

BIHAR

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.

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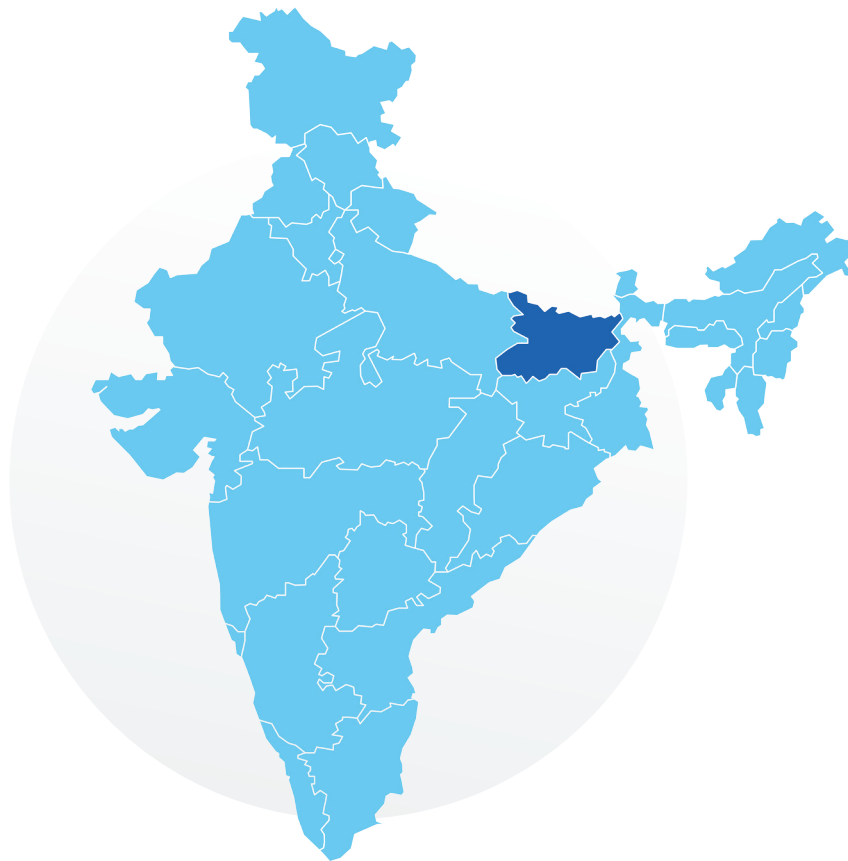
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BIHAR



