

ODISHA

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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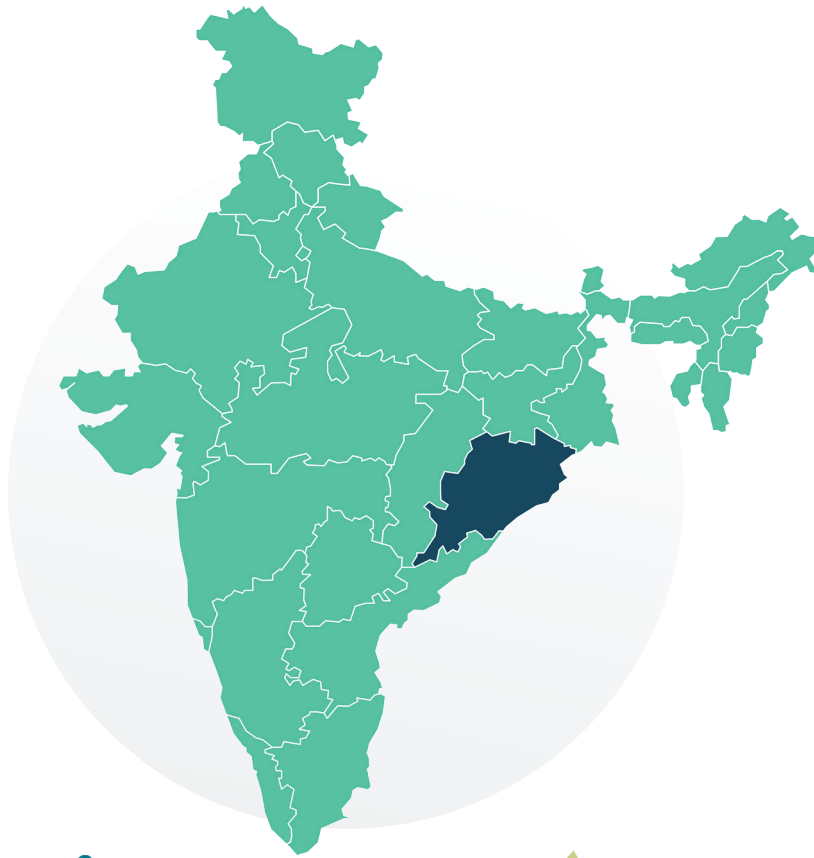
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ODISHA



71.9 lakh

Scheduled Castes*

37.5%

Crime rate in 2023



95.9 lakh

Scheduled Tribes

6.9%

Crime rate in 2023

* 2011 Census

** NCRB Crime in India 2019-2023

According to Census 2011, the population of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Odisha is 71.9 lakh and 95.9 lakh respectively. In 2023, the state recorded a crime rate of 37.5 against SCs and 6.9 against STs, indicating the continued incidence of crimes against these communities.

TABLE 1 :

OVERALL CRIMES AGAINST SCs AND STs IN ODISHA (2019–2023)

