

MAHARASHTRA

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: **Mr. Deepesh Chithra**

Advisor: **Ms. Beena Pallical**

Design: **Ms. Sajana J**

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Address: **National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR)
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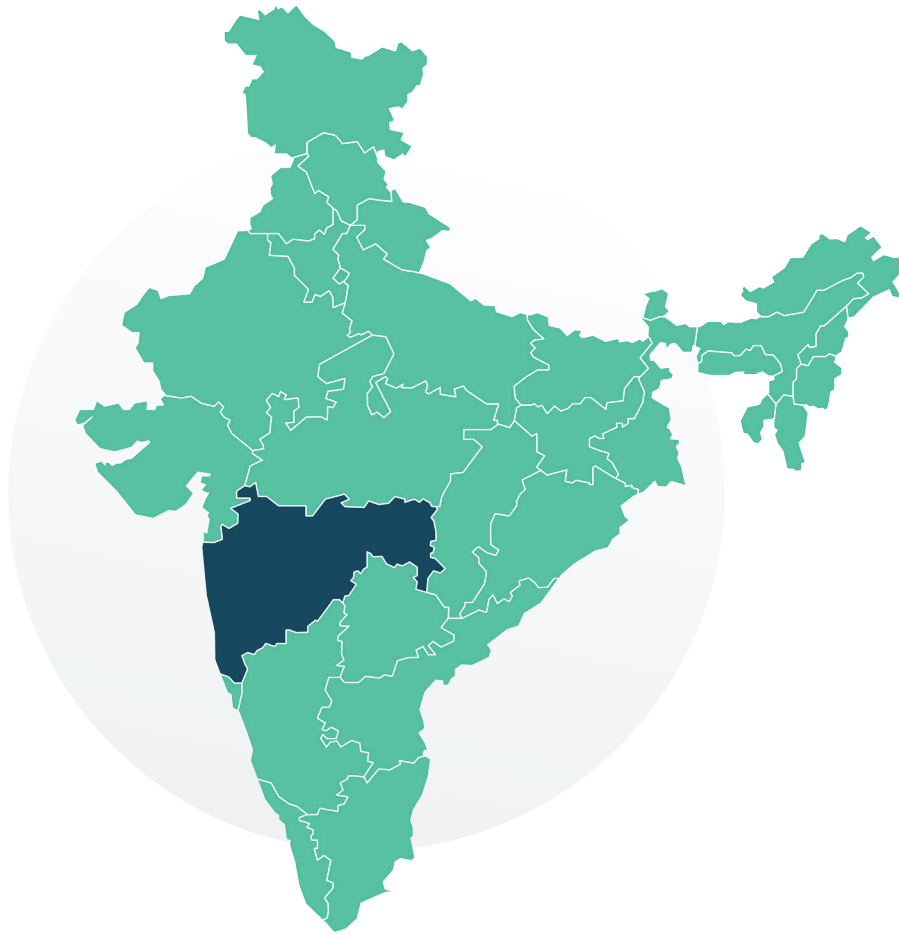
Phone: **+91-11-25842249**

Website: **ncdhr.org.in**

**ATROCITIES AGAINST
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
2019-2023**

**FACT SHEET:
MAHARASHTRA**

MAHARASHTRA



Crime Against
Scheduled Castes*

41.7%
Crime rate**

Crime rate per Lakh
(2023)

30.1%
Crime rate**

* 2011 Census

** NCRB Crime in India 2019-2023

Maharashtra has a significant population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with 132.8 lakh SCs and 105.1 lakh STs (Census 2011). The crime rate in 2023 stands at 22.8 for SCs and 7.4 for STs, indicating the continued vulnerability of these communities to caste-based atrocities in the state.

TABLE 1:

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

YEAR	TOTAL NO. OF CRIMES AGAINST SCs	TOTAL NO. OF CRIMES AGAINST STs
2019	2150	559
2020	2569	663
2021	2503	628
2022	2743	742
2023	3024	773
TOTAL	12989	3365

Source: NCRB, Crime in India, 2019-2023

Caste-based atrocities in Maharashtra show a consistent and alarming increase over the five-year period, reflecting deepening vulnerabilities among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Between 2019 and 2023, a total of 16,354 atrocities were registered in the state, including 12,989 cases against SCs and 3,365 cases against STs.