SC population

71.9 lakh*

33,327 crimes

Between 2019 - 2023



ST population

13.4 lakh

554 crimes

Between 2019 - 2023

42.6 % Crime rate against SC Communities

8.5% Crime rate against ST Communities

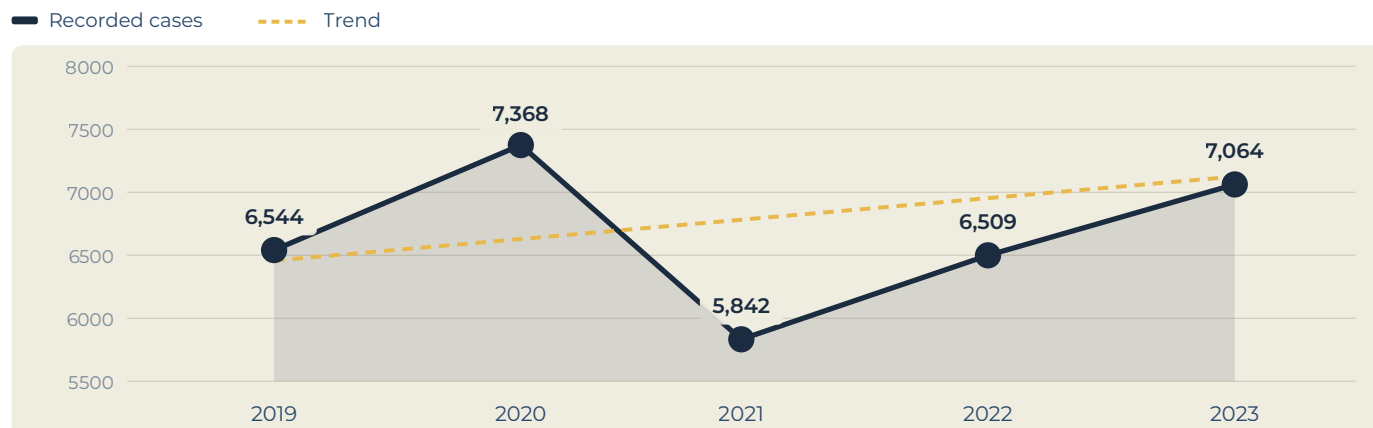
*Census 2011

In Bihar, Scheduled Castes (SCs) constitute a significant population of 71.9 lakh, while Scheduled Tribes (STs) account for 13.4 lakh, as per Census 2011. Despite the constitutional guarantees and special legislations aimed at protecting marginalised communities, crimes against these communities continue to remain a serious concern. The crime rate against SCs stands at 42.6. the crime rate against STs is reported at 8.5.

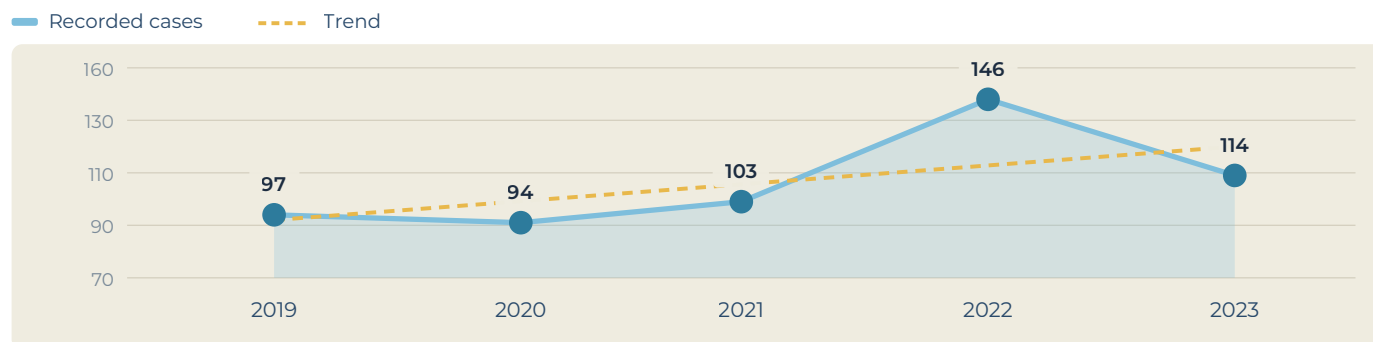
2019–2023

OVERALL CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES IN BIHAR

TOTAL RECORDED CRIMES AGAINST SC COMMUNITIES



TOTAL RECORDED CRIMES AGAINST ST COMMUNITIES



YEAR	CRIMES AGAINST SCs	CRIMES AGAINST STs
2019	6,544	97
2020	7,368	94
2021	5,842	103
2022	6,509	146
2023	7,064	114
TOTAL	33,327	554

Between 2019 and 2023, Bihar recorded a total of 33,327 crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 554 crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs), according to NCRB Crime in India data. Crimes against SCs increased from 6,544 cases in 2019 to 7,064 cases in 2023, marking an increase of around 8%. Similarly, crimes against STs increased from 97 cases in 2019 to 114 cases in 2023, reflecting an increase of nearly 17.5%. The continuing rise in atrocities highlights the persistent nature of caste-based violence and the need for stronger implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in the state.

NATURE OF ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs

TABLE 1 : NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE STATE OF BIHAR DURING 2019-2023

No.	Nature of Crimes	Years					Percentage Variation in 2023 over 2019 $(5-1)/1 \times 100$
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Murder	160	101	176	168	149	-6.9
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	105	385	152	67	141	34.3
3	Simple Hurt	5310	5888	4720	5335	5448	2.6
4	Grievous Hurt	370	704	393	480	494	33.5
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	35	64	10	62	17	-51.4
6	Rioting	44	160	12	7	5	-88.6
7	Robbery	2	8	0	0	0	-100
8	Dacoity	0	0	0	0	0	-
9	Arson	66	7	84	87	96	45.5
10	Criminal Intimidation	0	0	0	0	6	-
11	Other IPC Crimes	372	6	176	111	420	12.9
12	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	4	1	0	0	1	-75
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	4	1	0	0	1	-75
14	Occupy/Disposes Land Belongs to SCs	0	0	0	0	0	-
15	Prevent or deny or obstruct usage of public place/passage	0	0	0	0	0	-
16	Force to leave place of Residence/Social Boycott	0	0	0	0	0	-
17	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	0	0	0	0	0	-
18	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	6544	7368	5842	6509	7064	7.9
19	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: NCRB, Crime in India, 2019-2023

