

HIMACHAL PRADESH

ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES

2019-2023

FACTSHEET

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.

Researcher: **Ms. Nidhi Jarwal**

Advisor: **Ms. Beena Pallical**

Editor: **Mr. Deepesh Chithra**

Design: **Ms. Sajana J**

Publisher: **National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), New Delhi**

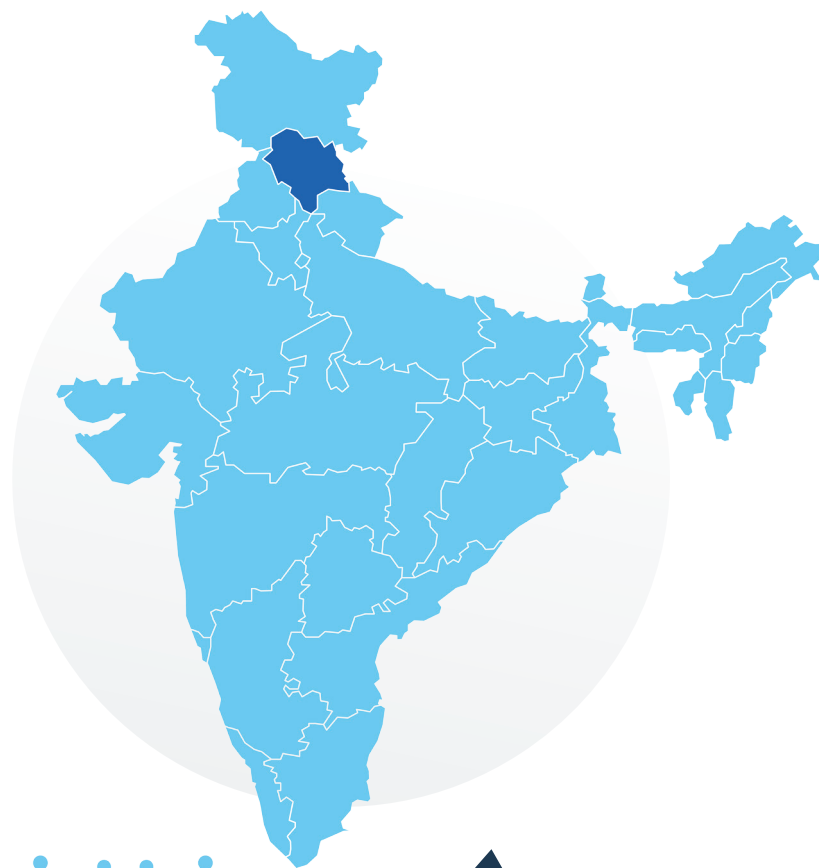
Printed by: **Insights Print Solution**

Address: **National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR)
40, Zamrudpur Community Centre, 3rd Floor, (Above HDFC Bank),
Kailash colony Extension, New Delhi 110048**

Phone: **+91-11-25842249**

Website: **ncdhr.org.in**

HIMACHAL PRADESH



Increase in Crime Against
Scheduled Castes*

21.2%

Between 2019 - 2023



Increase in Crime Against
Scheduled Castes*

600%

Between 2019 - 2023

13.2%

Crime rate per Lakh for SC Communities

1.8%

Crime rate per Lakh for ST Communities

POPULATION CONTEXT AND OVERALL CRIME AGAINST SCs AND STs

Population Profile (Census 2011)

Despite its reputation for calm social landscapes, Himachal Pradesh reveals a quieter, often overlooked story of caste discrimination. Nearly 30% of the state's population belongs to SC and ST communities, yet incidents of humiliation, assault, and intimidation continue to surface across the hills. The state's scattered geography and remote tribal regions create barriers to reporting and justice, allowing many violations to remain unseen, and uncounted.

TABLE 1

Community	Population (Lakhs)	% of State Population
Scheduled Castes (SC)	~17.3	~25%
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	~3.9	~5.71%

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

TABLE 2

Categories	Years					% Change (2019-23)	Crime Rate per Lakh (2023)
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
Scheduled Castes	189	251	244	210	229	+21.2%	13.2
Scheduled Tribes	1	3	7	4	7	+600%	1.8

Land disputes in caste contexts are rarely just property disputes; they reflect deeper patterns of economic control and social hierarchy, making a **212.5% rise** (8 cases in 2019 to 25 cases in 2023) particularly concerning in terms of structural caste discrimination.

