



# DALIT ADIVASI BUDGET ANALYSIS 2025-26

National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights  
-Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan



## Introduction:

The NDA-3.0 government presented the Union Budget FY 2025-26 in the Parliament on the 1st of February, with a budget towards becoming a 'Developed India' by 2047, as envisioned under the ViksitBharat@2047 initiative. Economic growth is a crucial pathway to achieving comprehensive development encompassing economic, social, technological, and institutional progress.

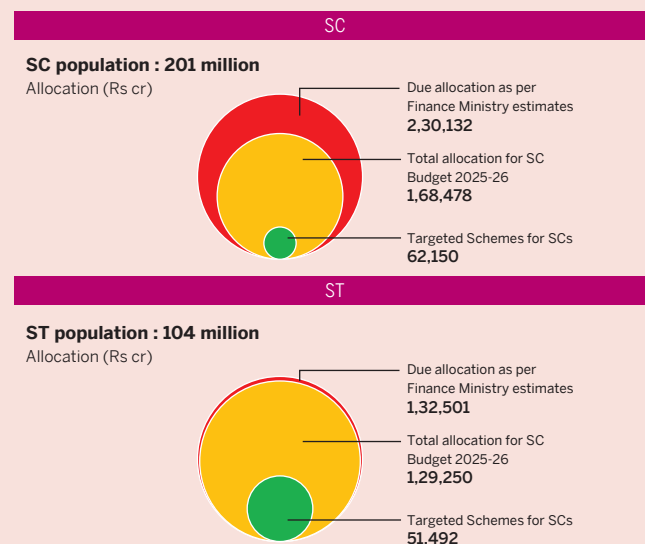
The Economic Survey 2024 highlighted that India's economy continues to expand, with the growth process being ably supported by stability in inflation, fiscal health, and balance of payments. With this stability, it is an opportunity to focus on the domestic front to address critical issues and bridge the development gap between the Scheduled Caste (SC) & Scheduled Tribe (ST) populations and the rest of society.

The Dalit Adivasi Budget analysis attempts to analyze the budget through four layers. It examines whether the allocations for SC & ST in the budget have been made under NITI Aayog's new guidelines on the Development Action Plan for SC (DAPSC) and Development Action Plan for ST (DAPST). Secondly, it looks at the allocations made by 41 obligatory Ministries and Departments to assess the quality of these allocations, and whether the schemes designed by these Ministries are meant to bridge the development gaps. Thirdly, it assesses the relevance of these schemes to determine if they are designed to reach the community through proactive planning for their welfare or if they are merely notional allocations lacking real benefits. Fourthly it evaluates, wherever data exists, the adequacy of these schemes to cover the necessary SC & ST populations., it assesses the relevance of these schemes to determine if they are designed to reach the community through proactive planning for their welfare or if they are merely notional allocations lacking real benefits.

The analysis closes with critical recommendations on all these fronts regarding the adequacy of schemes,

**Figure 1: Budget For Scheduled Castes & For Scheduled Tribes - FY 2025-26 (in Rs. Cr.)**

	SC	ST
(a) Total Expenditure Budget Estimate FY 2025-26(Note-1)	54,96,936	54,96,936
(b) Total Eligible Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Note 2)	15,75,988	15,75,920
(c) Due Allocation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Schemes as per the New Guidelines of NITI Aayog (Note 1)	2,30,132	1,32,501
(d) Allocation for SC Schemes (as per Statement 10A) and ST Schemes (as per Statement 10B)	1,68,478	1,29,250
(e) % of Allocation (e) = (d)% of (b)	10.7%	8.2%
(f) Targeted Schemes	62,150	51,492
(g) % of Targeted Allocation (g)=(f)% of (b)	3.9%	3.3%
(h) Total Gap in allocation (Due Allocation- Targeted Schemes) ( h ) =(c) -( f)	1,67,982	81,009



Source: Govt. of India -Budget Expenditure Profile FY 2025-26 Ministry of Finance.

\*Note-1: Total Expenditure through budget and resources of public enterprises, as per statement-1.Expenditure Profile, FY 2025-26

\* Note-2: Current system of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal.MSJE, Gol. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

Note-2: In the new guidelines SCSP and TSP are renamed as DAPSC (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes) & DAPST (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes)

Note 1: New System of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal.MSJE, Gol. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS (Central Schemes + Centrally Sponsored Schemes) to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.



## Highlights of the Budget FY 2025-26

- As per the NITI Ayog notification, the due allocation for SCs should be Rs 2,30,132 Crs and for STs, it should be Rs 1,32,501 Crs, however, the allocation is only Rs 1,68,478.38 Crs for SCs and Rs 1,29,249.75 for STs.
- A detailed scrutiny of these allocations the targeted schemes amount only to Rs 62,150.03 Crs for SCs and Rs 51,491.59 Crs for STs which is only 3.9 % and 3.3 % respectively whereas the due allocation should be 14.6 % for SCs and 8.4 % for STs
- Education is a critical sector for the development of Dalits and Adivasis, for the Post Matric Scholarships there is a drop in allocation from Rs 6,359.98 Crs to Rs 5,900 Crs for Dalits and for STs Rs 2,462.68 Crs which is almost similar to the previous year and out of the total of about Rs 3,116.40 Crs allocated for Dalit women and about Rs 739.80 Crs allocated for Adivasi women. An increase in allocation from Rs 6,399 Crs to Rs 7,088.60 Crs for the Eklavya model will certainly support more children from the Adivasi communities accessing education.
- Allocation for the implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities against SCs and STs is an insignificant amount of Rs 463 Crs this year, this is hardly sufficient to address the growing violence against Dalits and Adivasis.
- For SC ST women only about Rs 138 Crs is allocated this year to implement the SC-ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.
- In the National Overseas Scholarship ( NOS) it is worrying to see that for the Adivasis only. Rs 0.01cr is allocated which cannot support even one person's cost for studying abroad and for the Dalits, there is an allocation of Rs 130 Crs.
- Regarding Manual Scavenging the NAMASTE scheme has got an allocation of Rs 130 Crs a slight increase from Rs 116.94 Crs and only Rs.0.01 cr is allocated for the national Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation.
- A total of Rs 5,284 Crs is allocated in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, a significant increase of Rs 1,679 Crs from last year out of which about Rs 3,340 Crs are allocated for the New Employment Generation Scheme.

allocations, nature of schemes, relevance of schemes, and mechanisms for monitoring and budget credibility in the areas of Higher Education, Agriculture Cooperation, Animal Husbandry, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Health and Family Welfare, Housing, Labor and Employment, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, Rural Development, School Education, Skill Development, Social Justice, Tribal Welfare, Women and Child Development, Water Resources, and Youth and Sports. These suggestions represent 41 Ministries and Departments and aim to facilitate deliberate and proactive planning for the welfare of SC & ST populations. The analysis closes with critical recommendations on all these fronts regarding the

adequacy of schemes, allocations, nature of schemes, relevance of schemes, and mechanisms for monitoring and budget credibility.

A total of Rs.1,68,478.38 Cr has been earmarked towards SC communities, which is a marginal increase of 1.8% and an increase of 3.5% for ST budget which is Rs.1,29,250 Cr. This increased fund allocation doesn't seem to have a correlation with either the new innovative targeted schemes or the new drives designed by the Finance Minister in the budget speech. Analysing the nature of schemes only a portion of these allocations are targeted schemes. Out of the total allocations towards SC welfare,

only Rs. 62,150 Cr and Rs. 51,491.59 Cr under ST welfare are targeted schemes, accounting for 3.9% and 3.3% of the total Central Sector (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) funds, respectively. The schemes are either general or non-targeted, which do not directly benefit the targeted beneficiaries but rather cover broader sections of society. Moreover, out of 236 schemes under the SC Budget, only 30 schemes are targeted, and out of 244 schemes under the ST budget, only 31 schemes are targeted schemes, which is a grave concern for the communities.

Our deeper analysis indicates that 30 Schemes for SCs and 31 Schemes for STs have their output and outcome result indicators in their due outcome budget documents. The total budgetary gap for SC & ST communities amounts to Rs 2,48,991 Cr with only Rs 1,13,642 Cr allocated towards targeted schemes. Many effective and targeted schemes like National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation, National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation, and Venture Capital Fund for SCs and OBCs, are systematically underfunded in this budget cycle, which is a major concern for these communities. The recent guideline from 2018 mandates the government to have non-divertible targeted schemes

for real community development, but it remains unclear how the current non-targeted and general schemes will efficiently bridge the development gaps in the future.

## Allocation Versus Utilisation: Budget Credibility

Budget credibility measures how closely a government adheres to its approved financial plans at the end of each fiscal year, essentially evaluating the alignment between actual expenditures and budgeted allocations. A key indicator of this credibility is the deviation between planned and actual spending outcomes, with deviations exceeding 10% significantly undermining the concept of budget credibility. However, transparency is also crucial and governments should provide clear, timely, and comprehensive information about their fiscal policies, budget plans, and execution. This includes regular reporting on budget performance and independent audits to ensure accountability. Fiscal discipline is also paramount, involving the setting of realistic fiscal targets and consistent adherence to them. Furthermore, it is challenging when it comes to allocations of funds for marginalized communities like Scheduled Castes and

**Figure 2a: Scheduled Castes Budget : Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2025-26**

Financial Year	2025-26 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	15,75,988
Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	2,30,132
<b>% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline</b>	<b>14.60%</b>
Allocation earmarked for SCs (Rs.Cr.)	1,68,478
<b>% Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.)	62,150
<b>% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

\*2025-26: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC (Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.  
1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 14.37% instead of 16.6% which is prescribed by erstwhile Narendra Jadhav Committee”  
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile: FY 2025-26

**Figure 2b: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2025-26**

Financial Year	2025-26 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	15,75,920
Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.)(*)	1,32,501
<b>% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
Allocation earmarked for STs (Rs.Cr.)	1,29,250
<b>% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	51,492
<b>% Targeted Scheme to STs to Total CS+CSS</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

\*\*2025-26: The Due amount has been calculated according to the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, Gol. This guideline gives ministry-wise allocation for STs and has named it DAPST (Development Action Plan For Scheduled Tribes) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.  
1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 8.16% instead of 8.6% which is prescribed by erstwhile SCP & TSP Policy”  
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile: FY 2025-26

**Figure 2c: Scheduled Castes Budget : Due, Allocated, Targeted-5 yrs Trends**

Financial Year	Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline	Allocation earmarked for SCs (Rs.Cr.)	% Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS	Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.)	% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS
2021-22 (BE)	10,81,427	1,61,260	14.91%	1,26,259	11.7%	48,397	4.5%
2022-23 (BE)	12,30,836	1,82,976	14.91%	1,42,342	11.6%	53,795	4.4%
2023-24 (BE)	14,19,910	2,03,991	14.37%	1,59,126	11.2%	30,475	2.1%
2024-25 (BE)	14,64,479	2,14,109	14.60%	1,65,493	11.3%	46,192	3.2%
2025-26 (BE)	15,75,988	2,30,132	14.60%	1,68,478	10.7%	62,150	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,72,640</b>	<b>9,92,468</b>	<b>14.65%</b>	<b>7,61,698</b>	<b>11.25%</b>	<b>2,41,009</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