2019–2023

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES IN BIHAR

TOTAL RECORDED CRIMES · AT A GLANCE

7,064

 Total cases registered (2023)
under SC/ST Act

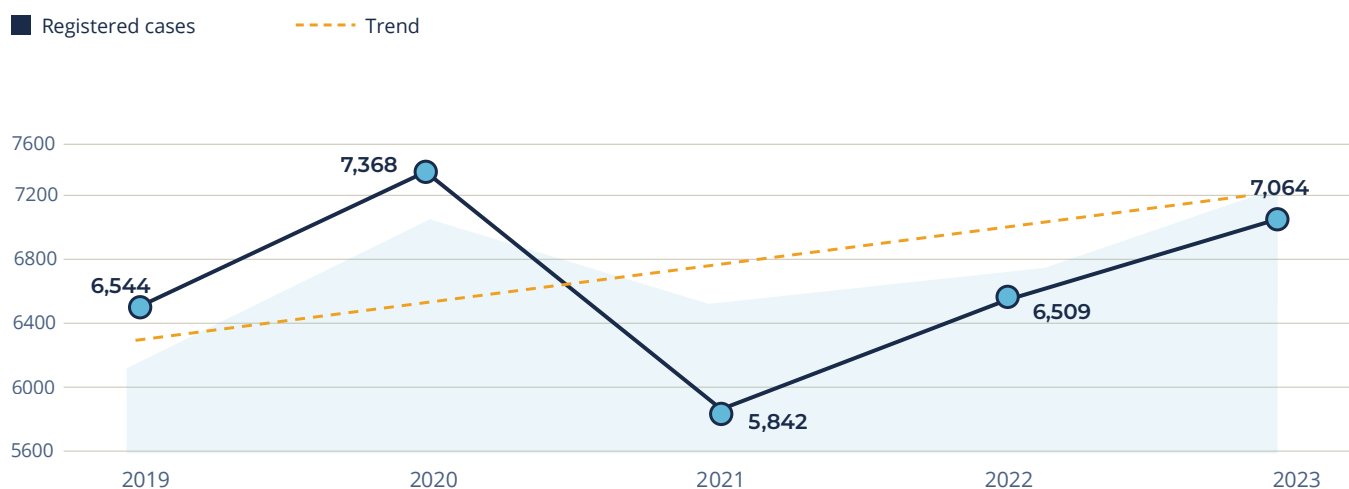
+7.9% RISE

 6,544 (2019) to 7,064 (2023)
overall increase

5,448

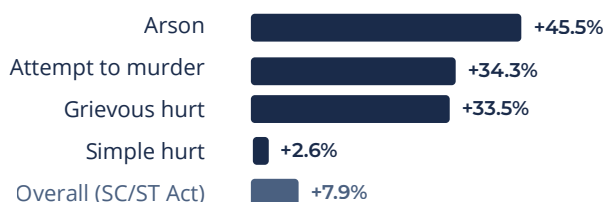
 Simple Hurt cases (2023)
Most reported offence
+2.6% since 2019

TOTAL CASES REGISTERED UNDER SC/ST ACT · 2019–2023



CHANGE BY OFFENCE TYPE · 2019 TO 2023

RIISING OFFENCES



The NCRB data on crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Bihar between 2019 and 2023 shows that “Simple Hurt” remained the most reported offence, with 5,448 cases registered in 2023, reflecting a 2.6% increase from 2019. Serious violent crimes such as attempt to commit murder and grievous hurt increased by 34.3% and 33.5% respectively, while arson cases witnessed a sharp rise of 45.5%, indicating the continuing severity of caste-based violence in the state.

