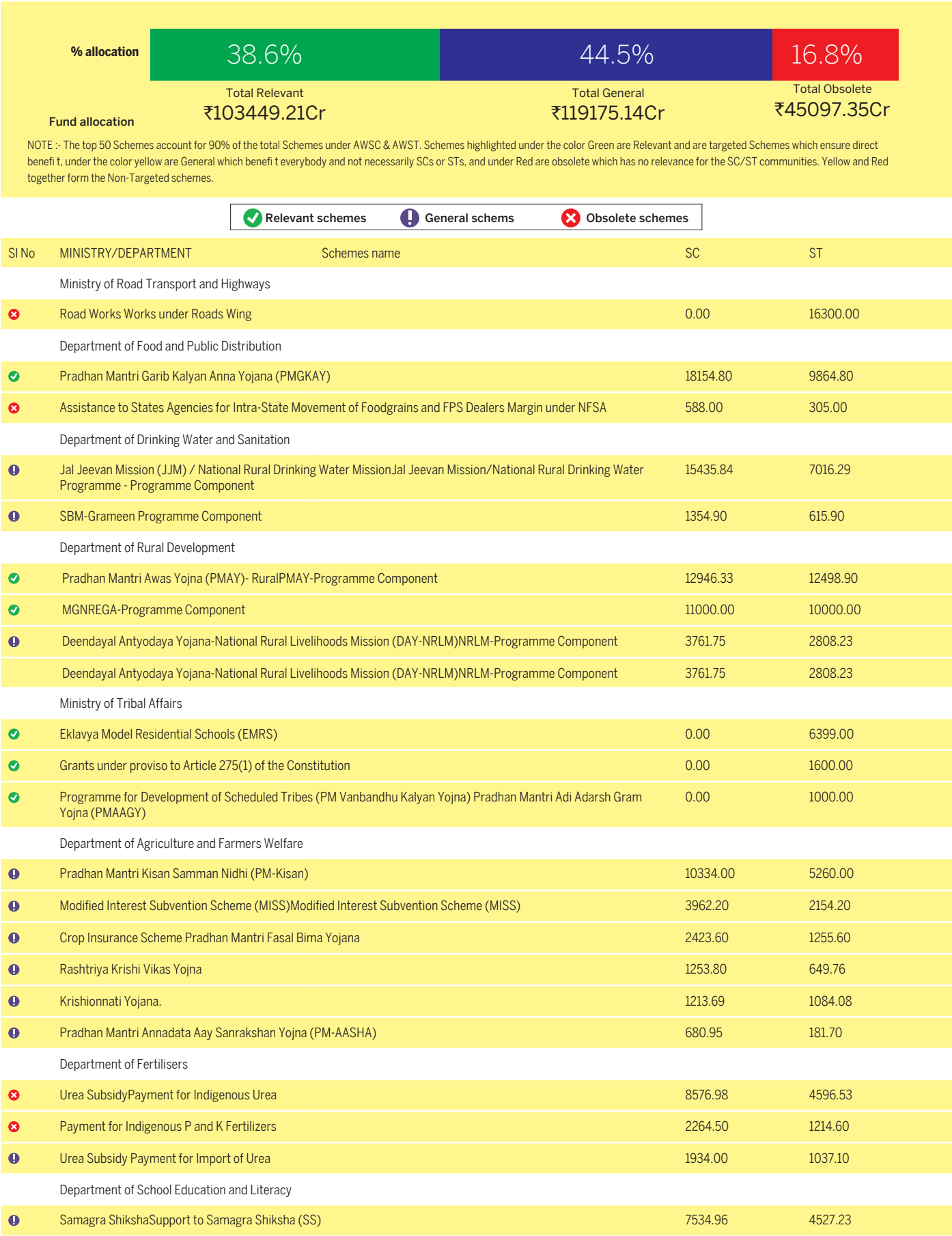
Even though there has been an increase in the Budget for the SC/ST under the department of higher education, many of these schemes are not targeted towards the development of SC and ST students. For example, schemes for SC & ST like scheme Grants to Central Universities (CUs) have been allocated Rs. 1103 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 536 Cr under AWST, Support to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IIST is Rs. 353 Cr for SC and Rs. 201 Cr for ST, the gross budgetary support for All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is Rs. 60 Cr for SC-and Rs. 24 Cr for ST, World Class Institution is Rs. 341 Cr for SC and Rs. 171 Cr for ST, Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Siksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) is Rs. 315 Cr for SC and Rs. 178 Cr for ST, Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana is Rs. 217 Cr for SC and Rs. 109 Cr for ST, University Grants Commission (UGC) is Rs. 425 Cr for SC and Rs. 225 Cr for ST, Support to Indian Institute of Technology is Rs. 616 Cr for SCs and Rs. 306 Cr for STs. All these schemes will make a total of Rs. 3430 Cr for SCs and Rs. 1750 Cr for STs and have been placed erroneously inside where they do not have any financial flows for the welfare and development of the SCs and STs.



10 https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/CSIS%20-%20NewGuidelines.pdf

Another important scholarship for SC and ST students who want to achieve their higher education abroad is called the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS), which is a Central Sector scheme for Master’s degree or Ph.D. courses. The three-year trend allocation of the NOS for the SCs (under the SHREYAS umbrella scheme) in the FY 2022-23 is Rs. 36 Cr, 2023-24 is Rs. 50 Cr and this FY is Rs. 95 Cr. The same for the STs in the FY 2022-23 is Rs. 4 Cr, 2023-24 is Rs. 4 Cr and this FY is Rs. 6 Cr respectively, which seems to be a meagre amount to cater to the emerging demand of the communities. The allocation for the SC and ST has increased in the current FY 2024-25. Similarly, the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) now known as the National Fellowship for SCs (under the SHREYAS umbrella scheme), has an allocation of Rs. 188 Cr and the National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students has an allocation of Rs. 165 Cr in this fiscal year. The allocation for the PM Research fellowship under AWSC is Rs. 63 Cr which was Rs. 72 Cr in the last FY and under AWST it is Rs. 30 Cr which was Rs. 34 Cr in the last FY. It is disheartening to see that such good schemes are getting meagre amounts as compared to non-targeted schemes like Grants to Central Universities, UGC, and PM-USHA, PM-USP etc. It is interesting to note that there is no allocation for interest subsidies and contributions to guarantee funds. The scheme was introduced with full interest subsidy during the moratorium period on modern education loans without any collateral security and third-party guarantee for pursuing technical or professional courses in India-Students whose annual gross parental or family income is up to Rs. 4.5 lakhs are eligible under the scheme. The existing Scheme was modified with the approval of the Cabinet on March 28th, 2018₁₀ but now it has been totally removed since FY 2023-24.

