



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)



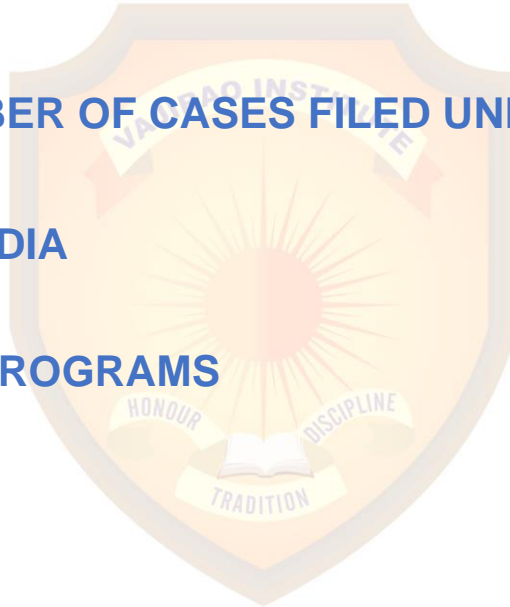
[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)

# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (06 December 2024)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CASES FILED UNDER SC/ST ACT
- HEALTHCARE IN INDIA
  - IMMUNISATION PROGRAMS
- MCQs



#### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



# INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CASES FILED UNDER SC/ST ACT

## Background

- **Date:** December 3, 2024
- **Event:** In a statement to the **Lok Sabha, Virendra Kumar**, the **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment**, explained why there has been an increase in the number of cases filed under the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.
- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** shared data showing that more cases are being reported, **which is mainly due to increased awareness** of the law, better publicity, and training for police officers.

## KEY DATA ON ATROCITIES

- According to **NCRB data for 2022**, **over 67,000 cases** were registered under the SC/ST Act.
- **This is the highest number since 2013.**

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **57,582 cases** were related to atrocities against **Scheduled Castes (SC)**.
- **10,064 cases** were related to atrocities against **Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.
- This increase in cases shows that **more people are aware of their rights** and are coming forward to report violence and discrimination.

## REASONS FOR INCREASE IN CASES

- **Growing Awareness:** More people in **SC and ST communities** now know about their **legal rights** and how to report crimes against them.
- **Wider Publicity:** The government and other organizations have **worked to spread information about the SC/ST Act**, making more people aware that they can take legal action.
- **Better Police Training:** The police are **being trained to handle cases related to atrocities against SCs and STs**, which has encouraged more people to report such crimes.

## GOVT. ACTIONS TO COMBAT ATROCITIES

The government has been taking several steps to make sure the **SC/ST Act** is properly enforced:

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Central Schemes:** The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** is running a scheme to prevent atrocities and ensure that justice is served.
- **National Helpline:** A **National Helpline Against Atrocities** has been set up to help SC and ST people report crimes and get support.
- **Role of National Commissions:** The **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** and **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** help protect SCs and STs by looking into complaints and making recommendations to the government.

## DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS & PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS

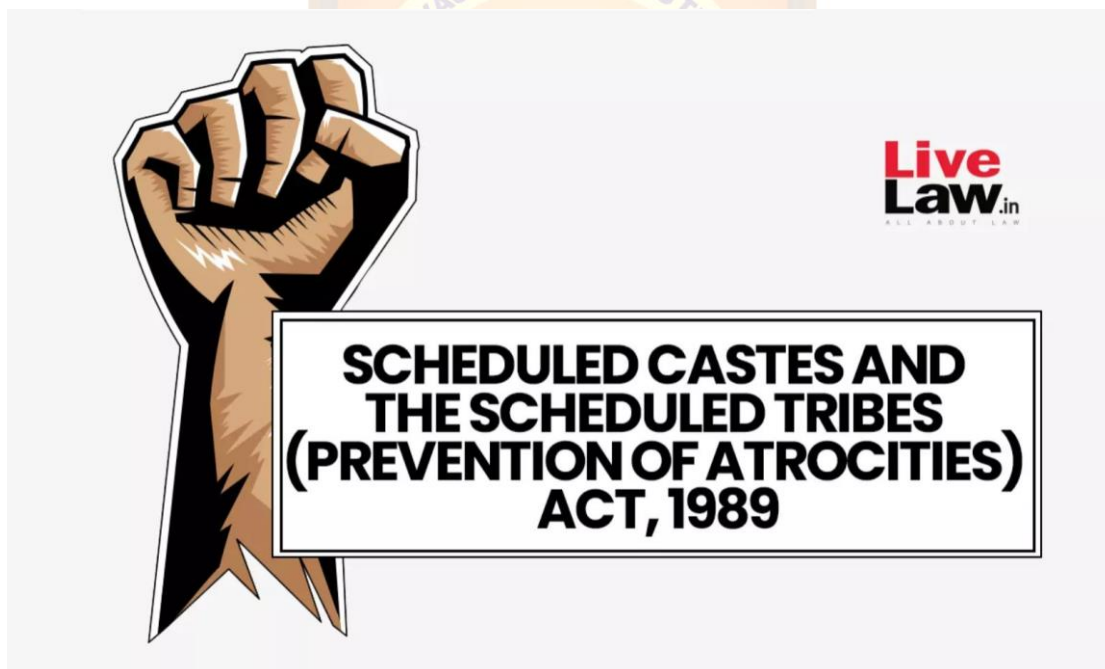
- **Alok Kumar Suman**, a **Janata Dal-United (JD-U) MP**, raised a question about **discrimination against SCs/STs** in top educational institutions like **Central Universities**, **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**, **Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)**, and **AIIMS**. He also asked about discrimination in **public sector jobs**.
  - **Government's Response:** The Minister said that the **government does not keep data on discrimination in these institutions**.
  - However, the government has taken steps to reduce discrimination by setting up:

**ADDRESS:**



- **SC/ST Cells** in universities
- **Equal Opportunity Cells** and **Student Grievance Cells** to help students report problems
- **Liaison Officers** to look after the needs of SC and ST students

## SC/ST (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT, 1989



The **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** was introduced to prevent crimes and atrocities against people belonging to **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** by others who do not belong to these communities. The Act aims to protect SCs and STs from discrimination, exploitation, and violence.

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

www.vajiraoinstitute.com



info@vajiraoinstitute.com

## KEY FEATURES

- **Purpose:**

- The Act is designed to prevent atrocities against SCs and STs.
- It punishes those who commit crimes or atrocities against SCs and STs.

- **Implementation:**

- The Act is implemented by the **State Governments** and **Union Territory Administrations**.
- The **Central Government** assists in the enforcement of the Act through a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.

- **Punishment:**

- The Act provides punishment for those who commit offences against SCs and STs.

- **Framing of Rules:**

- The Central Government has the authority to create rules to ensure the effective implementation of the Act.

## TYPES OF OFFENCES

- **Crimes Covered:**

- The Act covers 37 offences, including acts that harm the dignity, self-respect, and rights of SCs and STs.

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





- These crimes include:
  - **Denial of economic, democratic, and social rights.**
  - **Exploitation and abuse** of the legal system.
- **Exceptions:**
  - The Act does not apply to crimes committed between SCs and SCs or between STs and STs.

## INVESTIGATION OF OFFENCES

- **Cognizable Offences:**
  - All offences under this Act are **cognizable**, meaning the police can arrest the accused without a warrant and investigate the case immediately.
  - The investigation must be conducted by a police officer of at least the rank of **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)**.
- **Investigation Timeframe:**
  - The investigation must be completed within **30 days**, and the report should be sent directly to the Director of the State Police.

**ADDRESS:**



## SPECIAL COURTS

- **Creation of Special Courts:**

- Special Courts are set up to try cases under this Act in each district, with the approval of the **Chief Justice of the High Court**.
- These courts handle cases related to atrocities against SCs and STs on a **day-to-day basis** for faster trials.

- **Special Public Prosecutors:**

- For each special court, the **State Government** appoints a **Special Public Prosecutor**, who must have at least **seven years** of legal experience.

## PUNISHMENT FOR OFFENCES

- **General Punishment:**

- The minimum punishment for most offences is **6 months** of imprisonment, and the maximum is **5 years**, along with a **fine**.
- In certain cases, the punishment can be more severe, with a **minimum of 1 year** and a **maximum of life imprisonment or even the death sentence**.

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





- **Negligence by Public Servants:**

- **Section 4** of the Act punishes public servants (who are not SC/ST members) if they neglect their duties under the Act.
- A public servant found guilty of neglecting their duties can face **up to 6 months** of imprisonment.

## RELIEF FOR VICTIMS

- **Provision of Immediate Relief:**

- According to the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995**, the **District Magistrate** or **Sub-Divisional Magistrate** must arrange immediate relief for victims.
- The relief can include:
  - **Cash or kind** assistance.
  - **Food, water, clothing, shelter, and medical aid.**
  - **Transport facilities** and other essentials.

