

FIVE YEARS OF CASTE BASED ATROCITY:

AN ANALYSIS OF
CRIMES AGAINST
SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED
TRIBES IN INDIA
2019-2023



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS



ABOUT NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS (NCDHR)

The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) was founded in 1998 as a national movement of Dalit human rights defenders, activists, academics, and civil society organizations. NCDHR works to eliminate caste-based discrimination through research, advocacy, and engagement with national and international human rights mechanisms.

The **National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ)** is a unit of NCDHR that focuses on Access to Justice for Dalit and Adivasi communities. NDMJ primarily works to strengthen the effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, through legal monitoring, capacity building, and advocacy for institutional accountability, engaging with government machinery, aimed at the protection and empowerment of Dalits and Adivasis.

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(2019-2023)



DALIT
LIVES
MATTER

DALIT
LIVES
MATTER

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Preface

Caste continues to shape social relations, access to resources, and the experience of justice in India. For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, caste-based discrimination and atrocities remain lived realities that directly challenge the constitutional promise of equality and dignity. Addressing these violations requires not only legal safeguards but also sustained scrutiny of how institutions respond to caste-based crimes.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was enacted to provide enhanced legal protection to communities historically subjected to exclusion and violence. Its effectiveness, however, depends on consistent and accountable implementation by State institutions. Periodic and rigorous analysis of official data is therefore essential to assess institutional performance, identify gaps, and inform corrective action.

This report, 'Five Years of Caste-Based Atrocities: An Analysis of Crimes Against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India (2019–2023)', has been prepared to examine the trend of atrocities from officially recorded crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes over a five-year period from 2019 to 2023. By statistically analysing crime data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the report seeks to support informed public discourse, strengthen institutional accountability, and contribute to evidence-based advocacy on caste-based violence.

While caste-based atrocities affect communities as a whole, experiences of violence and access to justice are not uniform. Dalit and Adivasi women, among others, often encounter intersecting barriers shaped by caste, gender, and economic marginalisation. Acknowledging these differentiated experiences is important for developing responsive and inclusive policy and administrative interventions.

Prepared by the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), this report is intended as a resource for policymakers, institutions, civil society organisations, and human rights defenders engaged in strengthening the implementation of protective laws and addressing caste-based injustice. At the same time, it has to be understood that the actual incidence of caste-based atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is much higher than what is reflected in official records, as this report is based entirely on reported atrocity cases as per NCRB's 'Crime in India Report'.

Civil society organisations, along with Union and State Governments, must work collaboratively and in the true spirit of justice to eradicate caste-based inequalities. NCDHR hopes that this report will encourage critical reflection, constructive engagement, and renewed commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Beena Pallical

**General Secretary
National Campaign on Dalit Human
Rights (NCDHR)
New Delhi**

Foreword

Across the world, systems of exclusion, hierarchy, and inherited inequality continue to deny millions of people their dignity, freedom, and basic human rights on the basis of descent. In response to sustained advocacy by affected communities and civil society organisations, the United Nations formally recognised the term Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) during the discussions of the Durban Review Conference in the year 2009. Since then, caste-based discrimination and its analogous systems have been addressed at the United Nations and other global platforms under this terminology.

Caste represents one of the oldest and most inhuman systems of discrimination based on birth. The caste system is not confined to India alone but exists across South Asia, where Dalits continue to face discrimination, brutal violence, and inhuman treatment. In India, despite constitutional guarantees and a robust legal framework i.e the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, caste-based atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continues to expose the deep gap between legislation on paper and its implementation. States have a duty to ensure that protective laws are implemented in both letter and spirit, and that survivors are treated with dignity rather than suspicion.

Sustained engagement by civil society and affected communities has brought caste discrimination firmly into global human rights discourse. The United Nations human rights system has increasingly acknowledged caste and analogous systems as forms of descent-based discrimination that demand urgent and sustained attention. Yet recognition alone does not end violence. The persistence

of caste-based atrocities demonstrates how deeply caste is embedded in social relations and how frequently institutional responses fall short of their obligations under national and international human rights frameworks.

In this context, the report *Five Years of Caste Based Atrocity: An Analysis of Crimes Against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India (2019–2023)* makes a valuable contribution to evidence-based advocacy and public accountability. I acknowledge and deeply appreciate the work of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) and the researchers involved for their scholarly analysis and sustained commitment to fighting and documenting caste-based violence. Such efforts are critical not only for strengthening institutional accountability within India, but also for informing international human rights mechanisms and global solidarity movements working to end descent-based discrimination.

This report should be read as part of a broader struggle for recognition, accountability, and transformation. It reinforces the importance of evidence in challenging denial, countering impunity, and strengthening advocacy at national and international levels, including within the United Nations system. The eradication of caste-based discrimination is inseparable from the global commitment to human dignity and equality. Until caste no longer determines whose lives are protected and whose suffering is normalised.

Paul Divakar Namala
Convenor
Global Forum of Communities
Discriminated on Work and Descent
(GFoD)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The socio-economic conditions of Dalits and Adivasis have not improved to the required extent largely due to the deeply entrenched caste system in Indian society. The caste-based mindset continues to reinforce hostility, exclusion, and violence against these communities, particularly when they assert their basic human rights, dignity, or access to resources.

This report examines officially registered caste-based atrocities committed by non-SC/ST perpetrators against Dalit and Adivasi communities between 2019 and 2023, based on data from the annual Crime in India reports published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). It is critical to note that a significant number of the cases remains unreported. The findings reveal a consistent, widespread, and alarming rise in targeted violence, driven by discriminatory social structures, systemic institutional apathy, an insensitive state machinery, ineffective policing, and persistent barriers to justice.

TRENDS IN ATROCITIES (2019-2023)



According to NCRB 2023

Every day in India, 158 Dalits face caste-based atrocities, meaning 7 Dalits face atrocities every hour.

Against Adivasis, 36 atrocities occur daily which means 1-2 atrocities every single hour. This data underscores that caste-based violence remains a routine lived reality, not isolated incidents.

STATE-LEVEL PATTERNS

together accounted for

55%

of all atrocities against Dalits

In 2023

Uttar Pradesh (15,130)
Madhya Pradesh (8,232)
Rajasthan (8,449)

169,850%

against Scheduled Tribes

Primarily due to the large-scale ethnic and communal violence in Manipur in 2023, crimes increased

68.4%

increase in atrocities against Dalits

In the National Capital Delhi

67.9%

increase in atrocities against Dalits

In Tamil Nadu

CRIME HEAD ANALYSIS – SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs)



- Murder increased by **1.8%**
- Attempt-to-murder cases rose sharply by **45.2%**
- Criminal intimidation increased by **45.5%**

592.3% increase in the denial of access to public spaces, reflecting entrenched caste-based segregation.

Social boycott and forced displacement increased by 240%, signalling organised efforts to ostracise and displace Dalit families from their homes and communities.

CRIME HEAD ANALYSIS – SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs)



- Attempt to murder increased by **51.8%**
- **One ST person is murdered every two days**, highlighting the extreme vulnerability of tribal communities.
- Riots increased by **916.1%**
- Arson cases rose by an unprecedented **3,863%**

Land-related crimes also surged, with illegal dispossession of ST land rising by **750%**, further threatening the livelihood and identity of tribal populations.

Social boycott and forced displacement increased by 241.2%, reflecting continued efforts to isolate and marginalise Adivasi communities.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST DALIT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

↑ Rape cases increased by **20.9%**

↑ Rape of Dalit girls rose by **23.5%**

Emerging forms of digital and physical harassment are also increasing indicating growing violations of privacy and bodily autonomy.



↑ Stalking cases increased by **25.6%**

↑ Voyeurism increased by **38.9%**

Every day, 12 Dalit women and girls are raped.

Every day, 10 Dalit women and girls face gender-based physical and sexual assault.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST ADIVASI WOMEN AND CHILDREN



↑ Rape Adivasi women and Children increased by **7.1%**

↑ **37.4%** of the total rapes were of minors, showing that children are disproportionately affected.

↑ Voyeurism increased by **71.4%**



↑ Insult to modesty increased by **158.3%**

↑ POCSO cases surged by **40.2%**

Every day, three Adivasi women and girls are raped in India, revealing an ongoing crisis of safety.

INADEQUACIES IN POLICE RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION (SCs)

- While the **charge sheeting rate increased slightly from 78.5% to 81.2%**, this improvement does not reflect in the conviction.
- In 2023, **16,454 cases remained pending investigation**, representing a substantial backlog that slows down the justice process and leaves survivors waiting indefinitely.

INADEQUACIES IN POLICE RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION (STs)

- For Adivasi cases, the police response weakened further. **Charge-sheeting declined from 81.7% to 79.5%**, signalling poorer follow-through on complaints.
- The **number of pending investigations rose from 2,908 to 6,964** an increase of **139.5%**, indicating severe delays in completing basic investigative procedures.



Manipur, which recorded the highest number of atrocities has lowest charge sheeting rate among all states and UTs with 20.8% , followed by Rajasthan state with 42.3%. Weak investigations and prolonged delays undermine the very purpose of the SC/ST PoA Act.

JUDICIAL DELAYS, LOW CONVICTION, AND HIGH ACQUITTAL IN ATROCITY CASES (SCs)

20,297

Trials completed



3,11,986

Cases pending

93.8%

This indicates an extremely slow judicial process. Such massive pendency weakens evidence, increases the risk of witness intimidation, and prolongs trauma for survivors.

31.9%

Conviction Rate



63.1%

Acquittal Rate

High acquittals point to poor investigation, weak prosecution, and systemic failure to protect victims. Even in serious crimes Against Dalits such as rape, murder and assault the conviction is very poor.

30.5%

Conviction Rate

RAPE

64.4%

Acquittal Rate

25.6%

Conviction Rate

RAPE OF CHILDREN

72.2%

Acquittal Rate

48.8%

Conviction Rate

MURDER

47.6%

Acquittal Rate

23.2%

Conviction Rate

ASSAULT ON WOMEN

69.5%

Acquittal Rate

JUDICIAL DELAYS, LOW CONVICTION, AND HIGH ACQUITTAL IN ATROCITY CASES (STs)



93%

Cases pending for trial



Rate of pending cases rose by

60.2%

FROM 30,697 TO 49,189

901

Convictions



2,449

Nearly three times higher acquittal rate

24.6%

Conviction Rate



66.8%

Acquittal rate

24.4%

Conviction Rate

RAPE

65.8%

Acquittal Rate

23.5%

Conviction Rate

**RAPE OF
ADIVASI
WOMEN**

69%

Acquittal Rate

25.6%

Conviction Rate

**RAPE OF
CHILDREN**

61.6%

Acquittal Rate

40%

Conviction Rate

MURDER

51.3%

Acquittal Rate



The findings underscore an urgent need for comprehensive reforms in the criminal justice system, including the expansion of Exclusive Special Courts, improved police accountability, and targeted legal support for survivors.

Without such systemic interventions, the cycles of violence, discrimination, and social exclusion against Dalits and Adivasis are likely to continue unabated. Ensuring justice and protection for these communities is critical for upholding the principles of equality, human rights, and the rule of law in India.

AN ANALYSIS OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN INDIA (2019–2023)

1. INTRODUCTION

The caste system remains deeply entrenched in Indian society and continues to shape almost every social, political, and institutional mechanisms. Whether a Dalit living in a remote village or to one holding a high constitutional position, caste identity still defines how individuals are perceived and treated. Even in today's AI-driven world, the shadow of the age-old, unequal, and undignified caste hierarchy persists.

As India has completed 75 years as a Republic and entered its 76th year, it also marks 75 years since the abolition of untouchability through the Constitution. Yet this milestone, compels us to ask a difficult and urgent question: *What is the lived reality of Dalits and Adivasis in today's democratic Republic of India?*

The reality is unsettling. The caste system continues to thrive, not only through discrimination but also through brutal acts of violence and atrocities against Dalit and Adivasi communities. These acts expose the deep-rooted structural inequalities that persist despite constitutional safeguards. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recently

released the Crime in India Report 2023 on 29th September 2025, following a year long delay since the previous release.

This report has been much anticipated as it sheds light on national crime trends, including caste-based atrocities.

The data reveals a continued and alarming rise in crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), reflecting the persistent oppression and marginalization faced by these communities.

This analysis report presents an overview of the five-year trend (2019–2023), using NCRB data to provide a statistical understanding of caste-based violence and its broader implications for justice, safety, and social equality. By examining the trajectory of registered cases over the years, the report seeks to contribute to ongoing dialogues on Dalit and Adivasi rights, while strengthening evidence-based advocacy for institutional accountability and the effective implementation of protective legislation such as the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

1.1 METHODOLOGY

This report is based on a systematic analysis of secondary data obtained from the annual Crime in India (volume II) publications released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Government of India, covering the period from 2019 to 2023.

The study examines crimes committed against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) by non-SC/ST perpetrators as given in the Volume II of the Crime in India report, as recorded under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 as amended in 2015 as well as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, read with Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Further the data have been drawn to underscore the accountability of states and implementation of the key mechanisms given in the SC/ST PoA Act from the Report submitted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under Section 21(4) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act for the year 2022 (the latest available).

A quantitative and comparative methodology was adopted to identify trends, patterns, and changes in

atrocities against SCs and STs across the five-year period. Year-wise crime statistics were compiled and categorized into thematic heads, including overall crime trends, state-level patterns, serious offences, gender-based violence, and criminal justice system response (including policing and judiciary process).

Key indicators such as crime rates, percentage changes, charge-sheeting rates, investigation and trial pendency, conviction rates, and acquittal rates were closely examined, as these variables reflect both the prevalence of violence and the effectiveness of institutional responses.

State-wise comparisons were conducted to highlight variations in reporting and policing outcomes, while national aggregates were analysed to identify broader structural patterns. The analysis is both interpretive and data-driven, contextualising statistical observations within the social and political realities of caste-based discrimination, structural inequalities, and systemic barriers to justice faced by SCs and STs.

1.2 LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

- The study relies exclusively on secondary data from NCRB reports and Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment (MSJE) Reports. Consequently, any inaccuracies, underreporting, or inconsistencies present in these sources directly affect the findings of the study.
- Caste-based atrocities, particularly against SCs and STs, are often underreported due to factors such as social stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of awareness about legal rights, and biased approaches by law enforcement agencies. As a result, the officially recorded figures are likely to underestimate the true extent of the violence.
- The number of reported atrocities across states may not accurately reflect the true incidence of violence. Lower figures in some states could be resulted from the poor implementation of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, underreporting, administrative neglect, or refusal to register cases, rather than a genuine reduction in violence. Therefore, direct comparisons between states based solely on reported cases should be interpreted with caution.
- Although the NCRB data (2023) and the MSJE report (2022) used in this study are the most recent available, both are subject to inherent delays in reporting and compilation. Consequently, some recent trends or cases may not be fully reflected in the datasets.
- The data on crimes against Dalit and Adivasi women and children presented in this report does not capture the full spectrum of atrocities. The NCRB data provides gender disaggregation only for certain gender-stereotyped crimes, potentially underrepresenting other forms of violence and discrimination experienced by SC/ST women and children.
- The categorisation of crimes in the NCRB reporting, such as 'simple hurt' and 'other offences' with higher levels of registration in their reports, does not fully capture the actual nature and pattern of violence experienced by SCs and STs. This limitation restricts a nuanced understanding of the various forms of violence and the specific harms suffered by victims.