Source: NCRB, Crime in India, 2019–2023

TOTAL SC CASES

11,857

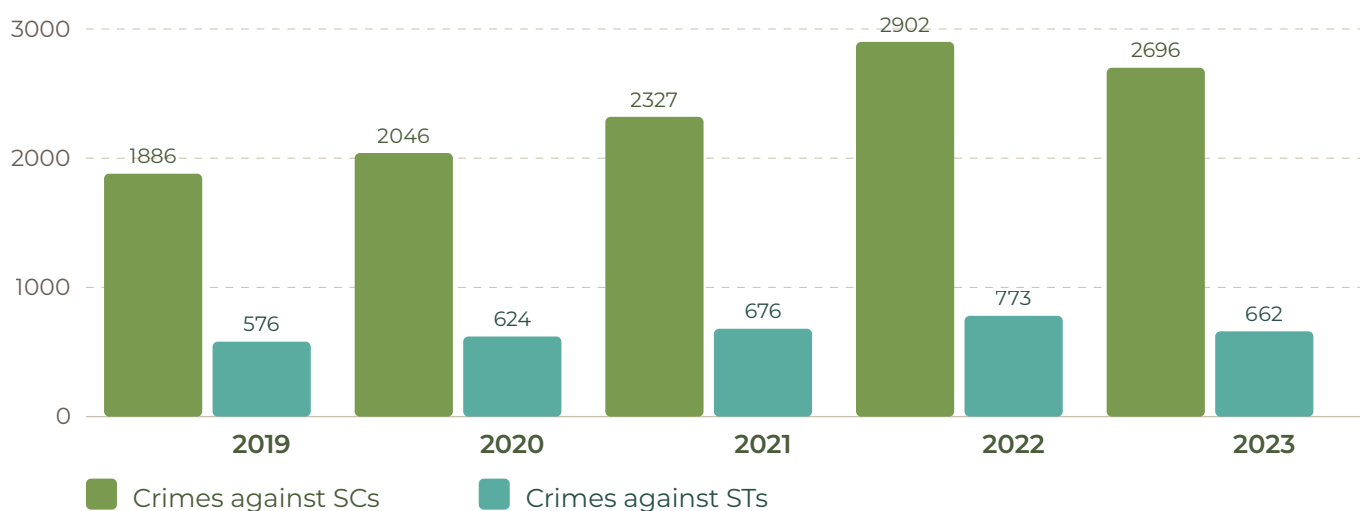
TOTAL ST CASES

3,311

5-YEAR COMBINED

15,168

Crimes against SCs and STs in Odisha: 2019-2023



YEAR	CRIMES AGAINST SCs	CRIMES AGAINST STs
2019	1,886	576
2020	2,046	624
2021	2,327	676
2022	2,902	773
2023	2,696	662
TOTAL	11,857	3,311

Source: NCRB, Crime in India, 2019–2023

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

TABLE 2 :

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE STATE OF ODISHA 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	22	28	25	21	21	-4.55
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	9	40	23	260	228	2433.33
3	Simple Hurt	33	52	47	1	0	-100.00
4	Grievous Hurt	4	10	8	0	9	125.00
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	2	60	48	0	5	150.00
6	Rioting	162	110	253	3	5	-96.91
7	Robbery	0	0	9	0	0	-
8	Dacoity	0	0	10	1	2	-
9	Arson	12	16	6	8	10	-16.67
10	Criminal Intimidation	428	585	1722	1439	458	7.01
11	Other IPC Crimes	966	913	113	970	1759	82.09
12	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	41	0	0	0	0	-100.00
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	0	0	0	0	0	-
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	41	0	0	0	0	-100.00
18	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	1886	2046	2327	2902	2696	42.95
19	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Among the major offences, attempt to commit murder recorded a steep increase of 2433.33%, rising from 9 cases in 2019 to 228 cases in 2023. Cases of grievous hurt increased by 125%, while kidnapping and abduction increased by 150% during the same period. Criminal intimidation continued to remain high, with 458 cases recorded in 2023. "Other IPC Crimes" accounted for the largest share of offences throughout the period, increasing from 966 cases in 2019 to 1,759 cases in 2023, indicating that a large proportion of atrocities continue to be recorded hiding the pattern of atrocity. The sharp rise in serious offences such as attempt to murder and grievous hurt highlights the continuing vulnerability of Scheduled Castes to violent forms of caste-based crimes in the state

TABLE 3

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ODISHA- SCs

No.	Crime Head	Years					% of Increase in 2023
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty (Adults + Children)	6	103	126	7	0	-100
2	Assault on Women	6	103	125	6	0	-100
3	Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	3	55	39	4	0	-100
4	Sexual Harassment	3	13	5	0	0	-100
5	Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	0	35	77	2	0	-
6	Voyeurism	0	0	2	0	0	-
7	Stalking	0	0	2	0	0	-
8	B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	0	0	1	1	0	-
9	Insult to the Modesty of Women	1	1	1	0	0	-100
10	Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped	0	3	0	0	0	-
11	Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	0	2	0	0	2	-
12	Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec. 366A IPC)	0	0	0	0	0	-
13	Rape (Total)	199	182	225	192	189	-5.03
14	Rape of Women	188	177	216	190	189	0.53
15	Rape of children	11	5	9	2	0	-100
16	Attempt Commit to Rape	1	1	0	0	0	-100