Figure 4: Relevance of Schemes for SCs & STs- Targeted, Non-Targeted (General) & Non-Targeted (Obsolete) in Union Budget FY 2024-25 (Rs in Cr)



SI No	MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT	Schemes name	SC	ST
❗	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)	Support to PM POSHAN	2512.27	1334.51
❗		Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)	1270.00	575.00
❗		PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)	1220.23	574.52
❗		Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	871.20	435.60
	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment			
✔	Post Matric Scholarship for SCs/ STs		6349.97	2374.15
✔	Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989		550.00	0.00
✔	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY)		2150.00	0.00
	Department of Health and Family Welfare			
❗	Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening , National Health Programme and National Urban Health MissionGross Budgetary Support (GBS)		5424.57	2822.14
❗	Infrastructure Maintenance Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)		1735.20	810.75
✔	Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) Support from (PMSSN)		1232.25	715.15
✔	Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)		519.98	268.86
	Ministry of Women and Child Development			
❗	Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls)		4872.48	2221.01
	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs			
✔	PMAY-UrbanOther items of States/UTs Component		4218.01	1607.01
	Ministry of Power			
❗	Reform Linked Distribution Scheme		2089.11	1082.31
	Ministry of Labour and Employment			
❗	Employees Pension Scheme, 1995		1817.70	941.70
❗	New Employment Generation Scheme		1660.00	860.00
	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises			
✖	Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers		1628.95	843.92
❗	Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)		863.00	455.00
❗	PM Vishwakarma		814.69	400.50
	Department of Higher Education			
✖	Grants to Central Universities (CUs)		1103.00	536.00
✖	Support to Indian Institutes of Technology		616.00	306.00
	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy			
✖	Solar Power (Grid) Programme Component		895.00	905.00
	Department of Telecommunications			
❗	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure Compensation to Telecom Service Providers		838.30	217.15
✖	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure Bharatnet		705.50	365.50
	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
❗	LPG Connection to Poor Households		754.80	391.04
✖	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure Bharatnet		705.50	365.50
	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying			
❗	Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme		511.34	272.60

SI No	MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT	Schemes name	SC	ST
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology				
✖	Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) Production linked Incentive for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing		508.38	410.37
Total top 50 schemes			154028.7	113693.0
Total Allocation under SC & ST Budget			165492.7	124909.0
% of 50 schemes against SC & ST Budget			93.07	91.02

Relevance of Schemes for SC & ST

Excess allocation in notional schemes under the SC budget in FY 2024–25

- Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea and for Import of Urea: Rs 10,510.98Cr
- Nutrient-Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers and for Imported P and K Fertilizers: Rs 3844.70Cr
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS): Rs 3962.20Cr
- Reform-Linked Distribution Scheme: Rs 2089.11Cr
- Compensation to Service Providers for Creation and Compensation to Telecom Service Providers: Rs 1543.80 Cr

Excess allocation in notional schemes under the ST budget in FY 2024-25:

- Road Works under Roads Wing: Rs 16,300.00Cr
- Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea and for Import of Urea: Rs 5,633.63Cr
- Nutrient-Based Subsidy Payment for Imported P and K Fertilizers and for Imported P and K Fertilizers: Rs 2026.52Cr
- Compensation to Service Providers for the Creation and Augmentation of Telecom Infrastructure (Bharatnet and Telecom Service Providers): Rs 583.65 Cr
- Reform-Linked Distribution Scheme: Rs 1082.11Cr

Under allocation in effective schemes under the SC Budget:

- Top-Class Education for SCs: Rs 110 Cr
- National Overseas Scholarship for SCs: Rs 95.00Cr
- National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme: Rs 70.00Cr

- National Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe Hub Centre: Rs 42.00 Cr
- Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs: Rs 35.00Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for SCs and OBCs: Rs 10.00Cr

Under allocation in effective schemes under ST Budget:

- National Overseas Scholarship Scheme: Rs 6.00Cr
- National Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe Hub Centre: Rs 41.00 Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes: Rs 30.00 Cr
- PM Research Fellowship: Rs 30.00Cr
- Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): Rs 20.00 Cr

Excess allocation in general schemes under the SC Budget:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) : Rs 15,435.84Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan): Rs 10,334.00Cr
- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening: Rs 5424.57Cr
- Crop Insurance Scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: Rs 2423.60Cr

Excess allocation in general scheme under ST Budget:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM): Rs 7,016.29Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan): Rs 5291.35Cr
- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening: Rs 2822.14 Cr

7. Ministry/Dept Wise Priority to Schemes for SC & ST:

The new guidelines on DAPSC&ST 2018 mandate the States to promote socio-economic empowerment and inclusive development of the most vulnerable and deprived communities like Dalits and Tribals. It also mandates the state to earmark funds under 41 obligatory Min/Dept to earmark funds out of the overall allocation of CSSs (Centrally Sponsored Schemes) and CSs (Central Sector) schemes for these communities. It, however, clearly says that fund allocation is to be made for these communities out of (CS+CSS) and not out of the total budget of the Min/Dept. Regarding non-invertibility funds, it mandates the Min/Dept to utilize the unspent fund under other schemes of the same Min/Dept with the due approval of the concerned Ministry and Financial advisor. It also mandates two nodal Ministries, like the (MSJE) and (MoTA), to earmark 72.5% and 100%, respectively, and take a lead role in monitoring the entire implementation of these two budgets, according to the amendment to the allocation of Business Rule 1961 vide Gazette Notification a F. No. 1/21/26/2016-Cab. Dated 31st January 2017. It also mandates the state to have pro-active planning at different levels such as national, state, and district-level having think tank bodies for the formulation of targeted and suitable projects/schemes based on need-based assessment. Regarding proper implementation, it also mandates states to have output and outcome-based monitoring tools having a real-time dashboard in place. As per the policy mandates the two nodal Min/Dept have been uploading budget data in the monitoring portal called e-Utthaan, run by these two nodal Ministries, but until today, the beneficiaries' details in the public domain are still to be uploaded, which shows the lack of transparency and accountability eco-system in the entire framework of AWSC & AWST. Many schemes under these two Ministries are not included under the Outcome Budget, published by the Union Ministry of Finance, because only those schemes are included whose allocation is above Rs 500Cr, and due to that, only 159 CS+CSS schemes have been covered in FY 2024-25. Therefore, a separate outcome budget is highly required especially for these two budgets to establish proper monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Despite more than 45 years of implementation of these two budgets, no evaluation report has been published not even once, even though the revised policy mandates NITI Aayog to review and evaluate the performance of these two budgets

coordinating with concerned ministries and departments to strengthen the AWSC & AWST budgets to bridge the development gaps between the communities and the rest of the population.