1.3 OVERALL CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Overall Crimes against Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes in India (2019–2023)

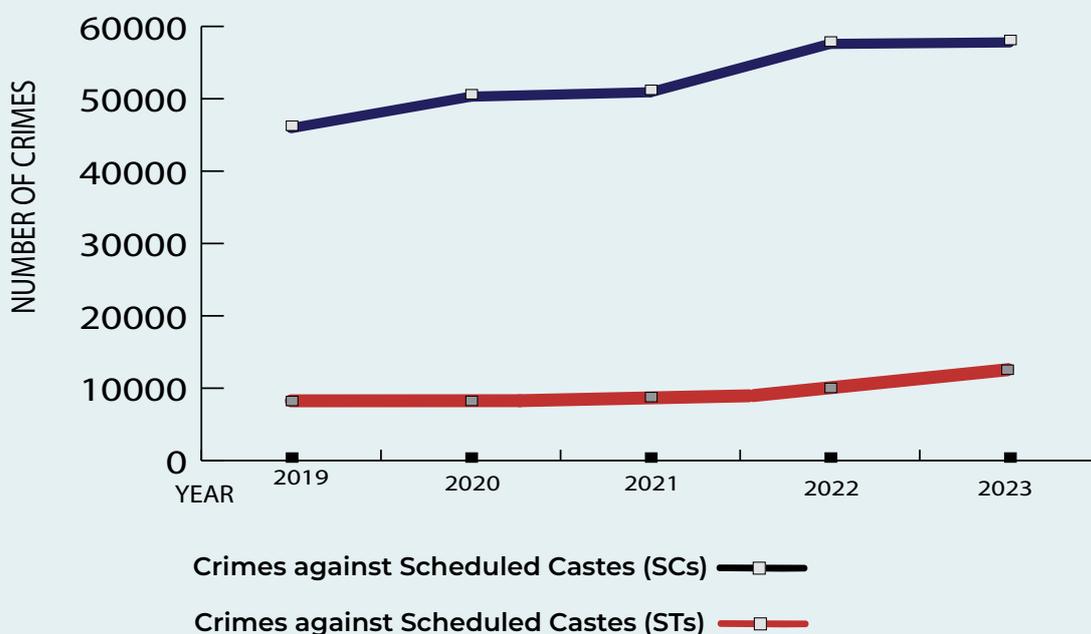


TABLE 1:

Overall Crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (2019-2023)

Category	Years					Increase % in 2023 over 2019	Crime Rate per Lakh (2023)
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
Crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs)	45935	50291	50900	57582	57,789	25.8	28.7
Crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs)	8257	8272	8802	10064	12,960	57.0	12.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023¹

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), data of crimes against Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes indicates a sharp rise over the five-year period from 2019 to 2023. Crimes against SCs increased from 45,935 cases in 2019 to 57,789 cases in 2023, reflecting a 25.8% surge with a crime rate of 28.7 per lakh population in 2023. The Tables highlights the crimes against SC/ST have increased every year. Particularly even during the Covid lockdown period the crimes were more prevalent, increasing from 45,935 cases in 2019 to 50,291 cases in 2020. In the year 2022 which marks the post covid relaxation period, crimes have recorded the notable spike against SCs from 50,900 in 2021 to 57,582 in 2022, indicating that caste-based violence remains widespread and systemic, affecting a large number of Dalit communities across India.

Crimes against STs show an even more alarming escalation, rising from 8,257 cases in 2019 to 12,960 cases in 2023, a 57% increase with a crime rate of 12.4 per lakh ST population. These numbers reflect not only the increase in reported crimes but also indicates the deep-rooted social, economic, and political marginalization faced by Dalits and Adivasis even today.



¹NCRB – 2019: https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/1653730632_CII%202019%20Volume%202.pdf; NCRB – 2020: https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/1653720991_CII%202020%20Volume%202.pdf; NCRB – 2021: <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/post/1679310741CII2021Volume2.pdf>; NCRB - 2022: <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/1701608364CrimeinIndia2022Book2.pdf>; NCRB – 2023: <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/files/2CrimeinIndia2023PartII2.pdf>

Chapter 2

CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES (2019–2023)



2.1 THE EXTENT OF CASTE BASED CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES: 2019-23

TRENDS

According to the recent
Crime in India Report

**EVERY SINGLE DAY
158 CASTE-BASED
ATROCITIES ARE
COMMITTED AGAINST
DALITS IN INDIA**

**ON AN AVERAGE
EVERY SINGLE HOUR
7 ATROCITIES OCCUR
AGAINST DALITS IN
INDIA**

**IN LESS THAN
EVERY 10 MINUTES,
ONE ATROCITY
IS PERPETUATED
AGAINST DALITS IN
INDIA**

It should be noted that the above statistical figure is only based on the registered atrocity cases.

According to the NCRB, total cases of 2,62,497 caste-based crimes were committed against members of the Scheduled Castes in India between 2019 and 2023. The data exposes the continuing structural violence and discrimination that Dalits face in both rural and urban India.

In 2019, 45,935 cases were registered, representing a 7.3% increase compared to 42,793 cases in 2018. The following year (2020) witnessed a 9.5% rise, crossing the 50,000 marks for the first time. The increase continued in 2021 with a 1.2% growth, while 2022 saw a sharp escalation of 13.1%, recording 57,582 cases, the highest in this five-year period. The year 2023 maintained this high level with 57,789 cases reaching a new milestone, showing a 0.4% increase from the previous year. Every year the new record is created in committing crimes against Dalits.

TABLE 2 :

Extent of Caste Based Crimes Against SCs 2019-2023

Year	Numbers registered of Caste Based Crimes committed Against Scheduled Castes	% of Increase of year on Year
2019	45935	7.3
2020	50291	9.5
2021	50900	1.2
2022	57582	13.1
2023	57789	0.4
Total	262474	

Note: In the year 2018, cases of 42793 were reported

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Extent of Caste Based Crimes Against SCs 2019-2023

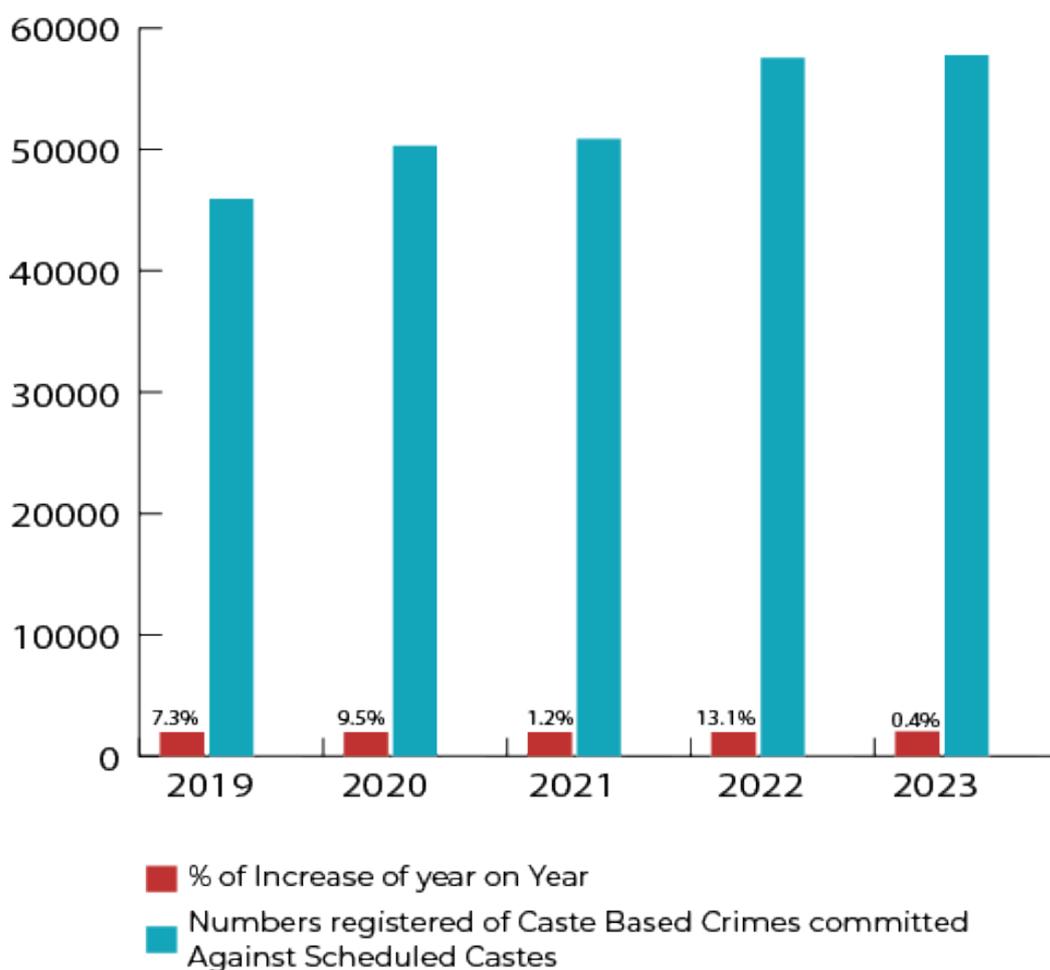


TABLE 3 :

Increase of Crimes Against SCs in India in 2023 (State-Wise)

No.	Name of the State	Year wise - Number of Crime against SCs					% increase of crime in 2023 over 2019	Rate of Total crimes in 2023
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1	Andhra Pradesh	2071	1950	2014	2315	2027	-2.1	24
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
3	Assam	21	28	15	14	5	-76.2	0.2
4	Bihar	6544	7368	5842	6509	7064	7.9	42.6
5	Chhattisgarh	341	316	330	323	250	-26.7	7.6
6	Goa	3	2	4	8	4	33.3	15.7
7	Gujarat	1416	1326	1201	1279	1373	-3	33.7
8	Haryana	1086	1210	1628	1633	1539	41.7	30.1
9	Himachal Pradesh	189	251	244	210	229	21.2	13.2
10	Jharkhand	651	666	546	674	604	-7.2	15.2
11	Karnataka	1504	1398	1673	1977	1923	27.9	18.4
12	Kerala	858	846	948	1050	1128	31.5	37.1
13	Madhya Pradesh	5300	6899	7214	7733	8232	55.3	72.6
14	Maharashtra	2150	2569	2503	2743	3024	40.7	22.8
15	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	5	0	-	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
19	Odisha	1886	2046	2327	2902	2696	42.9	37.5
20	Punjab	166	165	200	162	116	-30.1	1.3
21	Rajasthan	6794	7017	7524	8752	8449	24.4	69.1
22	Sikkim	4	0	2	3	0	-100	0
23	Tamil Nadu	1144	1274	1377	1761	1921	67.9	13.3
24	Telangana	1690	1959	1772	1787	1709	1.1	31.5
25	Tripura	0	2	3	2	0	-	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	11829	12714	13146	15368	15130	27.9	36.6
27	Uttarakhand	84	87	123	114	102	21.4	5.4
28	West Bengal	119	109	108	104	102	-14.3	0.5
	Total State(s)	45850	50202	50744	57428	57627	25.7	29.2

TABLE 3 : CONTINUED

Increase of Crimes Against SCs in India in 2023 (State-Wise)

No.	Name of the State	Year wise - Number of Crime against SCs					% increase of crime in 2023 over 2019	Rate of Total crimes in 2023
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
2	Chandigarh	1	3	0	4	3	200	1.5
3	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	2	1	0	0	1	-50	8.1
4	Delhi	76	69	136	130	128	68.4	4.6
5	Jammu & Kashmir	2	7	13	11	26	1200	2.8
6	Ladakh	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
7	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
8	Puducherry	4	9	7	9	4	0	2
	Total UT(s)	85	89	156	154	162	90.6	3.9
	Total All over India	45935	50291	50900	57582	57789	25.8	28.7

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Note:

- In the year 2019, Special status for Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was abrogated. Through the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 it was created as a union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Subsequently J&K and Ladakh reflected under Union Territory category in the "Crime in India Report" from 2020 therefore even for the 2019 year, it has been given in that order.
- In 2019, the 2 cases in J&K were registered under Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act.
- In the same year Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu were merged as one UT
- The SC/ST Act was extended to Jammu & Kashmir in 2019 after special status was abrogated.

Table 3 presents a comparative analysis of caste-based crimes committed against Scheduled Castes (SCs) between 2019 and 2023 across Indian states and union territories. The year-wise data also reveals important transitional trends between 2019 and 2023.

In 2022, a sharp spike in cases is observed in multiple states particularly Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh coinciding with the post-COVID relaxation period.

The easing of restrictions led to increased mobility, reopening of public spaces, and a rise in socio-economic interactions, which reignited caste-based tensions and hostile incidents. It also provided space for many survivors of caste-based atrocities to finally reach police stations with legal supports to register the cases.

Increase of Crimes Against SCs in India in 2023 (State-Wise)

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

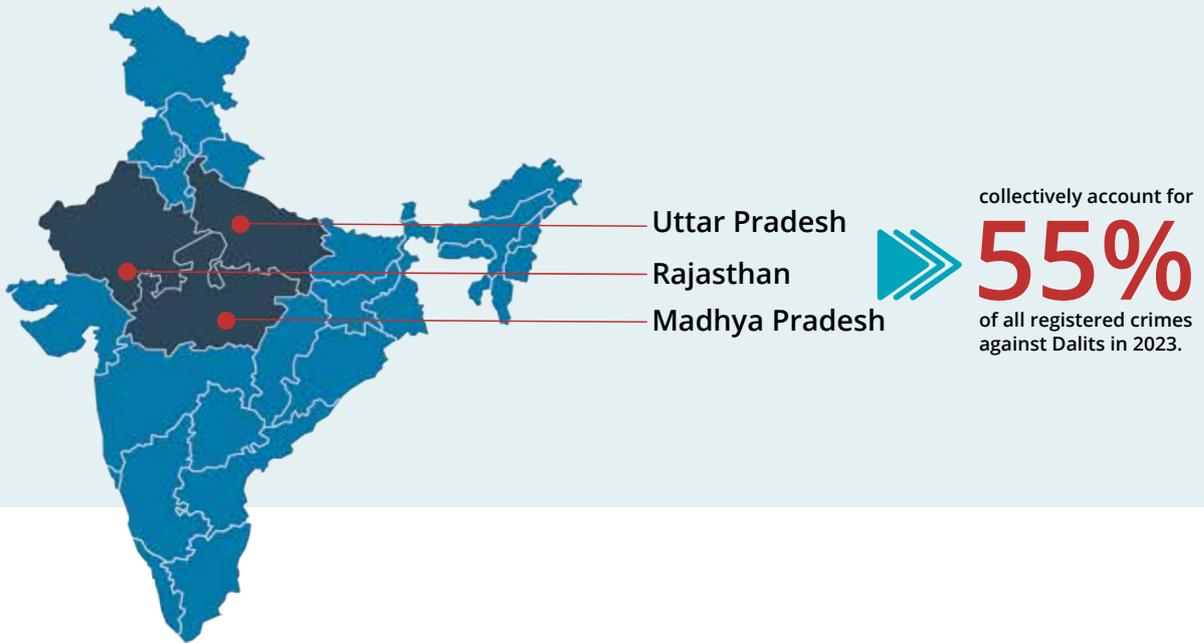
In 2020, despite nationwide lockdowns and restricted movement, several states recorded an increase in crimes against SCs, suggesting that caste-based violence persisted even during periods of limited public interaction.

Although Dalits face discrimination and atrocities across all regions, the prevalence is particularly high in certain states, not merely due to the population proportion of Dalits but because of deeply entrenched caste hierarchies and social hostility that normalize exclusion and violence in everyday life.

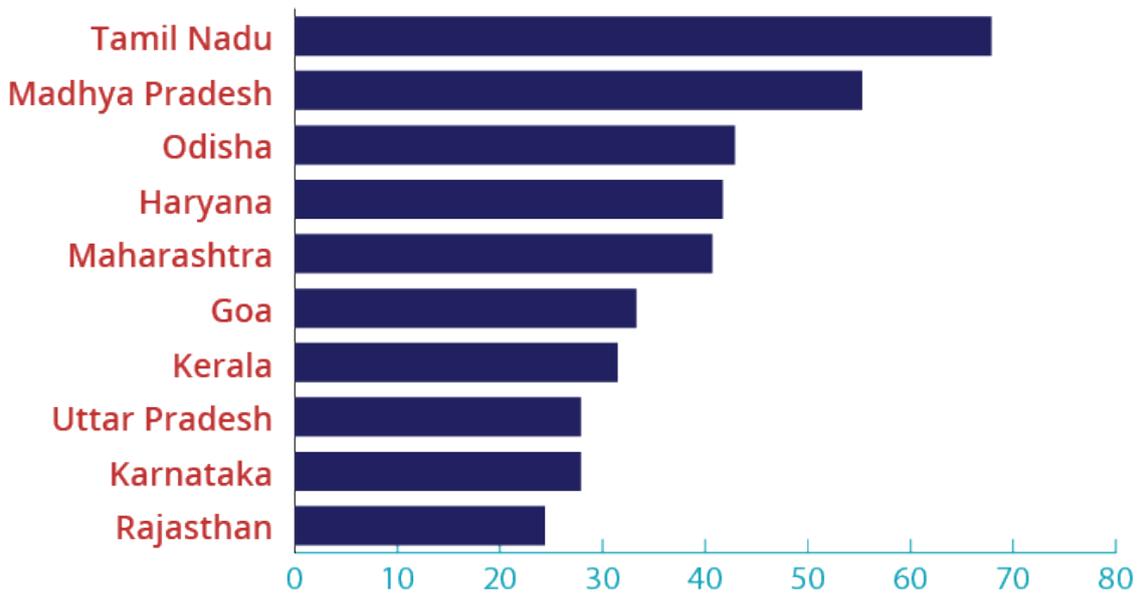
Even though a few states show decline in cases in 2023 compared to 2022, this cannot be interpreted as a real progress. When measured against the 2019 baseline, the overall trend still reflects a steady and worrying rise in crimes. A short-term reduction does not undo the long-term escalation, and therefore these decreases cannot be taken as indicators of improved safety or reduced discrimination against Dalits.

The data highlights that caste-based crimes are not random or spontaneous, but manifestations of entrenched caste hierarchies and power relations. Violence often coincides with regions where Dalits assert their rights through education, land ownership, or local leadership challenging existing caste dominance. This form of structural violence reinforces social exclusion and inequality, demanding stronger institutional accountability and community sensitisation.