CRIME AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES

TABLE 3 : **CRIMES HEAD TRENDS**

No.	Nature of Crimes	Years					Increase of % in 2023 over 2019
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Murder	1	1	1	1	2	+100
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	0	0	1	1	1	-
3	Simple Hurt	3	5	0	0	0	-100
4	Grievous Hurt	1	0	2	0	0	-100
5	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	1	3	3	6	9	+800
6	Kidnapping and Abduction	1	1	0	0	1	0
7	Rioting	2	2	1	0	0	-100
8	Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	-
9	Dacoity	0	0	0	0	0	-
10	Arson	0	0	0	0	0	-
11	Criminal Intimidation	3	7	1	0	0	-100
12	Other IPC Crimes	8	6	3	2	1	-87.5
13	SC / ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act only (Total) (Without IPC)	55	207	218	191	204	+270.9
14	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	63	55	97	83	116	+84.1
15	Occupy/Disposes Land Belongs to SCs	8	35	32	33	25	+212.5
16	Prevent or deny or obstruct usage of public place/passage	0	1	1	0	2	-
17	Force to leave place of Residence/Social Boycott	1	3	1	0	1	0
18	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	83	113	87	74	60	-27.7
19	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	185	247	243	209	227	+22.7
20	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	4	4	1	1	2	-50
21	Total Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Castes	189	251	244	210	229	+21.2%

CRIME AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH 2019-2023

21.2%

Increase in
total crimes
atrocities

189 cases (2019) - 229 cases (2023)

22.7%

Cases registered under the
SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
(with and without IPC)

185 cases (2019) - 227 cases (2023)

270.9% rise

55 cases in 2019
204 cases in 2023

Offences registered only under the PoA Act (without IPC)

Highest proportional increase among all categories

84.1% rise

63 cases in 2019
116 cases in 2023

"Intentional Insult or Intimidation with Intent to Humiliate"
recorded the highest number of cases in 2023

Single largest category of offences in 2023



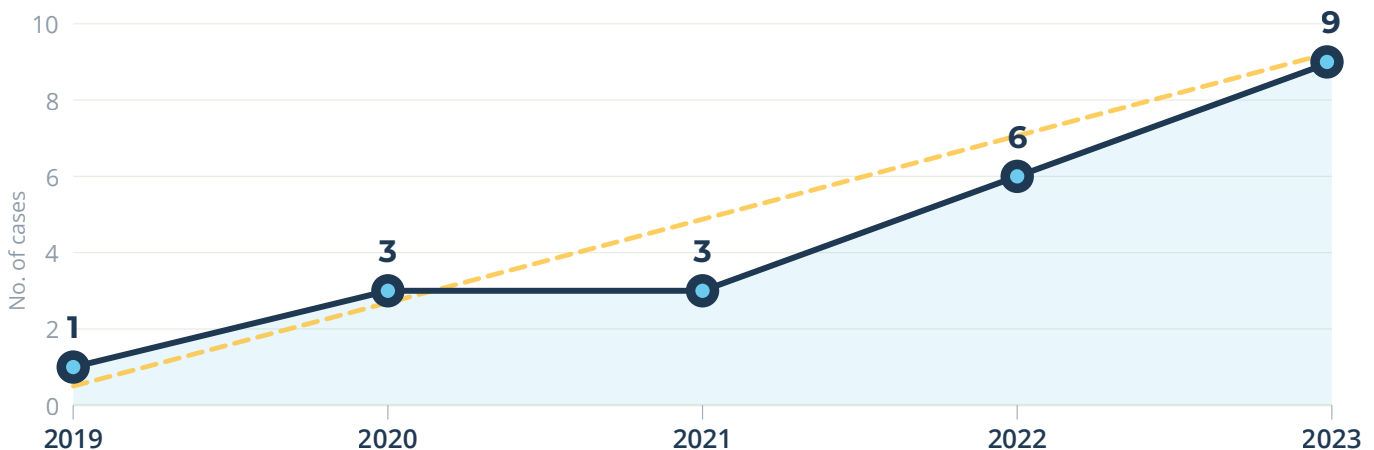
Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Modesty