8. Gender Budget Analysis:

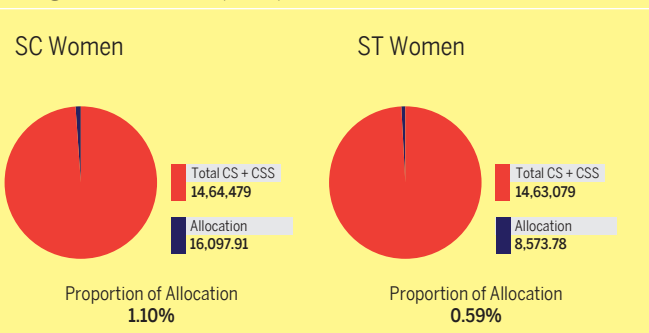
'The empowerment of women through entrepreneurship, ease of living, and dignity has gained impetus in the last few years'. The finance minister has time again emphasized on empowering women through entrepreneurship or establishing larger producer enterprises. Despite the effort the allocation for SC women under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is only Rs.159.38Cr and Rs.42.17Cr for ST women.

Our deeper analysis shows a very inexcusable picture from the perspective of the most marginalized women including Dalits and Adivasis. For the Dalit and Adivasi women, nothing much has changed. According to gender budget statements tabled in Parliament, the budget for 100% women-specific programmes (Part A) was Rs112396.15 Crore in BE of 2024-25, Rs199762.29 Crore in Part B and Rs.15000 Cr in Part C. This financial year gender budget statement is presented in three parts - Part A constitutes schemes in which 100% of provision is for women, Part B reflects schemes where the allocations for women constitute at least 30% of the provision and Part C constitutes schemes below 30% of provision.

However, if we specifically look at the allocation for Dalit and Adivasi women in both Part A and B, it is appalling, in Part A the allocation is Rs.7000.62Cr for Dalit women and Rs.3134.19Cr for Adivasi women. In part B allocation for Dalit women is Rs.8239.56 Cr and for Adivasi women it is Rs.5213.41Cr. Part C has only 1 scheme with an allocation of Rs.857.52Cr for Dalit women and Rs.226.18Cr for Adivasi women. Our analysis of the Gender Budget Statement[1] 3 (henceforth GBS) and Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (AWSC/ AWST) reveals that the allocations are meager, reflecting the lack of priority given to Dalit and Adivasi women. The Union Budget 2024-25 allocates 1.10% for Dalit women and 0.59% for Tribal women from the total eligible Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS).

Given the huge demand for scholarships particularly for girl student, the budgets for the Post Matric Scholarship

Figure 5: Allocation for SC and ST Women in Gender Budget Statement (GBS)- 2024-25 Amount in Rs.Cr.



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile 2024-25 Statement 13

(PMS) scheme is highly inadequate. The allocation for the Post Matric Scheme for SC girls is Rs.1905Cr while Rs.712.25Cr for ST girls. There was a substantial increase towards the allocation towards general schemes this year. For instance, the allocation towards the 'Samagra Shiksha' scheme is Rs.625.40Cr for SCs and Rs.194.67Cr for STs, and 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' saw an allocation of Rs. 4872.48Cr for SCs and Rs 2221.01 Cr. for STs. Samagra Shiksha scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. While Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' is also a centrally sponsored scheme providing a package of six services. Additionally, some very important direct benefiting schemes for SC students saw very less allocations. National Fellowship for SCs saw a very low allocation of Rs.56.40Cr. National Overseas Scholarship for SCs saw an allocation of Rs-28.50Cr only.

Women from these communities are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and violence owing to their caste and gender identities. The latest NCRB data, 2019 reveals that atrocities against Dalit women and girls accounts for 15.11% of total crimes registered under the SCs & STs (PoA) Act from 2014-19. These atrocities have increased by 46% in the last six years for Dalit women and girls[2] 12. Despite growing incidences of violence against SC and ST women there is only a marginal allocation of Rs.165Cr for their access to justice. There is only one scheme pertaining to the same namely 'Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of PCR Act, 1955 and PoA Act, 1989' which focuses primarily on sensitization programmes and not on equitable redress mechanisms, this year this scheme didn't see any increase in allocation.

Additionally, the budget also failed to make allocations for

sexual minorities such as transgender and other across the LGBTQI+ spectrum. The Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme is an umbrella scheme under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for the welfare of transgender persons and those engaged in begging. A portion of the scheme allocation towards persons engaged in begging is reported in the GBS, however there is no allocation for transgender persons. The budget has completely invisibilised them and has failed to address issues of intersectionality. Such an approach towards development shows the failure of the planning process to redistribute resources towards inclusive development. Government has also recently introduced NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitised Ecosystem) which aims to provide alternate livelihood to sanitation workers through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines. This scheme saw an allocation of only Rs.35.08Cr.

9. Youth & Unemployment:

The 2011 Census data reveals that India's youth population (ages 18-35) includes 6,31,27,692 individuals from Scheduled Caste (SC) and 3,13,76,446 from Scheduled Tribes (ST). For the fiscal year 2024-25, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has allocated a negligible budget of Rs. 268 Cr for SC and Rs. 145.78 Cr for ST. Unemployment is a significant barrier for India's youth, particularly those from the SC/ST communities. These young individuals face a dual challenge: low participation rates (with fewer even seeking employment) and high unemployment rates (10.09% for those aged 15-24, as of October 2023). SC and ST youth make up 35% and 23.8% of their respective communities. The NSS-PLF employment survey reveals that a higher percentage of SC (6.4%) and ST (4.3%) workers are unemployed. The cycle of limited opportunities has trapped families in economic vulnerability for generations. The National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) shows that over 74% of the registered workforce, earning a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or less, belongs to SC, ST, and Other Backward Classes (OBC). The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has also allocated a meagre amount of Rs. 612.65 Cr for SCs and Rs. 317.81 Cr for STs in the financial year 2024-25. Among the total workers, SCs and STs constitute about 84% and 70% respectively of informal wage workers without any job or social security. The harsh reality for young SC/ST graduates is that they

11 [1] As one of the mechanisms of Gender Responsive Budgeting the Ministry of Finance introduced Gender Budget Statement in the Union Budget as an initiative to estimate how much government's total budget is flowing for women.