\*FY 2025-26: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC (Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.  
1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 14.37% instead of 16.6% which is prescribed by erstwhile SCP & TSP Policy  
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26

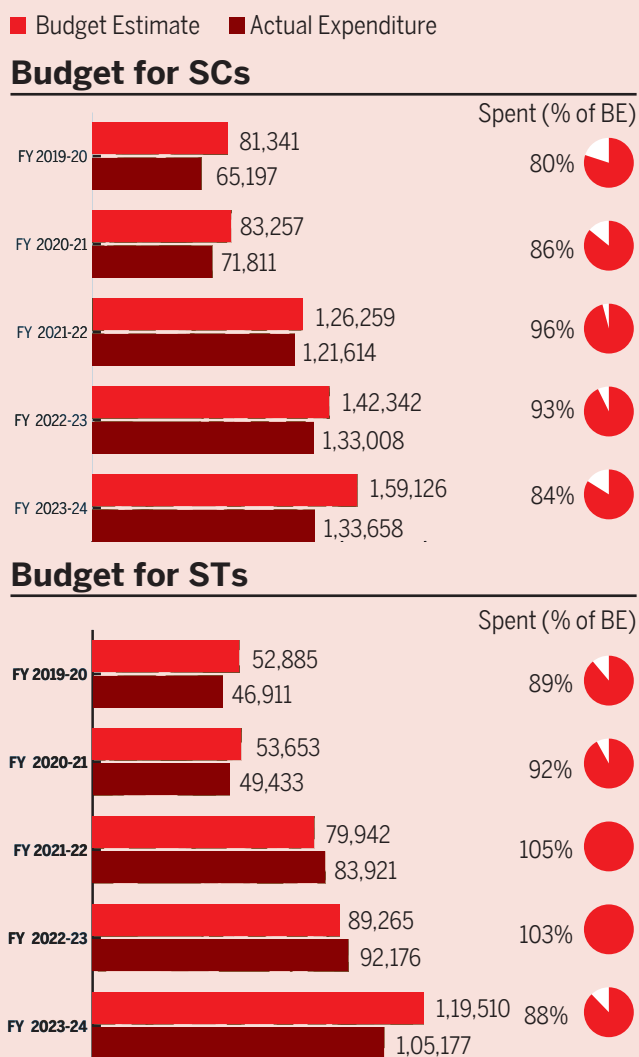
**Figure 2d: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in last 5 yrs Trends**

Financial Year	Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Ayog guideline	Allocation earmarked for STs (Rs.Cr.)	% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS	Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	% Targeted Scheme to STs to Total CS+CSS
2021-22 (BE)	10,77,460	88,077	8.2%	79,942	7.4%	27,830	2.6%
2022-23 (BE)	12,26,282	98,664	8.2%	89,265	7.3%	43,586	3.6%
2023-24 (BE)	14,18,244	1,15,672	8.2%	1,19,510	8.4%	24,384	1.7%
2024-25 (BE)	14,63,079	1,22,400	8.4%	1,24,909	8.5%	41,730	2.9%
2025-26 (BE)	15,75,920	1,32,501	8.4%	1,29,250	8.2%	51,492	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,60,985</b>	<b>5,57,314</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>5,42,876</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>1,89,022</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

\*FY 2025-26: The due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPST (Development Action Plan For Scheduled Tribes) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.  
1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 8.2% instead of 8.6% which is prescribed by erstwhile SCP & TSP Policy  
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26



**Figure 3: Utilisation of funds for Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Schemes in Union Budget FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24 (Rs.Cr)**



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile of 2019-20 to 2025-26 Ministry of Finance

Scheduled Tribes, where consistent mismatches between allocated funds and actual expenditures have become a recurring concern. Actual expenditure is a credible source of information which is an audited figure, provided by CAG, Govt of India.

The analysis of budget utilization for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) funds reveals gaps in the financial management. In the initial years, such as FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, significant portions of the budgets remain unutilized. For instance, under the SC Budget, Rs 16,144 Cr (20% of the total approved budget) was left unspent in FY 2019-20 While in FY 2020-21, this figure stood at Rs 11,446 Cr (14% of the total approved budget). Similarly, under the ST Budget for FY 2019-20, Rs 5,973 Cr (11% of the total approved budget) went unutilized. This high percentage

of unspent funds raises serious questions about budget credibility and efficiency in resource allocation.

In contrast, subsequent financial years witnessed a marked improvement in overall fund utilization rates. For example, in FY 2021-22, the SC Budget utilization was Rs. 1,21,614 Cr. (96% of the approved budget), and in FY 2022-23, it was

Rs 1,33,008 Cr (93% of the approved budget). Under the ST Budget, fund utilization reached 105% in FY 2021-22 and 103% in FY 2022-23. Despite these high utilization rates, the targeted funds allocated under these two budgets were alarmingly low. For instance, in FY 2021-22, only Rs 48,397 Cr (4.5%) of the SC Budget and Rs 27,830 Cr (2.6%) of the ST Budget were targeted towards the direct development of the communities. This trend continued into FY 2022-23 with targeted funds being just Rs 53,795 Cr (4.4%) for SC and Rs 43,586 Cr (3.6%) for ST. The current year's budget expenditure reveals the same trend with 84% fund utilization under the SC budget and 88% under the ST Budget.

## Livelihood:

The targeted livelihood schemes and programs play a significant role in the community to secure a sustained life. The Ministry of Tribal Development and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are designated for the socio-economic development of the SC and ST communities in the country. Some of the major livelihood schemes are the National Urban Livelihood Mission, National Rural Livelihood Mission, MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhuday (PM\_AJAY), PM Jan Jatiya Vikas Yojna (PMJVM), Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojna (PMVDY). Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojna (AMSY) and Adivasi Shiksha Rinn Yojana (ASRY) are two schemes given by the National ST Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC).

The total allocation for the MGNREGA for FY 2025-26 is Rs 86,000 Cr of which Rs 11,976 Cr is from AWSC and Rs 10,715 Cr is contributed from AWST, which means there is an increase of Rs 976 Cr from AWSC and Rs 715 Cr from AWST this year as compared to last FY. In the current FY 2025-26, there is an increase in allocation under the National Rural Livelihood Mission- NRLM, with an allocation of Rs 4,751.25 Cr from AWSC and Rs 3,325.87 Cr from AWST.

In the last FY 2024-25, Rs 3,761.75 Cr (from AWSC) and Rs 2,808.23 Cr (from AWST) were allocated for the NRLM. Another Important targeted scheme for Scheduled Caste

called Pradhan Mantri Anushuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) is allocated Rs 2,040 Cr (AWSC) only, which means there is a decrease in allocation of Rs 110 Cr as compared to the last FY.

Another important Livelihood scheme for the Tribal Communities is the newly launched scheme- Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA). Under this DAJGUA Scheme Rs 2,000 Cr has been allocated. It is surprising to see that there is no allocation under the scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) for both Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste, which was allocated with Rs 12.47 Cr for ST and Rs.65.25 cr for SC in the last FY. Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM\_DAKSH) is targeted to develop the skills of the SCs and this scheme has been allocated Rs 60 Cr which was Rs 65 Cr in the last FY. There is no allocation in this FY, under the SANKALP-EAP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion scheme for SC/ST, however, the allocation under the New ITI Upgradation scheme is Rs 238.40 Cr for ST. which is triple the amount of the allocation given in the last FY and under the same scheme, allocation in this FY is Rs 460.20 Cr for SC which was Rs 149.40 Cr in the last FY.

It is also to be noted that a large number of people from the Dalit communities are engaged in the menial and unorganized sectors such as bonded labourers, construction workers, and mostly in sanitation work which is systemically and deliberately forced on them for centuries. As per various research and reports, more than 5 million people are engaged in Sanitation work in India and every year many succumb to toxic and poisonous gases while cleaning the manholes. It must be noted that those were preventable deaths if the system and the procedure were followed stringently. The growing contractualisation of sanitation work is another major threat to the SC people engaged in this work. It has robbed them of their job/ work security further drifting them away from their right to safe and decent work.

Previous schemes of Rehabilitation of the Manual Scavengers (SRMS) have been completely scrapped and under the newly introduced NAMASTE Schemes, Rs 130 Cr has been allocated to this which mainly focuses on the mechanization of Sanitation work in India and has to a large extent overshadowed the Human Right perspective to this work, rejecting their need and right to proper rehabilitation and just transfer.

The NSKFDC (National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation) is the implementing agency to monitor the sanitation work in India, however, the allocation to NSKFDC is decreasing every FY, with the allocation of Rs. 0.01 Cr in FY 2025-26 for NSKFDC. Also, it is to be noted that the conditions and eligibility criteria for availing the scheme benefits of the loan given under NSKFDC are unattainable by the communities and need rectifications so that people can avail of them. Such schemes stand only for the namesake, completely opposed to the idea of empowerment of the marginalized community in the country. Under the PMAY-Grameen(G) Yojana, a total of 2.95 crore Household (HH) is targeted to provide Pucca houses with basic amenities for 5 financial years (2024- 29). Census 2011 shows there are 41,694,863 SC households in rural areas. So, to provide Pucca houses to these HHs, the government should provide housing to 2,918,640 eligible SC HHs in one FY and allocate Rs.35,024 Cr each year. However, in the last FY 2024-25, Rs.12,946 Cr was allocated for SC which shows a significant allocation deficit of Rs 22,078 Cr.

For ST, as per census 2011 total ST household is 21511528 in rural India. So, for the government to provide Pucca houses to these HHs, the government should provide housing to 1720922 SC HH in one FY and allocate Rs 20,651.06 Cr each year. However, in the last FY 2024-25, Rs 12,498.9 Cr was allocated for ST, which is not sufficient and shows a significant allocation deficit of Rs 22,078 Cr.

In this FY 2025-26, Rs 11,911 Cr has been allocated under PMAY-G for SC households and Rs.11,675.67 Cr for ST households. This clearly shows the deliberate negligence towards the SC and ST community.

One of the major highlights in the budget 2025-26 is the aspiration of the government to promote the shipbuilding and breaking Industry in India with an allocation of Rs 365 Cr which has doubled from the previous year. The coastal region of Alang in Gujarat and other ports would witness a growth in business and employment. But it is to be noted that these increases in employment can also indicate a rapid and huge influx of migration of SCs and STs from the neighbouring states especially the tribal belt of the country. The controversies of violation of labour code and norms in this sector need to be addressed immediately since several research and reports covered by independent researchers and organisations have indicated the violation of basic labour laws and its catastrophic impact on the aquatic and coastal environment. There has to be a significant amount allocated to ensure that labour standards are adhered to and the basic human rights of the workers are upheld.

## Sanitation and Frontline Workers

One of the major workforces of India, the sanitation workers are caught in the vicious cycle of poverty, socio-economic discrimination, and deliberate systemic negligence. Every year, thousands of SC people enter sanitation work without job security and a regular flow of income. The Supreme Court of India has ordered a fresh survey to identify the persons engaged in Manual Scavenging. But sadly, no steps have been taken by the government. One has to understand that sanitation work in India cannot be by any means termed as dignified work and does not align with the indicators of 'Decent work' set by the International Labour Organisation.