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



## THE 2016 AMENDMENT IN SC/ST

2016 AMENDMENTS IN ACT	
<b>The 2016 Amendments in SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Added several new offences of atrocities, including tonsuring of head, moustache, garlanding with footwear</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>intimidation, kidnapping, etc. committed against SCs/STs</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Dispose of or carry human or animal carcasses, or to dig graves, using or permitting manual scavenging, dedicating an SC/ST woman as devdasi</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Amendments emphasised establishment of exclusive special courts, specification of exclusive special public prosecutor to try offences under the Act for expeditious disposal of cases</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Preventing SC/ST candidates from filing of nomination to contest election, hurting an SC/ST woman by removing her garments, forcing a member to leave his or her house, village or residence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Power of special courts to take direct cognisance of offence and as far as possible complete trial of the case within two months from the date of filing of the chargesheet</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Addition of IPC offences: hurt, grievous hurt,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ An additional chapter was added on the 'Rights of Victims and Witnesses'</li></ul>

Source: Ministry of Social Justice

## ACTOHER LAWS PROTECTING SC & ST

The government pointed out two main laws that protect SCs and STs:

1. **The Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955):** This law makes it illegal to discriminate against people based on their caste in public places such as schools, temples, and government offices.
2. It specifically targets crimes such as physical violence, social discrimination, and denial of basic rights.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

www.vajiraoinstitute.com



info@vajiraoinstitute.com

# HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

## IMMUNISATION PROGRAMS

### Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in 1974:

- The year 2024 marks 50 years since the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in 1974, now known as the Essential Program on Immunization.
- This program has evolved to provide protection against many vaccine-preventable diseases and has made significant contributions to global health.

### ABOUT ESSENTIAL PROGRAM FOR IMMUNISATION

Established in 1974 by WHO, the program initially focused on protecting children from 6 childhood vaccine-preventable diseases:

1. Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)
2. Diphtheria
3. Pertussis
4. Tetanus
5. Polio
6. Measles

Over time, WHO expanded the program to include 7 more diseases:

1. Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)
2. Hepatitis B (HepB)
3. Rubella
4. Pneumococcal disease (PNC)
5. Rotavirus (Rota)
6. Human papillomavirus (HPV)
7. COVID-19 (for adults)

#### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



## UNIVERSAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM OF INDIA

- Launched in 1978 as the EPI, India renamed the program as the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** in 1985.
- **100% Funded by the central government.**
- UIP is one of the key interventions **for protection of children from life threatening conditions by providing vaccination.**
- The UIP aims to **rapidly increase immunization coverage**, improve service quality, establish a reliable **cold chain system to health facilities**, monitor performance, and **achieve self-sufficiency in vaccine production.**
- **All pregnant women and children can get vaccinated** at government or private health facilities or designated immunization session sites.

## DISEASES COVERED

- Under UIP, **free vaccination is provided against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.**
- **9 diseases are covered nationally:**
  - **Diphtheria,**
  - **Pertussis,**

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Tetanus,**
- **Polio,**
- **Measles,**
- **Rubella,**
- **Severe Childhood Tuberculosis,**
- **Hepatitis B, and**
- **Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Haemophilus Influenza type B.**
- **3 diseases are covered sub-nationally:**
  - Rotavirus diarrhea,
  - Pneumococcal Pneumonia, and
  - Japanese Encephalitis.
- **Rotavirus vaccine and Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine are in expansion, while JE vaccine is only provided in endemic districts.**

## MISSION INDRADHANUSH

- **Mission Indradhanush (MI) - 2014** Launched in **December 2014**, **Mission Indradhanush** is a targeted immunization programme aimed at vaccinating children who

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





are either **unvaccinated or partially vaccinated**. It focuses on districts with the highest number of missed children.

- **Phases Completed:** 4 phases have been completed.
- **Children Vaccinated:** 2.94 crore children, with **76.36 lakh fully immunized**.
- **Pregnant Women Vaccinated:** 76.84 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated against **tetanus**.
- **Impact:** Full immunization coverage increased from **1% to 6.7%** annually.
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) - 2017** Launched in **October 2017**, IMI aimed to increase immunization coverage in districts with low immunization rates.
  - **Coverage Areas:** 121 districts in 16 States, 52 districts in North Eastern States, and 17 urban areas.
  - **Immunization Outcomes:** 39.19 lakh children and 8.09 lakh pregnant women vaccinated across 190 districts/urban areas.

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





## MCQs

1. Which of the following are reasons for increased number of cases under the SC/ST Protection Act?

1. Better Awareness among the masses.
2. Better publicity by the government.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2



**Ans. (C)**

2. Consider the following statements wrt SC/ST Act & mark the correct one:

1. Offences under the act are cognizable.
2. The state governments are entrusted to enforce the act.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (C)**

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



3. Which of the following offences were not added by the 2016 amendment to the SC/ST Protection Act?

- (A) Tonsuring of head.
- (B) Preventing SC/ST from filing nominations for contesting elections.
- (C) Dedication an SC/ST women as a Devdasi.
- (D) All of the above were added.

**Ans. (D)**

4. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:

1. Expanded program on immunisation was launched by GoI in 1974.
2. Measles & Polio were part of the program from the beginning.

A: Only 1

B: Only 2

C: Both 1 & 2

D: Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (B)**

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)



[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)

5. Which of these diseases are covered Sub nationally under the Universal Immunisation Program (UIP)?

- (A) Polio
- (B) Diphtheria
- (C) Severe Childhood Tuberculosis
- (D) Japanese Encephalitis

**Ans. (D)**



**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)