Although certain offences such as rioting, kidnapping and abduction, and robbery showed a decline during the period, the overall crimes registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act increased from 6,544 cases in 2019 to 7,064 cases in 2023, marking an increase of nearly 8%. The data reflects the persistence of violence, intimidation, and discrimination faced by Dalit communities in Bihar and highlights the need for stronger enforcement of protective laws and institutional accountability.

CRIMES AGAINST DALIT WOMEN AND GIRLS IN BIHAR

TABLE 2 :

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

No.	Crime Head	Years					Increase % in 2023
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty (Adults + Children)	4	13	2	30	51	1175
2	Assault on Women	4	13	2	28	36	800
3	Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	2	6	0	16	20	900
4	Sexual Harassment	2	0	0	5	12	500
5	Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	0	7	2	7	2	-
6	B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	0	0	0	2	15	-
7	Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped	12	7	0	0	4	-66.7
8	Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	7	28	3	47	34	385.7
9	Procuration of Minor Girls	0	1	0	0	0	-
10	Rape (Total)	72	39	117	161	195	170.8
12	Rape of Women	66	30	112	151	171	159.1
13	Rape of children	6	9	5	10	24	300
14	Attempt Commit to Rape	0	1	0	1	3	-

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Crimes against Dalit women and girls in Bihar witnessed a disturbing rise between 2019 and 2023, reflecting the continuing intersection of caste and gender-based violence in the state. Cases of assault on women with intent to outrage modesty increased from 4 cases in 2019 to 51 cases in 2023, marking an alarming rise of 1175%. Sexual harassment cases also increased sharply during the same period.

Incidents of rape showed a particularly serious trend. Total rape cases increased from 72 in 2019 to 195 in 2023, registering an increase of over 170%. Rape of Dalit women rose by 159%, while rape of Dalit girl children increased by 300%, highlighting the heightened vulnerability of women and children from marginalised communities. Cases of kidnapping and abduction of women to compel marriage also recorded a steep rise of nearly 386%.

Atrocities against Scheduled Caste women and girls in Bihar

TOTAL CASES REGISTERED - 2019-2023

+159.1%

Rape of Dalit women
66 (2019) to 171 (2023)cases

+300%

Rape of Dalit Girls
6 (2019) to 24 (2023)cases

+170%

Total Rape Cases
72 (2019) to 195 (2023)cases

ATROCITIES ON SC WOMEN — FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW



Assault on Adult Women
to outrage her modesty

+900%

Assault on Women & children
to outrage their modesty

+1175%

Sexual Harrasment

+500%

Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage

2019 : 7 cases
2023 :34 cases

+385.7%

Assault on Women

2019 : 4 cases
2023 :36 cases

+800%

POLICE RESPONSE IN ATROCITY CASES – SCs IN BIHAR

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	10447	1109	4784	81.2	4554
2020	12134	914	5453	85.6	5767
2021	11659	984	4588	82.3	6087
2022	12921	929	5135	84.7	6857
2023	13964	1516	8371	84.7	4077

Source: NCRB, Crime in India, 2019-2023

The charge-sheeting rate in crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Bihar remained above 80% throughout the period from 2019 to 2023. The charge-sheeting rate increased from 81.2% in 2019 to 84.7% in 2023, indicating that a majority of investigated cases proceeded towards prosecution. In 2023 alone, charge sheets were submitted in 8,371 cases. However, despite the relatively high charge-sheeting rate, the large number of pending investigation cases continues to raise concerns regarding delays in police response and access to timely justice. The number of pending investigation cases stood at 4,077 in 2023, after reaching as high as 6,857 cases in 2022. Further, 1,516 cases were closed through final reports without proceeding for charge-sheeting in 2023, pointing towards concerns regarding investigation quality and accountability.