12 [2] <http://www.ncdhr.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Dalit-Women-Rise-For-Justice-Status-Report-2021.pdf>

Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPSC Budget for FY 2024-25 BE (Rs in Cr)

SI No	Departments	Total Eligible Minis-tries(CS +CSS)	% of Proposed Allocation	Due Allocation under SC (Rs Cr)	Allocation under SC Budget (Rs Cr)	
1	Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare	1,21,222	16.60	20,123	20122.91	<div></div>
2	Agricultural Research and Education	2,780	8.30	231	230.74	<div></div>
3	AYUSH	1,577	14.00	221	133.04	<div></div>
4	Fertilisers	1,64,103	8.30	13,621	14362.48	<div></div>
5	Pharmaceuticals	4,049	8.30	336	43.71	<div></div>
6	Coal	114	8.30	9	70.01	<div></div>
7	Commerce	3,857	8.30	320	14.21	<div></div>
8	Telecommunications	4,353	8.30	361	1585.30	<div></div>
9	Consumer Affairs	10,169	8.30	844	1.50	<div></div>
10	Food and Public Distribution	2,12,826	8.30	17,665	18742.80	<div></div>
11	Culture	520	8.30	43	43.18	<div></div>
12	Development of North Eastern Region	5,866	8.30	487	490.00	<div></div>
13	School Education and Literacy	57,314	21.74	12,460	13717.24	<div></div>
14	Higher Education	7,488	16.60	1,243	4173.60	<div></div>
15	Electronics and Information Technology	17,871	8.30	1,483	1483.32	<div></div>
16	Environment, Forests and Climate Change	1,788	8.30	148	167.20	<div></div>
17	Fisheries	2,382	16.60	395	395.32	<div></div>
18	Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4,275	16.60	710	714.56	<div></div>
19	Food Processing Industries	3,053	8.30	253	133.45	<div></div>
20	Health and Family Welfare	55,169	16.60	9,158	9158.05	<div></div>
21	Housing and Urban Affairs	78,507	22.50	17,664	4283.26	<div></div>
22	WR, RD,GR	20,005	8.30	1,660	0.0	<div></div>
23	Drinking Water and Sanitation	77,355	22.00	17,018	16790.74	<div></div>
24	Labour and Employment	21,706	16.60	3,603	3605.12	<div></div>
25	MSME	21,868	16.60	3,630	3630.23	<div></div>
26	Mines	-	8.30	-	23.46	<div></div>
27	New and Renewable Energy	18,853	8.30	1,565	1225.92	<div></div>
28	Panchayati Raj	1,134	16.60	188	188.20	<div></div>
29	Petroleum and Natural Gas	15,700	8.30	1,303	978.90	<div></div>
30	Power	16,362	16.60	2,716	2089.11	<div></div>
31	Road Transport and Highways	2,77,830	8.30	23,060	0.0	<div></div>
32	Rural Development	1,77,450	25.00	44,362	29443.45	<div></div>
33	Land Resources	2,642	16.60	439	438.69	<div></div>
34	Science and Technology	2,819	8.30	234	234	<div></div>
35	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	4,121	16.60	684	612.65	<div></div>
36	Social Justice and Empowerment	12,796	72.50	9,277	10339.01	<div></div>
37	Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	758	20.25	153	125.82	<div></div>
38	Textiles	3,866	16.60	642	260.35	<div></div>
39	Tourism	2,379	8.30	197	0.0	<div></div>
40	Women and Child Development	25,848	20.00	5,170	5170.00	<div></div>
41	Youth Affairs and Sports	1,705	25.28	431	268.00	<div></div>
42	Ministry of Cooperation	-	0.00	-	0.0	<div></div>
43	Chandigarh	-			3.19	<div></div>
TOTAL		14,64,479		2,14,109	1,65,493	
As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission			16.6%			
As per the NITI Ayog the proposed allocation			14.6%			
BE allocation			11.3%			

Source: 1. https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking_DAPSC_DAPST.pdf, published by NITI Aayog, 01 Apr 2018
2. Source:Statement-3, FY 24-25 Expenditure of Ministries and Departments,Govt of India

Table 6b: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPST for FY 2024-25 (Rs in Cr.)

SI No.	Departments	CS +CSS	% of Proposed Allocation	Due Allocation under ST (Rs Cr)	Allocation under ST Budget (Rs Cr)	
1	Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare	1,21,222	8.6	10,425	10,718	<div></div>
2	Agricultural Research and Education	2,780	4.3	120	120	<div></div>
3	Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	1,577	4.3	68	81	<div></div>
4	Department of Fertilisers	1,64,103	4.3	7,056	7,700	<div></div>
5	Department of Pharmaceuticals	4,049	4.3	174	23	<div></div>
6	Ministry of Coal	114	8.6	10	73	<div></div>
7	Department of Commerce	3,857	4.3	166	26	<div></div>
8	Department of Telecommunications	4,353	4.3	187	604	<div></div>
9	Department of Consumer Affairs	10,169	4.3	437	1	<div></div>
10	Department of Food and Public Distribution	2,12,826	4.3	9,151	10,170	<div></div>
11	Ministry of Culture	520	4.3	22	22	<div></div>
12	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	5,866	27.2	1,594	1,700	<div></div>
13	Department of School Education and Literacy	57,314	12.5	7,147	7,589	<div></div>
14	Department of Higher Education	7,488	8.6	644	2,122	<div></div>
15	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	17,871	6.7	1,197	1,197	<div></div>
16	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change	1,788	8.6	154	174	<div></div>
17	Department of Fisheries	2,382	8.6	205	215	<div></div>
18	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4,275	8.6	368	377	<div></div>
19	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	3,053	4.3	131	69	<div></div>
20	Department of Health and Family Welfare	55,169	8.6	4,745	4,745	<div></div>
21	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	78,507	4.3	3,376	1,619	<div></div>
22	Dept Water Resources, River Development, Ganga Rejuvenation	20,005	8.6	1,720	369	<div></div>
23	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation	77,355	10.0	7,735	7,632	<div></div>
24	Ministry of Labour and Employment	21,706	8.6	1,867	1,867	<div></div>
25	MSME	21,868	8.6	1,881	1,881	<div></div>
26	Ministry of Mines	-	4.3	-	12	<div></div>
27	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	18,853	8.6	1,621	1,259	<div></div>
28	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	1,134	8.6	97	98	<div></div>
29	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	15,700	4.3	675	507	<div></div>
30	Ministry of Power	16,362	8.6	1,407	1,082	<div></div>
31	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	2,77,830	4.3	11,947	16,300	<div></div>
32	Department of Rural Development	1,77,450	17.5	31,054	26,349	<div></div>
33	Department of Land Resources	2,642	10.0	264	265	<div></div>
34	Department of Science and Technology	2,819	4.3	121	121	<div></div>
35	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	4,121	8.6	354	318	<div></div>
36	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	758	10.2	77	65	<div></div>
37	Ministry of Textiles	3,866	8.6	332	195	<div></div>
38	Ministry of Tourism	2,379	4.3	102	103	<div></div>
39	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	11,397	100.0	11,397	12,938	<div></div>
40	Ministry of Women and Child Development	25,848	8.6	2,223	2,380	<div></div>
41	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	1,705	8.6	147	146	<div></div>
42	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	0.0	-	224	<div></div>
43	Dadre Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu	-	0.0	-	1	<div></div>
44	Lakhsdeep	-	0.0	-	1,451	<div></div>
45	Ministry of Cooperation	-	0.0	-	-	<div></div>
TOTAL		14,63,079	9.98%	1,22,400	1,24,909	
As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission		8.6%				
As per the NITI Ayog the proposed allocation		8.4%				
BE allocation		8.5%				