Cases against Scheduled Castes increased from 2,150 in 2019 to 3,024 in 2023, marking a 40.6% increase, while crimes against Scheduled Tribes rose from 559 to 773, reflecting a 38.3% increase over the same period.

Caste-Based Atrocities in Maharashtra

TOTAL CASES REGISTERED · 2019–2023

16,354

Caste-based atrocities in Maharashtra show a consistent and alarming increase over the five-year period, reflecting deepening vulnerabilities among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SC CASES

12,989

ST CASES

3,365

40.6%

Rise in SC atrocities from 2019 to 2023
— from 2,150 to 3,024 registered cases

38.3%

Rise in ST atrocities from 2019 to 2023
— from 559 to 773 registered cases

- SC communities account for nearly 79% of all atrocity cases registered in the five-year period.
- ST cases rose uninterrupted from 559 in 2019 to a peak of 806 in 2022.

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTE IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA (2019-2023)

TABLE 2 :

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

No.	Crime Head	Years					Percentage Variation in 2023 over 2019 [(5-1)/1 x 100]
	Crimes under SCs/ STs (PoA) Act r/w IPC	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	Murder	59	61	61	76	73	23.73
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	68	72	99	99	105	54.41
3	Simple Hurt	202	346	296	317	344	70.30
4	Grievous Hurt	71	82	117	94	105	47.89
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	59	60	48	36	57	-3.39
6	Rioting	220	305	253	265	300	36.36
7	Robbery	18	17	9	10	11	-38.89
8	Dacoity	11	6	10	3	4	-63.64
9	Arson	14	13	6	3	17	21.43
10	Criminal Intimidation	13	12	8	11	12	-7.69
11	Other IPC Crimes	405	569	210	500	587	44.94
12	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	217	210	31	365	340	56.68
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	126	109	27	253	257	103.97
14	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	91	96	134	110	83	-8.79
15	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	2149	2569	2503	2741	3024	40.72
16	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	1	0	0	2	0	-100.00

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Nature of Crimes Against Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra



+23.7%

Murder increase
59 cases 73 cases

+104%

Intentional humiliation
highest % increase overall

+70.3%

Simple Hurt surge
largest physical assault rise

Persistence of extreme brutality against SC communities.

