

KARNATAKA

ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES

FACTSHEET

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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KARNATAKA



104.7 lakh

Population of
Scheduled Castes*

18.4%
Crime rate**



42.5 lakh

Population of
Scheduled Tribes*

10.2%
Crime rate**

* 2011 Census

** NCRB Crime in India 2019-2023

The population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka is 104.7 lakh and 42.5 lakh respectively, as per Census 2011. Despite this, the crime rate in 2023 stands at 18.4 for SCs and 10.2 for STs, highlighting the continued vulnerability of these communities to caste-based atrocities.

TABLE 1 :

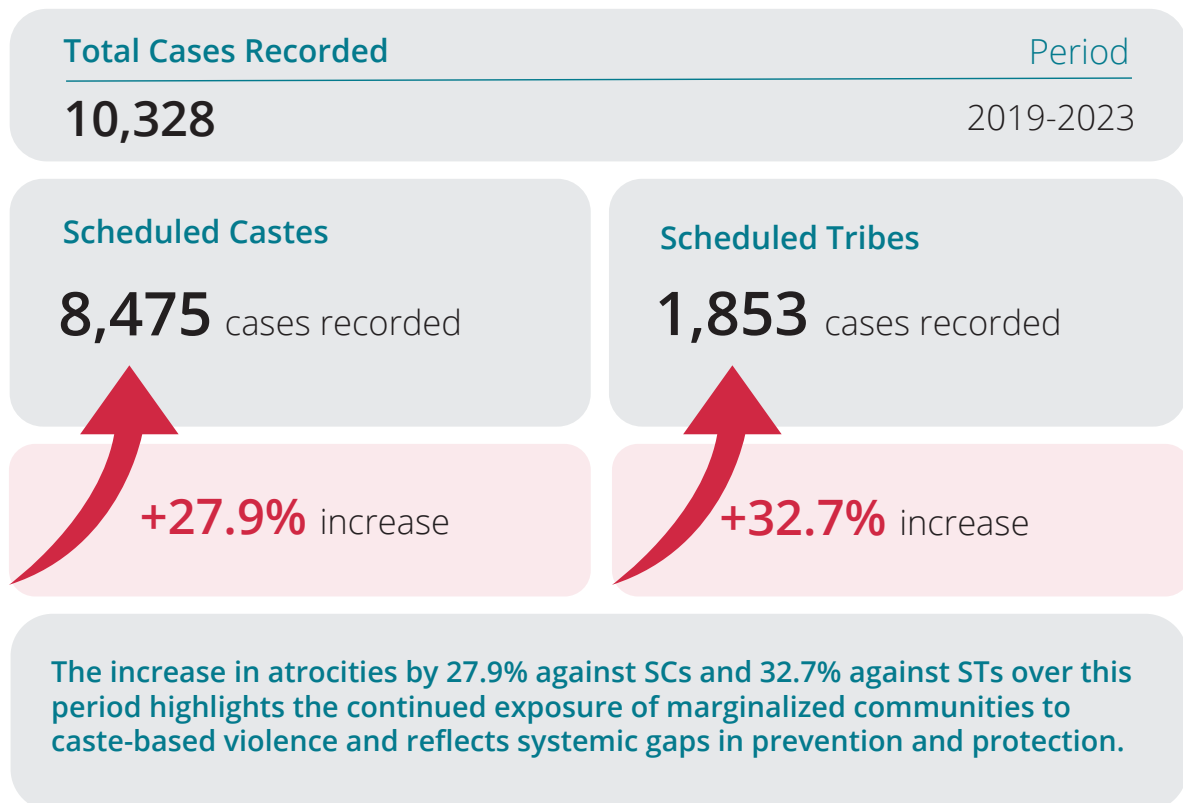
OVERALL CRIMES AGAINST SCs AND STs IN KARNATAKA (2019-2023)

YEAR	TOTAL NO. OF CRIMES AGAINST SCs	TOTAL NO. OF CRIMES AGAINST STs
2019	1504	327
2020	1398	293
2021	1673	361
2022	1977	438
2023	1923	434
TOTAL	8475	1853

Source: NCRB, Crime in India, 2019-2023

Caste-based atrocities in Karnataka remain persistently high, with a sharp rise in recent years, pointing to deepening vulnerabilities among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Between 2019 and 2023, a total of 10,328 cases were recorded, including 8,475 against SCs and 1,853 against STs.