Some of the major schemes such as Jal Jeevan mission, Swachhya Bharat Abhiyan, NAMASTE schemes, and Open Defecation Free (ODF) are some of the flagship schemes and programs designed to ensure clean drinking water and sanitation to the citizens which is Goal 6 of Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The NAMASTE scheme was recently launched in FY 21-22 as a reformed form of 'Self Employment Schemes for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers' and governed by the MSJE in India. In the last FY 2024-25, Rs 116.94 Cr was allocated under the NAMASTE scheme which is Rs 130 Cr for FY 2025-26. The NAMASTE Scheme is implemented by the National Safai Karamchari Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) for accepting and allocating loan schemes, and skill development training to sanitation workers. Like the previous year In this FY also the same amount of allocation of Rs.0.01cr has been given to NSKFDC.

Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Grameen), Rs.615.90 Cr from AWST and Rs 1,354.90cr from AWSC have been allocated for the FY 2025-26, which was the same amount in the last FY as well. Likewise, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Rs 8,800cr. from AWSC and Rs 4,000cr. from AWST has been allocated for this FY 2025-26, which shows a sharp decline in allocation from the last FY 2024-25. To be precise, There is a deficit in the allocation of Rs 6,635.84 cr for Scheduled caste and Rs 3,016.29cr. for Scheduled Tribe in this FY in comparison to the last FY.

It is to be noted that these schemes and programs are designed to target the improvement in basic sanitation does not improve the lives and work of those engaged in sanitation work.

As per the report of the Safai Karamchari Andolan, there have been 1760 manhole deaths and still counting, and

through RTI, the MSJE confirmed the death of 161 people in sewers and septic tanks in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 in 18 states of India. What is more saddening is the fact that these deaths were preventable if proper procedure of manhole cleaning was followed. Another grave issue and challenge in sanitation work is the plight of women garbage pickers who are yoked under the burden of caste, class, and gender discrimination. These women are exposed to various kinds of toxins and harmful substances that cause them both long-term and short-term skin and respiratory diseases. Apart from this, they are vulnerable and exposed to verbal abuse at the workplace and fail to secure wages for their service from their door-to-door garbage picking. Therefore, there must be sufficient allocation to address these issues of the sanitation workers.

## Public Health

India's public health care system seeks to achieve the country's aspiration of making health accessible and equitable to all citizens, irrespective of the diversity of multiple kinds. Public health care in India is established in a decentralised manner which aims to serve the people from all strata of social structure. India has one of the very promising healthcare structures and schemes which if implemented properly and equitably would surely make public health an asset for the country and its people. Primary and Community health centres in rural areas are facing serious crises regarding the human workforce and the quality of equipment and services. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal ministry for the promotion of health and well-being in the country and indeed multiple flagship programs and schemes exist that aim to cover the lives of individuals from womb to death. But the real challenges lie in accessing and availing the same. There has been significant improvement in the IMR and MMR and disease control. It is to be noted that the SC and other marginalized communities are the most vulnerable, discriminated against and denied services because of caste-based discrimination.

In this FY, the allocation for the National Health Mission's flagship program (Rural and Urban Combined) through gross budgetary support is Rs 6,098.43 Cr under AWSC and Rs 2,932.57 Cr under AWST, compared to Rs 5,424.57 Cr under AWSC and Rs 2,822.14 Cr under AWST in the previous financial year. Under the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat scheme aims to provide universal health care service across the country.

This FY 2025-26, Rs 1,531.13 Cr has been allocated under AWSC, and Rs 979.74 Cr has been allocated under AWST for the Ayushman Scheme with support from Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suktaksha Nidhi (PMSSN). The increasing privatization of health services in India is another major problem, this has become a serious business and has caused the drying up of the government health centers. Out-of-pocket expenses are one of the biggest problems faced by the Indian public. The hospitals that are tied up with Ayushman Bharat Yojna are mostly not equipped with specialist care and treatment which forces the public to seek private health services adding more burden. On top of that, these tied-up hospitals are very less accessible in the rural areas. Preventive health care is also being pushed to the back burner which is very crucial in disease and illness control. Another major challenge in Public Health care is the overpricing of Medicine and the lack of generic medicine of the same composition. The total allocation for affordable medicine schemes like the Jan Aushadi scheme is Rs 29.34 Cr under AWSC and Rs 15.20 Cr under AWST. In this FY 2025-26, Rs 138.35 Cr is allocated for the Ministry of Ayush under AWSC, and Rs 71.91 Cr is allocated under AWST, with an increase of Rs 5.31 Cr under AWSC and decrease of Rs 9.34 Cr under AWST from the last FY. An increase in allocation over the years is observed under this Ministry for SC and a decrease for ST.

There is a crucial need for the country to increase its proportion of GDP for Public Health. As per the Ministry of Finance, the nation spends only 1.9% of GDP on Health expenditure. The allocation for the Department of Health and Family Welfare is Rs 10,094.17 Cr under AWSC and Rs 5,229.51 Cr under AWST for FY 2025–2026. In 2024–2025, the corresponding amounts were Rs 9,158.05 Cr under AWSC and Rs 4,744.53 Cr under AWST. It is to be noted here that India is seriously lagging in tertiary healthcare services funded by the Government which further forces the marginalized community into debt and crisis. For the Tertiary care programme, the allocation of Rs 34.20 Cr has been made under AWSC and Rs 19.18 Cr under AWST in FY 2025-26. Research has pointed out that there is a shortage of more than 3 million healthcare workers in rural areas, apart from human resources there is a huge issue of lack of transportation, infrastructure, and other important factors for the healthcare system to cater to the needs of the people in the rural areas Under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman ( PM POSHAN) with support to PM POSHAN the allocation is Rs 2500.27 Cr under AWSC and Rs 1,337.51 Cr. under AWST.

## Education Justice

Education is universally recognized as a fundamental human right and a powerful tool for social and economic advancement. Historically, education was a privilege reserved for dominant-caste groups in India, while SC and STs were either denied access to schools or subjected to extreme segregation. Despite significant strides since independence, these communities continue to face challenges in accessing quality education due to a combination of societal stigma, lack of infrastructure, and poverty. Many ST communities speak languages and dialects not represented in the formal curriculum, creating significant barriers to effective learning and inclusion. While affirmative action policies like reservations have provided some access, they remain insufficient. The INSPIRE Faculty Fellowships, for example, saw 80% of recipients from privileged castes, highlighting a significant gap in caste representation within Indian educational institutions. A diverse faculty body fosters varied perspectives essential for innovative thinking, which is currently lacking. Moreover, SC scholars, students, and teachers in academia frequently face discrimination, harassment, and violence, due to their caste identity, leading to alarming rates of student suicides. The literacy rate among SC remains low at 66.1 per cent, far below the national average. While access has improved, the quality of education available to SC/ST students in many areas remains a concern.

In 2020-21, SC student Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) increased to 25.9 from 23.1, and ST student GER has risen to 21.2 from 18.9 which is a good improvement but very tiny. The CAG report also highlighted that 12% of SC students and 20% of ST students did not receive the pre-matric scholarship in the past year. The Pre-Matric Scholarship for Children of those engaged in unclean occupations and prone to health hazards, a lifeline for children of those in unclean occupations, has also been abruptly discontinued which earlier had aimed to empower the next generation by providing financial support for their education. While the Shreyas Scheme is a commendable initiative, its underfunding risks undermining its potential to empower SC-ST students. The number of beneficiaries under the Union Government's Post-Matric Scholarship scheme has steadily increased from 2016-17 to 2018-19, reaching 60,29,970. However, there is also a significant gap between the funds allocated and funds utilised under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC ST students. For instance, in FY 2022-23 for SC, the BE was Rs 5,660 Cr, but the AE was Rs 4,392.50 Cr.

**Figure 4: Relevance of Schemes for SCs & STs- Targeted (Relevant), Non-Targeted (General) & Non-Targeted (Obsolete) in Union Budget FY 2025-26 (Rs in Cr)**

% allocation

40.4%

42.8%

16.8%

Total Relevant

₹1,10,908Cr

Total General

₹1,17,633Cr

Total Obsolete

₹46,094Cr

Fund allocation

NOTE :- The top 50 Schemes account for 90% of the total Schemes under AWSC & AWST. Schemes highlighted under the color Green are Relevant and are targeted Schemes which ensure direct benefit, under the color yellow are General which benefit everybody and not necessarily SCs or STs, and under Red are obsolete which has no relevance for the SC/ST communities. Yellow and Red together form the Non-Targeted schemes.



Relevant schemes



General schemes



Obsolete schemes

	MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT	Schemes name	SC (Rs in Cr)	ST (Rs in Cr)	Total (Rs in Cr)
✗	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	Road Works Works under Roads Wing	-	15,430	15,430
✓	Department of Food and Public Distribution	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)	18,270	10,150	28,420
✓	Department of Rural Development	MGNREGA-Programme Component	11,976	10,715	22,691
✓	Department of Rural Development	Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)PMAY-Programme Component	11,911	11,676	23,587
✓	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)	-	7,089	7,089
!	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)	11,708	5,658	17,365
!	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / National Rural Drinking Water Mission Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Programme - Programme Component	8,800	4,000	12,800
!	Department of School Education and Literacy	Samagra Shiksha Support to Samagra Shiksha (SS)	8,563	5,900	14,463
✗	Department of Fertilisers	Urea SubsidyPayment for Indigenous Urea	8,370	4,336	12,706
!	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening , National Health Programme and National Urban Health Mission Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)	6,098	2,933	9,031
✓	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	Post Matric Scholarship for SCs	5,900	2,463	8,363
!	Ministry of Women and Child Development	Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls)	4,927	2,080	7,007
!	Department of Rural Development	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) NRLM-Programme Component	4,751	3,326	8,077
✓	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes (PM Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojna) Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)	-	2,000	2,000
✓	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	PMAY-Urban Other items of States/UTs Component	4,318	1,707	6,025
✓	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Grants under proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	-	1,541	1,541
!	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)	3,994	1,486	5,479
!	Ministry of Power	Reform Linked Distribution Scheme	3,577	1,703	5,280
✓	Ministry of Labour and Employment	New Employment Generation Scheme	3,340	1,730	5,070
!	Department of School Education and Literacy	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Support to PM POSHAN	2,500	1,338	3,838
✗	Department of Fertilisers	Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers	2,490	1,290	3,780
!	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers	2,311	1,187	3,498
!	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Crop Insurance Scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	2,048	970	3,018
✓	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY)	2,040		2,040



MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT		Schemes name	SC (Rs in Cr)	ST (Rs in Cr)	Total (Rs in Cr)
!	Ministry of Labour and Employment	Employees Pension Scheme, 1995	1,868	968	2,835
✗	Department of Telecommunications	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure Bharatnet	1,826	946	2,772
✗	Department of Fertilisers	Urea Subsidy Payment for Import of Urea	1,743	903	2,646
✓	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojna (PM-AASHA)	1,726	697	2,423
!	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana	1,699	1,750	3,449
✗	Department of Fertilisers	Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Imported P and K Fertilizers	1,577	817	2,394
!	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) Support from (PMSSN)	1,531	980	2,511
!	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Infrastructure Maintenance Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)	1,522	828	2,350
!	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna	1,412	780	2,193
!	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) NESIDS Programme	210	660	870
!	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation	SBM-Grameen Programme Component	1,355	616	1,971
!	Department of School Education and Literacy	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)	1,351	586	1,937
!	Department of School Education and Literacy	PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)	1,311	737	2,048
!	Department of Rural Development	National Social Assistance Programme Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	1,296	750	2,047
✗	Department of Higher Education	Grants to Central Universities (CUs)	1,156	562	1,718
!	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Krishionnati Yojana	912	1,424	2,337
!	Department of School Education and Literacy	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	797	399	1,196
✗	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) Production linked Incentive for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing	737	595	1,333
✗	Department of Higher Education	Support to Indian Institutes of Technology	684	340	1,025
!	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)	667	345	1,013
!	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	PM Vishwakarma	662	360	1,022
✗	Department of Food and Public Distribution	Assistance to States Agencies for Intra-State Movement of Foodgrains and FPS Dealers Margin under NFSA	588	305	893
✓	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs and Others	578	314	892
✗	Department of Higher Education	University Grants Commission (UGC)	567	300	867
✓	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	506	261	767
✗	Department of Telecommunications	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure Compensation to Telecom Service Providers	498	33	531
Total of 50 Top Schemes			1,56,673	1,17,962	2,74,635
Total SC & ST Budget			1,68,478	1,29,250	2,97,728
% of 50 Scheme vs Total SC/ST Budget					92

The National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme faces significant challenges in its implementation, including financial hardships for students due to delayed disbursements, barriers for disabled students, and issues with online processes, leading to frustration and dissatisfaction among beneficiaries. The allocation for the SCs has increased from Rs 95 Cr in FY 2024-25 to Rs 130 Cr in FY 2025-26. However, It is disappointing to observe that the allocation for the STs has decreased from Rs 6.00 Cr in FY 2024-25 to Rs 0.01 Cr in FY 2025-26. It's concerning that such impactful schemes receive significantly less funding than non-targeted schemes such as Grants to Central Universities, UGC, PM-USHA, and PM-USP. Interest subsidies and guarantee fund contributions for education loans have been eliminated. This program previously subsidized interest during the moratorium period and waived collateral/guarantee requirements for eligible students (family income up to Rs. 4.5 lakhs) pursuing technical/professional degrees in India.

A CAG audit identified several irregularities in the scheme's implementation, such as processing delays and difficulties in transferring scholarship funds to beneficiaries. Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all, including SC/ST students, is crucial for promoting social mobility and equality.

One of the critical Schemes on education for SC and STs is the Pre-Matric Scholarship, which has an allocation of Rs 577.96 Cr for SCs and Rs 313.79 Cr for STs, which has increased for SC and decreased for STs as compared to the previous financial year. The scheme Grants to Central Universities has been allocated Rs 1,156.07 Cr under AWSC and Rs 561.76 Cr under AWST and the University Grants Commission allocating Rs 567.11 Cr under AWSC and Rs 300.24 Cr under AWST. When compared to the previous FY, the Post Matric Scholarship scheme has decreased to Rs 5,900.00 Cr for SCs and increased to Rs 2,462.68 Cr for STs.

For higher education funding of SC and ST, the Department of Higher Education has allotted Rs 4,306.32 Cr under AWSC and Rs 2,195.37 Cr under AWST. Even though the Department of Higher Education has increased allocations by 2.9 % under AWSC and 3.2 % under AWST. Despite an increase in the budget for SC and ST under the Department of Higher Education, many of these initiatives are not targeted at developing the SC and ST students.

## Scheme Analysis

### Relevance of Schemes for SC & ST

There are 236 schemes for the SCs and 244 schemes for the STs in the 2025-26 Union Budget. On examining the relevance of the schemes out of these schemes a total of 50 top-funded schemes for both SC & ST communities amount to Rs 2,74,635 Cr, constituting 92% of the total SC & ST Budget. An analysis of the nature of the schemes reveals that a significant portion (43%) of the total SC & ST Budget (Rs 1,17,633 Cr) is allocated to general schemes without a specific allocation to SC or ST communities. On further analysis, a substantial portion (17%) is allocated to obsolete schemes (Rs 46,094 Cr) which in no way benefit the SC people. Only 40% of the total schemes with an outlay of Rs 1,10,908 Cr is allocated towards relevant schemes that directly benefit SC and ST people.

The following are a few Schemes that are not relevant to the SC or ST people and which have no impact on bridging the development gap between SCs and STs and the rest of the society. Non-Targeted schemes: 1) Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea and Import of Urea: Rs 10,113 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 5,239 Cr under ST Budget. 2) Nutrient-Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers and Imported P and K Fertilizers: Rs 4,067 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 2107 Cr under ST Budget. 3) Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS): Rs 3,993 Cr under SC budget. 4) Compensation to Service Providers for Creation and Compensation to Telecom Service Providers: Rs 2,324 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 979 Cr under ST Budget. 5) Reform Linked Distribution Scheme: Rs 3,577 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 1,703 Cr under ST Budget.

The following general schemes have large allocations, which could address the development gap between SCs & STs and the rest of the population but are not specific and targeted as stated in the outcome budget of the Union govt. 1) Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM): Rs 8,800 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 4,000 Cr under ST Budget. 2) Road Works under Roads Wing: Rs 15,430 Cr under ST Budget. 3) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan): Rs 11,708 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 5,658 Cr under ST Budget. 4) Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening: Rs 6,098 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 2,933 Cr under ST Budget. 5) Crop Insurance Scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: Rs 2,048 Cr

The data indicates that a substantial portion of the SC and ST budgets is allocated to general and obsolete schemes

rather than those specifically targeted at bridging the development gaps for these communities. This suggests that SC and ST communities may not benefit from these large fund allocations. Schemes like Urea Subsidy, Nutrient-Based Subsidy, and Modified Interest Subvention Scheme which amount to a total of Rs 34,102 Cr have been allocated for these schemes that do not have specific output or outcome indicators that target the unique needs or challenges faced by SC and ST communities. The significant allocation to general schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, Road Works, PM-Kisan, and the total of Rs 56,675 Cr have been allocated, while important for overall development, does not address the specific developmental challenges faced by SC and ST communities. This could exacerbate existing poverty and other development indexes if not balanced with targeted interventions.

The “National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme” for SC communities has also seen a minimal allocation of just Rs 70 Cr. The “Venture Capital Fund for SCs/OBC & STs,” launched in 2015, fares no better with allocations of Rs 0.01 Cr and Rs 30 Cr respectively. The “National Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Hub Centre” scheme has received Rs 62.5 Cr for SC communities and Rs 60.49 Cr for ST communities. Even the “Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs” scheme has been allocated a modest sum of Rs 20 Cr. These figures underscore that more targeted schemes are not receiving the adequate financial support they need to make a meaningful impact. This disparity in funding raises significant concerns about the commitment to addressing the needs of marginalized communities through these vital programs. Therefore, all these large funded general and non-targeted schemes need to be removed and reallocated to effective, targeted schemes with adequate funds to meet the growing needs of the communities to bridge the development gap between SC and ST communities.

It is evident from the above fact that a small amount of funds is being earmarked for targeted and effective schemes. The most effective and targeted programs are starved with negligible allocation. For instance, critical schemes such as “Top-Class Education for SCs” have received a negligible allocation of only Rs 110 Cr. Similarly, the “National Overseas Scholarship for SCs” under the SC Budget has been allocated a mere Rs 130 Cr, benefiting only 120 students across the country. The situation is even more dire under the ST Budget, where this same National Overseas Scholarship scheme has been allocated a paltry Rs 0.01 Cr, highlighting a grave concern for Tribal communities.

## Ministry/Dept Wise Priority to Schemes for SC & ST

The new guidelines for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (DAPSC & ST) 2018 supported a paradigm shift by mandating states to prioritize the socio-economic empowerment and inclusive development of marginalized communities like SC and ST. These guidelines stipulate that funds must be earmarked specifically for these communities from Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector (CS) schemes, rather than being drawn from the overall ministry or department budget. This ensures that allocations are non-divertible and must be utilized with the approval of the concerned ministry and financial advisor. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) are designated as nodal ministries, tasked with earmarking significant portions of their budgets 72.5% and 100%, respectively, and leading the regular monitoring and assessment of these allocations. Despite these robust mandates, the implementation remains a challenge leading to a lack of transparency and accountability.

Under the budget monitoring portal called “eUtthan” run by both the nodal Ministries, the beneficiaries’ details are yet to be made public, and many schemes under these ministries are excluded from the Outcome Budget published by the Union Ministry of Finance due to allocation thresholds. Deeper analysis highlights the need for a separate outcome budget specifically for AWSC and AWST to establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Astonishingly, despite over 45 years of implementing these budgets, no comprehensive evaluation report has been published. The revised policy now tasks NITI Aayog with reviewing and evaluating the performance of these budgets in collaboration with relevant ministries and departments to bridge the development gaps between these communities and the rest of the population.

This critical step aims to strengthen the AWSC and AWST budgets, ensuring they deliver meaningful impact on the ground and lead to sustainable economic development of the communities and a tangible impact on the lives of those who need it the most. The use of real-time dashboards and output/outcome-based monitoring tools, as well as uploading budget data to the e-Utthan portal, are steps towards enhancing transparency but still fall short without full public disclosure of beneficiary details.

## Gender Budget

India's gender-responsive budgeting has resulted in greater financial allocations. However, it still falls short of implementing the required systemic reforms and mandatory frameworks at all levels of governance, particularly from the perspective of Dalit and Adivasi women. One of the largest portions of the total budget has been allocated to Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 to fight malnutrition and improve early childhood care. The finance minister has emphasized empowering women through entrepreneurship or establishing larger producer enterprises. This year the government has announced a scheme offering Rs 2 Cr for first-time women entrepreneurs, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes, however, the allocation for the same was not seen under the Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (AWSC/ AWST) and Gender Budget Statement<sup>13</sup>. The real question is whether these schemes are addressing the incomparable challenges faced by the Dalit and Adivasi women.