KEY OBSERVATIONS



States that have shown significant upward trends in crimes against Dalits.



- States such as Tamil Nadu (67.9%), Madhya Pradesh (55.3%), Haryana (41.7%), and Odisha (42.9%) have shown significant upward trends. The National capital, Delhi (68.4%) marks a significant surge. This reflects growing tensions and backlash from dominant castes as Dalits assert greater visibility, education, and mobility.
- States such as Punjab, Chhattisgarh, and Assam show decline in the registration of cases. However, such decline may not represent reduced violence but could result from underreporting and police apathy or informal settlement through coercion.

2.1 (II) TOP 10 STATES WITH PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES IN 2023 OVER 2019

TABLE 4 :
Top 10 states with high % of increase

No.	State	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Increase
		1	2	3	4	5	(5-1)/1x100
1	Tamil Nadu	1144	1274	1377	1761	1921	67.9
2	Madhya Pradesh	5300	6899	7214	7733	8232	55.3
3	Odisha	1886	2046	2327	2902	2696	42.9
4	Haryana	1086	1210	1628	1633	1539	41.7
5	Maharashtra	2150	2569	2503	2743	3024	40.7
6	Goa	3	2	4	8	4	33.3
7	Kerala	858	846	948	1050	1128	31.5
8	Uttar Pradesh	11829	12714	13146	15368	15130	27.9
9	Karnataka	1504	1398	1673	1977	1923	27.9
10	Rajasthan	6794	7017	7524	8752	8449	24.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

As understood from the table 3, Between 2019 and 2023 several states reported an alarming surge in caste-based crimes. Among all states Tamil Nadu recorded the highest percentage increase (67.9%), followed by Madhya Pradesh (55.3%), Odisha (42.9%), Haryana (41.7%), and Maharashtra (40.7%).

The inclusion of southern states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka in the top ten list marks a notable shift, revealing that caste-based violence is not confined to the Hindi heartland. These states, often celebrated for their progressive social and developmental indicators, continue to marginalise Dalits, exposing them to persistent discrimination and high levels of caste-based atrocities within their regions. Notably, Tamil Nadu stands out as the only state to record an increase of over 60% of crimes against Dalits surpassing all other states during this period.

Even the central and Eastern Indian states such as Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra recorded over 40% of increase in crimes. Although, Goa records very few cases in absolute numbers, the percentage increase is still significant and must be taken seriously. it reflects a worsening situation, indicating that even small states are not immune to growing caste-based hostility.

2.1 (III) UNION TERRITORIES WITH HIGHEST INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE

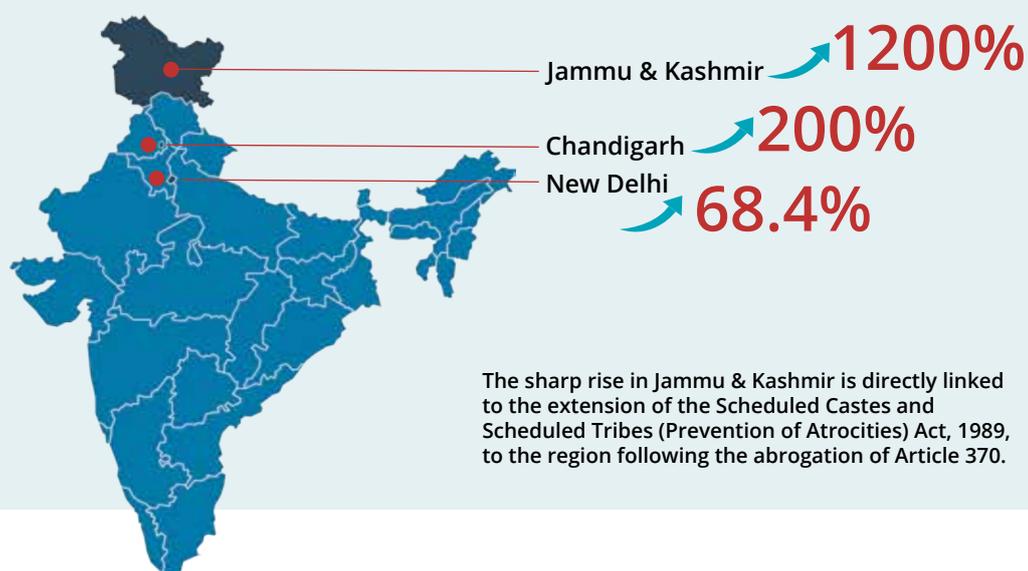
TABLE 5:
Union Territories with Highest Increase in Percentage

No.	State	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Increase
		1	2	3	4	5	(5-1)/1x100
1	Jammu & Kashmir	2	7	13	11	26	1200
2	Chandigarh	1	3	0	4	3	200
3	Delhi	76	69	136	130	128	68.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Union Territories such as Jammu & Kashmir (1200%), Chandigarh (200%), and Delhi (68.4%) have recorded steep increase in crimes against Scheduled Castes between 2019 and 2023. The sharp rise in Jammu & Kashmir is directly linked to the extension of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, to the region following the abrogation of Article 370.

It is significant to note that the national capital, Delhi has witnessed a significant 68.4% increase in caste-based atrocities against Dalits during the same period. This trend underscores that urban and semi-urban spaces are not immune to caste-based discrimination and violence, revealing that caste hierarchies continue to persist even within the country's metropolitan centres.



2.1 (IV) TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs) IN 2023

TABLE 6 :

Top 10 States with Highest Crimes Against SCs in 2023

Rank	Top Ten State with Crime incidents against SCs	Number of Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Caste(s) – 2023	% of share with total crime against SCs (2023)
1.	Uttar Pradesh	15130	26.2
2.	Rajasthan	8449	14.6
3.	Madhya Pradesh	8232	14.2
4.	Bihar	7064	12.2
5.	Maharashtra	3024	5.2
6.	Odisha	2696	4.7
7.	Andhra Pradesh	2027	3.5
8.	Karnataka	1923	3.3
9.	Tamil Nadu	1921	3.3
10.	Telangana	1709	3.0

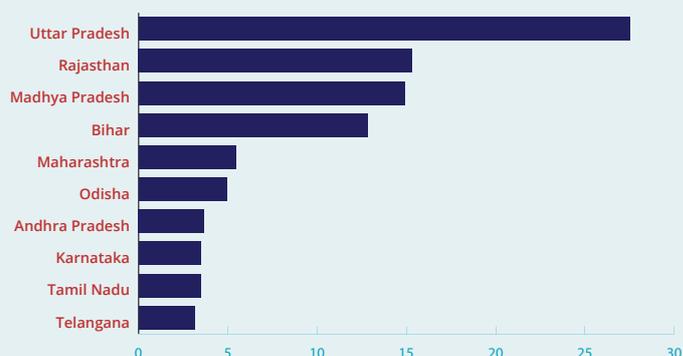
Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

According to the table 3, the ten highest ranking states in terms of reported crimes against scheduled caste together account for 90.3% of all such cases nationwide, highlighting a strong concentration of caste-based violence within these states. This high percentage indicates that Dalits in these states continue to face disproportionately higher risks of atrocities and systemic discrimination.

Among the states Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest number of cases (15,130), contributing to 26.2% of the total crimes against SCs in India. It was followed by Rajasthan (14.6%) and Madhya Pradesh (14.2%), which together represent nearly one-third of all such crimes. Bihar stood fourth with 12.2%, highlighting a consistent trend of high incidence in northern

and central states. In contrast, southern states such as Tamil Nadu (3.3%), Andhra Pradesh (3.5%), and Telangana (3.0%) may seem comparatively lower shares, however these numbers still reflect significant levels of caste-based violence against Dalits.

Top 10 States with Highest Crime Against SCs in 2023



2.1 (V) TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST CRIME RATES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs) IN 2023

TABLE 7 :

Top 10 States with Crime Incidents Against SCs in 2023

Rank	Top Ten States with Crime incidents against SCs	Rate of Crime against SCs in 2023
1.	Madhya Pradesh	72.6
2.	Rajasthan	69.1
3.	Bihar	42.6
4.	Odisha	37.5
5.	Kerala	37.1
6.	Uttar Pradesh	36.6
7.	Gujarat	33.7
8.	Telangana	31.5
9.	Haryana	30.1
10.	Andhra Pradesh	24

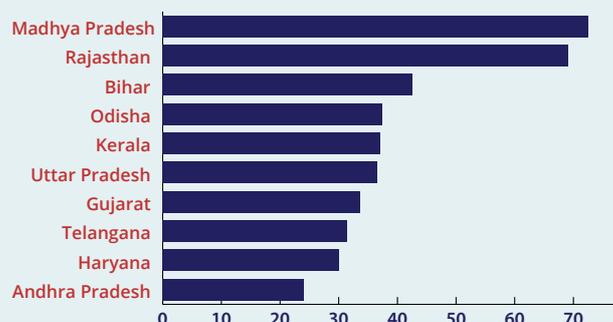
Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The table 7, highlights the rate of crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) provides a deeper understanding of the intensity of caste-based violence relative to the Dalit population in each state. In 2023, Madhya Pradesh (72.6) and Rajasthan (69.1) reported the highest crime rates in the country, highlighting the severe vulnerability of Dalits in these regions. Bihar (42.6) and Odisha (37.5) also record alarmingly high rates.

The inclusion of Kerala (37.1) among the top five states is particularly striking, as the state is rarely discussed in the national discourse on rising atrocities against Dalits. This finding challenges the perception of Kerala as a progressive state, underscoring that caste hierarchies persist even in socially and educationally advanced

regions. It is crucial to note that the number of incidents alone does not capture the complete picture—crime rate provides a more accurate understanding of the extent and intensity of caste-based violence relative to population size.

Top 10 States with Crime Incidents Against SCs in 2023



2.1 (VI) CRIME-HEAD WISE ANALYSIS OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTE

TABLE 8 :

No.	Nature of Crime	Years					% of Increase in 2023 over 2019
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Murder	892	855	967	954	908	1.8
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	781	1119	916	1126	1134	45.2
3	Simple Hurt	13273	16543	15485	18428	18437	38.9
4	Grievous Hurt	1050	1587	1286	1281	1313	25
5	Kidnapping and Abduction	916	847	813	1087	819	-10.6
6	Rioting	1293	1445	1022	972	985	-23.8
7	Robbery	58	56	49	55	63	8.6
8	Dacoity	22	13	19	9	15	-31.8
9	Arson	163	95	161	167	178	9.2
10	Criminal Intimidation	3083	3788	5130	5274	4486	45.5
11	Other IPC crimes	13135	12668	11871	14782	16892	28.6
12	SC / ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act only (Total) (Without IPC)	4129	4273	5269	4703	4345	5.2
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	2011	1819	1851	1735	1706	-15.1
14	Occupy/Disposes Land Belongs to SCs	45	87	56	50	43	-4.4
15	Prevent or deny or obstruct usage of public place/passage	26	34	124	305	180	592.3
16	Force to leave place of Residence/Social Boycott	5	19	18	15	17	240
17	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	2042	2314	3220	2598	2399	17.5
18	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	45922	50268	50879	57569	57766	25.8
19	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	13	23	21	13	23	76.9

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Table 8 provides a disaggregated view of the nature and extent of crimes committed against Scheduled Castes (SCs) between 2019 and 2023. Murder cases have shown fluctuations over the years, but attempts to commit murder have steadily increased, indicating a persistent threat environment. While categories such as murder, kidnapping, and cases registered under the SC/ST (PoA) Act recorded higher numbers in 2022 compared to 2023, this year-to-year dip should not be mistaken for progress. When viewed from the baseline year 2019, all these categories reflect an overall upward trajectory except kidnaps. This breakdown is crucial to understanding not only the volume of cases but also the patterns and forms of violence endured by Dalit communities across India.



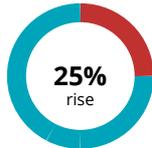
Nearly a century after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Mahad Satyagraha (1927), where Dalits courageously asserted their right to drink water from the public Chavdar Lake in Maharashtra, the irony remains heartbreaking.

As India approaches the 100th-year remembrance of that historic struggle, many Dalits continue to fight for the same basic rights of access and dignity. Despite India's remarkable political, economic, and administrative changes over these decades, the lived reality for millions of Dalits remains confined within an age-old cycle of exclusion, caste-based violence, and notions of purity and pollution that the caste system perpetuates.

The persistence of these crimes reflects the failure of the social and government institutions in ensuring the basic accessibility to Dalits by legal protection as well as breaking the inhumane superstitious beliefs.



Simple Hurt Cases



Grievous Hurt Cases

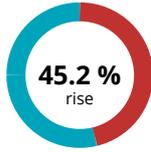
Persistent Physical Violence:

Crimes involving physical assault remain alarmingly high. Simple hurt cases increased from 13,273 in 2019 to 18,437 in 2023, marking a 38.9% rise, while grievous hurt cases rose by 25%. This indicates a continuing trend of physical violence being used as a means of domination, punishment, and enforcement of caste hierarchies.

Rise in Murder and Attempt to Murder Cases:

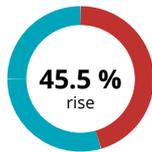


Murder Cases



Attempt to Murder Cases

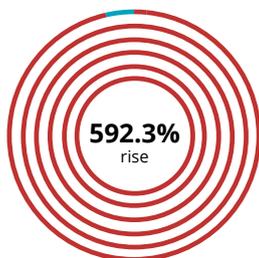
The cases of murder increased marginally by 1.8%, rising to 908 incidents in 2023. Although the percentage change appears small, it represents the loss of 908 Dalit lives—each reflecting the extreme vulnerability of Dalits to fatal caste-based violence. Every such case signifies not just a statistic but the systemic failure to ensure their safety and dignity. Attempt to murder cases recorded a sharp 45.2% increase, pointing to the escalating intensity and brutality of caste conflicts against Dalits.



Criminal intimidation

Crimes of Threat and Intimidation:

Criminal intimidation saw a steep rise of 45.5%, underscoring how caste-based violence often operates through continuous threats, fear, and coercion. Intentionally insulting or humiliating with intent to demean though showing a decline (-15.1%) compare to 2019, continues to be one of the most common everyday caste-based offences based on the registered cases in 2023.



Incidents involving the denial of access to public spaces and passages

Land and Access-Related Atrocities:

While cases of illegal occupation or dispossession of Dalit-owned land show a slight decline of -4.4%, incidents involving the denial of access to public spaces and passages have surged alarmingly by 592.3% — one of the most staggering increases recorded during this period. This sharp rise reveals that, despite decades of constitutional guarantees and social justice movements, Dalits continue to face systemic segregation and restrictions in accessing common resources such as roads, water bodies, and temples.



Cases of social boycott and forced displacement

Social Boycott and Forced Displacement:

Cases of social boycott and forced displacement increased by 240%, indicating that caste-based ostracism though often invisible in mainstream narratives remains a potent weapon of social control in rural areas. Some categories like kidnapping and abduction (-10.6%), rioting (-23.8%), and dacoity (-31.8%) show a numerical decline. However, this should not be misinterpreted as progress; rather, it reflects shifts in the form of caste-based aggression.

Among the crime heads, 'Other IPC crimes registered with SC/ST Act' (16,892 cases, showing a 28.6% rise) and 'Other offences under the SC/ST (PoA) Act' only (2,399 cases, a 17.5% increase) both recorded high incident numbers and notable growth. However, the lack of disaggregated data within these broad categories prevents a deeper understanding of the actual nature and context of these offences. This limitation not only restricts civil society organizations from effectively advocating for justice but also constrains the government from designing targeted administrative or policy interventions based on the specific types of crimes committed.