Caste-based Atrocities against SCs in Karnataka: Recorded Cases



NATURE OF ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs:

TABLE 2 :

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA DURING 2019-2023

No.	Crime Head	Years					Percentage Variation in 2023 over 2019
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	Crimes under SCs/ STs (PoA) Act r/w IPC						
1	Murder	56	44	86	72	53	-5.36
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	90	109	106	140	130	44.44
3	Simple Hurt	347	314	388	374	412	18.73
4	Grievous Hurt	34	27	34	37	45	32.35
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	27	11	8	11	5	-81.48
6	Rioting	127	158	176	166	207	62.99
7	Robbery	1	1	4	9	6	500.00
8	Dacoity	1	2	1	2	0	-100.00
9	Arson	4	2	2	1	2	-50.00
10	Criminal Intimidation	150	132	229	339	364	142.67
11	Other IPC Crimes	199	154	210	289	179	-10.05
12	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	83	131	31	42	30	-63.86
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	50	100	27	25	24	-52.00
14	Occupy/Disposes Land Belongs to SCs	1	6	1	0	3	200.00
15	Prevent or deny or obstruct usage of public place/passage	2	2	2	0	0	-100.00
16	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	30	19	0	16	3	-90.00
17	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	1500	1394	1673	1972	1914	27.60
18	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	4	4	0	5	9	125.00

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Atrocities Against SC Women & Girls in Karnataka

914

Rape Cases filed in
2019-2023

211%

Rise in POCSO cases

300%

Rise in insult to modesty

Physical and Sexual Violence against Women & Girls

60%

Out of total rape cases
rape of minor girls
548 Cases

40%

Rape of Adult Women
366 cases

Violence against Children



+211%

POCSO cases
9 to 28 cases

+61.6%

Rape of Children (SC)
86 to 139 cases

+16.4%

Overall Rape Cases
183 to 213 cases

+200%

Rise in Stalking
Cases against
SC Women & Girls

+300%

Rise in Insult to
Modesty against
SC Women & Girls

POLICE RESPONSE

TABLE 3

CHARGE-SHEETING RATE FOR THE CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST SCs UNDER POA ACT (2019-2023)

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 (%)	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	2263	226	1131	81.8	877
2020	2275	256	1208	80.3	769
2021	2442	233	1556	86.0	632
2022	2609	258	1636	83.6	651.0
2023	2574	360	1718	81.4	457

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Police response to atrocities against SCs shows continuously significant rate with more than 80% all five years. The number cases submitted chargesheet also increased from 1131 to 1718 and the reduction in the number pending investigations marks the positive trend. However the cases where final report was submitted without proceeding for charge-sheeting also increased 226 cases in 2019 to 360 cases in 2023.

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.

TABLE 4

Year	Total number of cases including pending and brought forward cases	Number of cases disposed off without Trial	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	Cases Discharged	Number of cases ending in acquittal	Number of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	9005	119	670	24	2	26	56	588	8216
2020	9424	2	370	12	5	17	0	353	9052
2021	10608	4	628	7	3	10	5	613	9976
2022	11612	9	1113	14	1	15	2	1096	10490
2023	12208	13	1104	24	0	24	3	1077	11091

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The judicial response to atrocities against SCs in Karnataka reflects serious gaps in the delivery of justice to survivors of caste-based atrocities. As mandated under Section 14 of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, trials are to be completed within two months of filing the charge sheet; however, the data shows a persistent failure in adhering to this provision.

The number of cases pending before courts has steadily increased from 8,216 in 2019 to 11,091 in 2023, highlighting significant delays and systemic inefficiencies. Despite an increase in the number of trials completed, this has not translated into meaningful justice outcomes. Convictions remain extremely low compared to acquittals. **In 2023, only 24 cases resulted in conviction, while 1,077 cases ended in acquittal, pointing to serious weaknesses in prosecution and evidence handling.**

LOW CONVICTION RATE vs HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE

TABLE 5

LOW CONVICTION RATE VS HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE IN ATROCITY CASES OF SCs IN KARNATAKA

Year	Charge-Sheeting Rate	Conviction rate	Acquittal rate	Pendency rate
2019	81.8	3.9	87.8	91.2
2020	80.3	4.6	95.4	96.1
2021	86.0	1.6	97.6	94.0
2022	83.6	1.3	98.5	90.3
2023	81.4	2.2	97.6	90.9

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The overall criminal justice response to atrocities against SCs in Karnataka reflects a deep imbalance between procedural action and actual justice outcomes. While the charge-sheeting rate remains consistently high (around 80–86%), it has not translated into justice to victims of atrocities.

Conviction rates remain critically low, declining from 3.9% in 2019 to just 2.2% in 2023, indicating a persistent failure in securing justice. In contrast, acquittal rates are alarmingly high consistently more than 95%, in the year 2023 the acquittal rate is 97.6%, which points to serious gaps in investigation and prosecution.