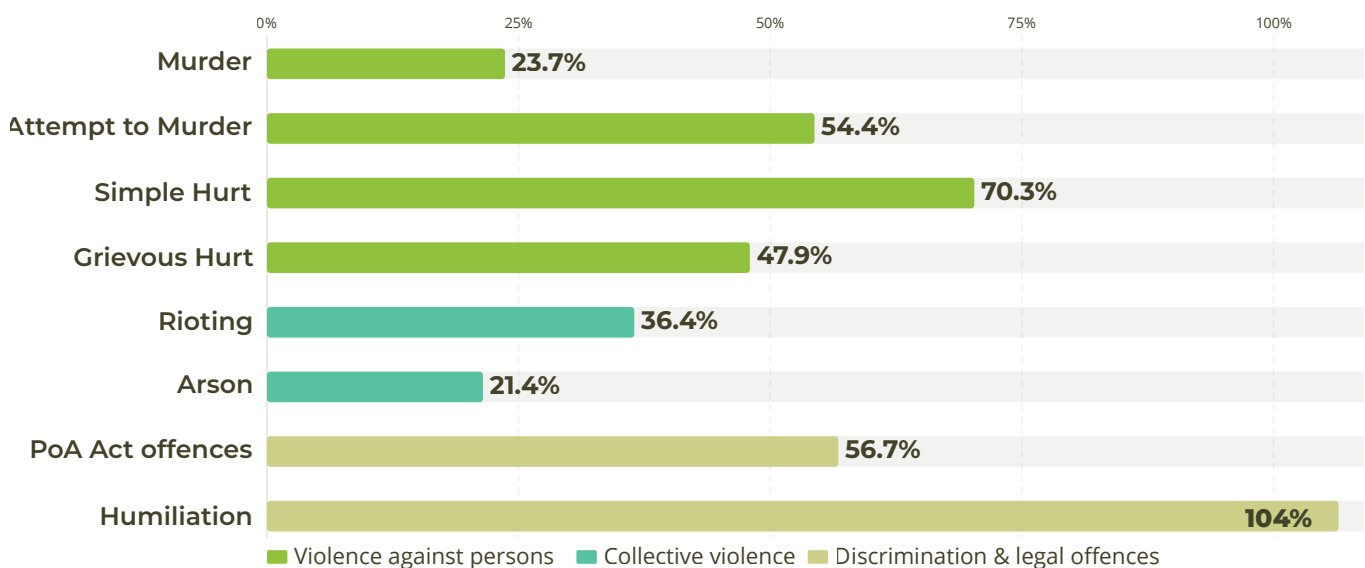


TABLE 3

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS - SCs

No.	Crime Head	Years					Percentage Variation in 2023 over 2019
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty (Adults + Children)	405	460	455	488	552	36.3
2	Assault on Women	324	381	364	377	421	29.9
3	Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	170	191	185	204	235	38.2
4	Sexual Harassment	110	122	117	117	123	11.8
5	Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	8	14	15	14	15	87.5
6	Voyeurism	2	4	4	2	2	0
7	Stalking	34	50	43	40	46	35.3
8	B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	81	79	91	111	131	61.7
9	Insult to the Modesty of Women	10	5	8	12	13	30
10	Missing Children	13	12	8	11	12	-7.69
11	Deemed as Kidnapped	3	7	6	3	13	333.3
12	Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	17	17	4	4	9	-47.1
13	Rape (Total)	377	351	395	462	504	33.7
14	Rape of Women	196	230	232	268	284	44.9
15	Rape of children	181	121	163	194	220	21.5

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Atrocities against Scheduled Caste women and girls in Maharashtra

TOTAL CASES REGISTERED - 2019-2023

+33.7%

Rape cases increase

377 504 cases

2,089

Dalit women & girls raped

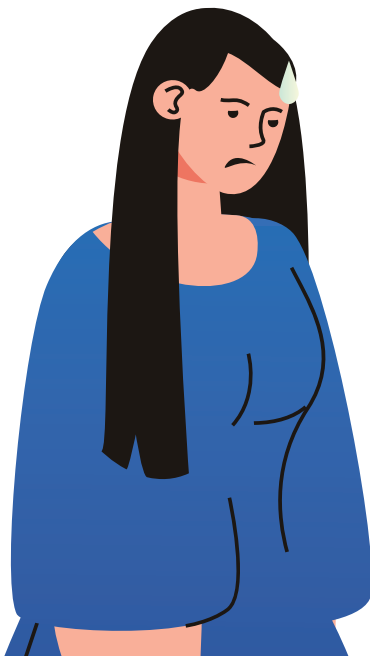
2019-2023 cumulative total

+333%

Missing children / kidnapped

sharpest surge overall

RAPE — FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW



TOTAL VICTIMS 2019-2023

2,089

ADULT WOMEN

57.9%

of all victims

MINOR GIRLS

42.1%

of all victims

Assault on Children (POCSO) +61.7%

2019 : 81 cases
2023 : 131 cases

increase

Missing Children (Deemed Kidnapped) +333%

highest increase

Assault with Intent to Disrobe +87.5%

Extreme forms of humiliation and coercion targeted at Dalit women

increase

Stalking +35.3%

Persistent targeted surveillance and following of SC women

highest increase

TABLE 4

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	Total cases disposed off	Charge sheeting Rate (%)	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	3290	283	1800	2083	86.4	1191
2020	3761	292	2133	2427	87.9	1320
2021	3823	264	2357	2621	89.9	1187
2022	3930	250	2371	2623	90.4	1302
2023	4326	211	2790	3002	92.9	1321

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Over the five-year period, the charge-sheeting rate has increased from 86.4% in 2019 to 92.9% in 2023. The number of charge sheets filed has also increased significantly, from 1,800 cases in 2019 to 2,790 cases in 2023, reflecting an expansion in police action against registered cases. However, the number of cases pending investigation has remained consistently high, increasing from 1,191 cases in 2019 to 1,321 cases in 2023, indicating delays in completing investigations.

TABLE 5

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

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	10689	29	1054	68	7	75	18	961	9606
2020	11733	6	331	39	0	39	12	280	11396
2021	13753	10	419	45	0	45	14	360	13324
2022	15695	17	1010	89	0	89	2	919	14668
2023	17458	33	991	86	2	88	15	888	16434

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The number of cases pending at the end of each year has sharply risen from 9,606 in 2019 to 16,434 in 2023, marking a 71.1% increase, highlighting serious delays and systemic inefficiencies in the courts' ability to conduct timely trials and deliver justice in the Dalit atrocity cases. The number of trials completed has decreased from 2019-2023. In the year 2019 trials were completed in 1054 cases which decreased to 991 in 2023. The lowest trials cases found in the year 2020. Convictions remain extremely low, with only 88 cases resulting in conviction in 2023. In contrast, acquittals remain disproportionately high, with 888 cases ending in acquittal in 2023 alone, far exceeding the number of convictions.