2.1 (VII) CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

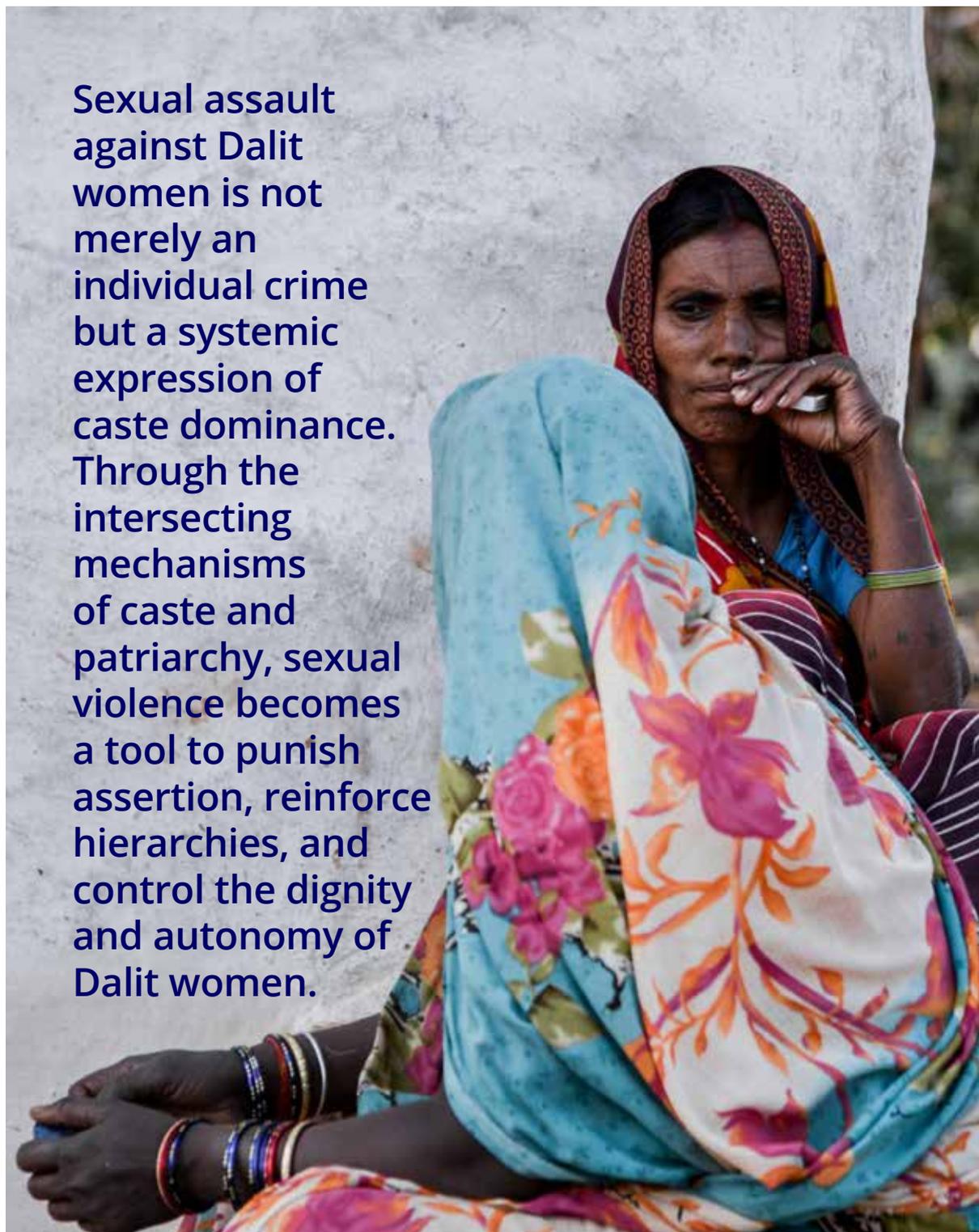
TABLE 9 :
Crimes Against Scheduled Caste Women and Children

Crime Head	Year					% of Increase in 2023
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty (Adults + Children)	3375	3373	3764	4160	3716	10.1
Assault on Women	2946	3037	3214	3439	3069	4.2
Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	1791	1870	1957	2123	1897	5.9
Sexual Harassment	676	613	673	760	645	-4.6
Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	266	267	336	312	257	-3.4
Voyeurism	18	66	32	32	25	38.9
Stalking	195	221	216	212	245	25.6
B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	429	336	550	721	647	50.8
Insult to the Modesty of Women	143	144	157	226	197	37.8
Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped	79	68	64	215	59	-25.3
Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	357	394	309	408	314	-12.0
Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec. 366A IPC)	25	24	21	24	24	-4
Rape (Total)	3486	3372	3870	4241	4214	20.9
Rape of Women	2369	2317	2585	2835	2835	19.7
Rape of children	1117	1055	1285	1406	1379	23.5
Attempt Commit to Rape	124	90	100	104	64	-48.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

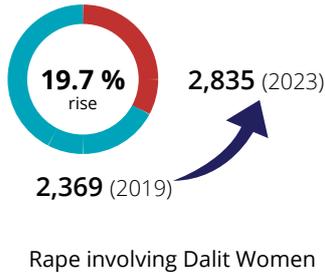
The 2023 data expose a deeply troubling surge in gender-based violence, underscoring how Dalit women and girl children continue to remain among the most unsafe and unprotected groups in India. The intersectionality of caste, gender, and socioeconomic marginalization pushes Dalit women and girls into heightened vulnerability.

Sexual assault against Dalit women is not merely an individual crime but a systemic expression of caste dominance. Through the intersecting mechanisms of caste and patriarchy, sexual violence becomes a tool to punish assertion, reinforce hierarchies, and control the dignity and autonomy of Dalit women.



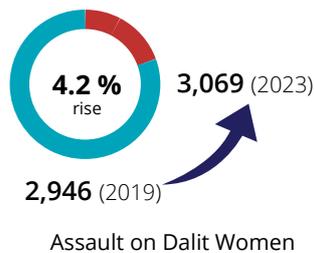
Crimes Against Dalit Women

The five-year trend clearly shows that Dalit women continue to face persistent and systemic violence rooted in the intersection of caste and patriarchy. Although some categories show a slight dip in 2023 compared to 2022, the long-term pattern reveals a continued rise from the 2019 baseline.



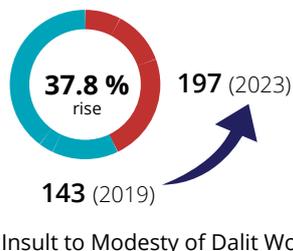
Cases of Rape Involving Dalit Women

The total number of rape cases involving Dalit women increased from 2,369 in 2019 to 2,835 in 2023, reflecting a 19.7% rise. This upward trend indicates a deepening vulnerability of Dalit women in both private and public spheres.



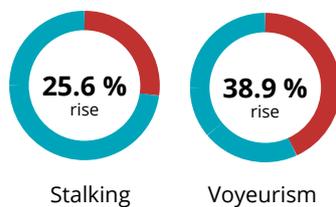
Assault on Dalit Women

Assault on women with intent to outrage modesty, which includes adults and children, rose from 3,375 cases in 2019 to 3,716 in 2023—a 10.1% increase. Assault on Dalit women alone rose from 2,946 cases to 3,069 at a 4.2% increase.



Insult to Modesty of Dalit Women

Crimes involving insult to modesty of Dalit Women surged sharply, from 143 cases in 2019 to 197 in 2023, a 37.8% increase, reflecting the daily humiliation Dalit women face in social, public, and institutional contexts.



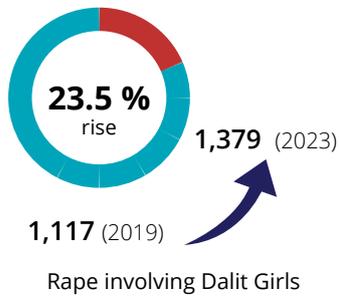
Stalking and Voyeurism:

Stalking (25.6%) and voyeurism (38.9%) also show worrying increases, signalling expanding forms of surveillance, intimidation, and control over Dalit women's mobility and dignity.

These small declines likely reflect barriers to reporting, social stigma, and inadequate police response rather than an actual reduction in violence.

Crimes Against Dalit Children / Girls

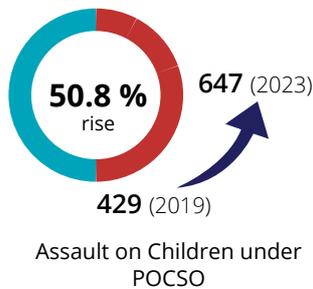
The data indicate an even more alarming trend when it comes to crimes against Dalit children, particularly Dalit girls.



Cases of Rape Involving Dalit Girls

The number of rapes against Dalit girls increased from 1,117 in 2019 to 1,379 in 2023, amounting to a 23.5% rise, a sharper increase than among adult women.

In 2023 alone, **32.7% of all rape survivors were Dalit girls**, meaning that **nearly one in three rape survivors is a child**.



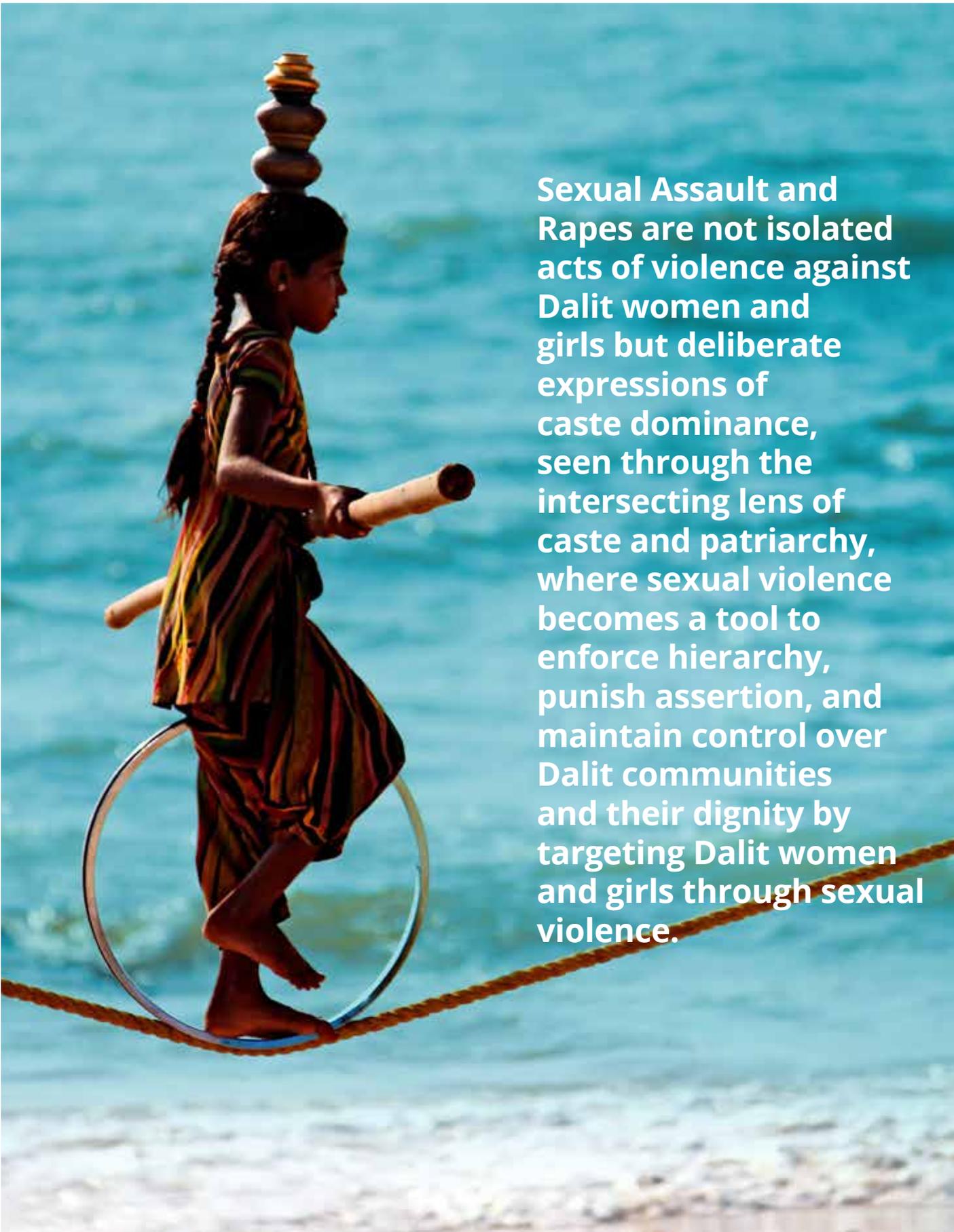
Crimes under POCSO Act

Crimes under the POCSO Act show some of the steepest increases of all categories. Assault of children under POCSO grew from 429 cases in 2019 to 647 in 2023, a 50.8% rise, highlighting the heightened vulnerability of Dalit minors to sexual assault.

Some categories of crimes against Dalit girls show reductions such as missing children deemed kidnapped (25.3%) and procurement of minor girls (4%) and against Dalit women such as sexual harassment (4.6%) and assault with intent to disrobe (3.4%) compared to the base year. It must not be misinterpreted as improvements. Rather, it signals the deep-rooted social stigma Dalit women and girls face, combined with the apathy of police administration in recording and addressing such crimes as preventive measures. These patterns point to a serious issue of underreporting, fear of retaliation, and erosion of institutional trust, leaving Dalit survivors with limited access to justice and safety.

Critical Note on NCRB's Categorization of Gender Stereotypical

It is important to note that the table above does not fully capture the extent of atrocities committed against Dalit women and girls. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) provides disaggregated data only under certain gender-stereotyped crime heads, which can be misleading. This limited categorization may create the impression that atrocities against Dalit women and girls occur only within these specific categories. To gain a more accurate and holistic understanding of caste- and gender-based violence, disaggregated data should be provided across all crime heads. Such comprehensive data would enable a more nuanced analysis of crime trends and facilitate the formulation of targeted policy and administrative interventions to address systemic violence and discrimination against Dalit women and girls effectively.

A young girl in a striped sari is walking on a tightrope. She has several pots balanced on her head and is holding a wooden staff. The background is a blue body of water. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Sexual Assault and Rapes are not isolated acts of violence against Dalit women and girls but deliberate expressions of caste dominance, seen through the intersecting lens of caste and patriarchy, where sexual violence becomes a tool to enforce hierarchy, punish assertion, and maintain control over Dalit communities and their dignity by targeting Dalit women and girls through sexual violence.

2.1 (VIII) INCREASE OF BRUTAL CRIMES AGAINST DALITS OVER FIVE YEARS

TABLE 10:
Increase Of Brutal Crimes Against Dalits Over Five Years

Years	Rape	Rape of Women	Rape of Children	Murder	Attempt to Murder	Assault on Women with an intent to outrage her modesty (Women + Children)
2019	3486	2369	1117	892	780	3375
2020	3372	2317	1055	855	1119	3373
2021	3870	2585	1285	967	916	3764
2022	4241	2835	1406	954	1126	4160
2023	4214	2835	1379	908	1134	3716
Total	19183	12941	6242	4576	5075	18388

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The data over the last five years (2019-2023) reveals an increase in persistent pattern of serious brutal crimes committed against Dalits, particularly against women and children. Between 2019 and 2023, a total of 19,183 rape cases were registered against Dalits, of which 12,941 involved Dalit women and 6,242 involved Dalit children. The overall trajectory since 2019 shows a significant escalation of violent crimes, including murders (4,576 cases), attempt to murder (5,075 cases), and Assault on Women and Children (18,388 cases). The data not only highlights the continuing vulnerability of Dalit communities, but also exposes the shortcomings of preventive and protective mechanisms of constitutional and legal mandate. The persistence of such crimes calls for urgent administrative accountability and robust institutional monitoring.





TRENDS

According to 2023 data, on average,

12 DALIT WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE RAPED EVERY DAY IN INDIA — MEANING 1 DALIT WOMAN OR GIRL IS RAPED EVERY TWO HOURS.

Specifically

EVERY DAY 8 DALIT WOMEN AND 4 DALIT GIRLS ARE RAPED IN INDIA.

On Average

2 – 3 DALITS ARE MURDERED EVERY SINGLE DAY

EVERY SINGLE DAY, MURDER IS ATTEMPTED ON AT LEAST 3 DALIT INDIVIDUALS

EVERY DAY, 10 DALIT WOMEN INCLUDING CHILDREN ARE ASSAULTED TO OUTRAGE THEIR MODESTY IN INDIA

2.2 POLICE RESPONSE TO THE ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEUDLED CASTES

2.2 (I) POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND SYSTEMIC GAPS IN ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES

For Dalit survivors of caste atrocities, the struggle for justice often begins the moment they step into a police station. Instead of being treated with dignity, many face disbelief, intimidation, or outright dismissal of their complaints. The very institution meant to protect them frequently becomes a site of secondary victimization. Police officers, often influenced by caste prejudice and local power dynamics, tend to delay filing FIRs, dilute charges, or discourage survivors from pursuing cases. This entrenched bias not only erodes faith in the justice system but also reinforces the sense of impunity enjoyed by dominant caste perpetrators.

TABLE 11

Year	Total No. of cases for investigation including pending cases from previous years	Final report without proceeding for charge-sheeting	Charge sheet submitted including cases from PY	Charge sheeting Rate (%)	Total cases disposed off	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	62195	9459	34745	78.5	44236	17864
2020	68456	9376	39138	80.6	48560	19825
2021	70818	10414	41724	80.0	52173	18569
2022	76489	11437	45827	79.9	57329	19090
2023	76940	11326	48889	81.2	60380	16454

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

THE NUMBER OF CASES PENDING INVESTIGATION REMAINS ALARMINGLY HIGH, WITH 16,454 CASES STILL UNRESOLVED IN 2023

The data shown in the table between 2019 and 2023 reflects this deep-seated institutional apathy. While the charge sheeting rate has shown a marginal rise from 78.5% in 2019 to 81.2% in 2023, the number of cases pending investigation remains alarmingly high, with 16,454 cases still unresolved in 2023. Which violates the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Rule 7(2) which says 'The investigating officer so appointed under sub-rule (1) shall complete the investigation on top priority basis within thirty days and submit the report to the Superintendent of Police who in turn will immediately forward the report to the Director-General of Police of the State Government.'