Reported cases: 2019 to 2023

■ Cases registered — Trend line

+800% RISE

2019 to 2023



212.5% rise

cases of occupation or dispossession of land
belonging to Scheduled Castes

8 cases in 2019
25 cases in 2023

100% rise

Increase in murder cases

1 case in 2019
2 cases in 2023

TABLE 2 :

CRIMES AGAINST SC WOMEN & CHILDREN IN HIMACHAL PRADESH (2019-2023)

No.	Crime Head	Years					Increase % in 2023 over 2019
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty (Adults + Children)	1	3	3	6	9	+800
2	Assault on Women	1	3	1	3	9	+800
3	Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec.354 IPC)	1	0	0	1	4	300
4	Sexual Harassment	0	2	0	2	1	Emerging
5	Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to disrobe	0	1	1	0	1	-
6	Voyeurism	0	0	0	0	0	-
7	Stalking	0	0	0	0	3	Emerging
8	Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	0	0	2	3	0	-
9	Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec. 509 IPC)	0	1	0	0	0	-
10	Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapping	1	0	0	0	0	-100
12	Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	1	1	0	0	0	-100
13	Procuration of Minor Girls Sec. 366A IPC	0	0	0	0	0	-
14	Rape (Total)	10	14	13	8	9	-10
15	Rape of Women	5	9	8	7	7	+40
16	Rape of Children	5	5	5	1	2	-60
17	Attempt to commit Rape	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Crime patterns indicate a shift toward gendered caste violence, rather than a simple increase or decrease in total incidents.

KEY FINDINGS:

- Assault on women with intent to outrage modesty (adults and children combined) rose from 1 case in 2019 to 9 cases in 2023, reflecting an 800% rise over five years, the largest proportional increase among crimes affecting SC women and children in Himachal Pradesh. A similar trend appears in the broader category of assault on women, which also increased from 1 case in 2019 to 9 cases in 2023, marking another 800% rise. The steady growth from 3 cases in 2020 and 2021 to 6 cases in 2022 and 9 cases in 2023 shows that gendered caste violence, particularly forms of harassment and physical assault, has become increasingly visible in reported data.
- The data also indicates the appearance of newer forms of harassment against SC women. Sexual harassment, which had no cases in 2019, recorded 2 cases in 2020, 2 cases again in 2022, and 1 case in 2023, suggesting the emergence of this offence in reporting patterns. Similarly, stalking appeared for the first time with 3 cases recorded in 2023, after being absent in the previous four years.
- Assault or use of criminal force with intent to disrobe was recorded once in 2020, once in 2021, and again once in 2023, showing intermittent but persistent instances of degrading gender-based violence.
- Total rape cases involving SC women and children declined slightly from 10 cases in 2019 to 9 cases in 2023, reflecting a 10% decline over five years, but the numbers remained consistently high throughout the period, peaking at 14 cases in 2020. Within this category, rape of women increased from 5 cases in 2019 to 7 cases in 2023, representing a 40% rise, while rape of children declined from 5 cases in 2019 to 2 cases in 2023, reflecting a 60% decline. Even with this decline, the presence of 2 cases of child rape in 2023 indicates continued vulnerability of children from SC communities.
- Missing children deemed as kidnapping was recorded with 1 case in 2019 but none in subsequent years, while kidnapping and abduction of women to compel marriage recorded 1 case each in 2019 and 2020 before dropping to zero afterwards.
- Several crime heads such as voyeurism, procurement of minor girls, and attempt to commit rape recorded no cases during the five-year period, while offences like POCSO assault appeared briefly with 2 cases in 2021 and 3 cases in 2022 before dropping to zero in 2023. The absence or fluctuation of such offences in the data should therefore be interpreted cautiously, particularly in contexts where reporting of gender-based violence often remains limited.