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- Crimes against Scheduled Caste women and girls in Odisha show continuing incidents of sexual violence and gender-based atrocities between 2019 and 2023. Rape remained one of the most consistently reported crimes, with 189 cases recorded in 2023 compared to 199 cases in 2019.
- Within rape cases, rape of adult women remained consistently high, with 189 cases reported in 2023. At the same time, cases of rape of children declined from 11 cases in 2019 to zero cases in 2023.
- Several categories related to assault on women with intent to outrage modesty showed sharp fluctuations during the five-year period. While cases under these categories reduced to zero in 2023, the data recorded notable spikes in earlier years, including 126 cases in 2021 under assault on women with intent to outrage modesty and 77 cases of assault or use of criminal force with intent to disrobe.
- The continued reporting of rape and other gender-based offences highlights the intersection of caste- and gender-based violence faced by Scheduled Caste women and girls in the state.

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	2945	56	2365	2421	97.7	524
2020	2570	117	2088	2205	94.7	365
2021	2692	203	2032	2235	90.9	457
2022	3359	92	3090	3182	97.1	177
2023	2873	34	2778	2812	98.8	61

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- The chargesheeting rate for crimes committed against Scheduled Castes under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Odisha remained consistently high between 2019 and 2023. The rate increased from 97.7% in 2019 to 98.8% in 2023.
- In 2023, out of 2,873 cases taken up for investigation, charge sheets were submitted in 2,778 cases, while only 34 cases were closed without proceeding for chargesheeting.
- The number of cases pending investigation also reduced significantly from 524 cases in 2019 to 61 cases in 2023.

- The data indicates a comparatively high level of disposal and chargesheet filing by the investigating agencies under the PoA Act during the five-year period. However chargesheet should be seen as an single separate indictor, it needs to be seen against the conviction in the cases.

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	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	12380	9	2	0	2	0	7	12371
2020	14459	136	5	0	5	0	131	14323
2021	16355	145	1	0	1	0	144	16210
2022	19300	248	40	0	40	0	208	19051
2023	21829	541	2	0	2	0	539	21283

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

Under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for Scheduled Castes in Odisha reflects a high pendency of cases before courts during 2019–2023. The number of pending cases increased from 12,371 cases in 2019 to 21,283 cases in 2023.

Although the number of trials completed increased from 9 cases in 2019 to 541 cases in 2023, convictions remained extremely low. In 2023, only 2 cases ended in conviction, while 539 cases resulted in acquittal. Similarly, in 2022, out of 248 completed trials, only 40 cases ended in conviction.

The data indicates that despite a relatively high chargesheeting rate, convictions under the PoA Act remain limited, alongside a substantial backlog of pending cases before courts.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