LOW CONVICTION RATE vs HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE

TABLE 6 LOW CONVICTION RATE VS HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE IN ATROCITY CASES OF SCs IN MAHARASHTRA

Year	Charge-Sheeting Rate	Conviction rate	Acquittal rate	Pendency rate
2019	86.4	7.1	91.2	89.9
2020	87.9	11.8	84.6	97.1
2021	89.9	10.7	85.9	96.9
2022	90.4	8.8	91.0	93.5
2023	92.9	8.9	89.6	94.1

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The criminal justice response to atrocities against Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra reflects a serious gap between case registration and actual delivery of justice, as seen in the persistently low conviction rates and extremely high pendency.

Despite high charge-sheeting rates, conviction rates remain consistently low, ranging between 7.1% and 11.8% over the five-year period, and standing at 8.9% in 2023. On the other hand Acquittal rates remain consistently high, ranging between 84.6% and 91.2% over the five-year period, and standing at 89.6% in 2023. This results in injustice for survivors and highlights the weaknesses in prosecution, evidence collection, and witness protection mechanisms.

At the same time, pendency rates remain critically high, increasing from 89.9% in 2019 to 94.1% in 2023, and consistently staying above 90% in most years. This reflects systemic delays in trial processes and the inability of courts to dispose of cases in a time-bound manner, as mandated under the SC/ST (PoA) Act.

The number of Exclusive Special Courts remains extremely limited, with only 3 courts functioning across 36 districts in Maharashtra from 2019 to 2022, which is grossly inadequate considering the high volume of atrocity cases, thereby contributing to delays in trial and the growing pendency of cases.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

TABLE 7

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

No.	Crime Head	Years					Percentage Variation in 2023 over 2019 [(5-1)/1 x 100]
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	Crimes under SCs/ STs (PoA) Act r/w IPC	1	2	3	4	5	
1	Murder	18	20	26	26	26	44.44
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	10	22	10	19	8	-20.00
3	Simple Hurt	35	55	41	52	76	117.14
4	Grievous Hurt	16	28	18	34	25	56.25
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	15	21	12	163	16	6.67
6	Rioting	43	62	41	57	58	34.88
7	Robbery	2	2	0	4	1	-50.00
8	Dacoity	2	0	2	0	0	-100.00
	Arson	6	5	2	2	3	-50.00
10	Criminal Intimidation	4	0	1	1	0	-100.00
11	Other IPC Crimes	67	122	92	137	133	98.51
12	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	53	24	55	54	56	5.66
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	19	8	14	31	25	31.58
14	Occupy/Disposes Land Belongs to SCs	3	0	0	1	0	-100.00
15	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	31	16	41	21	31	0.00
16	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	559	663	628	742	773	38.28

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The nature of crimes against Scheduled Tribes in Maharashtra reflects a concerning rise in both physical violence and collective forms of attacks, most notably, murder cases have increased by 44.4% (from 18 in 2019 to 26 in 2023), highlighting the growing severity of caste-based violence resulting in loss of life. Collective and group-based violence is also evident against STs, with rioting increasing by 34.9%, indicating the continued use of mob violence to target and intimidate ST communities. The increase in “Other IPC Crimes” by 98.5% suggests a broadening spectrum of offences, pointing towards diverse and evolving forms of caste-based violence. Cases of intentional insult or intimidation increasing by 31.6%. The total number of atrocities registered under the SC/ST (PoA) Act has increased by 38.3% over the five-year period

TABLE 8

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)	171	173	182	163	198	15.8
Assault on Women	132	156	147	128	150	13.6
Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	68	83	92	74	95	39.7
Sexual Harassment	48	55	37	42	33	-31.3
Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	5	8	10	5	10	100
Stalking	11	10	8	7	12	9.1
B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	39	17	35	35	48	23.1
Insult to the Modesty of Women	3	0	1	3	4	33.3
Missing Children deemed as Kidnapped	2	1	1	4	2	0
Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	4	5	3	2	0	-100
Procurer of Minor Girls (Sec. 366A IPC)	1	1	1	0	0	-100
Rape (Total)	114	129	145	176	169	48.2
Rape of Women	72	84	83	116	87	20.8
Rape of children	42	45	62	60	82	95.2