Final report includes Cases Ended as FR Non-Cognizable, Cases Ended as Final Report False, Cases Ended as Mistake of Fact or of Law or Civil Dispute, Cases Ended as Mistake of Fact or of Law or Civil Dispute, Cases Abated during Investigation, all cases which are not reaching the charge

sheet stage. From the above table it is understood that number of cases ending in the final report has been increasing every year. In 2023 alone it recorded 11326 cases ending in final report, which does not represent the genuine classification but influence of investigating authorities in diluting the cases. Behind each such closure is a story of pressure, fear, and silence forced upon Dalit victims and their families.

The charge sheeting rate which is calculated against total cases disposed by the police show only a marginal improvement over five years, increasing from 78.5% in 2019 to 81.2% in 2023.

At the same time, the number of cases pending investigation continues to remain disturbingly high. Although in the year 2023 it has marginally reduced from the previous years, still 16,454 cases are alarming number that are still awaiting investigation.

2.2 (II) TOP 10 STATES/UTs WITH LOW CHARGE-SHEETING RATE IN CRIMES AGAINST SCs (2023)

As per the table 12, in the year 2023 Tripura stands out with a 0% charge-sheeting rate in the crimes against Scheduled Castes, indicating that none of the registered cases progressed to formal prosecution. Assam (11.8%) and Chandigarh (33.3%) also reflect extremely poor on charge-sheet rates.

Being a major state, Rajasthan (44.4%) raises significant concern as its charge-sheeting rate remains among the lowest compared to other states and UTs listed in the table. Other states such as Jharkhand (46.8%), Haryana (52.7%), and Jammu & Kashmir (58.8%) indicate that a substantial number of cases failed to reach the charge-sheet stage. Himachal Pradesh (61%) shows only a marginal improvement, while Punjab (71.1%) and Uttarakhand (71.6%) exceed 70%, yet still leave a noteworthy proportion of cases uncharged, reflecting persistent gaps in police accountability and responsiveness.

This data highlights a troubling reluctance of police departments to act decisively, often reflecting caste-based biases and influence that disadvantage the Dalit caste-based atrocity survivors.

TABLE 12 :

Top 10 States/UTs With Low Charge-Sheeting Rate In Crimes Against SCs (2023)

Rank	Name of the State	Charge-sheeting % in 2023
1.	Tripura	0
2.	Assam	11.8
3.	Chandigarh	33.3
4.	Rajasthan	44.4
5.	Jharkhand	46.8
6.	Haryana	52.7
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	58.8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	61
9.	Punjab	71.1
10.	Uttarakhand	71.6

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

2.3 COURT RESPONSE TO THE ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES 2019-2023

2.3 (I) JUDICIAL DELAYS AND PENDENCY IN DALIT ATROCITY CASES

The Constitution of India and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, were framed to provide strong legal safeguards to protect Dalits from caste-based discrimination and violence. However, the implementation of these safeguards continues to face systemic challenges, particularly within the justice delivery system. Between 2019 and 2023, the number of atrocity-related cases pending before courts increased sharply from 2,04,191 to 3,32,606, reflecting a mounting backlog that severely undermines timely justice to Dalit Survivors. This rise indicates not only a higher reporting of caste-based crimes but also the inability of the judicial system of India

While 20,297 trials were completed in 2023, over 93.8 % (3,11,986) of cases remained pending at the end of the year. This persistent backlog reflects the structural bottlenecks in the judiciary such as inadequate exclusive special courts, delayed trial processes, and lack of prioritization of atrocity cases under the SC/ST Act. Such delays can discourage victims and witnesses, indirectly leading to compromised justice for Dalit survivors of violence.

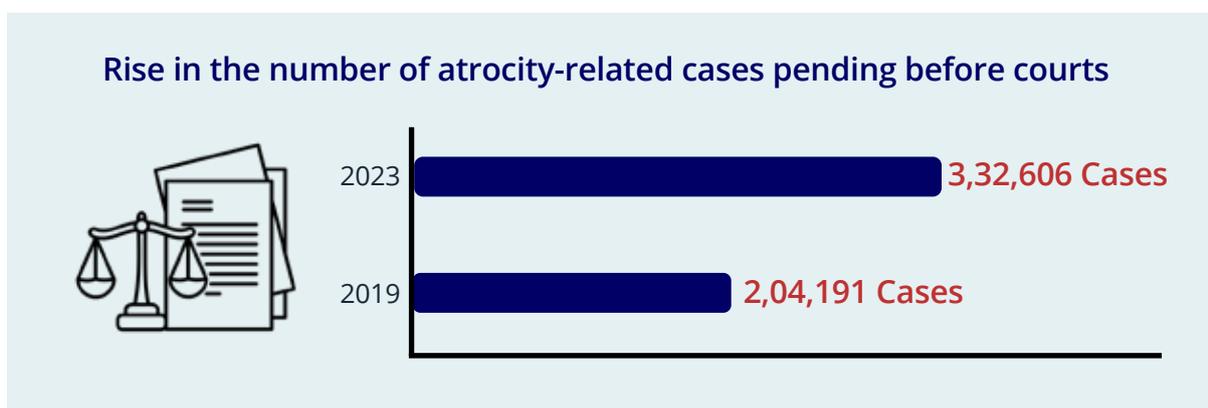


TABLE 13

Judicial Delays and Pendency in Dalit Atrocity Cases

Year	Total number of cases including pending and brought forward cases	Cases in which trials were completed	Number of cases ending in conviction out of cases previous years	Number of cases ending in conviction out of cases during the year	Total convicted cases	Number of cases disposed off without Trial	Number of cases ending in acquittal	Number of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	204191	12498	3622	385	4007	245	7430	191448
2020	230653	7637	2869	372	3241	37	3778	222979
2021	264698	10120	3254	386	3640	103	5788	254475
2022	300303	16538	4930	699	5629	176	10214	283589
2023	332606	20297	6089	385	6474	323	12809	311986

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

2.3 (II) LOW CONVICTION AND HIGH ACQUITTAL - SC

Alongside the delay in trials, the conviction trends in atrocity cases remain consistently low, raising serious concerns about the effectiveness of justice delivery for Dalit victims. In 2019, out of 12,498 trials completed, only 4,007 resulted in conviction, marking a conviction rate of around 32.1%. By 2023, though the number of completed trials had risen to 20,297, convictions were 6,474, showing 31.9% of conviction rate indicating lesser conviction. Across all five years, the number of cases that resulted in convictions within the same year of registration is consistently low. During the same period, acquittals increased alarmingly from 7,430 in 2019 to 12,809 in 2023.

Conviction rates have steadily declined from 32.1% in 2019 to 31.9% in 2023, while acquittal rates have risen from 59.4% to 63.1% during the same period. This widening gap between conviction and acquittal reflects the weakness of the justice delivery process at multiple levels from investigation and evidence gathering to prosecution and judicial scrutiny.

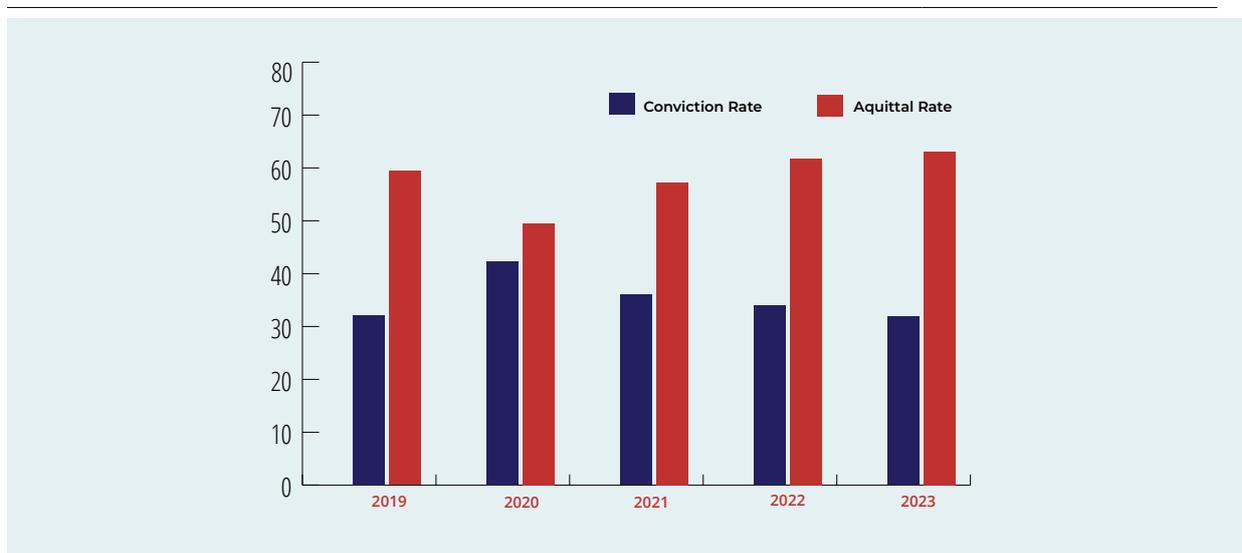
The pendency rate is alarmingly high across all five years, with the minimum pendency rate recorded as 93.8% indicating that most atrocity cases remain unresolved each year waiting for justice. For Dalit survivors, this is not merely a matter of numbers it translates to years of waiting, social pressure, and an enduring sense of injustice.

TABLE 14

Judicial Delays and Pendency in Dalit Atrocity Cases

Year	Conviction Rate to the number of cases trials completed	Acquittal Rate to the total number of cases completed trail	Pendency Rate
2019	32.1	59.4	93.8
2020	42.4	49.5	96.7
2021	36.0	57.2	96.1
2022	34	61.8	94.4
2023	31.9	63.1	93.8

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023



2.3 (III) CONVICTED AND ACQUITTED RATES OF SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST SCs 2023

The 2023 data on serious crimes against Scheduled Castes highlights a stark disparity between convictions and acquittals across all major crime heads, reflecting systemic challenges in delivering justice to Dalit communities.

For rape cases, only 30.5% resulted in convictions, while 64.4% ended in acquittals, indicating that the majority of perpetrators were not held accountable. This leaves Dalit women and girls vulnerable to lifelong trauma and allows caste-dominant offenders to escape from punishment

Rape of women had a conviction rate of 33.2%, yet nearly 60% of cases still resulted in acquittal. The situation is more alarming in the case of rape of children, where convictions accounted for just 25.6% of cases, while 72.2% ended in acquittal,

demonstrating the extreme vulnerability of child survivors and the systemic difficulties even in prosecuting serious sexual crimes.

Murder cases showed a conviction rate of 48.8%, with 47.6% of cases ending in acquittal, almost half of the perpetrators are sent free unpunished. Attempted murder convictions were even lower at 21.5%, with 74.3% acquittals, highlighting significant gaps in investigation and prosecution. Assault on women cases resulted in only 23.2% convictions and 69.5% acquittals, while assaults on children had a conviction rate of 31.9% and an acquittal rate of 65.1%.

The pendency rates for serious crimes against SCs in 2023 are exceptionally high ranging from 90% to 95% across all major crime heads revealing a judiciary overwhelmed by delays and inadequate case disposal. Crimes such as attempted murder (94.6%), murder (93.3%), rape of women (93.1%), and rape of children (90.4%) remain stuck in the system for extended periods, often for years.

Overall, the data shows that despite serious and violent crimes, a majority of cases against Scheduled Castes do not lead to convictions. The combination of high acquittal rates and extremely high pendency reinforces systemic fear, discourages reporting of future crimes, and allows caste-dominant offenders to act with impunity, perpetuating cycles of violence and social marginalization.

TABLE 15
Convicted and Acquitted Rates of Serious Crimes Against SCs 2023

Crime Heads	Conviction rate in 2023	Acquittal Rate in 2023	Pendency rate in 2023
Rape	30.5	64.4	92.3
Rape of Women	33.2	59.9	93.1
Rape of Children	25.6	72.2	90.4
Murder	48.8	47.6	93.3
Attempt to Murder	21.5	74.3	94.6
Assault on Women	23.2	69.5	93.5
Assault on Children	31.9	65.1	91.0

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2023

Chapter 3

CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES (2019–2023)



CRIME AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES 2019-2023



SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs) CONSTITUTE 8.6% OF THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL POPULATION, REPRESENTING SOME OF THE MOST MARGINALIZED AND HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES IN INDIA.

As per the Census of India 2011², the Scheduled Tribes (STs) constitute 8.6% of the country's total population, representing some of the most marginalized and historically excluded communities in India. Despite the existence of constitutional safeguards and specific legal protections under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Adivasi and tribal populations continue to face systemic violence, discrimination, and exclusion on account of their indigenous and cultural identity.

These communities often experience multiple and intersecting forms of oppression, rooted in land alienation, forced displacement, and exploitation under the guise of developmental projects. The violence directed against them reflects not only social prejudice but also economic and political marginalization that threatens their collective survival, autonomy, and access to justice.

The following section analyses the trends of caste-based crimes committed against Scheduled Tribes between 2019 to 2023

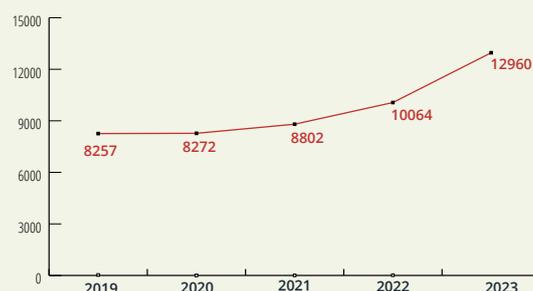
²<https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/data/population-finder>

3.1 THE EXTENT OF CASTE BASED CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES: 2019-2023

The trend of caste-based crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) between 2019 and 2023 reveals a distressing picture of continuing violence and social exclusion faced by Adivasi communities in India. In 2019, a total of 8,257 cases were registered, marking a 26.5% increase from 6,528 cases in 2018. While the year 2020 shows a comparatively minimal rise of 0.2 %, this period coincided with the pandemic lockdowns. therefore, the decline does not reflect a real reduction in crimes but rather a phase of underreporting and administrative inaction, when many survivors were unable to file complaints or seek justice.

The following years witnessed a renewed and steady escalation 8,802 cases in 2021, 10,064 in 2022, and 12,960 in 2023 showing an alarming upward trend, with a 28.8% increase in 2023 compared to the previous year. Altogether, 48,355 cases of caste-based crimes against Scheduled Tribes were registered during the five-year period, indicating a persistent and deepening pattern of violence.

Escalation in Caste Based Crimes Committed Against Scheduled Tribes (2019-23)



48,355 cases of caste-based crimes against Scheduled Tribes registered in five years indicates a persistent and deepening pattern of violence.

TABLE 16

Extent of Caste Based Crimes Committed Against Scheduled Tribes

Year	Number registered of Caste Based Crimes committed Against Scheduled Tribes	% of Increase of year on Year
2019	8257	26.5
2020	8272	0.2
2021	8802	6.4
2022	10064	14.3
2023	12960	28.8
Total	48355	

Note: In the year 2018, 6528 cases were reported.