Source: 1. https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking_DAPSC_DAPST.pdf, published by NITI Aayog, 01 Apr 2018
2. Source:Statement-3, FY 2023-24 Expenditure of Ministries and Departments,Govt of India

are twice as likely to be unemployed compared to their high school counterparts. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has allocated Rs 3605.12 Cr for SCs and Rs 1867.38 Cr for STs for the financial year 2024-25.

Key Schemes for SC Youth:

- 1. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana: The budget estimate for FY 2024-25 is significantly lower at Rs. 24.90 Cr.
- 2. New Employment Generation Schemes: The budget estimate for this new scheme for FY 2024-25 is Rs.1660 Cr.
- 3. New ITI Upgradation Scheme: The budget estimate for this new scheme for FY 2024-25 is Rs.149.40 Cr.

Key Schemes for ST Youth:

- 1. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana: The budget estimate for FY 2024-25 is Rs. 14.90Cr.
- 2. New Employment Generation Scheme: The budget estimate for this new scheme for FY 2024-25 is Rs. 860 Cr.
- 3. New ITI Upgradation Scheme: The budget estimate for this new scheme for FY 2024-25 is Rs. 77.40 Cr.

The much-anticipated post-pandemic recovery seems to have overlooked a significant group: the educated youth from the Dalit Adivasi community. The lingering effects of the caste system continue to create disparities. Businesses owned by individuals from Scheduled Caste and Tribes typically employ fewer than 20 workers, while their counterparts from the general category operate large-scale enterprises. Furthermore, women from SC/ST communities earn even less than their counterparts from the general category. Hence more funds need to be allocated to lift the businesses run by SCs and STs.

10. Access to Justice:

The incidents of atrocity and discrimination against the members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community, based on their caste origin, is a centuries-old pattern of suppressing the community and hindering the possibilities of their growth and development even after the affirmative provisions in the Constitution of India and stringent laws like Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocity) Act 1989, Amendment Act, 2015 and 2018, and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. The crime against the SCs and STs is increasing with time and with the emergence of new

forms of atrocity every year. There is a consecutive rise in the number of incidents of caste-induced atrocities against the said communities, as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)₁₃ data from 2020 to 2022. In 2020 (50291), the increase was recorded by 9.4% over 2019 (45935), whereas a 1.2% increase was reported in 2021 (50900). And it recorded a 14.3 % increase in the incidents against Scheduled Caste in 2021 over 2022 (57582). Similarly, the escalation is recorded in the crime against the Scheduled Tribes, a 0.1% increase in 2020 (8272) over 2019 (8257). Over 2020, 2021 (8802) recorded a 6.02% rise in incidents; in 2022 (10064), the atrocity cases registered 12.54% more over 2021.

In 2020, the portion of incidents against SC women, of the total incidents against the SC population in India was recorded at 12.6% (6835 cases including rape, attempt to rape, and Assault on women to outrage her modesty) total numbers of cases against ST population. For ST women, it was 24.7% (2047 incidents) for the crime of rape, attempt to rape, and Assault on women to outrage her modesty. For the year 2021, it was reported 16.8% (8570 cases) and 26.8% (2364 cases) for SC and ST women for the aforesaid crimes. Of the total incidents committed against the Scheduled Caste in 2022, the cases against SC women cumulatively stood at 14.7% (8505 cases, including rape, attempt to rape, and Assault on women to outrage her modesty), whereas for the ST women, it was 23.7% (cases). The conviction percentage under the PoA Act in conjunction with IPC remained at 42.4% for SCs and 28.5% for STs in 2020, and it was recorded at 36% for SCs and 28.1% for STs in 2021. The conviction rate for SCs stands at 34% for SCs in 2022 and was 28.1% for STs. The acquittal percentage (including acquittal as well as the cases where the accused is discharged) ended at 57.5% for SCs and 71.5% for STs in the 2021 NCRB report. In 2022, It is pertinent to look at the pendency rate of incidents pending at the trial stage in the Special Courts for SCs and STs in 2022, which is 94.4% and 93.4%, respectively.

The allocation of budget for strengthening the machinery for enforcement of the “Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955” and the “Prevention of Atrocity Act, 1989” is said to be allocated to the states, which is mandatorily stated not only to be disbursed to the victims of the caste atrocities but also to strengthen the machinery to prevent the incidents of caste violence against the SCs and STs. This allocation has been reduced from Rs. 600 Cr to Rs. 500

Cr in 2023-24 over 2022-23, and FY 2021-22 secured 600Cr. In FY 2024-25, the allocation is Rs 550 Cr for the implementation of the PoA and PCR Act. Apart from that, the rise in incidents, low convictions, and high pendency rates show the frail implementation of the provisions of the Act, such as the establishment of Exclusive/Special Courts for speedy trial and inadequate distribution of monetary compensation and rehabilitation to the victims.

The budget utilization trend over the last 9 years, from 2014-15 to 2022-23, illustrates that utilization (Actual Expenditure) is consecutively increasing and exceeding the allocated budget each year. It shows that the budget is insufficient and inadequate to meet the expenses to secure and safeguard justice for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in India. Therefore, it is a dire necessity to enhance the budget allocation under this specific head. It is also strongly recommended to provide separate budget heads stating the total budget for monetary assistance to the survivors of caste violence, establishment of Special/Exclusive Courts, and Regular meetings for Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

11. Schemes for Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

As per the 2011 Census, the total population of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in India is 2.6 crore, which is 2.21% of the total population. Within this, 2.45% are SC’s and 2.05% ST’s. A caste-based analysis reveals that 89.1% of SC and 89.8% of ST individuals with disabilities do not have access to assistive aids due to affordability issues or lack of awareness about available options. In the Union Budget 2024–25, the total allocation for the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is Rs. 125.82 Cr for SCs and Rs. 65.18 Cr for STs.