TABLE 6

NATURE OF CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE STATE OF ODISHA 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	8	8	11	16	13	62.50
2	Attempt to Commit Murder	3	5	7	60	27	800.00
3	Simple Hurt	15	19	7	3	1	-93.33
4	Grievous Hurt	3	2	1	1	4	33.33
5	Kidnapping & Abduction	1	3	1	1	0	-100.00
6	Rioting	28	15	4	2	1	-96.43
7	Robbery	0	0	0	1	0	-
8	Dacoity	0	0	0	1	0	-
	Arson	1	1	5	4	2	100.00
10	Criminal Intimidation	134	115	459	118	72	-46.27
11	Other IPC Crimes	278	289	43	425	446	60.43
12	SC/ST (PoA) Act only (Total) Without IPC	0	19	0	0	0	-
13	Intentionally Insult or Intimidate with Intent to Humiliate	0	0	0	0	0	-
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	19	0	0	0	-
18	Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (With & Without IPC)	576	624	676	773	662	14.93
19	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- A total of 3,311 cases were registered against Scheduled Tribes under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Odisha between 2019 and 2023. The total number of crimes increased by 14.93%, rising from 576 cases in 2019 to 662 cases in 2023.
- Among major offences, attempt to commit murder recorded a sharp increase of 800%, increasing from 3 cases in 2019 to 27 cases in 2023. Murder cases also increased by 62.5% during the same period. Grievous hurt cases increased by 33.33%, while arson cases doubled from 1 case in 2019 to 2 cases in 2023.
- "Other IPC Crimes" constituted the largest category of offences, increasing by 60.43% from 278 cases in 2019 to 446 cases in 2023. At the same time, some offences such as rioting, simple hurt, kidnapping and abduction, and criminal intimidation showed a decline over the five-year period.
- The increase in serious violent offences such as murder and attempt to murder indicates continuing vulnerability of Scheduled Tribe communities to grave forms of violence in the state.

OVERALL CRIMES AGAINST STs IN ODISHA (2019–2023)

Source: NCRB, Crime in India, 2019–2023

Total of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
(With & Without IPC)

3,311

Increase by **14.93%**

Murder

+62.50%

Attempt to commit Murder

+800%

Grievous Hurt

+33.33%

Arson

+100%

Other IPC Crimes

+60.43%

The increase in serious violent offences such as murder and attempt to murder indicates continuing vulnerability of Scheduled Tribe communities to grave forms of violence in the state.

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)	7	30	16	10	0	-100
Assault on Women	7	30	13	9	0	-100
Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty	5	18	11	4	0	-100
Sexual Harassment	1	5	0	2	0	-100
Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe	0	5	2	3	0	-
Voyeurism	0	1	0	0	0	-
Stalking	1	1	0	0	0	-100
B) Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act	0	0	3	1	0	-
Insult to the Modesty of Women	1	0	0	0	0	-100
Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped	0	2	0	0	0	-
Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage	0	0	1	0	0	-
Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec. 366A IPC)	0	0	0	0	0	-
Rape (Total)	95	114	122	131	96	1.05
Rape of Women	88	92	104	123	96	9.09
Rape of children	7	22	18	8	0	-100
Attempt Commit to Rape	2	4	0	0	0	-100

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- Crimes against Scheduled Tribe women and girls in Odisha continued to reflect incidents of sexual and gender-based violence between 2019 and 2023. Rape remained one of the most reported offences, with 96 cases recorded in 2023 compared to 95 cases in 2019, reflecting a increase of 1.05%.
- Rape of adult women increased from 88 cases in 2019 to 96 cases in 2023, while rape of children declined from 7 cases in 2019 to zero cases in 2023. Cases related to assault on women with intent to outrage modesty showed fluctuations during the period but reduced to zero in 2023.

TABLE 8

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	812	31	682	713	95.7	99
2020	723	22	575	597	96.3	126.0
2021	802	34	647	681	95.0	121.0
2022	894	43	807	850	94.9	44
2023	706	8	696	704	98.9	2

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- The chargesheeting rate for crimes committed against Scheduled Tribes under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Odisha remained consistently high between 2019 and 2023, ranging between 94.9% and 98.9%.
- In 2023, out of 706 cases taken up for investigation, charge sheets were submitted in 696 cases, resulting in a chargesheeting rate of 98.9%. During the same year, only 8 cases were closed without proceeding for chargesheeting, while pending investigation cases reduced to 2.
- The data indicates comparatively high levels of investigation disposal and filing of charge sheets in cases registered against Scheduled Tribes under the PoA Act in the state.