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Atrocities against Scheduled Tribe women and girls in Maharashtra

TOTAL CASES REGISTERED - 2019-2023

+48.2%

Increase in Rape cases

377 to 504 cases

+20.8%

increase in Rape of ST women

2019-2023 cumulative total

+95.2%

Surge in rape of minor girls

42 to 82 cases

RAPE — FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW



TOTAL VICTIMS 2019-2023

733

ADULT WOMEN

60%

of all victims

MINOR GIRLS

40%

of all victims

Assault on Children (POCSO) +23.1%

2019 : 39 cases
2023 : 48 cases

increase

Assault on Women +13.6%

Assault with Intent to Disrobe +100%

Extreme forms of humiliation and coercion targeted at ST women

cases doubled in 5 years

Stalking +9.1%

Persistent targeted surveillance and following of ST women

TABLE 9

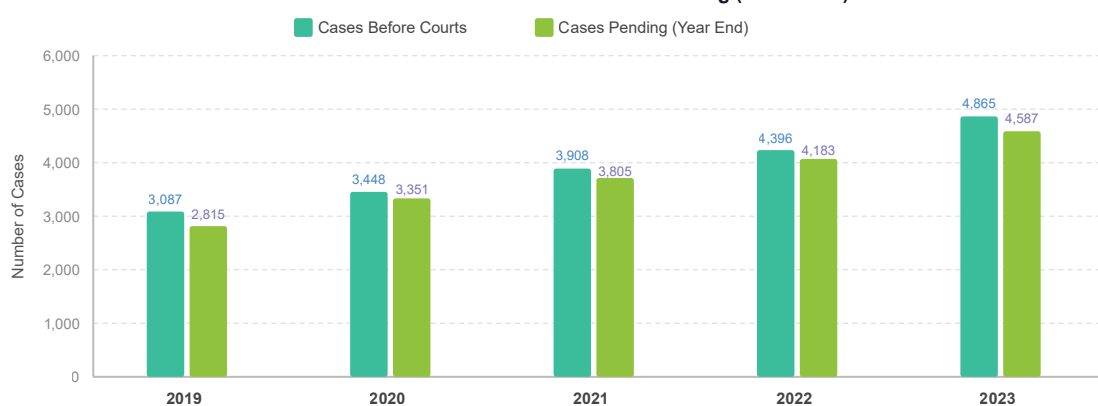
CHARGE-SHEETING RATE FOR THE CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST STs UNDER POA ACT (2019-2023)

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	Total cases disposed off	Charge sheeting Rate (%)	No. of cases pending investigation
2019	852	44	447	491	91.0	356
2020	1019	65	633	698	90.7	319
2021	946	62	557	619	90.0	324
2022	1067	58	591	650	90.9	416
2023	1189	73	682	756	90.2	433

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The charge-sheeting rate in Maharashtra in ST atrocity cases has remained above 89% across all five years, standing at 90.2% in 2023, reflecting that a large proportion of registered cases are charge-sheeted. The number of cases charge sheeted has also increased from 447 cases in 2019 to 682 cases in 2023. However, the number of cases pending investigation has increased from 356 in 2019 to 433 in 2023, reflecting delays in the completion of investigations. At the same time, cases where final reports were submitted without proceeding for charge-sheeting remain consistently high, increasing from 44 cases in 2019 to 73 cases in 2023 with 65.9%. This indicates that a notable number of complaints are not progressing to prosecution.

Cases Before Courts vs Cases Pending (2019–2023)



Acquittals vs Convictions (2019–2023)

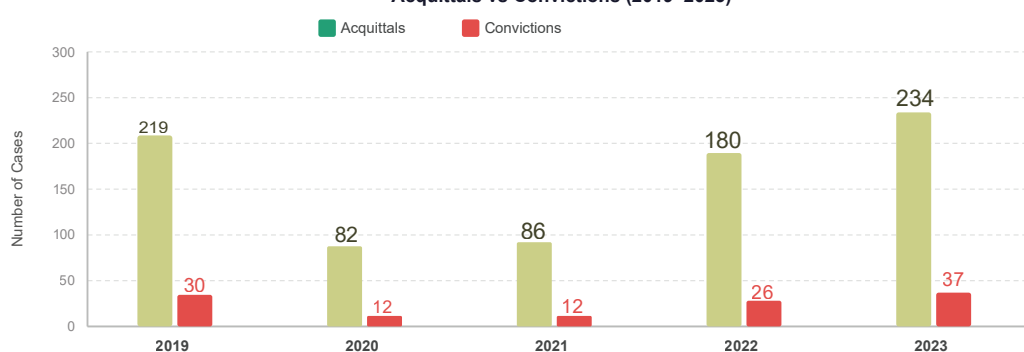


TABLE 11 LOW CONVICTION RATE VS HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE IN ATROCITY CASES OF STs IN MAHARASHTRA

