



97% SC Atrocities from 13 States

Why in News?

Recently, a government report revealed that **97.7% of atrocities against [Scheduled Castes \(SCs\)](#) in 2022** were concentrated in 13 states, with **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh** recording the highest number of such cases.

Key Points

- **Atrocities Against Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022:**
 - 97.7% of all atrocities against SCs (51,656 out of 52,866 cases) were reported from 13 states.
 - Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of cases (12,287 or 23.78%).
- **Atrocities Against Scheduled Tribes (STs) in 2022:**
 - 98.91% of all atrocities against STs were reported from 13 states (9,735 cases total).
 - Madhya Pradesh had the highest number of cases (2,979 or 30.61%).
 - Rajasthan followed with 2,498 cases (25.66%) and Odisha recorded 773 cases (7.94%).
- **Conviction Rate:**
 - The conviction rate for cases under the [SC/ST Act, 1989](#) declined to 32.4% in 2022, down from 39.2% in 2020.
- **SC/ST Protection Measures:**
 - SC/ST protection cells have been set up in states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and others.
 - Special police stations for handling SC/ST offences are established in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh.

Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:

- [SC ST Act, 1989 is an Act of Parliament](#) enacted to prohibit discrimination against SC & ST communities members and prevent atrocities against them.
- The Act is also a recognition of the depressing reality that despite undertaking several measures, the [Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes](#) continue to be subjected to various atrocities at the hands of upper-castes.
- The Act has been enacted keeping in view the express constitutional safeguards enumerated in [Articles 15 \(Prohibition of Discrimination\)](#), [17 \(Abolition of Untouchability\)](#) and [21 \(Protection of Life and Personal Liberty\)](#) of the Constitution, with a twin-fold objective of protecting the members of these vulnerable communities as well as to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victims of caste-based atrocities.
- In the amended **SC/ST Act, 2018** preliminary inquiry is not a must and no prior approval is also required for appointing authorities for senior police officers to file FIRs in cases of atrocities on SC and ST.