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	Cases Dish-charged	Number of cases ending in acquittal	Number of cases pending with courts at the end of the year
2019	4665	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	4662
2020	5237	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	5229
2021	5876	24	0	0	0	0	0	24	5852
2022	6659	46	9	0	9	0	0	37	6613
2023	7309	111	0	0	0	0	0	111	7198

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- The disposal of cases under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for Scheduled Tribes in Odisha reflects a high pendency of cases before courts between 2019 and 2023. The number of pending cases increased from 4,662 cases in 2019 to 7,198 cases in 2023.
- Although the number of completed trials increased from 3 cases in 2019 to 111 cases in 2023, convictions remained extremely low. In 2023, none of the completed trials resulted in conviction, while all 111 cases ended in acquittal, resulting in a conviction rate of 0% and an acquittal rate of 100% for the year.
- Overall, between 2019 and 2023, only 9 out of 192 completed trials ended in conviction, resulting in an overall conviction rate of 4.69%, while the acquittal rate stood at 95.31%.
- The data indicates that despite high chargesheeting rates, convictions under the PoA Act for Scheduled Tribes remain very limited, alongside a growing backlog of pending cases before courts.

MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

TABLE 10

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 (22 districts)	88	31	100	4	120	11	120	18
SDVMC (divisions)		10		0		0		1

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- The functioning of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Odisha remained limited between 2019 and 2022.
- At the state level, no meetings of the State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (SVMC) were conducted during the period, despite two meetings being scheduled each year.
- At the district level, the performance of District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (DVMCs) remained low. Against 88 meetings scheduled in 2019, only 31 meetings were conducted. In 2022, only 18 meetings were held against 120 meetings due across 22 districts.
- Similarly, the Sub-Divisional Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (SDVMCs) recorded very few meetings during the period, with no meetings conducted in 2020 and 2021, and only one meeting conducted in 2022. The data indicates gaps in the regular functioning and monitoring mechanisms mandated under the SC/ST (PoA) Act in the state.

TABLE 11

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
181	601	607	1023	870	1014	835	1315

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- The data on investigation timelines in Odisha indicates that a significant number of cases under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were investigated beyond the mandated 60-day period between 2019 and 2022.
- In 2019, only 181 cases were investigated within 60 days, while 601 cases were investigated after 60 days. Similarly, in 2022, 835 cases were investigated within the stipulated period, whereas 1,315 cases exceeded the 60-day timeline.
- Across all four years, the number of delayed investigations remained consistently higher than investigations completed within 60 days, indicating delays in the investigation process despite the statutory timeline prescribed under the PoA Act.

TABLE 12

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
0	2902	0	2828	0	2768	0	2288

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

The data on relief and rehabilitation in Odisha indicates delays in providing relief to victims under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act between 2019 and 2022.

During all four years, no cases received relief within the mandated 7-day period. In contrast, all reported cases of relief distribution were provided after 7 days. The number of cases where relief was provided after the stipulated period stood at 2,902 cases in 2019, 2,828 cases in 2020, 2,768 cases in 2021, and 2,288 cases in 2022. It also gradually decreased.

The data reflects delays in the timely disbursement of relief and rehabilitation measures mandated under the PoA Act.

TABLE 13

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Exclusive Special court	3	3	3	3
Legal Aid	260	361	727	1368
Travel and Maintenance	105	28	295	485
Prone zone	16 Districts	19 districts	19 districts	18 district

Source: Crime in India, NCRB 2019-2023

- The state consistently reported only 3 Exclusive Special Courts for the trial of cases under the PoA Act during all four years. This appears inadequate given the continuous increase in pending cases at the trial stage, with the pendency rate in atrocity cases standing at 97.5% for Scheduled Castes and 98.5% for Scheduled Tribes.
- Support measures for victims and survivors showed an increase over the period. The number of persons provided legal aid increased from 260 in 2019 to 1,368 in 2022. Similarly, support for travel and maintenance increased from 105 beneficiaries in 2019 to 485 in 2022. However it is very less compared to the number of cases registered.





NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS

2026

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