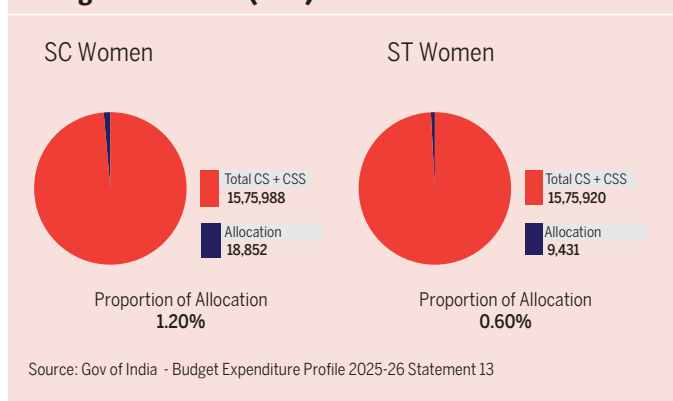
Our thorough analysis paints a troubling picture, especially for the most marginalized Dalit and Adivasi women. For these women, very little has changed. According to the gender budget details presented in Parliament, the budget for programs specifically aimed at women (Part A) was Rs 1,05,535 Cr in the 2025-26 budget estimates. Part B, which includes programs where at least 30% of the funds go to women, saw an allocation of Rs 3,26,672 Cr, while Part C, covering schemes with less than 30% women-focused funding, was allocated Rs 16,821.28 Cr. When we focus specifically on the budget allocated for Dalit and Adivasi women in Parts A and B, the figures are deeply concerning. In Part A the allocation is Rs 6,990.75 Cr for Dalit women and Rs 2,972.71 Cr for Adivasi women. In part B, the allocation for Dalit women is Rs 10,803.00 Cr

and for Adivasi women, it is Rs 6,184.90 Cr In Part C there is an allocation of Rs1,058.49 Cr for Dalit women and Rs 273.59 Cr for Adivasi women. Our review of the Gender Budget Statement (GBS) and the Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (AWSC/AWST) highlights that the funding is insufficient, demonstrating a lack of emphasis on the needs of Dalit and Adivasi women. For the Union Budget 2025-26, just 1.20% of the total funding from Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS) is allocated to Dalit women, while Tribal women receive only 0.60%.

Given the huge demand for scholarships for female students, the budget for the Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) scheme saw an increase in allocation particularly for SC girls. The allocation for the Post Matric Scheme for SC girls is Rs.3,116.40 Cr while Rs 738.80 Cr for ST girls. However, if we see the allocation for the Pre-matric scholarship, for the SC girls there is an allocation of just Rs 283.20Cr while for ST girls it is Rs 94.14Cr Additionally, some crucial direct-benefiting schemes for SC students saw marginal allocations. National Fellowship for SCs saw a very low allocation of Rs 63.60 Cr National Overseas Scholarship for SCs saw an allocation of Rs 39 Cr only while the allocation for the ST women remained Zero under NOS. There was a substantial increase in the allocation for general schemes this year. For instance, the allocation towards the 'Samagra Shiksha' scheme is Rs 710.77 Cr for SCs and Rs.253.70 Cr for STs, and 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' saw an allocation of Rs. 4,926.9 Cr for SCs and Rs 2,079.97 Cr for STs.

Samagra Shiksha scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' is also a centrally sponsored scheme providing a package of six services. While these general schemes are essential, it is important to ensure that the allocation for direct benefit programs like scholarships for SC and ST students receives adequate attention to address the specific educational challenges faced by the community. The unit cost for scholarship schemes should be adjusted to account for inflation to ensure that the financial support provided remains adequate and relevant. Over time, the cost of education, living expenses, and other related needs have risen. Without an increase in scholarship amounts, students, particularly from marginalized communities, may find it increasingly difficult to pursue their education. It is to be noted that educational schemes for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations such as sanitation work and manual scavenging have been scrapped which adds

**Figure 5: Allocation for SC and ST Women in Gender Budget Statement (GBS)- FY 2025-26 Amount in Rs.Cr.**



a burden to those women who are the sole breadwinner of the family as 50% of the sanitation workforce in Urban areas are women and 95% in rural areas.

Women from Dalit and Adivasi communities are especially vulnerable to discrimination and violence due to the intersection of their caste and gender identities. Over the past six years, atrocities against Dalit women and girls have risen by 46%. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data from 2019, atrocities against Dalit women and girls account for 15.11% of all crimes registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act from 2014 to 2019. The systemic nature of this violence is reflected in the fact that these crimes are often underreported, and when reported, they rarely result in justice due to caste-based biases within the law enforcement system. Despite the increasing violence against SC and ST women, the allocation for the scheme 'Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of PCR Act, 1955 and PoA Act, 1989' remains limited, with only Rs. 138.90 Cr allocated. There needs to be a dedicated and substantial financial commitment to ensuring that Dalit women have access to justice, protection, and the resources they need to break free from the cycle of violence.

Livelihood and employment are other major area when it comes to justice and equality for SC and ST women. ST and SC women are the most discriminated against, exploited and bonded laborers. Women manual scavengers are still facing problems in accessing schemes for alternative livelihood opportunities trapping them

in cycles of poverty and exploitation. The government has also recently introduced NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitised Ecosystem) which aims to provide alternate livelihood to sanitation workers through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines. This scheme saw an allocation of only Rs.39Cr. This amount is insufficient to address the widespread need for rehabilitation, training, and support for the many women still working in hazardous, unregulated conditions. Without proper funding, NAMASTE and similar initiatives will struggle to make a meaningful impact, leaving SC and ST women in sanitation work with limited opportunities for economic empowerment and social mobility.

The budget has notably failed to allocate resources for sexual minorities, including transgender individuals and other members of the LGBTQIA+ community. These groups remain invisible in the budget, with their specific needs and challenges not being addressed. This omission highlights a deeper flaw in the planning process, where the allocation of resources fails to account for the diversity of experiences within society. The absence of support for sexual minorities indicates that the development agenda remains incomplete, leaving out a significant portion of the population. It also reflects a broader failure to redistribute resources in a way that ensures truly inclusive development. Without a specific focus on the needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals, the budget reinforces the cycle of exclusion, denying them equal access to healthcare, education, employment, and social protection.



**Figure 6a: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPSC Budget for FY 2025-26 BE (Rs in Cr)**

Demand No.	Ministries/Departments	Total Eligible Ministries(CS +CSS)	% of Proposed Allocation	Due Allocation under SC (Rs Cr)	Allocation under SC Budget (Rs Cr)	
87	Department of Rural Development	1,87,642	25	46,911	30,374	<div></div>
1	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	1,26,027	17	20,920	22,173	<div></div>
15	Department of Food and Public Distribution	2,11,232	8	17,532	18,893	<div></div>
25	Department of School Education and Literacy	63,089	22	13,716	14,766	<div></div>
6	Department of Fertilisers	1,56,451	8	12,985	14,188	<div></div>
63	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation	74,192	22	16,322	10,155	<div></div>
46	Department of Health and Family Welfare	60,838	17	10,099	10,094	<div></div>
93	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	13,389	73	9,707	9,843	<div></div>
64	Ministry of Labour and Employment	31,821	17	5,282	5,284	<div></div>
101	Ministry of Women and Child Development	26,640	20	5,328	5,218	<div></div>
60	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	92,743	23	20,867	4,318	<div></div>
26	Department of Higher Education	6,991	17	1,160	4,306	<div></div>
68	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	22,897	17	3,801	3,839	<div></div>
79	Ministry of Power	18,327	17	3,042	3,577	<div></div>
13	Department of Telecommunications	23,764	8	1,972	2,357	<div></div>
71	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	26,399	8	2,191	2,180	<div></div>
27	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	22,071	8	1,832	1,832	<div></div>
92	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	5,750	17	954	854	<div></div>
44	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4,490	17	745	560	<div></div>
23	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	5,880	8	488	520	<div></div>
43	Department of Fisheries	2,495	17	414	415	<div></div>
88	Department of Land Resources	2,625	17	436	377	<div></div>
102	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	2,191	25	554	360	<div></div>
98	Ministry of Textiles	4,659	17	773	303	<div></div>
2	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	3,219	8	267	267	<div></div>
89	Department of Science and Technology	23,290	8	1,933	265	<div></div>
45	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	4,103	8	341	241	<div></div>
72	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	1,134	17	188	188	<div></div>
28	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change	1,781	8	148	162	<div></div>
4	Ministry of AYUSH	1,659	14	232	138	<div></div>
94	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	742	20	150	116	<div></div>
76	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	19,261	8	1,599	100	<div></div>
9	Ministry of Coal	423	8	35	72	<div></div>
18	Ministry of Culture	585	8	49	49	<div></div>
7	Department of Pharmaceuticals	5,225	8	434	46	<div></div>
69	Ministry of Mines	-	8	-	31	<div></div>
10	Department of Commerce	4,309	8	358	14	<div></div>
53	Chandigarh	-	-	-	3	<div></div>
14	Department of Consumer Affairs	4,231	8	351	2	<div></div>
86	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	2,87,153	8	23,834	-	<div></div>
62	Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	23,842	8	1,979	-	<div></div>
99	Ministry of Tourism	2,430	8	202	-	<div></div>
16	Ministry of Cooperation	-	-	-	-	<div></div>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15,75,988</b>		<b>2,30,132</b>	<b>1,68,478</b>	
<b>As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission</b>				<b>16.60%</b>		
<b>As per the NITI Ayog the proposed allocation</b>				<b>14.60%</b>		
<b>BE allocation</b>				<b>10.7</b>		

Source: 1. [https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking\\_DAPSC\\_DAPST.pdf](https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking_DAPSC_DAPST.pdf), published by NITI Aayog, 01 Apr 2018  
2. Source:Statement-3, FY 24-25 Expenditure of Ministries and Departments,Govt of India

**Table 6b: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPST for FY 2025-26 (Rs in Cr.)**

Demand No.	Ministries/Departments	Total Eligible Ministries(CS +CSS)	% of Proposed Allocation	Due Allocation under ST (Rs Cr)	Allocation under ST Budget (Rs Cr)	
87	Department of Rural Development	1,87,642	18	32,837	26,758	<div></div>
86	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	2,87,153	4	12,348	15,430	<div></div>
100	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	13,320	100	13,320	14,862	<div></div>
1	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	1,26,027	9	10,838	11,221	<div></div>
15	Department of Food and Public Distribution	211,232	4	9,083	10,473	<div></div>
25	Department of School Education and Literacy	63,089	13	7,867	9,083	<div></div>
6	Department of Fertilisers	1,56,451	4	6,727	7,350	<div></div>
46	Department of Health and Family Welfare	60,838	9	5,232	5,230	<div></div>
63	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation	74,192	10	7,419	4,616	<div></div>
64	Ministry of Labour and Employment	31,821	9	2,737	2,740	<div></div>
71	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	26,399	9	2,270	2,258	<div></div>
101	Ministry of Women and Child Development	26,640	9	2,291	2,244	<div></div>
26	Department of Higher Education	6,991	9	601	2,195	<div></div>
68	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	22,897	9	1,969	2,017	<div></div>
79	Ministry of Power	18,327	9	1,576	1,853	<div></div>
60	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	92,743	4	3,988	1,707	<div></div>
23	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	5,880	27	1,598	1,680	<div></div>
56	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	1,562	<div></div>
27	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	22,071	7	1,479	1,479	<div></div>
13	Department of Telecommunications	23,764	4	1,022	996	<div></div>
62	Dept Water Resources, River Development, Ganga Rejuvenation	23,842	9	2,050	473	<div></div>
92	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	5,750	9	494	472	<div></div>
44	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4,490	9	386	303	<div></div>
52	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	253	<div></div>
43	Department of Fisheries	2,495	9	215	246	<div></div>
88	Department of Land Resources	2,625	10	263	228	<div></div>
98	Ministry of Textiles	4,659	9	401	217	<div></div>
102	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	2,191	9	188	187	<div></div>
28	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change	1,781	9	153	169	<div></div>
2	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	3,219	4	138	138	<div></div>
89	Department of Science and Technology	23,290	4	1,001	137	<div></div>
45	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	4,103	4	176	125	<div></div>
99	Ministry of Tourism	2,430	4	104	103	<div></div>
72	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	1,134	9	98	98	<div></div>
9	Ministry of Coal	423	9	36	75	<div></div>
4	Ministry of AYUSH	1,659	4	71	72	<div></div>
94	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	742	10	75	60	<div></div>
76	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	19,261	4	828	52	<div></div>
18	Ministry of Culture	585	4	25	25	<div></div>
7	Department of Pharmaceuticals	5,225	4	225	24	<div></div>
10	Department of Commerce	4,309	4	185	23	<div></div>
69	Ministry of Mines	-	4	-	16	<div></div>
54	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu	-	-	-	1	<div></div>
14	Department of Consumer Affairs	4,231	4	182	1	<div></div>
16	Ministry of Cooperation	-	-	-	-	<div></div>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15,75,920</b>		<b>1,32,501</b>	<b>1,29,250</b>	
<b>As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission</b>			<b>8.60%</b>			
<b>As per the NITI Ayog the proposed allocation</b>			<b>8.41%</b>			
<b>BE allocation</b>			<b>8.2</b>			