TABLE 4 : DISPOSAL OF CRIMES BY COURT UNDER SC/ST (POA) ACT FOR SCHEDULED CASTES (2019-2023)

Year	Total no. of cases including pending and brought forward cases	No. of cases disposed off without Trial	Cases in which trials were completed	No. of cases ending in conviction out of cases previous years	No. of cases ending in conviction out of cases during the year	Total convicted cases	Cases Discharged	No. of cases ending in acquittal	No. of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	43917	0	362	43	1	44	13	305	43555
2020	49008	0	55	11	1	12	0	43	48953
2021	53541	0	154	37	11	48	0	106	53387
2022	58522	0	339	141	5	146	0	193	58183
2023	66554	0	599	144	36	180	0	419	65955

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The number of pending cases before courts increased continuously from 43,555 cases in 2019 to 65,955 cases in 2023, indicating a substantial rise in pendency over the five-year period. Although the number of completed trials increased from 362 cases in 2019 to 599 cases in 2023, the overall disposal remains extremely low when compared to the total number of pending cases. In 2023, only 180 cases resulted in conviction, while 419 cases ended in acquittal, showing that acquittals significantly outnumbered convictions. The growing pendency and low conviction outcomes raise serious concerns regarding delays in justice delivery, effectiveness of prosecution, and access to justice for Dalit survivors under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Bihar.

LOW CONVICTION RATE vs HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE

TABLE 5 LOW CONVICTION RATE VS HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE IN ATROCITY CASES OF SCs IN BIHAR

Year	Charge-Sheeting Rate	Conviction rate	Acquittal rate	Pendency rate
2019	81.2	12.2	84.3	99.2
2020	85.6	21.8	78.2	99.9
2021	82.3	31.2	68.8	99.7
2022	84.7	43.1	56.9	99.4
2023	84.7	30.1	69.9	99.1

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The data on atrocity cases against Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Bihar reveals a major disconnect between police investigation and judicial outcomes. Although the charge-sheeting rate remained consistently high, ranging from 81.2% in 2019 to 84.7% in 2023, conviction rates continued to remain low. In 2023, the conviction rate stood at only 30.1%, while the acquittal rate remained significantly high at 69.9%.

While conviction rates showed gradual improvement between 2019 and 2022, the decline in 2023 points towards continuing challenges in prosecution and trial processes. Further, the pendency rate remained critically high at above 99% throughout the five-year period, indicating serious delays in disposal of atrocity cases before courts.

The persistent trend of low convictions, high acquittals, and massive pendency raises concerns regarding the quality of investigation, effectiveness of prosecution, witness protection mechanisms, and access to timely justice for Dalit survivors in Bihar.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

TABLE 6

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE STATE OF BIHAR 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	4	3	1	0	1	-75
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	0	0	0	2	2	-
3	Simple Hurt	84	89	83	138	75	-10.7
4	Grievous Hurt	6	1	3	0	2	-66.7
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	0	0	0	1	0	-
6	Rioting	0	1	9	0	0	-
7	Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	-
8	Dacoity	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Arson	1	0	1	1	0	-100
10	Criminal Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0	-
11	Other IPC Crimes	0	0	2	0	29	-
12	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	0	0	0	0	0	-
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	0	0	0	0	0	-
14	Other Offences only SC/ST Act	0	0	0	0	0	-
15	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	97	94	103	146	114	17.5
16	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Atrocities against Scheduled Tribes in Bihar

TOTAL CASES REGISTERED - 2019-2023

Total number of crimes registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

97 cases in 2019 to 114 cases in 2023

+17.5%

Cases related to assault on women with intent to outrage modesty, sexual harassment, and rape were reported during the period, reflecting the vulnerability of Adivasi women and girls to violence and abuse.

Cases of assault on women with intent to outrage modesty, which were absent in earlier years, emerged in 2022 and 2023.

The pattern of crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Bihar between 2019 and 2023 indicates continuing violence and discrimination against Adivasi communities, despite comparatively lower numbers of registered cases. The total number of crimes registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act increased from 97 cases in 2019 to 114 cases in 2023, reflecting an increase of nearly 17.5%.

“Simple Hurt” remained the most frequently reported offence against ST communities, though cases slightly declined from 84 in 2019 to 75 in 2023. Cases of murder reduced from 4 to 1 during the same period. However, certain offences such as attempt to commit murder emerged in recent years, while “Other IPC Crimes” sharply increased to 29 cases in 2023, indicating changing patterns of violence and offences against ST communities.

Although the numerical figures appear lower compared to crimes against SCs, the data must be viewed in the context of possible underreporting, geographical marginalisation, barriers in accessing justice, and institutional challenges faced by Adivasi communities in Bihar.