Key Schemes for SC Persons with Disabilities:

- 1. Scheme for the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 22.46 Cr.
- 2. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 52.29 Cr.
- 3. Scholarships for Students with Disabilities: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 23.68 Cr.

Key Schemes for ST Persons with Disabilities:

- 1. Scheme for the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 11.63 Cr.
- 2. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 27.09 Cr.
- 3. Scholarships for Students with Disabilities: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 12.27 Cr.

Some of the schemes for persons with disabilities include:

- Early Years: DISHA provides early intervention for young children through therapies and daycare, while VIKAAS offers social and vocational skills training for older youth.
- Living Options: SAMARTH offers respite care for families and vulnerable individuals, while GHARAUNDA provides a permanent home for adults with specific disabilities.
- Health and Support: NIRAMAYA provides health insurance coverage, SAHYOGI trains caregivers, and GYAN PRABHA supports education and vocational training.
- Marketing and Empowerment: PRERNA helps sell products made by PwDs, and SAMBHAV provides information and access to assistive devices.
- - Awareness and Inclusion: BADHTE KADAM promotes community awareness and social integration of people with disabilities.

12. Climate Resilience:

Climate Change has become a global issue and its impact affects lives and property massively globally including India. As pronounced by IPCC reports, climate change-related challenges are becoming vicarious with time. The Synthesis Report of IPCC explicitly warns that exceeding 1.5°C warming (“overshoot”) has dangerous and irreversible consequences. It requires climate action on all fronts.

CC surges the natural disaster events drastically impacting all sectors and areas including agriculture, water, livelihood, health, food, livestock, sanitation, and social protection. It largely affects vulnerable groups,

13 Link: <https://ncrb.gov.in>

Fig - 7: Suggested Schemes (Peoples' Budget) (Rs in Cr)











Name of the Schemes	SC Schemes	ST Schemes
 Higher Education		
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	2500.00	2000.00
Top Class Residential Coaching for SC Students	1500.00	1000.00
Boys Hostels in every district headquarters - 640	4000.00	3000.00
girls hostels in every district head-quarters - 640	4000.00	2500.00
Remedial coaching in english language	450.00	200.00
B.R Ambedkar Universities in 10 states - Punjab, Bengal, U.P, Bihar, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, M.P, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana	30000.00	0.00
 Agri Coop		
Minor irrigation programme for SC/ST farmlands	2000.00	1500.00
Sustainable Agriculture Grants for SC/ST Farmers	4000.00	2000.00
Horticulture and sericulture scheme for SC/ST	1500.00	1000.00
 Agriculture Research		
Agricultural Training Institute for SC/ST	600.00	300.00
 AH D F		
District Level SC/ST Dairy Cooperatives Scheme	5000.00	2000.00
Livestock Development Fund for SC/ST Family	3000.00	2000.00
Small Scale Entrepreneurship Fund for Goat, Pig,Hen and Cow Breeding	1500.00	1200.00
 DWS		
Community Well Regeneration Scheme in SC/ST Localities	1500.00	1000.00
Provision for Drinking Water for SC/ST families	3100.00	1800.00
 Health Family Welf		
Modernization of Health Centres in SC/ST Areas	2000.00	700.00
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	5400.00	3000.00
Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Families	2800.00	2000.00
Superspeciality hospital for Malaria, TB, Hypertension, sickle cells, and other diseases in SC/ST Areas.	3000.00	1200.00
Health Contingency fund at Municipal level for SC/ST community	1000.00	600.00
 Housing		
Ambedkar Model Housing Scheme	4500.00	0.00
Birsa Munda Model Housing Scheme	0.00	3000.00
Housing Scheme in Disaster prone for SC/ST Families	10000.00	7000.00
Housing Loan on Subsidised Interest rate to SC/ST Man/Women	3000.00	2000.00
Savitri Bai Phule SC/ST Woman Housing Programme	2800.00	2000.00
 Labour & Employment		
Rehabilitation and Protection of SC Child Labour	700.00	400.00
Top class coaching for competetive exams	400.00	300.00
Establishment of Employment Centre for SC/ST Labour	2500.00	1000.00
 MSME		
Standtup Fund for Unemployed SC	4000.00	3000.00
SC/ST Innovation fund for employment generation activities	4000.00	2500.00
Credit Support Program for SC/ST educated unem-ployed youth for Self Employmemt	3000.00	1500.00
Special SC/ST Women Employment Fund	3000.00	2000.00
Market Development Programme for SC/ST Farmers Product	2500.00	1400.00
 Rural Development		
Unemployment Allowance for SC/ST BPL Individual/Families	2300.00	1400.00
Restoration of Alienated land for STs	3200.00	1500.00

Fig - 7: Suggested Schemes (Peoples' Budget) (Rs in Cr)