Source: 1. [https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking\\_DAPSC\\_DAPST.pdf](https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking_DAPSC_DAPST.pdf), published by NITI Aayog, 01 Apr 2018  
2. Source: Statement-3, FY 2023-24 Expenditure of Ministries and Departments, Govt of India

## Youth Employment:

India, with one of the world's largest young populations, has a major challenge: youth unemployment. As of 2024, young unemployment rates in India are disturbingly high, especially among marginalised populations such as SC and ST. According to the 2011 Census, India's young population (ages 18-35) consists of 6,31,27,692 SC and 3,13,76,446 ST persons. For the financial year 2025-26, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has allotted an insignificant budget of Rs 360.48 Cr for SC and Rs 187.30 Cr for ST. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has increased the allocated amount to Rs 853.68 Cr for SCs and Rs 471.89 Cr for STs in the financial year 2025-26. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has allocated Rs 5,284.14 Cr for SCs and Rs 2,740.11 Cr for STs for the financial year 2025-26. There is no allocation for Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana for SC and ST in this FY.

The International Labour Organisation states that India's young unemployment rate is about 23.6%, much higher than the national average. This statistic is considerably more obvious among SC and ST youth since institutional inequalities and discrimination restrict their access to jobs. This percentage is significantly higher for SC and ST youngsters, who face systematic disparities and discrimination in the labour market. According to the 2021 National Sample Survey, the unemployment rate among SC youth is 14.8%, while ST youth have an even higher rate of 16.8%. Youth unemployment is a major cause of poverty, particularly in marginalised groups.

### Key Schemes for SC Youth for FY 2025-26:

- Khelo India: The budget is Rs 185 Cr.
- National Service Scheme: The budget is Rs 82.50 Cr.
- New Employment Generation Schemes: The budget is Rs 3,340.00 Cr.
- Skill India Programme: The budget is Rs 385.20 Cr.
- New ITI Upgradation Scheme: The budget is Rs 460.20 Cr.

### Key Schemes for ST Youth for FY 2025-26:

- Khelo India: the budget is Rs 92 Cr
- National Service Scheme: the budget is Rs 50.30 Cr
- New Employment Generation Scheme: the budget is Rs 1,730.00 Cr
- Skill India Programme: the budget is Rs. 229.20 Cr
- New ITI upgradation scheme: the budget is Rs 238.40 Cr

## Access to Justice

The government of India has enacted the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocity) Amendment Act, 2015 and established an administrative mechanism to protect and prevent the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes from any form of caste-based atrocities. The central assistance is to be released to the State Government & Union Territory Administrations for effective implementation which includes Strengthening and Enforcement of Judicial Machinery; Relief and rehabilitation of atrocity victims, especially women and children. In addition, for prevention, the governments have to ensure the functioning and strengthening of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cells and Special Police Stations for cases related to atrocities against SCs and STs, Awareness generation & publicity; national helpline and to encourage Inter-Caste marriages.

The government NCRB data shows for 2021-22 the incidents of atrocities against SC are 57,582 and against STs are 10,064. The data also shows an increasing trend in the incidence of atrocities. In this scenario for FY 2025-26, the allocation for the protection and prevention of SCs and STs is Rs 463 Cr, under all the schemes. It is important to know that this allocation has been reduced compared to FY 2024-25. The total allocation made under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for strengthening the said mechanism was Rs 500 Cr for FY 2023-24 and Rs 550 Cr for FY 2024-25, which is insufficient to give protection to the survivors in the form of immediate relief and rehabilitation like land and employment in all states. The outcome budget 2023-24 indicated the integration and operationalization of the National Helpline Against Atrocities in all States/UTs' under the same scheme. But there is no mention of the helpline number in the Outcome budget FY 2024-25. The latest report of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment showed the expenditure exceeding the RE for FY 2023-24 and the fund is transferred to the states. But there is no mention of where the funds are managed to maintain the helpline.

Therefore, it is recommended that the allocation needs to be increased under this particular scheme. Secondly, the helpline number is a powerful tool to address the atrocity and that should also be included as part of the strengthening mechanism. Lastly, to bring more clarity to the fund flow, it is also recommended to mention the other aspects of the scheme separately with clear allocation in the budget.

## Schemes for Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

According to the 2011 Census, around 2.6 crore persons, or 2.21% of the total population, identify as Persons with Disabilities (PwD). This demographic is made up of 2.45% (5,74,600) SC and 2.05% (5,33,000) ST. This data demonstrates not just the scope of the problem, but also the crucial need for targeted solutions, particularly in marginalised areas. These statistics not only highlight the significance of the issue but also emphasize the critical need for targeted solutions, particularly in marginalized communities.

The intersection of disability with social and economic disadvantages creates a particularly vulnerable group. A further review of the data reveals disparities: Individuals with disabilities in SC 89.1% and ST 89.8% do not have access to assistive assistance. This disparity is mostly due to financial concerns and a lack of knowledge about available choices. Individuals with disabilities confront enormous challenges to school, employment, and social inclusion in the absence of adequate assistance, continuing cycles of poverty and marginalisation. Budget allocations for SCs and STs have been reduced for the fiscal year 2025-26. The SC allocation is now Rs 115.66 Cr down from Rs 125.82 Cr while the ST allocation has decreased to Rs 59.91 Cr from Rs 65.18 Cr in the previous fiscal year 2024-25.

### Key Schemes for SC Persons with Disabilities for the fiscal year 2025-26:

- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances: the budget allocation is Rs 50.91 Cr
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme: the budget allocation is Rs 37.57 Cr
- Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme the budget allocation is Rs 27.39 Cr
- Scheme for the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act: the budget allocation is Rs 19.10 Cr
- Scholarships for Students with Disabilities: the budget allocation is Rs 18.26 Cr

### Key Schemes for ST Persons with Disabilities for the fiscal year 2025-26:

- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances: the budget allocation is Rs 26.37 Cr

- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme: the budget allocation is Rs 26.34 Cr
- Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme: the budget allocation is Rs 14.19 Cr
- Scheme for the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act: the budget allocation is Rs 9.89 Cr
- Scholarships for Students with Disabilities: the budget allocation is Rs 9.46 Cr

### Some of the schemes for persons with disabilities include:

- Early Years: DISHA provides early intervention for young children through therapies and daycare, while VIKAAS offers social and vocational skills training for older youth.
- Living Options: SAMARTH offers respite care for families and vulnerable individuals, while GHARAUNDA provides a permanent home for adults with specific disabilities.
- Health and Support: NIRAMAYA provides health insurance coverage, SAHYOGI trains caregivers, and GYAN PRABHA supports education and vocational training.
- Marketing and Empowerment: PRERNA helps sell products made by PwDs, and SAMBHAV provides information and access to assistive devices.
- Awareness and Inclusion: BADHTE KADAM promotes community awareness and social integration of people with disabilities.

## Climate Resilience

The guidelines of the NITI Ayog 2018, mandate the forty ministries and departments for obligatory allocation for SCs and STs (Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Tribe). The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is a Nodal Agency. To build the resilience of the SC and ST communities to reduce the risk of climate-induced disasters and their impact, it is necessary to look at the share of SCs and STs in budget under different departments/Ministries since we do not have an exclusive climate budget at the national level. Here, we are taking five important departments viz. Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare; Environment, Forests and Climate Change; Department of Fisheries; Drinking Water and Sanitation

and New and Renewable Energy for analysis. These departments/ministries hold a special impact on the climate resilience of these communities.

## Agriculture and farmers' Welfare:

For FY 2025-26, under this department, there are a few resilience-building schemes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which received Rs 2,048 Cr and Rs 970.04 Cr of allocation under AWSC and AWST respectively. For the other scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Rs 1,1707.50 Cr allocation is gone for SCs and Rs 5,657.50 Cr for STs. For the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojna (PM-AASHA), the budget earmarked for FY 2025-26 is Rs 1,726.39 Cr under AWSC and Rs 696.95 Cr for AWST.

When one looks at the previous outcome budget, there is no targeted allocation for the SCs and STs in any of the above schemes. Being a notional/general scheme, there is a little outflow of the funds towards the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. In that case, the marginalized communities are denied the benefits of the schemes. Therefore, we require more targeted schemes under this department and also schemes for the small and marginalized farmers and sharecroppers to overcome the damage due to the disaster and to become resilient.

## Environment, Forests and Climate Change:

Being the nodal agency for climate resilience, this ministry is supposed to be more inclusive and focused on addressing the climate challenges and robust mechanisms to combat the impact of climate change. The previous outcome budget indicates in scheme like control of pollution, there is no inclusion of marginalized communities and also is not targeted to the areas where scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are living. This year, the ministry has not targeted schemes for the SCs and STs. We demand more targeted schemes of relief and rehabilitation of the forest dwellers, communities impacted and living at high risk; awareness generation on climate change; and inclusion of their settlements for pollution control under the ministry.

## The allocation for the Department of Fisheries:

The allocation for the Department of Fisheries has allocated a budget of Rs 415 Cr under the only DRR and CCA scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for

SC and Rs 246 Cr for ST. Though the allocation has been increased for both SCs and STs compared to the previous year but again, the outcome budget has no specific mention of the SCs and STs beneficiaries. In that case, to what extent this scheme would benefit the SCs and STs is a matter of concern. The fishing communities in the coastal region are mainly SCs and STs. Both inland and sea fisheries are major areas to build resilience where the SCs and STs are affected badly. The current budget allocation is hardly adequate to address this.

The outcome budget 2024-25 shows a glaring fact that the SCs and STs are absolutely absent from the very stage of planning the schemes. There is no mention of the SC and ST in capacity building, market linkages, and aquaculture insurance.