At the same time, pendency rates remain extremely high, above 90% across all years, reflecting prolonged delays in the judicial process.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

TABLE 6

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA DURING 2019-2023

No.	Crime Head	Years					Percentage Variation in 2023 over 2019
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	Crimes under SCs/ STs (PoA) Act r/w IPC						
1	Murder	15	11	15	17	10	-33.33
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	31	20	31	37	36	16.13
3	Simple Hurt	89	61	91	69	83	-6.74
4	Grievous Hurt	13	7	9	10	11	-15.38
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	3	1	3	1	1	-66.67
6	Rioting	34	48	39	41	63	85.29
7	Robbery	1	1	1	6	2	100.00
8	Dacoity	2	0	1	1	1	-50.00
9	Criminal Intimidation	23	13	46	61	61	165.22
10	Other IPC Crimes	39	39	28	45	39	0.00
11	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	11	22	3	4	2	-81.82
12	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	3	14	2	1	2	-33.33
13	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	8	8	0	3	0	-100.00
14	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	327	291	358	438	434	32.72

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Atrocities against Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka continues to reflect serious threats to life, dignity, and security, with patterns indicating both direct and collective forms of caste-based violence. Over the five-year period (2019–2023), 68 Scheduled Tribe persons were murdered that underscores the severity of atrocities in the state. While murder cases have slightly declined from 15 in 2019 to 10 in 2023, this does not signal reduced violence, as attempt to murder has increased by 16.1%, pointing to continued life-threatening conditions. There is also a sharp rise in collective forms of violence, with criminal intimidation increasing by 165.2% and rioting by 85.3%, reflecting the growing use of threats, coercion, and group-based violence to assert control over ST communities.

TABLE: 7

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS - STs

Crime Head	Years					Percentage Variation in 2023 over 2019
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty (Adults + Children)	43	39	42	92	72	67.4
Assault on Women	43	36	40	86	57	32.6
Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	34	29	25	66	29	-14.7
Sexual Harassment	3	2	3	8	11	266.7
Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	6	5	11	11	13	116.7
Stalking	0	0	1	1	4	-
B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	0	3	10	6	15	-
Insult to the Modesty of Women	1	0	1	2	2	100
Rape (Total)	22	29	48	51	51	131.8
Rape of Women	11	16	18	17	14	27.3
Rape of children	11	13	30	34	37	236.4

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

POLICE RESPONSE

TABLE 8

POLICE RESPONSE TO CRIME AGAINST STs UNDER POA ACT (2019-2023)

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 (%)	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	450	31	249	86.5	162.0
2020	455	33	262	85.1	147.0
2021	508	35	346	89.9	123.0
2022	561	46	341	84.4	157
2023	591	65	403	84.0	110

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The police response to atrocities against STs in Karnataka shows a charge-sheeting rate more than 80% in all the states. Number cases pending for police investigation also reduced. However on the other hand, cases where final report was submitted without proceeding for charge-sheeting has increased 109.7% (31 cases in 2019 to 65 cases in 2023).

Violence Against ST Women & Girls in Karnataka

201

ST Women & Girls Raped
2019–2023

+67.4%

Assault to Outrage Modesty
(43 to 72 cases)
2019–2023

+266.7%

Rise in Sexual Harrasment

+236.4%

Rape of Minor Girls
(11 to 37 cases)

Physical and Sexual Violence against Women & Girls

+32.6%

Overall Assault
on Women

+116.7% Assault to Disrobe



+131.8%

Overall Rape Case Increase
22 to 51 registered cases

+236.4%

Rape of Minor Girls
11 to 37 cases

The emergence and rise of cases such as stalking and POCSO offences in recent years further indicate expanding forms of gendered violence.

TABLE 9

DISPOSAL OF CRIMES BY COURT UNDER SC/ST (POA) ACT FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES (2019-2023)

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	1909	167	2	1	3	37	163	1705
2020	1967	76	1	0	1	0	75	1891
2021	2237	127	0	0	0	1	127	2109
2022	2450	391	3	0	3	0	388	2059
2023	2462	207	3	0	3	3	204	2252

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Low conviction and High Acquittal remains a continuous judicial response in the state for the atrocity victims. Convictions remain extremely low, with only 3 convictions in 2023, this highlights the limited effectiveness of the trial process. In contrast, acquittals remain high, with 204 cases ending in acquittal in 2023, far exceeding convictions.

Due to the increasing atrocities and pending cases before the court increased from 1909 in 2019 to 2462 in 2023. STs Atrocity Cases Pending for trials increased 32.1% over the five years. Continued denial of timely and effective justice to ST survivors, raising serious concerns about the functioning of the judicial system in addressing caste-based atrocities.