As per the Crime in India 2023 data, on average, **36 CRIMES ARE COMMITTED EVERY DAY AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES IN INDIA**

THIS MEANS THAT EVERY SINGLE HOUR, BETWEEN ONE AND TWO CRIMES ARE COMMITTED AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES, REFLECTING THE ALARMING FREQUENCY AND PERSISTENCE OF VIOLENCE FACED BY ADIVASI COMMUNITIES



TABLE 17 :

State-Wise Report Of Atrocities Against Scheduled Tribes (Sts): Crime In India- 2023

No.	Name of the State	Years					% increase of crime in 2023 over 2019	Rate of Total crimes in 2023
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1	Andhra Pradesh	330	320	361	396	361	9.4	13.7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0	0	-	0
3	Assam	4	10	16	9	2	-50	0.1
4	Bihar	97	94	103	146	114	17.5	8.5
5	Chhattisgarh	427	502	506	516	336	-21.3	4.3
6	Goa	2	2	5	1	2	0	1.3
7	Gujarat	321	291	341	330	307	-4.4	3.4
8	Haryana	1	0	0	0	0	-100	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	7	4	7	600	1.8
10	Jharkhand	342	347	250	283	308	-9.9	3.6
11	Karnataka	327	293	361	438	434	32.7	10.2
12	Kerala	140	130	133	172	185	32.1	38.2
13	Madhya Pradesh	1922	2401	2627	2979	2858	48.7	18.7
14	Maharashtra	559	663	628	742	773	38.3	7.4
15	Manipur	2	2	0	1	3399	169850	291.3
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
17	Mizoram	8	0	0	29	21	162.5	2
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
19	Odisha	576	624	676	773	662	14.9	6.9
20	Punjab	1	4	0	0	0	-100	-
21	Rajasthan	1797	1878	2121	2521	2453	36.5	26.6
22	Sikkim	2	0	1	4	2	0	1
23	Tamil Nadu	31	23	39	67	48	54.8	6
24	Telangana	530	573	512	545	575	8.5	17.5
25	Tripura	2	2	0	3	9	350	0.8
26	Uttar Pradesh	721	3	4	5	6	-99.2	0.5
27	Uttarakhand	8	13	6	1	2	-75	0.7
28	West Bengal	101	90	92	90	90	-10.9	1.7
Total State(s)		8252	8268	8790	10055	12954	57.0	12.6

TABLE 17 : CONTINUED

State-Wise Report Of Atrocities Against Scheduled Tribes (Sts): Crime In India- 2023

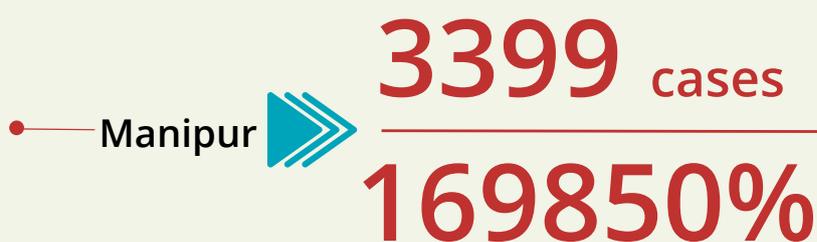
No.	Name of the State	Year wise - Number of Crime against SCs					% increase of crime in 2023 over 2019	Rate of Total crimes in 2023
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1	A&N Islands	3	2		3	2	-33.3	7
2	Chandigarh	0	0	3	0	0	-	-
3	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	5	2	-	1
4	Delhi	2	1	3	0	2	0	-
5	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	5	1	0	-	0
6	Ladakh	0	0	1	0	0	-	0
7	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	-	0
8	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
	Total UT(s)	5	4	12	9	6	20	0.3
	Total All over India	8257	8272	8802	10064	12960	57.0	12.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The comparative crime data as given in the table 17 from 2019 – 2023 against Scheduled tribes, shows a significant escalation over the past five years. In 2019, a total of 8,257 cases were registered, which increased to 12,960 cases in 2023, marking a 56.9% rise in crimes against Scheduled Tribes across the country. While several states recorded their highest number of cases in 2022, the national tally for 2023 still surpassed all previous years, reaching a new peak of 12,960 cases.

This shows that, despite year-to-year variations within individual states, the broader national trend shows a worsening situation for ST communities. In 2023, the national crime rate against STs stood at 12.4 per one lakh ST population, further underscoring the growing frequency of the crimes.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

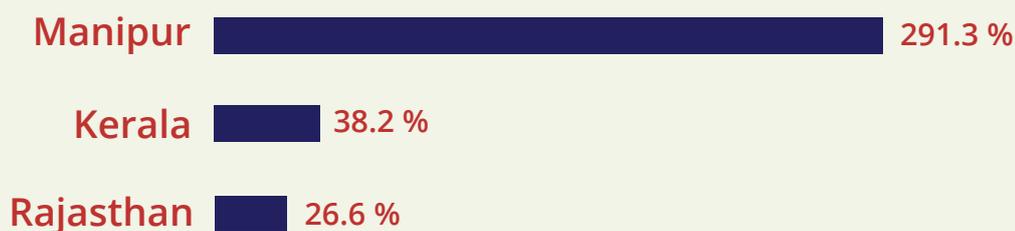


increase in crime against STs directly linked to the ethnic and communal conflict that took place between Meitei and Kuki-zo communities in the state during the period.

States with highest number of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes in 2023



States with highest rate of crimes against Scheduled Tribes per one lakh ST population



This data underscores a deep regional concentration of crimes and violence faced by Adivasi communities across states.

Several states and UTs reported lesser cases, which may not necessarily reflect the absence of crimes but rather underreporting, lack of awareness, or weak access to justice systems in tribal regions.

3.1 (II) TOP 10 STATES PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OF CRIME AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES IN 2023 OVER 2019

The data in Table 18 reveals a sharp escalation of caste-based crimes against Scheduled Tribes across multiple Indian states between 2019 and 2023. Manipur stands out alarmingly, with cases rising from 2 in 2019 to 3,399 in 2023, marking an unprecedented 169850% increase, the highest in the country.

TABLE 18:
Caste-based Crimes Against Scheduled Tribes Across Multiple Indian States between 2019 and 2023

No.	Name of the State	Years					% increase
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
		1	2	3	4	5	(2-1)/1x100
1	Manipur	2	2	0	1	3399	169850
2	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	7	4	7	600
3	Tripura	2	2	0	3	9	350
4	Mizoram	8	0	0	29	21	162.5
5	Tamil Nadu	31	23	39	67	48	54.8
6	Madhya Pradesh	1922	2401	2627	2979	2858	48.7
7	Maharashtra	559	663	628	742	773	38.3
8	Rajasthan	1797	1878	2121	2521	2453	36.5
9	Karnataka	327	293	361	438	434	32.7
10	Kerala	140	130	133	172	185	32.1

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Although the absolute number of reported cases remains comparatively lower in Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Mizoram, the percentage increase in these states is a cause for serious concern. Himachal Pradesh witnessed a 600% rise (from 1 case in 2019 to 7 in 2023), Tripura saw a 350% increase (from 2 to 9 cases), and Mizoram recorded a 162.5% rise (from 8 to 21 cases).

Among the larger states, Tamil Nadu (54.8%), Madhya Pradesh (48.7%), Maharashtra (38.3%), Rajasthan (36.5%), Karnataka (32.7%), and Kerala (32.1%) witnessed a steady rise in atrocities, indicating that caste- and ethnicity-based violence against Adivasis has become a national pattern. Notably, these same states also feature among the top states showing an increase in crimes against Scheduled Castes, reflecting entrenched systems of caste-based discrimination and social hierarchies in these states.

3.1 (III) TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs)

TABLE 19:

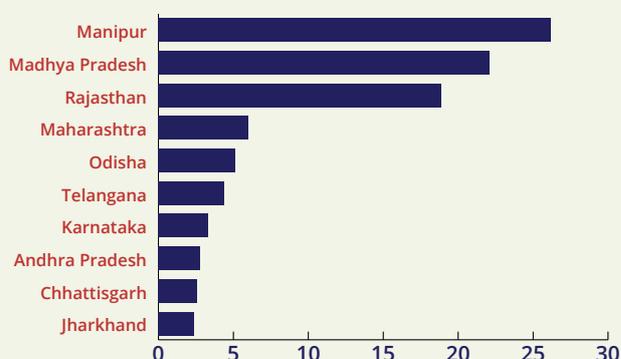
Top 10 States with the Highest Crimes Against Scheduled Tribes (STs)

Rank	Top Ten State with Crime incidents against STs	Number of Crime/ Atrocities against Scheduled Tribe(s) – 2023	% of share with total crime against SCs (2023)
1.	Manipur	3399	26.2
2.	Madhya Pradesh	2858	22.1
3.	Rajasthan	2453	18.9
4.	Maharashtra	773	6.0
5.	Odisha	662	5.1
6.	Telangana	575	4.4
7.	Karnataka	434	3.3
8.	Andhra Pradesh	361	2.8
9.	Chhattisgarh	336	2.6
10.	Jharkhand	308	2.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The data in Table 19 reveals that the top ten states together account for 12,159 cases, representing a significant 93.8% of the total crimes reported against Scheduled Tribes in India in 2023. Manipur (26.2%), Madhya Pradesh (22.1%), and Rajasthan (18.9%) alone contribute nearly two-thirds of the total cases, indicating an alarming concentration of violence against Adivasi communities in these states. While Maharashtra (6.0%), Odisha (5.1%), Telangana (4.4%), Karnataka (3.3%), Andhra Pradesh (2.8%), Chhattisgarh (2.6%), and Jharkhand (2.4%) also place themselves in the top states with crimes against Scheduled Tribes.

Top 10 States with the Highest Crimes Against Scheduled Tribes



3.1 (IV) TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST CRIME RATES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs) IN 2023

The data in Table 20 reveals stark regional disparities in the intensity of crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) across India. Manipur (291.3) with an exceptionally high rate of crimes per one lakh ST population, emerges as an alarming outlier that points to severe ethnic tensions and systemic violence in the state. It is followed by Kerala (38.2) and Rajasthan (26.6), showing high rates indicating deep-seated social vulnerabilities.

Among the larger states, Madhya Pradesh (18.7), Telangana (17.5), and Andhra Pradesh (13.7) continue to record significant rates of atrocities, suggesting persistent patterns of discrimination and marginalization. Meanwhile, Karnataka (10.2), Bihar (8.5), Maharashtra (7.4), and Odisha (6.9), collectively reflect that crimes against Adivasi communities are not geographically confined but are spread across all regions of the country.

TABLE 20:

Top 10 States with the Highest Crimes Against Scheduled Tribes (STs) in 2023

Rank	Top Ten State with Crime incidents against STs	Rate of Crime against STs in 2023	% of share with total crime against SCs (2023)
1.	Manipur	291.3	26.2
2.	Kerala	38.2	22.1
3.	Rajasthan	26.6	18.9
4.	Madhya Pradesh	18.7	6.0
5.	Telangana	17.5	5.1
6.	Andhra Pradesh	13.7	4.4
7.	Karnataka	10.2	3.3
8.	Bihar	8.5	2.8
9.	Maharashtra	7.4	2.6
10.	Odisha	6.9	2.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

3.1 (V) CRIME-HEAD WISE ANALYSIS OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES 2019-2023

TABLE 21:

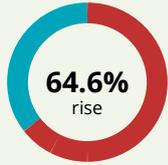
Caste-based Crimes against Scheduled Tribes across multiple Indian states between 2019 and 2023

No.	Nature of Crime	Years					% increase
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Murder	182	172	199	217	176	-3.3
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	137	144	148	258	208	51.8
3	Simple Hurt	1675	2247	2358	2826	2757	64.6
4	Grievous Hurt	112	125	114	155	161	43.8
5	Kidnapping and Abduction	153	148	134	140	165	7.8
6	Rioting	168	197	145	163	1707	916.1
7	Robbery	11	16	10	21	13	18.2
8	Dacoity	6	2	5	8	261	4250
9	Arson	27	12	14	16	1070	3863
10	Criminal Intimidation	565	409	817	567	512	-9.4
11	Other IPC crimes	2744	2348	2272	2915	2892	5.4
12	SC / ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act only (Total) (Without IPC)	439	379	324	329	848	93.2
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	129	118	91	130	337	161.2
14	Occupy/Disposes Land Belongs to SCs	26	33	37	41	221	750
15	Prevent or deny or obstruct usage of public place/passage	1	1	1	1	0	-100
16	Force to leave place of Residence/ Social Boycott	34	28	24	19	116	241.2
17	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	249	199	171	138	174	-30.1
18	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	8254	8270	8799	10064	12959	57
19	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	3	2	3	0	1	-66.7

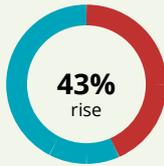
Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Table 21 provides crime head breakdown for the five years that helps in understanding not only the numerical rise in atrocities but also the shifting patterns and structural forms of violence that continue to target Adivasi communities across India.

Persistent Physical Violence:



Simple Hurt Cases



Grievous Hurt Cases

Physical assaults continue to be among the most common and brutal forms of violence faced by Adivasis. Cases of simple hurt increased from 1,675 in 2019 to 2,757 in 2023, recording a 64.6% rise, while grievous hurt rose by 43.8% during the same period. These figures highlight the ongoing use of direct physical violence as a means of control and retaliation against Adivasis.



916.1%
Rioting



Collective and Organized Violence:

Crimes such as rioting and arson witnessed a deep surge 916.1% (168 to 1707) and 3,863% (27 to 1070) respectively reflecting a disturbing trend of collective, organized violence against tribal communities. Likewise, dacoity has alarming increased by 4,250%, indicating that mob-led or group-based attacks are replacing isolated incidents. These forms of violence often emerge in contexts of land conflicts, displacement, and resistance to mining or forest projects, where Adivasi assertion meets systemic backlash.



3,863%
Arson



Dignity and Humiliation-Based Offences:



161.2%
Insulting or
Intimidating



Crimes directly aimed at undermining dignity such as intentionally insulting or intimidating with intent to humiliate increased by 161.2%.

This highlights the persistence of deep-seated social prejudices and everyday caste- and ethnicity-based discrimination against Adivasis, even beyond the realm of physical violence. Such offences often go unnoticed in mainstream discussions but continue to shape the lived realities of tribal communities across the country



750%

Illegal occupation
or dispossession
of land



Land Dispossession and Livelihood Insecurity:

Cases of illegal occupation or dispossession of land belonging to Scheduled Tribes increased dramatically by 750%, from 26 cases in 2019 to 221 in 2023.

This alarming rise exposes the ongoing marginalization of Adivasi communities in matters of land ownership and access. Given that land and forest resources are central to tribal identity and survival, such dispossessions represent not merely economic exploitation but also an attack on their cultural existence and collective autonomy.



241%

Forced
displacement
and social
boycott



Social Boycott and Forced Displacement:

Incidents of forced displacement and social boycott rose by 241.2%, underscoring that exclusionary practices remain entrenched even in tribal regions. Such forms of ostracism serve as powerful mechanisms of social control and collective punishment used to silence Adivasi voices that challenge dominant social, economic, or political orders.

While some categories such as murder (-3.3%) and criminal intimidation (-9.4%) show a numerical decline, the overall data reveals an alarming escalation in collective, organized, and structural violence against Adivasis highlights change in the pattern of crime instead of a genuine reduction in atrocities.

3.1 (VI) CRIMES AGAINST ADIVASI WOMEN AND CHILDREN

TABLE 22:
Crimes against Adivasi Women and Children

Nature of Crime	Years					% increase
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty (Adults + Children)	880	885	881	1022	928	5.5
Assault on Women	758	813	736	859	757	-0.1
Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	467	502	480	591	498	6.6
Sexual Harassment	162	195	158	166	126	-22.2
Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	38	40	35	41	41	7.9
Voyeurism	7	8	5	6	12	71.4
Stalking	84	68	58	55	80	-4.8
B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	122	72	145	163	171	40.2
Insult to the Modesty of Women	24	24	29	64	62	158.3
Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped	20	19	13	21	16	-20
Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	54	34	35	28	20	-63.0
Procuration of Minor Girls	4	4	9	3	7	75
Rape (Total)	1110	1137	1324	1347	1189	7.1
Rape of Women	714	681	812	812	744	4.2
Rape of children	396	456	512	535	445	12.4
Attempt Commit to Rape	21	25	25	16	10	-52.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Table 22 provides a disaggregated overview of gender-based crimes committed against Scheduled Tribe (ST) women and girls between 2019 and 2023. The data reveals that Adivasi women continue to face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence rooted in their gender, caste, and indigenous identity.

The persistence of these crimes highlights not only reflects the vulnerability of tribal women but also underscores the systemic failure of justice mechanisms to ensure their protection and dignity.

Sexual Violence: Rape continues to remain one of the most reported crimes against Adivasi women, with total cases rising from 1,110 in 2019 to 1,189 in 2023, marking a 7.1% increase. Within this category, the reported rapes of women increased by 4.2%, while cases involving children rose by 12.4%, pointing to the deepening crisis of sexual violence against minor tribal girls.

Sexual Harassment and Assault: Acts of assault with an intent to outrage modesty have also grown by 6.6%, and incidents of voyeurism (71.4%) and insult to the modesty of women (158.3%) show how the everyday realities of harassment and humiliation have expanded over the years.

Sexual Crimes Against Adivasi Children: The 40.2% increase in cases of Assault on children under POCSO Act, along with the fact that out of total rape cases (1189), 37.4 % of the rape cases involve Adivasi Children, signals a growing vulnerability of these children to sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse. The risk is particularly acute in regions affected by displacement, conflict, and poverty. Such incidents reflect the erosion of safe spaces for Adivasi children, both within domestic and across institutional settings.

At the same time, the slight decline in categories such as sexual harassment (-22.2%), stalking (-4.8%), and attempt to rape (-52.4%) must be viewed cautiously. These reductions do not necessarily mean the situation has improved but may instead reflect underreporting due to social stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of access to responsive police or legal support systems in remote tribal regions.

Overall, the data underscores that despite legislative protections under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and other gender-specific safeguards, Adivasi women and children remain among the most vulnerable and unprotected groups in India. The persistence of such violence calls for urgent, community-centred interventions, stronger implementation of legal safeguards, and gender-sensitive justice mechanisms that ensure dignity, justice, and safety for tribal women and children.