## Drinking Water and Sanitation:










Water is essential for life and the SCs and STs have been struggling for centuries and also facing violence and discrimination in accessing the water. Many regions in north India like Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and others witness drought every year and the SC and STs are the most affected communities. This resulted in deaths, migration, unemployment, loss of seasonal crops etc. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, an important department, received an allocation of Rs 74,226.02 Cr in FY 2025-26, of which Rs 10,154.90 Cr (13.6% of the total allocated) is allocated for SCs and Rs 4,615.90 Cr (6.21% of the total allocation) for STs. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / National Rural Drinking Water Mission is an important scheme for the fulfilment of the need for water for every household, particularly in rural areas, with Rs 8.800 Cr under AWSC and Rs 4,000 Cr for AWST in 2025-26. The earmarked budget has been reduced compared to FY 2024-25 in both heads. The outcome budget indicates it as a general scheme with no specification of SC/ST target. Thus the scheme is inefficient in building resilience and ensuring clean drinking water for marginalized communities as the outcome budget clearly shows that this important scheme is a general scheme with no emphasis on the SCs and STs. Hence, we need targeted schemes to ensure the fulfilment of clean potable water.

## New and Renewable Energy:






With the commitment to achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2070, and milestones of meeting 50 per cent of energy requirements from renewable energy by



**Fig - 7: Suggested Schemes (Peoples' Budget) (Rs in Cr)**

Name of the Schemes	SC Schemes	ST Schemes
 <b>Higher Education</b>		
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	900	700
Top Class Residential Coaching for SC Students	800	500
Boys Hostels in every district headquarters - 640	5,000	3,000
girls hostels in every district head-quarters - 640	7,000	2,000
Remedial coaching in english language	1,000	800
B.R Ambedkar Universities in 10 states - Punjab, Bengal, U.P, Bihar, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, M.P, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana	40,000	15,000
 <b>Agri Coop</b>		
Minor irrigation programme for SC/ST farmlands	1,000	200
Sustainable Agriculture Grants for SC/ST Farmers	1,000	300
Horticulture and sericulture scheme for SC/ST	1,000	500
Horticulture and sericulture scheme for SC/ST	5,000	5,000
 <b>Agriculture Research</b>		
Agricultural Training Institute for SC/ST	250	150
 <b>AH D F</b>		
District Level SC/ST Dairy Cooperatives Scheme	2,500	1,500
Livestock Development Fund for SC/ST Family	400	200
Small Scale Entrepreneurship Fund for Goat, Pig, Hen and Cow Breeding	600	300
 <b>DWS</b>		
Community Well Regeneration Scheme in SC/ST Localities	500	300
Provision for Drinking Water for SC/ST families	600	400
 <b>Health Family Welf</b>		
Modernization of Health Centres in SC/ST Areas	400	200
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	5,000	500
Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Families	200	100
Superspeciality hospital for Malaria, TB, Hypertension, sickle cells, and other diseases in SC/ST Areas.	6,000	2,000
Health Contingency fund at Municipal level for SC/ST community	1,000	800
 <b>Housing</b>		
Ambedkar Model Housing Scheme	10,000	-
Birsa Munda Model Housing Scheme	-	5,000
Housing Scheme in Disaster prone for SC/ST Families	2,500	500
Housing Loan on Subsidised Interest rate to SC/ST Man/Women	1,500	500
Savitri Bai Phule SC/ST Woman Housing Programme	400	-
 <b>Labour &amp; Employment</b>		
Rehabilitation and Protection of SC Child Labour	200	-
Top class coaching for competitive exams	200	100
Establishment of Employment Centre for SC/ST Labour	10,000	500
 <b>MSME</b>		
Standup Fund for Unemployed SC	900	400
SC/ST Innovation fund for employment generation activities	800	450
Credit Support Program for SC/ST educated unemployed youth for Self Employment	2,000	1,200
Special SC/ST Women Employment Fund	400	200
Market Development Programme for SC/ST Farmers Product	200	200

**Fig - 7: Suggested Schemes (Peoples' Budget) (Rs in Cr)**

Name of the Schemes	SC Schemes	ST Schemes
 <b>Rural Development</b>		
Unemployment Allowance for SC/ST BPL Individual/Families	400	300
Restoration of Alienated land for STs	250	150
 <b>School Education</b>		
500 state of the art modern schools for SC/ST students	15,000	10,000
Inclusion Cells in Schools	200	150
Appointment of SC/ST Teachers in Rural Areas	500	500
Special Teacher Training Programme on Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion	150	100
High class hostels for SC/ST Students at district headquarters	15,000	7,000
Appointment of Permanent SC/ST Women Cooks	10	10
Special Nutritional Supplements	500	500
 <b>Skill Development</b>		
Training Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development for SC/ST Youth	1,000	500
 <b>Social Justice</b>		
Implementation of SC/ST POA Act	2,000	100
Finance Development Corporation for SC Woman	1,500	1,000
Insurance scheme for Criminally assaulted SC/ST Woman	50	25
Scaling up NFSC to all SC PhD Students	500	500
Pre-Medical Coaching and Scholarship for SC/ST Students	500	150
Special fund for protection and empowerment of SC/ST Woman	1,000	500
Special Development funds for Nomadic, semi-nomadic and Vimuktajatis of SCs and STs.	200	300
Establishment of Centers in Universities for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy	20,000	10,000
Special Fast Track Court for Speedy Trial of SC/ST Cases	15,000	10,000
SC & ST fellowship for non-NET research students	400	200
Compensation to Victims	1,000	800
B.R Ambedkar Centres for learning and libraries in SC ST dominated districts	2,500	2,000
Rehabilitation of Women Ex. Manual Scavengers	1,000	-
Formation of Special POCSO Courts to Trail SC/ST Cases	3,000	1,000
Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST Woman	2,000	500
National Single Window Helpline for SC/ST Students	72	25
Fellowships for SC- ST students under exchange programmes to foreign universities	2,000	1,000
Establishment of SC - ST Research institutes	6,000	1,051
 <b>Tribal Affairs</b>		
Innovation fund for Tribal Cooperatives and Tribal Entrepreneurship	5,000	2,500
Special fund for FRA Implementation	-	10,000
Special fund for implementation of PESA in Schedule Areas	-	10,000
Special Mission for Development of Minor Forest Produce	-	7,000
Model Schools for SC/ST Girls	5,000	4,500
Schools of international Standard at State Level for SC/ST Students	4,000	2,000
Special Development Fund for most Vulnerable Tribal Groups	-	100

**Fig - 7: Suggested Schemes (Peoples' Budget) (Rs in Cr)**

Name of the Schemes	SC Schemes	ST Schemes
<b>Women Child</b>		
Establishment of Mini health centres in SC/ST Habitants	500	200
Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Women	5,000	4,000
Special Child Protection Mission for SC/ST Children	1,000	800
Targeted Health Coverage for Migrants SC/ST Children	500	300
Appointment of SC/ST Caretakers	50	40
Rehabilitation of Trafficked SC/ST Women	1,000	1,000
<b>WR RD GR</b>		
Canal Construction Programme for SC/ST farmland	1,100	700
Water Catchment Area Development Programme for SC/ST	1,000	500
<b>Youth Sports</b>		
Special Sports program for SC/ST youths under Khelo India	5,000	1,500
Overseas Training for SC/ST Sports Persons	5,000	500
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>230,132</b>	<b>132,501</b>

NOTE:- 1. In the Union Budget FY2025-26 with reference to Fig -1 Total Targeted Schemes for SCs is Rs 62,150 Cr. and STs Rs.51,492 Cr. with the total gap of SC allocation is Rs.1,67,982 Cr. and Rs. 81,009 Cr. for STs. The above table details of suggested schemes are for closing the Gap in the allocation.

2030, the ministry received Rs 26,549.38 Cr allocation in FY 2025-26. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MoNRE) has earmarked Rs 2,180 Cr for AWSC under Solar Power (Grid) and Rs 2,258 Cr for AWST. The ministry has increased the allocation but this would not help the SC and ST communities as the scheme has no SC-ST target in the outcome budget. Being the most crucial ministry for the transition to renewable energy, more targeted schemes are recommended under AWSC and AWST. However, the output and outcome indicators relate to the quantity of solar energy generated and not the number of SC and SC villages or households that will be connected to these grids. Thus, the allocations are rendered ineffective on account of missing SC-ST targets.

## Child Rights

India confronts major hurdles in eliminating caste-based disparities, particularly in terms of the rights and well-being of children from marginalised communities. The SC and ST are historically disadvantaged groups who continue to experience systematic discrimination, violence, and neglect. This disproportionately impacts children, breaching their fundamental rights and compromising critical objectives like education, equality, and child protection.

In 2024, India experienced a series of child rights breaches that exposed the deep-rooted caste-based injustices that continue to exist in society. SC/ST children continue to be among the most vulnerable parts of Indian society, with

caste-based discrimination in schools as well as cases of child labour and sexual abuse. Despite India's commitment to these aims, the lived realities of SC ST children show significant gaps in implementation and enforcement.

We should aspire to provide inclusive and equitable quality education to everyone. However, caste inequality persists in India's education system, particularly in rural regions. SC ST children are frequently humiliated by instructors and peers, forcing them to the outskirts of society and discrimination continues in schools unabated.

Research demonstrates that caste-based bullying and humiliation lead to high dropout rates among SC ST students. Despite India's prohibition on child labour by the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and the Right to Education Act, many SC ST children are coerced into exploitative labour owing to poverty, a lack of educational opportunities, and systemic caste discrimination. This contradicts the abolition of child labour in all forms. According to reports from 2024, a considerable majority of child labour comes from marginalised areas, with SC ST children being over-represented.

SC/ ST children have an increased risk of sexual assault and exploitation. According to data from the National Crime Records Bureau, 41% of survivors under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act are from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This figure shows the intersectional vulnerabilities of these children, who are more likely to be targeted as a result of their social and economic marginalisation. This also breaches the deliverables, which seek to foster peaceful and inclusive communities while ensuring equal access to justice for everyone.

Girls from SC/ST groups are especially vulnerable, as they endure both gender and caste prejudice. Addressing these difficulties is crucial for meeting gender equality and safeguarding all children's safety and dignity.

For this financial year 2025-26, the total SC children's budget is Rs 22,208.60 Cr and the total ST children's budget is Rs 12,697.18 Cr. When compared to the total SC budget the SC child budget percentage comes to a meagre 13.2 % and when compared to the total ST budget the ST child budget percentage comes to a meagre 9.82 %. The SC child budget against the development fund (CS+CSS) is a scanty 1.4 % and the ST child budget against the development fund (CS+CSS) is again a scanty 0.8 %. Further, the SC child-targeted schemes amount

to Rs 15,326.75 Cr which comes to 9 % of the SC budget and 0.78 % of the development fund and the ST-targeted schemes amount to Rs 2,510.48 Cr which comes to 1.9 % of the ST budget and 0.15 % of the development fund.