Year	Charge-Sheeting Rate	Conviction rate	Acquittal rate	Pendency rate
2019	91.0	11.9	86.9	91.2
2020	90.7	12.5	85.4	97.2
2021	90.0	11.8	84.3	97.4
2022	90.9	12.6	90.0	95.2
2023	90.2	13.6	85.7	94.3

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The charge-sheeting rate remains consistently high, around 90% across all five years, indicating that most cases are being formally processed by the police. Conviction rates remain low, ranging between 11.8% and 13.6%, with the rate standing at 13.6% in 2023. In contrast, acquittal rates remain consistently high, ranging between 84.3% and 90%, and standing at 85.7% in 2023, highlighting serious gaps in the investigation and prosecution. At the same time, pendency rates remain critically high, increasing from 91.2% in 2019 to 94.3% in 2023, and exceeding 97% in some years, reflecting significant delays in trial completion in Atrocity cases of STs.

MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

TABLE 12 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	0	2	0	2	0
DVMC (36 districts)	144	369	144	297	144	356	144	378

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (SVMC), which is mandated to meet twice a year, has completely failed to convene any meetings across all four years (2019–2022). Against the required 8 meetings, not a single meeting was held, indicating a complete breakdown of state-level oversight and accountability mechanisms under the SC/ST (PoA) Act.

At the district level, the performance of District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (DVMCs) shows a relatively, While the number of meetings conducted exceeds the mandated number in all years (for example, 369 meetings conducted against 144 required in 2019).

TABLE 13

INVESTIGATION

2019		2020		2021		2022	
Investigation with 60 days	after 60 days	Investigation with 60 days	after 60 days	Investigation with 60 days	after 60 days	Investigation with 60 days	after 60 days
397	979	631	1040	1286	1345	1408	1453

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

While the number of cases investigated within 60 days has increased significantly from 397 in 2019 to 1,408 in 2022, the number of cases where investigation exceeded 60 days remains consistently high and even higher than timely investigations in most years. Cases delayed beyond 60 days increased from 979 in 2019 to 1,453 in 2022, reflecting a continuing pattern of non-compliance with statutory timelines.

TABLE 14

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
134	1381	63	1363	69	1225	49	2270

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to survivors of atrocities in Maharashtra reflects serious delays and non-compliance with mandated timelines under the SC/ST (PoA) Act. Across all four years (2019–2022), the number of cases where relief was provided after the stipulated 7 days far exceeds those receiving timely support. In 2019, only 134 persons received relief within 7 days, compared to 1,381 who received it after delay. This gap persists across all years, with the situation worsening significantly in 2022, where only 49 persons received timely relief, while 2,270 received it after delay.

TABLE 15

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Legal Aid	1623	1721	1496	2175
Travel and Maintenance	133	138	6	0
Periodic Survey	yes, only in one district	no	no	no
Prone Zone	6	2	no prone zone	no prone zone

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The provision of legal aid shows some improvement, increasing from 1,623 beneficiaries in 2019 to 2,175 in 2022, indicating relatively better outreach. However, when compared to the total number of atrocity cases, it is evident that legal aid does not cover a significant proportion of survivors.

A major concern is the near absence of travel and maintenance support for victims and witnesses. The number of beneficiaries has drastically declined from 133 in 2019 to zero in 2022, reflecting a serious failure in supporting survivors to participate in investigation and trial processes.

This lack of support places an additional financial burden on victims and witnesses. The absence of periodic surveys across most years indicates a lack of systematic assessment of ground realities and atrocity-prone areas. Except for limited identification in earlier years (6 districts in 2019 and 2 in 2020), there is no identification of atrocity-prone zones in subsequent years, reflecting a decline in preventive and monitoring efforts.





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

www.ncdhr.org.in