TABLE 3 : POLICE RESPONSE IN ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Year	Total No. of cases for investigation including pending cases from previous years	Final report without proceeding for Charge-sheeting	Chargesheet submitted, including cases from PY	Charge-sheeting Rate (%)	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	217	43	111	72.1	63
2020	314	75	185	71.2	54
2021	298	80	144	64.3	74
2022	284	73	148	67	63
2023	292	83	130	61	63

KEY FINDINGS:

- Police investigation outcomes show a gradual decline in effectiveness over the five-year period.
- The charge-sheeting rate declined from 72.1% in 2019 to 61% in 2023, indicating weakening investigative outcomes over time. In absolute terms, 111 cases were charge-sheeted in 2019, increasing to 185 cases in 2020, before declining to 144 cases in 2021, 148 cases in 2022, and 130 cases in 2023. This drop suggests that even though a significant number of cases enter the investigation stage each year, a smaller proportion is ultimately being taken forward for prosecution.
- Cases closed through final reports without proceeding to chargesheeting increased from 43 cases in 2019 to 83 cases in 2023, nearly doubling within the five-year period. The highest number of such closures occurred in 2021 (80 cases) and 2023 (83 cases), raising concerns about the number of atrocity cases that do not proceed to trial.
- Cases pending investigation have remained consistently present throughout the period. Pending cases increased from 63 in 2019 to 74 in 2021, before stabilizing again at 63 cases in both 2022 and 2023. The persistence of more than 60 cases pending investigation each year indicates that delays in completing investigations continue to affect the police response to atrocity cases.
- Overall trends suggest growing institutional strain, where registered complaints are less likely to translate into strong legal action, affecting accountability under the SC/ST (PoA) Act.

TABLE 4: JUDICIAL RESPONSE TO ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs

Year	Total No. of cases including pending and brought forward cases	Cases in which trials were completed	No. of cases ended in conviction out of cases in the previous year	No. of cases ended in conviction out of the cases during the year	Total cases convicted cases	No. of cases ending in acquittal	No. of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	520	64	9	0	6	58	453
2020	638	48	1	0	1	24	608
2021	752	37	2	0	2	34	708
2022	856	60	5	0	5	51	788
2023	918	141	15	0	15	126	750

KEY FINDINGS:

- The total number of SC atrocity cases before courts increased from 520 cases in 2019 to 918 cases in 2023, reflecting a steady rise in the judicial backlog and rise of atrocities.
- Although the number of trials completed increased significantly in 2023, the overall proportion of cases reaching completion remains small compared to the total caseload. Trials completed rose from 64 cases in 2019 to 141 cases in 2023, the highest during the five years. However, with 918 cases before courts in 2023, only a fraction of cases reach final trial completion in a given year.
- Total convictions were recorded at 6 cases in 2019, dropping sharply to 1 case in 2020, and 2 cases in 2021, before rising to 5 cases in 2022 and 15 cases in 2023. Even in 2023, when trials completed were highest, only 15 cases ended in conviction, showing that successful prosecution outcomes remain relatively low.
- In 2023, 126 cases resulted in acquittal compared to 15 convictions, reflecting a substantial gap between cases reaching trial completion and those resulting in conviction. Similar patterns appear in earlier years as well.
- Pending cases increased from 453 cases in 2019 to 750 cases in 2023, after peaking at 788 cases in 2022. Despite the increase in trials completed in 2023, a large portion of cases continues to remain unresolved within the judicial system.

SCHEDULED TRIBES (ST)