### Key Schemes for SC Children for fiscal year 2025- 26:

- Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs and Others: The budget allocation is Rs 5,77.96 Cr
- Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High School in Targeted Area (SRESHTA) for SCs: The budget allocation is Rs 140 Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY): The budget allocation is Rs 844.15 Cr

### Key Schemes for ST Children for fiscal year 2025-26:

- Pre-Matric Scholarship for STs: The budget allocation is Rs 313.79 Cr
- Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS): The budget allocation is Rs 7,088.60 Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN): The budget allocation is Rs 1,337.51 Cr



# Recommendations

## **From Post-facto accounting to proactive planning:**

To enhance the effectiveness of the SC ST Budgets the ministries should move from post-facto accounting to proactive planning by realigning big-funded schemes like PM-Kisan and Crop Insurance to benefit SC and ST communities. Eliminate non-targeted allocations (8.1% for SC, 5.6% for ST in FY24) and redirect resources to more targeted programs.

**Increase Targeted spending:** Introduce more targeted development schemes and better innovative economic policies for SC and ST communities. In the top funded 50 schemes in both SC & ST Budget, increase funds to targeted schemes, currently at 38.6%.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** MSJE and MoTA should prepare a special outcome budget for SC & ST schemes, coordinating with relevant obligatory ministries to create inclusive monitoring frameworks, even for schemes below allocation thresholds.

**Enhance Budget Credibility:** To enhance budget credibility for SC and ST, the government should set realistic fiscal targets, allocate a higher percentage to direct community development initiatives, and ensure transparency through regular reporting and independent audits by the CAG.

**Central Legislation:** The lack of a legislative framework has led to several gaps. Central legislation would mandate equitable allocations, enhance transparency, and direct more funds to targeted schemes, addressing specific community needs and fostering inclusive development. This framework is crucial for bridging existing gaps and ensuring holistic community development.

## **Public Health:**

The spending on Public Health must be around 3% of the total GDP. Tertiary health care needs attention and the strengthening of the Human Resources with quality and quantity at all 3 tiers of Public Health care. The

threat of the private healthcare Industries increasing out-of-pocket expenses for the poor must be addressed.

More women-specific schemes under the public healthcare system focus more on preventive health care and nutrition measures by increasing allocations under the nutrition schemes and reproductive health, as Dalit and Adivasi women continue to suffer and top the untimely and preventable deaths.

## **Social Protection:**

SC/ST communities should be made aware of the social protection schemes through mass awareness campaigns like community meetings and through local media as most of them are unaware of the existence of such schemes.

Informal workers from SC/ST communities should be included in the social protection net.

It is important to scale up the social protection for women and girls from the SC/ST communities to contribute towards a more gendered approach to society and the economy.

## **Livelihood:**

The diversion of hefty allocations of funds from AWSC and AWST to the general schemes under the livelihood programs targeted for the general public must be stopped and should be expended exclusively for the Dalit and Adivasi communities. In this FY, Rs 25,857.51 Cr (AWST) and Rs 20,236.66 Cr (AWSC) have been allocated to obsolete schemes which could have been expended for the exclusive socio-economic schemes for SCs and STs.

Livelihood schemes and programmes for the Dalits need more than subsidized loan programmes and skill development training when employment and alternative livelihood options are inaccessible. The political will and adherence to the SC and ST guidelines are needed urgently. Revision of

Livelihood schemes and programmes is needed especially on the conditions, criteria and eligibility factors it imposes on people to access benefits.

There is a significant deficit in the yearly allocation for SCs and STs under 'PMAY-G - House for all' scheme which aims to provide housing to 2.95 crore within 5 FY (2014-29). The target number must be increased and adequately funded so that both SC and ST communities can access the pucca houses which are in dire need of the same.

## Sanitation and Frontline Workers:

There is an urgent need to revise the terms & conditions for availing the loan schemes under the NSKFDC so that targeted beneficiaries can easily avail the benefits. Loan amount above Rs 50,000 requires a Guarantor with a government service, who should not be a retired person and must have at least 6 years remaining in the service. Therefore, the majority of the eligible beneficiaries are unable to avail of the schemes because of this irrelevant term & condition and it must be noted that a loan amount of Rs 50,000 is not sufficient to invest in the income generation business when the inflation is continuously increasing every year. Also, there must be timely disbursement of loan amount so that they can reap the benefit on time and information about the disbursement procedure must be publicly available.

A Fresh Survey ordered by the Supreme Court for the identification of the person engaged in Manual Scavenging must be started at the earliest and rehabilitation of those identified must be provided with alternative livelihood options which are sustainable and accessible at the same time. Educational scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations must be reintroduced and adequately funded along with the stringent implementation of section 36 of the Factories Act of 1936 saving the lives of people through proper procedure of Manholes accessibility.

## Employment

Increase the budget of the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana" by 25% with a specific focus on enhancing employment opportunities for SC and ST youth, prioritizing skill development, entrepreneurship, and job placement services.

Establish a dedicated "Gap-Analysis Fund" with an initial allocation of Rs 500 Cr to conduct annual

assessments of employment schemes for SC ST youth. This fund will facilitate the identification of barriers to employment, evaluate program effectiveness, and inform the development of targeted interventions.

## People with Disabilities

Substantially increase the budget for the "Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances" scheme by 40% to address the significant gap in assistive technology access for SC ST Persons with Disabilities.

Allocate a dedicated budget line of Rs 300 Cr to support the development and implementation of inclusive policies that effectively address the unique challenges faced by SC ST PwDs. This allocation will support community outreach, training for service providers, and the establishment of local accessibility committees to monitor progress.

## Children and Youth

Significantly increase the budget for child labour prevention initiatives targeting SC ST children by 50%. This increased funding will support enhanced educational support programs, the development of alternative income-generating opportunities for families, and robust community engagement initiatives to prevent child labour.

Establish a "Child Rights Monitoring Fund" with an initial allocation of Rs 250 Cr. This fund will support the effective monitoring and tracking of the implementation of child rights policies, with a specific focus on SC ST communities, through data collection, gap analysis, and the development of tailored interventions.

## Education

Increase the budget for scholarships and financial aid programs targeted at SC ST students by 30%. This increase will aim to mitigate financial instability, reduce dropout rates, and ensure the timely and transparent disbursement of funds.

Allocate a new budget of Rs 200 Cr to support the revision of educational curricula to incorporate the perspectives and histories of SC ST communities. This budget will also fund comprehensive teacher training programs focused on caste sensitivity and inclusive teaching practices to address the educational disparities faced by SC ST students.



The number of NOS awards should be increased with representation from all the Indian states and Union Territories. More female, queer, and disabled students should be encouraged to apply with a focus on diverse SC/ST communities.

An increase in the post-matric Scholarship to Rs 10,000 Cr would facilitate more youth to access higher education. A 50 % allocation is specific to women and non-binary individuals.

## Access to Justice

The scheme for strengthening the machinery for enforcement of the “Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955” and the “Prevention of Atrocity Act, 1989” must have a much higher allocation of at least Rs 1,000 Cr to strengthen the mechanism to address the violence and atrocities that are increasing daily on Dalits and Adivasis and also to distribute the full and timely monetary compensation to the survivors of atrocity. 50% of this fund must be allocated to address violence against Dalit women as atrocities against Dalit women are on the increase.

The helpline number of the MoSJE which is meant to address and accelerate the process to ensure relief and rehabilitation to survivors of atrocity cases must be fully functional and must have adequate allocation.

The separate mention of the fund allocations for preventive measures such as awareness generation, protection cells & special police stations should also be shown under the scheme.

## Climate Resilience

Institute the National Climate Budget with earmarking for adaptation and mitigation by mainstreaming climate actions across the central sector and centrally sponsored programmes/schemes.

Increase the budget for climate actions under the AWSC and AWST proportionate to the SC and ST population taking into consideration regional and socio-economic vulnerabilities and exposure to climate risks in line with the guidelines of NITI Ayog.

It is also recommended to make provisions in the National Disaster Management Act for compensation

to the Dalit sharecroppers and landless farmers who lose their crops and livelihoods during disasters.

The five most important departments/Ministries (Agriculture and farmers' Welfare, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, The allocation of the Department of Fisheries, Drinking Water and Sanitation and New and Renewable Energy) which hold importance for climate resilience should come up with more climate resilience schemes. This should also be mentioned in the outcome budget with a clear number/percentage of the beneficiaries of SCs and STs.

The marginalized and vulnerable communities have the lowest carbon footprint; and they have not in any way contributed to GHG emissions, historically or currently. But they are the ones who are impacted the most when it comes to the consequences of global warming - be it recurrent disasters like floods, heatwaves, forest fires, erosion of the sea coast or the increasing submersion of coastal lands. Hence all measures of adaptation, and loss and damage, should be guided by a 'reparative' perspective. When it comes to energy transition also, they mustn't bear the cost or impact in any manner; that should be among the main priorities of energy transition.

The intention of the government in providing solar power to remote tribal and PVTG settlements is laudable. However, off-grid stand-alone solar devices could at best be only a transitional phase, till the inclusion of the tribal/PVTG settlements in the grid. During that transition period, the repair and maintenance of the off-grid devices should be fully taken care of by the scheme, with the components required readily available in the villages. It may be an excellent livelihood initiative to train women and youth of the community to repair and maintain solar devices and be paid for the same.

There should be an Adaptation Fund at the national level which would be primarily for the communities/households affected by Climate Change and resultant disasters; and this should be built up by special taxation/cess that the government imposes on all corporate entities. The finances thus made available should be managed by local authorities with mandatory representation of and consultation with the local marginalized and vulnerable communities, especially SC, ST and OBCs, depending on local demographic characteristics and identified populations that are historically and currently impacted.

## The Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes would like to know?

1. Why are SCs and STs excluded from the 'Sabka Vikas' agenda, with their needs neglected in the pursuit of development?
2. Why are Rs 46,094 Cr allocated to schemes that deliberately exclude SCs and STs, denying any direct benefits to Dalits and Adivasis?
3. Why a massive amount of Rs15,430Cr of funds from ST budget is allocated towards construction of roads and highways?
4. Why the schemes for 'Gyan, Garib, Yuva, Annadata, and Nari Shakti' focusing on youth and women towards skills, eliminating poverty, agriculture and women excluding SC and ST in the budget?
5. Why is the Ministry of Higher Education allocating only Rs.160Cr for direct benefit schemes to SC and STs while denying Rs 6,342 Cr which is 98% of the total Ministry's SC/ST budget, excluding SCs and STs from colleges and universities and other technical and higher education?
6. Why is there a mere 1.79% of the total allocation of SC/ST budgets deliberately excluding 25% of women who happen to be SC/STs, Despite the 'Nari Shakti - Women Power'?
7. Why only Rs.463 Cr is allotted which is a mere 0.0016% of the total SC/ST budget allocated towards protection of SC/STs while there are at least 67,646 incidents of crimes against SC/ST ?







**The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights** is a forum launched in 1998, committed to the elimination of discrimination based on caste. A democratic secular platform led by Dalit women and men activists, with support and solidarity from movements and organizations, academics, individuals, people's organizations and institutions throughout the country who are committed to work to protect and promote human rights of Dalits. **Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA)** is a part of NCDHR and looks at the various economic rights of Dalits including education and entrepreneurship. It uses the Union and state Government budgets as the main vehicle to tracking schemes and entitlements of Dalits. It involves in advocacy with policy makers and executives in strengthening the existing policies and tracking it for accountability and transparency.

**NCDHR-National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights-DAAA**

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