Name of the Schemes	SC Schemes	ST Schemes
 School Education		
500 state of the art modern schools for SC/ST students	5000.00	3000.00
Inclusion Cells in Schools	1000.00	600.00
Appointment of SC/ST Teachers in Rural Areas	3000.00	2500.00
Special Teacher Training Programme on Anti-Discrim-ination and Inclusion	1500.00	1300.00
High class hostels for SC/ST Students at district headquarters	5000.00	3000.00
Appointment of Permanent SC/ST Women Cooks	1200.00	800.00
Special Nutritional Supplements	2300.00	1200.00
 Skill Development		
Training Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development for SC/ST Youth	1500.00	1000.00
 Social Justice		
Implementation of SC/ST POA Act	5000.00	3000.00
Finance Development Corporation for SC Woman	8000.00	4000.00
Insurance scheme for Criminally assulted SC/ST Woman	2500.00	1500.00
Scaling up NFSC to all SC PhD Students	2500.00	1500.00
Pre-Medical Coaching and Scholarship for SC/ST Students	1000.00	700.00
Special fund for protection and empowerment of SC/ ST Woman	900.00	800.00
Special Development funds for Nomadic, semi-no-madic and Vimuktajatis of SCs and STs.	1500.00	1500.00
Establishment of Centers in Universities for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy	5000.00	5000.00
Special Fast Track Court for Speedy Trail of SC/ST Cases	3500.00	3000.00
SC & ST fellowship for non-NET research students	2000.00	1000.00
Compensation to Victims	2000.00	1500.00
B.R Ambedkar Centres for learning and libraries in SC ST dominated districts	600.00	500.00
Rehabilitation of Women Ex. Manual Scavengers	1000.00	0.00
Formation of Special POCSO Courts to Trail SC/ST Cases	8000.00	7000.00
Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST Woman	2500.00	1500.00
National Single Window Helpline for SC/ST Students	800.00	800.00
Fellowships for SC- ST students under exchange programmes to foreign universities	1000.00	1000.00
Establisment of SC - ST Research institutes	2000.00	1000.00
 Tribal Affairs		
Innovation fund for Tribal Cooperatives and Tribal Entrepreneurship	0.00	500.00
Special fund for FRA Implementation	0.00	500.00
Special fund for implementation of PESA in Schedule Areas	0.00	500.00
Special Mission for Development of Minor Forest Produce	0.00	400.00
Model Schools for SC/ST Girls	2500.00	2000.00
Schools of international Standard at State Level for SC/ST Students	3000.00	2000.00
Special Development Fund for most Vulnerable Tribal Groups	0.00	600.00
 Women Child		
Establishment of Mini health centres in SC/ST Habitants	2500.00	1200.00
Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Women	600.00	400.00

Fig - 7: Suggested Schemes (Peoples' Budget) (Rs in Cr)

Name of the Schemes	SC Schemes	ST Schemes
Special Child Protection Mission for SC/ST Children	1000.00	900.00
Targeted Health Coverage for Migrants SC/ST Children	559.00	400.00
Appointment of SC/ST Caretakers	300.00	200.00
Rehabilitation of Trafficked SC/ST Women	500.00	400.00
 WR RD GR		
Canal Construction Programme for SC/ST farmland	1000.00	400.00
Water Catchment Area Development Programme for SC/ST	600.00	300.00
 Youth Sports		
Special Sports program for SC/ST youths under Khelo India	3500.00	2500.00
Overseas Training for SC/ST Sports Persons	3000.00	2500.00
Grand Total	2,14,109	1,22,400
NOTE:- 1. In the Union Budget FY2024-25 with reference to Fig -1 Total Targeted Schemes for SCs is Rs 46,192 Cr. and STs Rs.41,730 Cr. with the total gap of SC allocation is Rs. 167,917 Cr. and Rs. 80,670 Cr. for STs. The above table details of suggested schemes are for closing the Gap in the allocation.		

mainly the Dalits, Adivasis, and minorities with minimal or no means of resilience and dealing with the adverse effects of natural calamities such as drought, floods, cyclones, forest fires, heatwaves etc.. Lacking access to natural resources and assets like lands prevents marginalized communities from having alternative livelihood means.

For the resilience building of underprivileged groups, there are constitutional and policy directives but despite that the 25% (SCs and STs) of the total population of India, are deprived of the adequate, relevant and responsive resources to meet their requirements for mitigating the risks of disaster and adaptation towards the climate change. The allocation be mandatorily made for SCs and STs (AWSC & AWST) as per NITI Ayog Guidelines[1]¹⁴. Of the forty ministries/departments are obligated to earmark and implement the AWSC and AWST by NITI Ayog, while the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal agency.

The National Action Plan on CC focuses on eight national missions on CC including sustainable agriculture; National water mission; Solar Mission; Enhanced Energy Efficiency; Green India Mission; Sustainable Habitat; Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem; and Strategic Knowledge for CC. Each mission is anchored by separate ministries. However, schemes are available in different ministries for economic empowerment, livelihood, social security schemes, schemes related to agriculture, water and rural development programs etc. which contribute to

14 Latest guidelines issued by NITI Ayog dated 1 April 2018 are available on the eUtthan Portal, MSJE, GoI.

15 https://pmkisan.gov.in/rpt_beneficiarystatus_pub.aspx

climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction-oriented but do not come under NAPCC. One has to analyse the budget under each ministry/department with the lens of CC. Therefore, there is a dire need for an exclusive Climate budget at the national level.

Agriculture and farmer's Welfare

The budget allocation under the Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare Ministry is 122528.77Cr with a minimum increase this year (FY 2024-25) from the previous year with 6%. The AWSC allocation under this department is Rs 20122.91 Cr and Rs 10718.04 Cr for the AWST, which is 16.4% and 8.7% respectively of the department's total budget. In FY 2020-21, 19.44% of the total budget remained unutilized and 6.95% unspent budget was recorded in FY 2021-22 under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The AWSC budget of the same department, the percentage of unspent amounts even more for the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 as 40.18% and 37.06% respectively. There are several CCA and DRR schemes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) where allocation has been reduced this year by 9.1% and 9% from the previous FY 2023-24 for the SCs and STs respectively. In another scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kisaan Samman Nidhi (PMKisan) got a share of the budget of Rs 10334 Cr which is a minimal increase of 1.4% compared to the FY 2023-24 under AWSC. In schemes relevant to the SC-ST small and marginal farmers, namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), the allocation has been reduced in FY 2024-25 from FY 2023-24. It is also important to know that the SC-ST beneficiary's data has been completely missing from the scheme portal [2]¹⁵ which provides a gender-desegregated beneficiaries database.

Drinking Water and Sanitation

Water is essential for all living beings, and has been drastically affected by climate change because of the change/shortage in the rainfall pattern. It resulted in various disaster forms like floods, drought etc. It directly impacts life and livelihood on the earth. In the events of droughts, families from marginalized groups migrate for alternative livelihood; farmers face crop destruction. Even the AWSC and AWST under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)/National Rural Drinking Water Mission have been allocated Rs 15435.84 Cr and Rs 7016.29 Cr with a

negligible increase from the budget allocated in FY 2023-24. Around 91.92% of the total budget of the ministry is dedicated to this scheme. This scheme intends to build water supply infrastructure for Functional Tap Connections (FHTC) in every rural household by 2024. It is targeted to cover 14.60 Crore households with tap water connection in partnership with States/ UTs under the mission by 2024.