Consistent increase in brutal crimes such as rape, murder, and assault on Adivasi women (2019-2023)

3.1 (VII) INCREASE OF BRUTAL CRIMES AGAINST ADIVASIS OVER FIVE YEARS

TABLE 23

Years	Rape	Rape of Women	Rape of Children	Murder	Attempt Murder	Assault on Women with	Number of cases ending in acquittal
2019	1110	714	396	182	137	880	34
2020	1137	681	456	172	144	885	28
2021	1324	812	512	199	148	881	24
2022	1347	812	535	217	258	1022	19
2023	1189	744	445	176	208	928	116
Total	6107	3763	2344	946	895	4596	221

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The data indicates that between 2019 and 2023, brutal crimes such as rape, murder, and assault on Adivasi women have consistently increased. During this five-year period, a total of 6,107 rape cases were registered against Adivasis, including 3,763 cases of rape of women and 2,344 cases of rape of children. The total number of rape cases rose from 1,110 in 2019 to a peak of 1,347 in 2022 during this period. 946 STs were murdered across India, alongside 895 cases of attempted murder were reported. and 4,596 crimes cases of assault on women with intent to outrage their modesty were reported.

It is observed that during the five-year period from 2019 to 2023, the year 2022 marked the peak for most brutal crimes against Adivasis, including rape and murder, Assault on women except for cases of forced displacement or social boycott, which reached their highest level in 2023.



TRENDS

According to 2023 data, **EVERY SINGLE DAY, 3 ADIVASI WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE RAPED IN INDIA.**

i.e. on average, **TWO WOMEN AND ONE CHILD ARE RAPED EVERY SINGLE DAY.**

ONE ADIVASI IS MURDERED EVERY TWO DAYS, REVEALING THE EXTREME VULNERABILITY OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES TO FATAL VIOLENCE.

EVERY DAY, 2 TO 3 ADIVASI WOMEN ARE ASSAULTED WITH THE INTENT TO OUTRAGE THEIR MODESTY, SHOWING HOW GENDERED VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO BE A DAILY REALITY FOR MANY ADIVASI WOMEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



3.2 POLICE RESPONSE TO THE ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES 2019-2023

3.2 (I) POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND SYSTEMIC GAPS IN ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES

Accessing justice through the police system remains one of the most formidable challenges for Adivasi communities in India. Deep-seated prejudice and social bias against Adivasis continue to shape the attitudes and responses of law enforcement officials, often leading to negligence, disbelief, or outright hostility when they seek justice. In many instances, police either refuse to register First Information Reports (FIRs), dilute charges under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, or align with the dominant communities.

TABLE 24

Year	Total No. of cases for investigation including pending cases from previous years	Final report without proceeding for charge-sheeting	Charge sheet total	Charge sheeting Rate (%)	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	10878	1439	6502	81.7	2908
2020	11200	1342	6484	82.7	3351
2021	12159	1637	7186	81.4	3320
2022	13386	1944	8062	80.4	3352
2023	16316	1897	7427	79.5	6964

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The total number of cases under investigation, including pending cases from previous years, has steadily increased from 10,878 in 2019 to 16,316 in 2023, reflecting the growing volume of atrocities and pending cases of crimes against Scheduled Tribes.

Final report includes Cases Ended as FR Non-Cognizable, Cases Ended as Final Report False, Cases Ended as Mistake of Fact or of Law or Civil Dispute, Cases Abated during Investigation, all cases which are not reaching the charge sheet stage are increasing. The number of such cases has increased by 31.8%. This reflects a troubling trend of complaints being closed without proper legal action, i.e., charge-sheeting, leaving many Adivasi survivors without access to justice.

The charge-sheeting rate has been steadily declining since 2019 (81.7 %), reaching its lowest point in 2023 at 79.5%, marking a concerning dip in the proportion of cases that proceed to formal legal action over the five-year period. The number of cases pending investigation is more than cases charge-sheeted out of cases registered (6272) in the year 2023 and it has deeply surged over the reporting period, more than doubling from 2,908 cases in 2019 to 6,964 cases in 2023, reflecting an alarming increase of 139.5%. This surge highlights severe delays in the investigation process by state police departments, often compounded by negligence despite clear legal mandates, leaving a growing number of Adivasi survivors without timely access to justice.

Denial of Access to Justice for Adivasi Survivors

Cases Ended as FR Non-Cognizable

Cases Ended as Final Report False

Cases Ended as Mistake of Fact or of Law or Civil Dispute

Cases Abated during Investigation



Cases closed without Chargesheet

↑ 31.8%

This reflects a troubling trend of complaints being closed without proper legal action, i.e., charge-sheeting, leaving many Adivasi survivors without access to justice.

Decline in Charge-sheeting Rates

81.7%	2019
79.5%	2023

3.2 (II) TOP 10 STATES/UTs WITH LOW CHARGE-SHEETING RATE IN CRIMES AGAINST STs (2023)

The 2023 data on states/UTs with the lowest charge-sheeting rates presents a deeply concerning picture. Manipur, which recorded the highest number of crimes and the largest percentage increase due to widespread violence in the state, also leads the country with the lowest charge-sheeting rate among all states/UTs in crimes against Scheduled Tribes, at just 20.8%.

Rajasthan being a major state, follows with a charge-sheeting rate of only 42.3% for crimes against STs. Even for crimes against SCs in the state recorded similar low percentage. This pattern highlights not only the systemic reluctance of the police departments but also reflects a caste-based approach that prevents many cases from progressing to the charge-sheeting stage, leaving Dalit and Adivasi survivors without access to timely justice.

Assam (44.4%) shows extremely low charge-sheeting, while other states such as Jharkhand (54.7%) and Tripura (66.7%) show modest improvements, yet a significant proportion of cases still fail to reach the charge-sheet stage. Himachal Pradesh (75%), Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli (75%), Telangana (76.4%), Andhra Pradesh (78.7%), and Uttar Pradesh (83.3%) demonstrate comparatively better performance, but gaps in police accountability and timely prosecution persist.

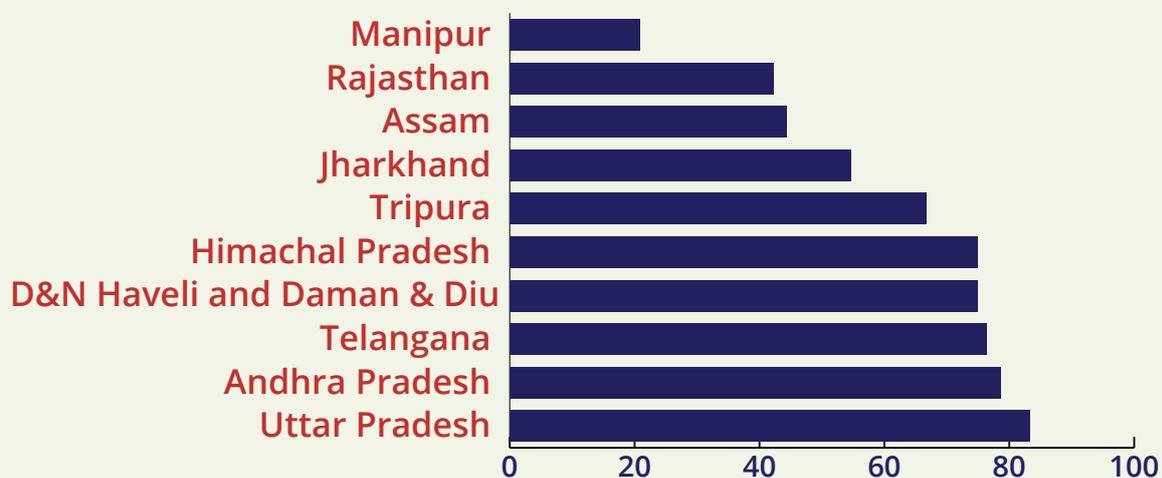
TABLE 25:

Top 10 States with Low Charge Sheetting Rate in Crimes Against Scheduled Tribes (STs)

No.	Name of the State	Charge-sheeting % in 2023
1.	Manipur	20.8
2.	Rajasthan	42.3
3.	Assam	44.4
4.	Jharkhand	54.7
5.	Tripura	66.7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	75
7.	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	75
8.	Telangana	76.4
9.	Andhra Pradesh	78.7
10.	Uttar Pradesh	83.3

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Top 10 States with Low Charge Sheet Rate in Crimes Against Scheduled Tribes (STs)



3.3 COURT RESPONSE TO THE ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES 2019-2023

3.3 (I) JUDICIAL DELAYS AND PENDENCY IN ADIVASI ATROCITY CASES

The judicial process for atrocity cases against Adivasis continue to face severe delays, with a consistently high number of cases pending at the end of each year. Between 2019 and 2023, the total number of cases under trial steadily increased from 33,583 in 2019 to 52,896 in 2023, reflecting both a growing number of reported atrocities and accumulated backlog.

TABLE 26

Judicial Delays and Pendency in Adivasis Atrocity Cases

Year	Total number of cases including pending and brought forward cases	Cases in which trials were completed	Number of cases ending in conviction out of cases previous years	Number of cases ending in conviction out of cases during the year	Total convicted cases	Number of cases ending in acquittal	Number of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	33583	2814	622	120	742	1775	30697
2020	36652	1219	312	35	347	772	35424
2021	42601	1949	492	56	548	1192	40640
2022	48703	3210	841	61	902	2085	45469
2023	52896	3665	857	44	901	2449	49189

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Despite the rising caseload, the number of trials completed each year remains disproportionately low, ranging from 1,219 in 2020 to 3,665 in 2023. Conviction cases continue to be alarmingly limited. Notably, of the total convictions in 2023, only 44 cases pertained to that year. Out of all completed trials in 2023, only 901 cases resulted in conviction, while 2,449 cases ended in acquittal, highlighting the persistent impunity enjoyed by caste-dominant communities. This high level of impunity discourages marginalized communities from relying in the judicial system and enables caste-dominant individuals to commit further atrocities with minimal fear of accountability.

Acquittals, have increased significantly, rising from 1,775 in 2019 to 2,449 in 2023, marking a 38% increase. Meanwhile, the number of pending cases has surged steadily over the reporting period, witnessing a deep 60.2% increase from 2019 to 2023. These trends reveal systemic delays and structural barriers in the judicial system, leaving Adivasi survivors increasingly vulnerable and undermining the legal protections intended to safeguard them.



3.3 (II) LOW CONVICTION VS HIGH ACQUITTALS - STs

As per Table 27, the conviction rate for atrocities against Scheduled Tribes has steadily declined from 26.4% in 2019 to 24.6% in 2023, on the other side the acquittal rate has risen from 63.1% to 66.8% during the same period. Simultaneously, the pendency rate has edged higher, from 91.4% in 2019 to 93% in 2023. These figures are not just numbers—they represent the harsh reality that many Adivasi survivors continue to wait years for justice, often facing impunity for perpetrators and enduring repeated trauma in the process. The combination of declining convictions and rising pendency underscore a systemic failure in the judicial system, leaving marginalized communities increasingly vulnerable.

TABLE 27:

Low Conviction Vs High Acquittals

Rank	Conviction Rate to the number of cases trials completed	Acquittal Rate to the total number of cases completed trail	Pendency Rate
2019	26.4	63.1	91.4
2020	28.5	63.3	96.6
2021	28.1	61.2	95.4
2022	28.1	65	93.4
2023	24.6	66.8	93

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023



3.3. (III) CONVICTED AND ACQUITTED RATES OF SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST STs 2023

The 2023 data on serious crimes against Scheduled Tribes reveals deeply concerning trends, marked by low conviction rates, high acquittal rates, and extremely high pendency across all major crime heads. For rape cases against ST women and children, only 24.4% resulted in convictions, while 65.8% ended in acquittals, indicating that the majority of accused individuals walk free. Specifically, rape of tribal women recorded an even lower conviction rate of 23.5%, with 69% of cases ending in acquittal, while rape of children showed similarly poor outcomes, with a conviction rate of 25.6% and 61.6% acquittals, exposing both the heightened vulnerability of tribal women and children and the systemic failures in prosecuting sexual crimes.

Murder cases had a conviction rate of 40%, but 51.3% of cases resulted in acquittals. The pendency rates for serious crimes against STs in 2023 are equally alarming, ranging from 89% to over 94% across all crime categories. Crimes such as murder (94.3%), attempted murder (94.2%), rape of women (94.1%), and rape of children (90.7%) remain unresolved for years. Such prolonged delays weaken evidence, increase the risk of witness intimidation, and further reduce the likelihood of securing conviction.

TABLE 28:

Convicted and Acquitted Rates of Serious Crimes Against STs 2023

	Conviction rate in 2023	Acquittal Rate in 2023	Pendency rate in 2023
Rape	24.4	65.8	93
Rape of Women	23.5	69.0	94.1
Rape of Children	25.6	61.6	90.7
Murder	40	51.3	94.3
Attempt Murder	28.1	59.6	94.2
Assault on Women	22.5	67.2	91.7
Assault on children	29.9	50.6	89.7

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

TRENDS

CONVICTION RATES FOR ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES HAVE STEADILY DECLINED, FROM 26.4% IN 2019 TO 24.6% IN 2023

ACQUITTAL RATES HAVE RISEN FROM 63.1% IN 2019 TO 66.8% IN 2023, REFLECTING INCREASING IMPUNITY FOR PERPETRATORS.

OF THE TOTAL CASES CHARGE-SHEETED IN 2023, ONLY 44 RESULTED IN CONVICTION, SHOWING THAT THE MAJORITY OF CASES FAIL TO ACHIEVE LEGAL CLOSURE.

WHILE THE CHARGE-SHEETING RATE STANDS AT 79.5%, CONVICTION RATE IN THOSE CASES REMAINS MUCH LOWER AT 24.6% REVEALING SYSTEMIC GAPS BETWEEN INVESTIGATION AND JUDICIAL OUTCOMES.

CASES PENDING WITH COURTS HAVE REMAINED EXTREMELY HIGH AT 93% IN THE YEAR 2023



Chapter 4

MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM



4.1 (I) AVAILABILITY OF EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL COURTS FOR ATROCITY CASES IN INDIA

TABLE 29:

Number of Exclusive Special Courts to Deal with the Atrocities Act

No.	State	Total Number of Districts in the State	Number of Districts with Exclusive Special Courts
1	Andhra Pradesh	26	1
2	Bihar	38	14
3	Chhattisgarh	27	11
4	Gujarat	33	16
5	Jharkhand	24	2
6	Karnataka	30	8
7	Madhya Pradesh	52	11
8	Maharashtra	36	3
9	Odisha	30	3
10	Punjab	23	2
11	Rajasthan	34	31
12	Tamil Nadu	37	17
13	Telangana	33	10
14	Uttar Pradesh	75	65
Total		498	194

Source: Report submitted under Section 21(4) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment – 2022 (Recent report)

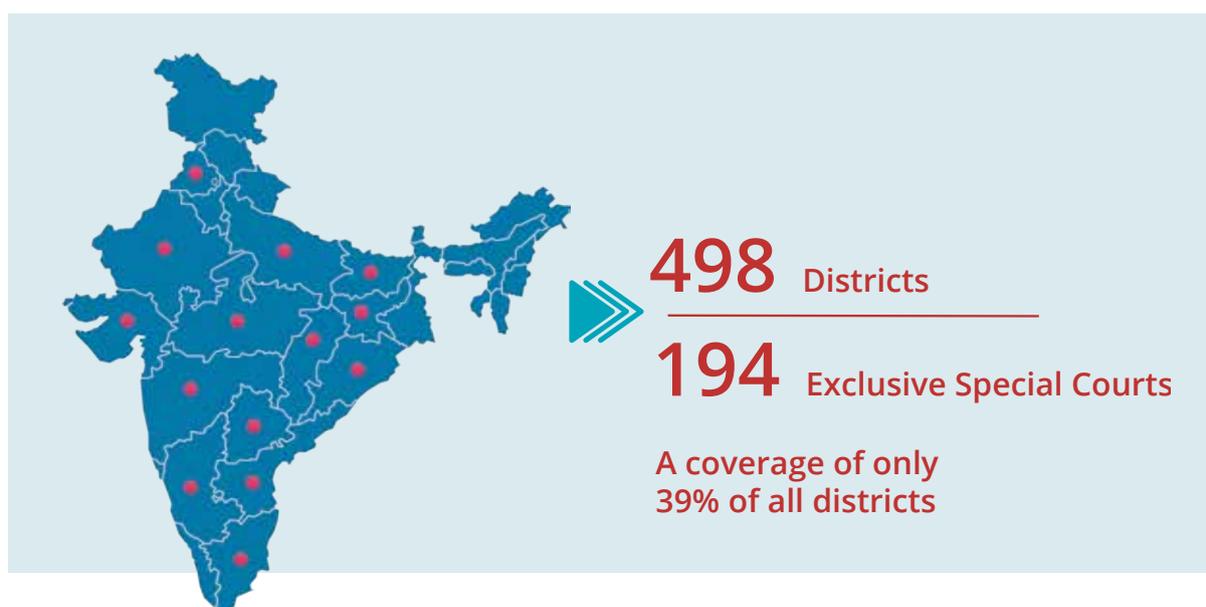


A total of 194 Exclusive Special Courts is operational across 498 districts in India, covering only 39% of all districts.