CRIMES AGAINST ADIVASI WOMEN AND GIRLS IN BIHAR (2019–2023)

The data on crimes against Scheduled Tribe (ST) women and girls in Bihar indicates the continued occurrence of gender-based violence against Adivasi communities, despite the comparatively lower number of registered cases. Cases related to assault on women with intent to outrage modesty, sexual harassment, and rape were reported during the period, reflecting the vulnerability of Adivasi women and girls to violence and abuse.

Rape cases against ST women and girls remained persistent between 2019 and 2023, with two cases reported in both 2019 and 2023. Cases of assault on women with intent to outrage modesty, which were absent in earlier years, emerged in 2022 and 2023. Similarly, incidents of sexual harassment and assault on adult women were also reported in recent years.

Although the numbers remain relatively low, these figures should not be interpreted as an absence of violence. The data must be viewed alongside concerns of underreporting, social marginalisation, fear of retaliation, and barriers in accessing justice faced by Adivasi women and girls in Bihar.

POLICE RESPONSE IN STs ATROCITY CASES:

TABLE 7

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

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	126	9	85	90.4	32
2020	126	3	75	96.2	48
2021	151	12	66	84.6	73
2022	219	22	102	82.3	95
2023	209	17	124	87.9	68

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The police response to crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Bihar shows relatively high charge-sheeting rates throughout the period from 2019 to 2023. The charge-sheeting rate remained above 82% across all five years and reached 87.9% in 2023, indicating that a majority of investigated cases proceeded towards prosecution. However, concerns remain regarding pending investigations and case closures without charge sheets. The number of pending investigation cases increased from 32 cases in 2019 to 68 cases in 2023, after peaking at 95 cases in 2022. In addition, several cases were closed through final reports without proceeding for charge-sheeting, raising concerns about the quality of investigation and access to justice for Adivasi survivors.

The data highlights the need for timely investigation, stronger accountability mechanisms, and effective implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to ensure justice for ST communities in Bihar.

TABLE 8

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 Discharged	Number of cases ending in acquittal	Number of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	465	10	2	0	2	0	8	455
2020	530	0	0	0	0	0	0	530
2021	596	11	4	0	4	0	7	585
2022	687	24	1	0	1	0	23	663
2023	787	2	2	0	2	0	0	785

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The number of pending cases increased steadily from 455 cases in 2019 to 785 cases in 2023, indicating the slow pace of disposal of cases under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The number of completed trials remained very low throughout the five-year period. In 2023, only 2 cases completed trial, out of which 2 resulted in conviction. Earlier years also reflected limited disposal, with acquittals outnumbering convictions in several years. The continued rise in pending cases and low rate of trial completion highlight concerns regarding delays in justice delivery, effectiveness of prosecution, and access to timely justice for Adivasi survivors in Bihar.

TABLE 9 LOW CONVICTION RATE VS HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE IN ATROCITY CASES OF STs IN BIHAR

Year	Charge-Sheeting Rate	Conviction rate	Acquittal rate	Pendency rate
2019	90.4	20	80	97.8
2020	96.2	-	-	100.0
2021	84.6	36.3636	63.6364	98.2
2022	82.3	4.16667	95.8333	96.5
2023	87.9	100	0	99.7

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The data on atrocity cases against Scheduled Tribes (STs) highlights significant concerns regarding judicial outcomes and delays in justice delivery. While the charge-sheeting rate remained consistently high, ranging from 82.3% to 96.2% during 2019–2023, conviction and acquittal rates fluctuated sharply due to the low number of completed trials.

In 2022, the conviction rate dropped to just 4.2%, while the acquittal rate rose to 95.8%, indicating that most disposed cases ended in acquittal. Although the conviction rate reached 100% in 2023, it was based on only two completed trials, making it difficult to interpret as a broader improvement in justice delivery. The pendency rate remained critically high throughout the five-year period, ranging from 96.5% to 100%, reflecting severe delays in court disposal of atrocity cases against ST communities.

The continued high pendency and inconsistent conviction outcomes raise concerns regarding the effectiveness of prosecution, judicial efficiency, and timely access to justice for Adivasi survivors under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.



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