2019-2023

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

ST POPULATION · HIMACHAL PRADESH

3,92,126 persons ·

A smaller but distinct vulnerable group

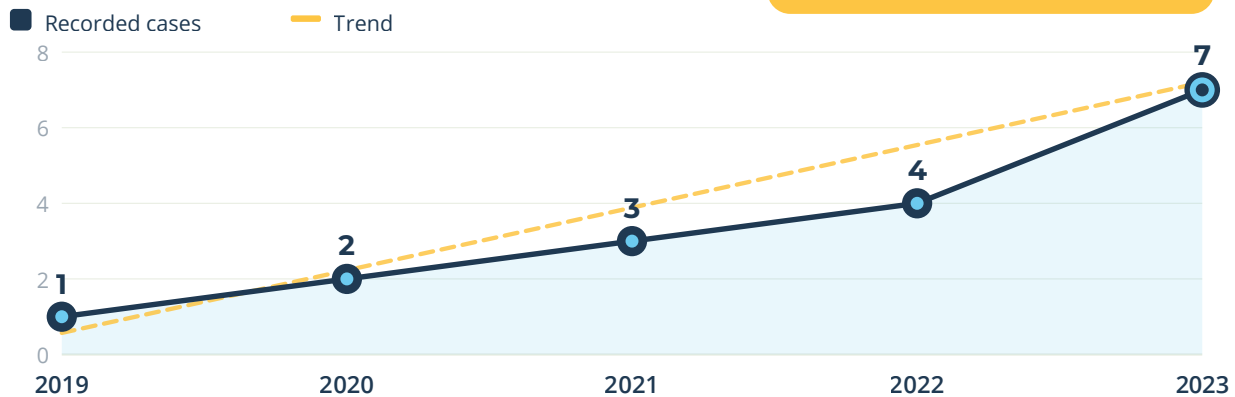
5.71% of state population

Total recorded crimes against ST communities

1 case (2019) to 7 cases (2023)

+800% RISE

2019 to 2023



BARRIERS TO JUSTICE & UNDERREPORTING

Remote and hilly terrain limits access to police, courts, and reporting mechanisms

Low recorded case numbers may indicate underreporting. Actual vulnerability may be significantly higher than reflected in official data.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

No cases were reported in 2023 across categories such as sexual violence, harassment, kidnapping, or rape. The absence of reported cases does not necessarily indicate the absence of risk or vulnerability. Many ST communities live in remote and hilly regions, limiting access to police, legal awareness, and reporting systems.

Low reporting may therefore reflect barriers to access and underreporting, rather than complete safety. Strengthening outreach, accessibility, and trust in justice institutions remains essential for protection of ST women and children.

TABLE 3 : POLICE RESPONSE IN ATROCITIES AGAINST STs IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Year	Total No. of cases for investigation including pending cases from previous years	Final report without proceeding for Charge sheeting	Chargesheet submitted, including cases from PY	Charge sheeting Rate (%)	Total Cases Disposed off by police	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	1	0	1	100	1	0
2020	3	0	1	100	1	2
2021	9	2	6	75	8	1
2022	5	0	4	100	4	1
2023	8	2	6	100	8	0

KEY FINDINGS:

The police response to crimes against Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh between 2019 and 2023 reflects high charge-sheeting rates due to the less reported cases. Despite the very low number of cases, a significant proportion have been closed without proceeding for charge-sheeting in 2021 and 2023, raising serious concern of police unbiasedness.

Across the five-year period, the number of cases remains extremely limited, ranging from 1 case in 2019 to 9 cases in 2021. While charge-sheeting rates appear high between 75% and 100%, this must be interpreted cautiously given the small base of reported cases.

TABLE 4 : JUDICIAL RESPONSE IN ATROCITIES AGAINST STs

Year	Total No. of cases including pending and brought forward cases	Cases in which trials were completed	No. of cases ended in conviction out of cases in the previous year	No. of cases ended in conviction out of the cases during the year	Total cases convicted cases	No. of cases ending in acquittal	No. of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
2020	18	0	0	0	0	0	18
2021	24	0	0	0	0	0	24
2022	28	0	0	0	0	0	28
2023	34	6	0	0	0	6	27

2019-2023

JUDICIAL RESPONSE IN ATROCITY AGAINST STS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**Total cases before courts vs trials completed**

Caseload doubled from 17 (2019) to 34 (2023) — zero trials completed 2019–2022



From 2019–2022 :

Every single case before the courts continued to remain unresolved.**YEAR-BY-YEAR SNAPSHOT****Key Finding**

The fact that all completed trials in 2023 ended in acquittal in atrocity cases against Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh raises serious concerns about the quality of investigation, weak evidence collection, ineffective prosecution, and the possible influence of caste bias in the criminal justice process, ultimately reflecting a failure of the state to ensure justice for survivors.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POA ACT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. INVESTIGATION & CHARGESHEET TIMELINES (RULE 7(2))

Legal Requirement:

Investigation within 30 days and filing of chargesheet within 60 days.