New & Renewable Energy

With the commitment to achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2070, and milestones of meeting 50 percent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MoNRE) has allocated Rs. 1225.92 Cr. under AWSC which is a 49.6% increase from BE 2023-24. MoNRE has earmarked BE Rs. 1259.11 Cr under AWST, which is a 48.3 % increase from the last FY. Under the Scheme namely Solar Power (Grid), the allocation for SCs and STs is Rs 895 Cr and Rs 905 Cr respectively. It is pertinent to mention that under this particular scheme a remarkable rise in budget allocation of 109% and 111.4% has been recorded in this year under AWSC and AWST compared to FY 203-24. The Ministry’s website states that as of 30-06-2023, solar projects of 70.10 GW capacity have been commissioned in the country. However, the output and outcome indicators relate to the quantity of solar energy generated and not the number of SC and SC villages or households that will be connected to these grids. Thus, the allocations are rendered ineffective not only on account of missing SC-ST targets but also by sheer underspending of the resources.

13. Child Rights:

India boasts a staggering 472 million children, accounting for nearly 40% of its entire population. While education is viewed as a tool for a level playing field, children from SC and ST often find it challenging. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF’s guidelines, particularly Article 2, forbids any form of discrimination against a child based on caste. This is especially pertinent for Dalit children who endure discrimination and social exclusion. Dalit children, as well as those identifying as LGBTQIA+, face the harsh realities of bullying, isolation, and violence routinely. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act faces its challenges, as societal stigma associated with child sexual abuse often hinders reporting, perpetuating silence, especially in marginalized communities. Data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) reveals that child marriage

is still widespread in 26% of SC/ST communities. The highest incidences are reported in West Bengal, Bihar, and Tripura. While the Juvenile Justice Act is designed to aid distressed children, systemic bias often leads to the unjust targeting of children from marginalized backgrounds.

For this financial year 2024-25, the total SC children budget is Rs. 28,205.1 Cr and the total ST children budget is Rs. 19,565.5 Cr. When compared to the total SC budget the SC child budget percentage comes to a meagre 17.04% and when compared to the total ST budget the ST child budget percentage comes to a meagre 15.66%. The SC child budget against the development fund (CS+CSS) is Rs. 14,64,479 Cr which is a scanty 1.93% and the ST child budget against the development fund (CS+CSS) is Rs. 14,63,079 Cr which is again a scanty 1.3%. Further, the SC targeted schemes amount to Rs. 10,019.4 Cr which comes to 6.05% of the SC budget and 0.7% of the development fund and the ST targeted schemes amount to Rs. 9316.1 Cr which comes to 7.5% of the ST budget and 0.6% of the development fund.

Key Schemes for SC Children:

- 1. Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs and Others: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 500 Cr.
- 2. Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High School in Targeted Area (SRESHTA) for SCs: The budget allocation is Rs. 133.1 Cr.
- 3. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY): The budget allocation is Rs. 21.5 Cr.
- 4. PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI): The budget allocation is Rs. 1220.2 Cr.

Key Schemes for ST Children:

- 1. Pre- Matric Scholarship for STs: For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs. 440.4 Cr.
- 2. Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS): For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs.5794.8 Cr.
- 3. PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI): For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget allocation is Rs.574.5 Cr.

Targeted Programs, Uneven Outcomes:

While targeted programs like the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman and Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 are praiseworthy, but their allocation is too little for impact. There is a pressing need for increased funding for SC and ST programs, a focus on early childhood development, and a concerted drive to eliminate discrimination.



Recommendations

- 1. There are a good number of schemes but the allocation is quite meagre and there a number of irrelevant schemes, where the allocation is huge, but unfortunately, these schemes hardly give benefit to the communities. There are some schemes allocated under Ministries like Ministry of Road Works, Department of Fertilizers which amounts to Rs 18,466 Cr has been allocated towards irrelevant schemes that hardly benefit the communities, therefore, this kind of non-targeted schemes should be defunded.
- 2. All obligatory ministries should allocate population proportionate funds for Dalits and Adivasis as per the NITI Ayog guidelines of April 2018
- 3. Allocation to direct benefit schemes like Post-Matric Scholarships, hostels, skill development schemes should be increased and timely transfer of funds should be ensured to beneficiaries at all costs. A higher allocation for the National Overseas scheme should be implemented
- 4. Allocation of 50% of total funds for Dalit women and a special component plan for Dalit women should be established with strong mechanisms to monitor and ensure effective implementation.
- 5. Schemes for the rehabilitation of the women engaged in manual scavenging should be reintroduced and an adequate allocation to eliminate the practice should be in place. They have however introduced a new scheme called Namaste for the mechanization of sanitation, it should be ensured that this should be given to women.
- 6. All schools and hostels must be made disabled-friendly keeping in mind the needs of people with disabilities, funds should provide to ensure this happens
- 7. The Scheme for the implementation of the PoA must have a much higher allocation of atleast 1000 Crs to address the violence and atrocities that are increasing on a daily basis on Dalits and Adivasis.
- 8. Lack of legislative framework for implementation of SC & ST schemes has led to lack of implementation of most schemes. There is therefore an urgent need for the passing of SCP/ TSP legislation.
- 9. The following recommendations are being made to urge the Government to recognize distinct climate vulnerabilities and differential impacts on the SCs and STs and provision along the principle of equity embedded in the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities framework to protect them from adverse impacts and build resilience to climate change;
 - a. Institute the National Climate Budget[1] with earmarking for adaptation and mitigation by mainstreaming climate actions across the central sector and centrally sponsored programmes/schemes
 - b. Enhance the budget for climate actions under the AWSC and AWST proportionate to SC and ST population taking into consideration regional and socio-economic vulnerabilities and exposure to climate risks.
 - c. Mandate clear SC/ST targets and reporting for ministries earmarking for climate adaptation and mitigation schemes under AWSC and AWST
 - d. Adopt a matrix-based allocation and utilization of budgets for adaptation and mitigation disaggregated by caste and tribal status, gender, age and disability.
 - e. Specify the coverage targets for SCs and STs across climate adaptation and mitigation budgets under the AWSC and AWST



The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights is a forum launched in 1998, committed to the elimination of discrimination based on caste. A democratic secular platform led by Dalit women and men activists, with support and solidarity from movements and organizations, academics, individuals, people's organizations and institutions throughout the country who are committed to work to protect and promote human rights of Dalits. **Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA)** is a part of NCDHR and looks at the various economic rights of Dalits including education and entrepreneurship. It uses the Union and state Government budgets as the main vehicle to tracking schemes and entitlements of Dalits. It involves in advocacy with policy makers and executives in strengthening the existing policies and tracking it for accountability and transparency.



NCDHR-National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights-DAAA

8/31 South Patel Nagar, 3rd Floor, New Delhi - 110 008

www.ncdhr.org.in

For further information, please contact:

Adikanda Singh, Tel: +91-9205219784; Email: adikanda@ncdhr.org.in

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