TABLE 10

Low Conviction Rate Vs High Acquittal Rate in Atrocity cases of STs in Karnataka

Year	Charge-Sheeting Rate	Conviction rate	Acquittal rate	Pendency rate
2019	86.5	1.8	97.7	89.3
2020	85.1	1.3	98.7	96.1
2021	89.9	0	100	94.3
2022	84.4	0.8	99.2	84.0
2023	84.0	1.4	98.6	91.5

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The overall criminal justice response to atrocities against STs in Karnataka reveals a sharp gap between investigation and justice outcomes. While the charge-sheeting rate remains consistently high (84%–89.9%), this has not translated into convictions. Conviction rates are extremely low, dropping to 0% in 2021 and remaining below 2% across all years, indicating a near-complete failure in securing justice. The conviction rate in 2023 is just 1.4%. In contrast, acquittal rates are alarmingly high, consistently above 97%, reaching 100% in 2021, pointing to serious weaknesses in investigation and prosecution.

Pendency rates remain very high, ranging from 84% to 96%, reflecting prolonged delays in the judicial process. Over the year it has increased from 89.3 % in 2019 to 91.5 in 2023. These trends highlight that despite procedural action by the police, the system continues to result in systematic denial of justice for Scheduled Tribe survivors, with high acquittals and delays undermining the intent of the PoA Act. The high chargesheeting rates become symbolic.

The large pendency of cases for trial reflects the systemic incapacity of courts to deliver timely justice, in violation of the PoA Act mandates. With only 8 Exclusive Special Courts in the state, the existing infrastructure remains insufficient to address the scale of atrocities, resulting in prolonged delays and denial of justice.

MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

TABLE 11

VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE

	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Meeting supposed to be organised	Meeting organised	Meeting supposed to be organised	Meeting organised	Meeting supposed to be organised	Meeting organised	Meeting supposed to be organised	Meeting organised
SVMC	2	0	2	1	2	1	2	0
DVMC (30 Districts)	120	88	120	80	120	109	124	118
SDVMC (52 divisions)	208	93	208	106	208	173	212	197

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Karnataka Vigilance and Monitoring Committee: SVMC

only **25%** of mandated meetings held over four years (2019–2022)



TABLE 12

INVESTIGATION OF ATROCITY CASES BY POLICE

2019		2020		2021		2022	
Investigation within 60 days	After 60 days	Investigation within 60 days	After 60 days	Investigation within 60 days	After 60 days	Investigation within 60 days	after 60 days
891	359	1078	360	1333	466	1564	369

As per rule 7(2) of SC/ST(PoA) Rules, the investigation needs to be completed in 60 days, the data shows in Karnataka investigation shows though the number of cases investigated within 60 days increased over the year, cases delay in investigation remain continued. compliance with the mandated timeline is still inconsistent, affecting timely access to justice for survivors of caste-based atrocities.

TABLE 13

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

2019		2020		2021		2022	
within 7 days	after 7 days	within 7 days	after 7 days	within 7 days	after 7 days	within 7 days	after 7 days
336	1276	637	1023	726	1075	558	1696

The disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to SC survivors in Karnataka shows serious delays and non-compliance with mandated timelines. Across all years, a large number of cases received relief after the stipulated 7 days, consistently exceeding those provided within time.

Across all years, a large number of survivors received relief after the mandated 7 days, and in many instances, the number of persons receiving timely relief remains significantly lower. For example, in 2022, only 558 persons received relief within 7 days, compared to 1,696 who received it after delay, highlighting both delay and exclusion.

The data, sourced from the Annual Report on the PoA Act by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, represents the number of persons receiving relief, not the number of cases. This indicates that beyond delays, there are also gaps in coverage of relief itself. This suggests that relief provisions are not being fully implemented, with many survivors either receiving delayed support or not receiving relief as mandated,

TABLE 14

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Periodic Survey	0	0	0	0
Legal Aid	834	691	505	928
Travel and Maintenance	545	79	437	959

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The absence of periodic surveys across all years (2019–2022) indicates a complete lack of monitoring and assessment of ground realities under the PoA Act in Karnataka.

Legal aid support shows fluctuation, declining from 834 in 2019 to 505 in 2021, before increasing to 928 in 2022, indicating inconsistency in access to legal support. When compared with the total number of atrocity cases, it is evident that legal aid does not cover huge a significant proportion of survivors.

The provision of travel and maintenance support to victims and witnesses under the PoA Act has not been implemented effectively in Karnataka. When compared with the total number of registered cases, the coverage remains consistently low. In 2019, only 29.8%, 2020 just 4.7%, 2021 about 21.5%, and 2022 around 39.7% of cases received such support.

Importantly, this data includes both victims and witnesses, and even then, the proportion remains very low when compared to the total cases registered. This indicates that a large number of survivors are not receiving the essential support required to access the justice system, including during investigation and trial stages. The lack of travel and maintenance support places an additional financial burden on survivors and witnesses, limiting their ability to consistently pursue cases.

This also contributes to high acquittal rates, as survivors are often unable to follow up, attend hearings, or sustain the legal process. Such gaps in support reflect serious failures in implementation and undermine the intent of the PoA Act to ensure accessible and effective justice.



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS 2026

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