Year	Within 60 days	Later
2019	113	26
2020	133	88
2021	102	96
2022	94	71
2023	83	68

Source: MSJE State Annual Reports, 2019–2023

Under Rule 7(2) of the PoA Rules, investigation must be completed within 30 days and chargesheet filed within 60 days. However, a significant number of cases exceeded this limit. While 113 chargesheets were filed within 60 days in 2019 compared to 26 delayed cases, delays increased in later years, with 96 cases delayed in 2021 and 68 cases delayed in 2023, indicating persistent gaps in meeting the mandated investigation timeline.

2. VIGILANCE & MONITORING COMMITTEES (RULE 16 COMPLIANCE)

Year	SVMC	DVMC	SDLVMC
2019	-	34	10
2020	-	36	5
2021	-	29	1
2022	-	29	-
2023	-	-	19

Source: MSJE State Annual Reports, 2019–2023

- No State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (SVMC) meetings were conducted in five years, despite the mandatory requirement of biannual meetings. This represents complete non-compliance with Rule 16(2) of the PoA Rules.
- The State demonstrates compliance in submission of reports, but the reports themselves reveal non-compliance in implementation.

3. RELIEF AND AIDS

Year	Legal Aid	Travel & Maintenance	Relief
2019	Nil	Nil	262 victims
2020	Nil	Nil	388
2021	Nil	Nil	301
2022	Nil	Nil	341
2023	5	0	364

KEY FINDINGS

- Socio-Economic Relief (Section 21 (2)(iii) read with Rule 12(4) of PoA Act) was consistently provided to victims each year, indicating partial compliance with victim support provisions.
- Legal aid remained absent for four consecutive years (2019–2022) and was provided in only 5 cases in 2023, showing extremely limited access to legal assistance.
- Travel and maintenance support was not provided in any year, despite being a statutory entitlement under the PoA Rules.

4. SPECIAL COURT AND SPECIAL PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

- State Annual Reports state that all District & Sessions Courts in Himachal Pradesh are designated as Special Courts to try offences under the SC/ST (PoA) Act.
- Only the 2019 report mentions the existence of three Exclusive Special Courts located in: Kangra, Shimla, and Solan (Nalagarh)
- Subsequent reports do not provide updated information on Exclusive Special Courts.
- Despite high court pendency levels reflected in NCRB data, the State continues to rely primarily on designated courts rather than functional Exclusive Special Courts.
- Designation of existing courts does not necessarily ensure speedy trial, which is a core objective of the PoA Act.
- All District Attorneys/Public Prosecutors attached to District & Sessions Courts have been designated as Special Public Prosecutors for PoA cases.
- No appointment of dedicated Special Public Prosecutors and Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors appointed exclusively for atrocity cases.
- The 2023 MSJE annual state report states that only 08 cases were pending before Judicial Magistrates and therefore no need exists for Special or Exclusive Special Courts, whereas NCRB 2023 data shows around 750 cases pending, reflecting substantial judicial backlog. This discrepancy, combined with weak monitoring and limited specialised infrastructure, suggests that despite low crime volumes, access to timely and effective justice under the PoA Act remains a key challenge in Himachal Pradesh.

5. ATROCITY AREA

- Despite reported cases of atrocities, the State Annual Reports state that no atrocity-prone areas have been identified in Himachal Pradesh. Under Rule 3(1)(i) of the SC/ST (PoA) Rules, 1995, states must identify vulnerable areas to enable preventive measures such as targeted monitoring and protection. The absence of such identification raises concerns about gaps in preventive implementation under the Act.

6. PERIODIC SURVEY

- No periodic surveys were conducted in any year under Section 15A(2)(v).

7. SPECIAL CELLS AND SPECIAL POLICE STATIONS

- While Himachal Pradesh has established Special Cells for handling cases under the SC/ST (PoA) Act, no Special Police Stations have been notified in the state. The absence of dedicated police stations may limit specialised investigation and accessible reporting mechanisms envisioned under the Act.



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS

2026

**40, Zamrudpur Community Centre, 3rd Floor, (Above HDFC
Bank), Kailash colony Extension, New Delhi 110048**

+91-11-25842249

ncdhr.org.in