The establishment of Exclusive Special Courts is mandated under Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Section 14(1) empowers the State Government, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, to establish Exclusive Special Courts, that are established to ensure the speedy and dedicated trial of offences under the SC/ST (PoA) Act. By exclusively handling atrocity-related cases, these courts prevent delays that commonly occur in regular courts which are often burdened with heavy caseloads. Their focused mandate strengthens access to justice for SC/ST survivors.

A total of 194 Exclusive Special Courts is operational across 498 districts in India, covering only 39% of all districts. This limited coverage indicates that a majority of districts still depend on regular courts, which often face heavy caseloads, resulting in delays in atrocity trials. Alarming, even states with highest crime records such as Haryana and Kerala do not have single Exclusive Special courts. At present the pending rate of caste-based crimes against Dalits is 93.8% which denotes the need of more exclusive special courts as well as Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors to provide speedy justice to the Dalit and Adivasi survivors.

This table underscores the urgent need for States to expand the establishment of Exclusive Special Courts and improve judicial infrastructure to fulfil the intent of the SC/ST (PoA) Act. Ensuring that every district has at least one dedicated Exclusive Special court is essential to strengthening the justice system for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.



4.1 (II) FUNCTIONING OF VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE 2022

TABLE 30:

Name of the State	Number of Districts	SVMC		DVMC	
		MANDATORY	CONDUCTED	MANDATORY	CONDUCTED
Andhra Pradesh	26	2	0	104	49
Arunachal Pradesh	28	2	-	112	-
Assam	31	2	-	124	-
Bihar	38	2	1	152	145
Chhattisgarh	28	2	1	112	97
Goa	2	2	0	8	5
Gujarat	34	2	1	136	140
Haryana	22	2	0	88	56
Himachal Pradesh	12	2	0	48	29
Jharkhand	24	2	0	96	46
Karnataka	31	2	0	124	118
Kerala	14	2	1	56	50
Madhya Pradesh	52	2	0	208	118
Maharashtra	36	2	0	144	378
Manipur	16	2		64	-
Meghalaya	12	2	0	48	-
Mizoram	11	2	-	44	-
Nagaland	15	2	-	60	-
Odisha	30	2	0	120	18
Punjab	23	2	0	92	5
Rajasthan	33	2	0	132	123
Sikkim	6	2	0	24	5
Tamil Nadu	38	2	1	152	130
Telangana	33	2	1	132	67
Tripura	8	2	0	32	-
Uttar Pradesh	75	2	0	300	143
Uttarakhand	13	2	0	52	41
West Bengal	13	2	0	52	39

TABLE 30: CONTINUED

Name of the State	Number of Districts	SVMC		DVMC	
		MANDATORY	CONDUCTED	MANDATORY	CONDUCTED
A&N Islands	3	2	0	12	1
Chandigarh	1	2	0	4	-
D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	3	2	0	12	0
Delhi	11	2	0	44	10
Jammu & Kashmir	20	2	0	80	23
Ladakh	2	2	0	8	-
Lakshadweep	1	2	-	4	-
Puducherry	3	2	0	12	-
Total		72	6	2992	1836

Source: Report submitted under Section 21(4) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment – 2022 (Recent report)

Under Section 16 and Section 17 of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, State Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (SVMCs) and District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (DVMCs) must meet twice a year and once every quarter respectively to review the implementation of the Act. However, the data reveals poor compliance across States. For the year 2022, Out of the mandatory 72 SVMC meetings, only 6 were conducted (8.3%), showing an almost complete breakdown of state-level monitoring. Only states such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

None of the states had fulfilled the legal mandate of conducting 2 State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee Meeting.

At the district level, only 1,836 DVMC meetings were conducted against a mandatory 2,992, meaning nearly 40% of required meetings were not held. Encouragingly, states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra exceeded the minimum legal mandate, reflecting a positive trend. In the Annual Report, information for many States was not provided, indicated with a hyphen, reflecting gaps in data reporting and transparency.

4.1 (III) CHARGE-SHEET FILING TIMELINES, ATROCITY-PRONE DISTRICTS, AND LEGAL AID SUPPORT – STATE WISE 2022

TABLE 31:
Functioning of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee 2022

Name of the State	Charge-Sheet		Atrocity prone District	legal Aid
	within 60 Days	More than 60 Days		
Andhra Pradesh	1173	627	5	0
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
Assam	6	2	0	-
Bihar	1006	2659	33	0
Chhattisgarh	434	277	2	832
Goa	6	2	0	2
Gujarat	1036	192	13	-
Haryana	280	307	0	20
Himachal Pradesh	94	71	0	0
Jharkhand	10	45	0	203
Karnataka	1564	369	-	928
Kerala	518	440	0	526
Madhya Pradesh	6083	4038	19	-
Maharashtra	1408	1453	0	2175
Manipur	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	0	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-
Odisha	835	1315	18	1368
Punjab	17	28	0	1987
Rajasthan	4195	5445	8	170
Sikkim	1	0	0	-
Tamil Nadu	690	617	37 District and 9 Commissionerate	-
Telangana	823	1268	21 Districts and 9 Commissionerate	18

TABLE 31: Continued
Functioning of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee 2022

Name of the State	Charge-Sheet		Atrocity prone District	legal Aid
	within 60 Days	More than 60 Days		
Tripura	1	1	0	7
Uttar Pradesh	11172	1023	0	-
Uttarakhand	77	16	0	30
West Bengal	118	-	0	-
A&N Islands	3	-	1	0
Chandigarh	-	-	0	-
D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	2	0	-
Delhi	42	58	0	17
Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	0	1005
Ladakh	-	-	0	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
Puducherry	0	2	0	-
Total	31596	20259		9288

Source: Report submitted under Section 21(4) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment – 2022 (Recent report)

Charge-Sheet

The data on charge-sheet filing indicates significant variation in compliance with the statutory requirement of completing investigations within 60 days, as mandated under Rule 7(2) of the SC/ST (PoA) Rules, 1995. Several States reflect substantial delays, as seen in Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh where the number of charge-sheets filed after 60 days remains high. In the year 2022, 31596 cases were charge-sheeted within 60 days and 20259 cases charge-sheeted after 60 days.

Section 4 (2)(e) of the SC/ST PoA Act deals with Punishment for neglect of duties that states the investigation and filling chargesheet should be completed within 60 days. If not, the concerned Investigation officer should explain in writing, or the investigation officer should be punished under section 4. It raises a question that in 2022, 20259 cases were charge sheeted after 60 days,

Atrocity Prone Areas

Section 21(2)(vii) of The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act) mandates the identification of the areas where the atrocity against SC and ST are likely to occur and to ensure the safety in those areas as a preventive mechanism.

However, the legal compliance of states is the question mark. Tamil Nadu has more atrocity prone district followed by Bihar and Telangana yet only few villages in these districts were announced as atrocity prone areas. The coverage of atrocity prone areas should be extended to protect the SC/ST members from atrocities. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and Haryana have not identified any atrocity-prone districts despite reporting a high frequency of offences under the SC/ST (PoA) Act. Alarmingly, Uttar Pradesh, which records the highest number of atrocities against Dalits in the country, has no single atrocity-prone zones. This gap highlights a serious lack of institutional acknowledgment and preparedness to prevent recurring violence. The absence of officially identified vulnerable areas indicates state-level negligence in implementing proactive measures such as enhanced policing, monitoring, and victim protection that are essential for preventing atrocities against Dalit communities.

Gaps in Legal Aid Provision for SC/ST Atrocity Survivors:

Access to legal aid, a crucial support mechanism for SC/ST survivors during investigation and trial, remains alarmingly low across most states. While States such as Maharashtra (2,175), Odisha (1,368), Chhattisgarh (832), and Karnataka (928) show comparatively higher provision of legal assistance, many states report zero beneficiaries or provide entirely missing data in the annual report submitted by the MSJE. The widespread use of hyphens (“-”) in the annual report indicates serious gaps in reporting, making it difficult to assess the actual level of compliance or effectiveness of legal aid services under the Act. This lack of transparency raises concerns about underreporting, administrative negligence, or inadequate implementation. The near-absence of legal aid in several states ultimately weakens the protection framework and leaves Dalit survivors further marginalized, depriving them of the support required to pursue justice effectively.

Chapter 5

RECOMMENDATIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CENTRAL & STATE GOVERNMENT

01

The state should fully implement the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995. This includes establishing all the mandatory accountability and monitoring mechanisms and organising regular review meetings to facilitate effective implementation of the Act.

02

Ensuring that every State Government frame and implement a comprehensive Plan to execute the provisions of the Act. The plan should clearly specify the role and responsibilities of various departments and officers and contain schemes to provide immediate relief for the rights and entitlements of victims and witnesses including allotment of agricultural land, house-sites and housing; rehabilitation packages; scheme for employment; pension scheme; compensation; strengthening of socio-economic conditions; healthcare; electrification; essential facilities like roads, funeral grounds, etc., as detailed in Amendment Rule 15.

03

Mandate the states to established Vigilance and Monitoring committees and ensuring their regular meeting as specified in the PoA act at the State, District and Sub Divisional levels. Non-compliance should be reported to the Commission making the concerned committee chairs held accountable before the commissions.

04

Set up Awareness Centres and organize Workshops in the identified area or other suitable locations to educate the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities about their rights and the protection available to them under the law.

05

Ensure and take immediate measures to prepare a model Contingency Plan as required under rule 15 SCs and STs (PoA) Rules for all the states of the country.

06

Involve human rights organizations and individuals working with SCs/STs as members or invitees in State and District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

07

Those State Governments/UT administrations who have not yet done so, must immediately set up SC/ST Protection Cells as per rule 8(1) of SCs and STs (PoA) Rules.

08

The states that fail to announce the Atrocity Prone Districts despite high frequencies of cases should be treated seriously. Both the State and the District administrations should be held accountable for such lapses.

09

Periodic Survey should be done by every state government to improve the effectiveness of the act and identify areas needing interventions.

5.2 IMPROVING DATA REPORTING AND MONITORING OF SC/ST ATROCITIES

01

Strengthen NCRB Reporting & Crime Categorisation, Provide gender-wise disaggregated data for all crime heads instead of only gender-stereotypical categories. This will prevent misleading interpretations and enable better monitoring of crimes against Dalit/Adivasi women and children.

02

Add more crime sub-categories based on the nature of offences, particularly to address the cumulative and non-disaggregated classification of cases under the 'Simple Hurt' and 'Other Crimes' categories, which have been increasing annually. Proper disaggregation will strengthen administrative planning and enable targeted prevention strategies.

03

Include Honor killings as a Distinct Sub-category. Honor killings which disproportionately affect Dalit and Adivasi youth and constitute a particularly grievous form of atrocity, should be categorised separately under murder in NCRB records, reflecting both within the SC/ST sections of the report and with caste-wise disaggregation in the general sections. This distinct classification would enable precise tracking, facilitate detailed analysis of patterns, and support targeted preventive and legal interventions.

5.3 POLICE

01

Take immediate legal and departmental disciplinary action against police officials who fail to discharge their duties under section 4 of the Act.

02

Establish special police stations across the states particularly in every atrocity prone zones.

03

Ensure that the Superintendent of Police promptly visits the place of occurrence of an atrocity and fulfils his/her responsibilities under Rule 12(1), (2) & (3) SCs and STs (PA) Rules, particularly:

- a) Ensuring FIR is registered immediately under the Act and taking effective measures to apprehend the accused.
- b) Deploying adequate police force in the area and taking other preventative measures to prevent the further occurrence of atrocities.

04

In each district, appoint more Deputy Superintendent of Police, depending on the intensity, frequency and spread of atrocities in the district, who would be specifically in-charge of investigating atrocities under the Act.

05

Make it mandatory that a police officer cannot arrest any complainant, victim, witness or any other person helping the victim for interrogation or for any other purpose without an order from a Magistrate and a valid warrant.

06

Ensure that the investigation officer completes investigation of the crime and files charge sheet within mandated 60 days as per Rule 7 (2) of the SCs and STs (PoA) Rules 1995. Officers who fail to provide a written explanation for the delays should be treated under section 4 of the act.

07

Conduct regular orientation and sensitisation trainings for police officers on the amended provision of the SCs and STs (PoA) Act and Rules to ensure effective and sensitive enforcement.

5.4 JUDICIARY

01

Establish exclusive special courts in every district as per Sec 14 of the SCs and STs (PoA) Act and establish additional exclusive special courts as required to effectively deal with the number of cases in a district and ensure the speedy trial of atrocity cases under this Act in that district. These courts should:

- (i) deal only cases of atrocities against SCs/STs under the Act;
- (ii) cases of offences under the Act on a day-to-day basis, and complete trial as quickly as possible within a period not exceeding 90 days;
- (iii) submit quarterly reports on the status of cases to the Chief Justice of the High Court of the State.

5.5 RIGHTS OF VICTIMS AND WITNESS

01

Appoint one or more Assistant Public Prosecutors or senior advocates, including SC/ST advocates, with a minimum of seven years of legal practice and a proven record and reputation for protecting the rights of SCs/STs, to assist the Special Public Prosecutor in conducting trials of cases under this Act.

02

Ensure protection of the victims, informants and witnesses against all forms of ill treatment, violence, threat or intimidation and any other form of pressure or coercion from the time of submission of the complaint till the conclusion of the trial.

03

Ensure the prompt payment of compensation to victims of atrocities at each mandated stage. i.e upon registration of the FIR, filing of charge sheet, receipt of the medical examination report and conviction according to the scale prescribed in the schedule annexed to the SCs and STs (PoA) Rules.

04

Ensure travelling allowances, daily allowances, maintenance expenses, and transport facilities to the victims of atrocities, their dependents and witnesses as per Rule 11 SCs and STs (PoA) Rules.

05

Notify victims about the offender's eligibility for parole or any application for a governor's pardon, and allow victims to participate in the parole decision making process or submit written statement regarding any pardon application. Authorities who fail to provide such information to the victims, should be held under Section 4 of the Act.

06

Investigating officer and Public Prosecutor should inform the victims about the possibilities of obtaining financial assistance and social services, practical and legal advice, compensation from the Government.

| CONCLUSION

This five-year analysis of caste-based atrocities against SCs and STs demonstrates a deeply entrenched pattern of violence, structural discrimination, and institutional neglect.

The Government of India recognized, nearly four decades after the adoption of the Constitution, the need for special legislation to address caste-based discrimination and violence against the most marginalized communities—Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). This recognition due to the pressure by Civil Society Organizations led to the enactment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. However, despite the Act containing mandatory and time-bound provisions, States have consistently failed to abide by and implement its requirements in both letter and spirit. The persistence and growth of caste-based discrimination and violence against SCs and STs as revealed by the data analysed in this report, underscores this failure.

This five-year analysis of caste-based atrocities against SCs and STs demonstrates a deeply entrenched pattern of violence, structural discrimination, and institutional neglect. Despite the existence of a strong legal framework under the PoA Act, the data shows that the promise of justice remains largely unfulfilled for a significant proportion of victims. The study clearly establishes that atrocities against SCs and STs are increasing, alongside a persistent gap between the statutory mandate of the PoA Act and its actual implementation. Consistently delayed charge-sheeting, prolonged pendency of cases, and poor conviction outcomes point to systemic failures within policing and the broader criminal justice system. These failures are further exacerbated by social prejudice, fear of retaliation, economic vulnerability, and limited access to legal support—particularly in rural and marginalized regions.

Ultimately, ending caste-based atrocities is not merely a matter of legal compliance but a constitutional obligation of the Indian state, rooted in dignity, equality, and social justice.

Despite the Act mandating robust accountability and monitoring mechanisms to protect SC and ST communities from continued caste-based exploitation and violence, the State governments appear to treat these obligations as administrative burdens rather than constitutional duties. This pattern does not arise merely from administrative inefficiency but reflects entrenched caste attitudes and a lack of political will of the state Governments to confront caste power structures. States must not adopt under-registration or procedural avoidance as a strategy to project improved governance or social harmony. Accurate and mandatory registration of cases, followed by effective investigation and prosecution, is essential to addressing the true scale and nature of caste-based violence. The PoA Act must be implemented not as a symbolic or optional instrument, but as a binding constitutional mandate requiring accountability across the executive, police, prosecution, and judiciary.

Ultimately, ending caste-based atrocities is not merely a matter of legal compliance but a constitutional obligation of the Indian state, rooted in dignity, equality, and social justice.

Without sustained political commitment and institutional reform, the cycle of violence and impunity will persist. This report seeks to contribute to evidence-based advocacy and policy action, reinforcing the urgent need to transform the PoA Act from a symbolic safeguard into a living instrument of justice for SC and ST communities.

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- REVOLUTIONARY DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR



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2026

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