

Research Article

## An exploratory study on crime against scheduled tribes in southern states of India

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**Abstract:** The paper discussed status of crime against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India. It has found that number of crimes registered in Telangana is comparatively higher than the other states of the region. Rate of total crime against STs is highest in Kerala followed by Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. Incidences of attempt to commit murder is highest in Karnataka followed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Incidences of simple hurt, grievous hurt, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, sexual harassment, and assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe are also higher in Karnataka. There are incidences of voyeurism in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The incidences and victims of kidnapping and abduction against scheduled tribes are higher in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. There are no incidence of kidnapping and abduction of women to compel her for marriage in southern states except Andhra Pradesh. There are no incidences of procurement of minor girls against scheduled tribes in any state of the region. Incidences and victims of rape against scheduled tribes is highest in Telangana followed by Karnataka and Kerala. Karnataka is the only state have the incidences and victims of Robbery. Therefore, government of the concern states should implement policies for reducing crimes against scheduled tribes.

**Keywords:** Crime, Rape, Scheduled tribe, Southern India and Welfare.

### 1. Introduction

A tribe is a group of people who lives together in a particular geographical areas having the common religion, dialect and culture. India have largest number of tribal population globally. According to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act 2003, Currently there are 50 tribes are listed as scheduled tribes in Karnataka (Guha, 2019). Scheduled tribes constituted 6.95 per cent of the total population of Karnataka. Parivara and Taliwara communities live in Mysore, Chamrajanagara, Mandya and Tumkur

districts and a “thin population” resides in Udupi, South Canara and North Canara districts of Karnataka (**Madhok, 2013**). They are educationally, economically, and politically backwards. Siddi community are descendants of Bantu people of East Africa. They are living on the western coast of Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra states. In Karnataka, they live in Uttar Kannada, Belagavi and Dharwad districts (**Gandee, 2020**).

Majority of tribal population of Kerala lives in mountains and forests of Western Ghats. Kadarm, Kattunaikan, Koraga, Kurumbar, and Cholanaikan are listed as vulnerable scheduled tribes. They live in Malappuram, Palakkad, Kasaragod, Wayanad, Thrissur, and Kozhikode districts. According 2011 census, Wayanad district has highest percentage of tribal population followed by Idukki, and Kasaragod (**Ramaiah, 2011**). They constituted 1.5 percent of the total population of the state. They are classified as three sub-sets, namely minorities, marginalised, and particularly vulnerable. Kadar, Palliyan, Kanikkar, Kattunayakan, Paniyan, Kurumbas, Toda, and Malayali are the main tribes in Tamil Nadu. There are 36 groups of STs in the state (**Tiwari, 2022**). Out of them six tribes (Kattunayakas, Paniyas, Irulas, Kurumbas, Kotas, and Todas) are listed in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups by the Government of India. Majority of such primitive tribes lives in Nilgiris district. Many tribes are primitively involved in hunting, but gradually shifted in settled cultivation and plantation sector. They are primarily follows Hinduism (**Prasad and Bibhar, 2020**).

The main objectives of this paper are: (a) to study the trends and patterns of crimes against scheduled tribes in Southern states of India, and (b) to identify various initiatives of government for mitigating such crimes. The paper examined number of incidences/cases, number of victims, and crime rate per lakh population from National Crime Record Bureau report of 2022, published by National Crime Records Bureau, Government of India.

## 2. Literature Review

The Indian legal system, including civil society, has a fundamental right to justice. The validity of this important rule is not clear-cut, but it is very important. The extent to which groups can be effective partners in resolving the development-respect dilemma will depend on the understanding of the group's right to access justice. The community's fundamental right to access justice means the community's fundamental right to constitutional rights (**Dam, 2007**).

Administration of justice and legal system is important for the empowerment of tribal people in India. Also, the validity of the provisions in the Indian Constitution that empower the Appointments Committee is being examined (**Prasad, 2011**). The development of the tribe depends on the best model of life and education for its children. Many educational programs have been conducted by the government and NGOs especially for the tribal people (**Sindhi, 2012**). The impact of violence on the empowerment of women groups is obvious. The law

is the protection of the group against the use of force. It increases the power of the women group (Bhukya, 2015).

The group is still involved in business and social relations. Their economic system has changed due to educational, legal, political and financial support (Laxmidhar, 2015). Violations against Scheduled Tribes across Indian states and Union Territories are a matter of concern for the administration. Crimes committed against such marginalised people and their economic impact on the victims are also being studied (Khadse et al., 2017). Crimes against women groups are a clear reality in many parts of India. Therefore, empowerment of tribal women is the most urgent need for their development and future stability. Lack of political participation, lack of skills and education, lack of property rights, lack of education and knowledge about new technologies, low literacy and male control over resources and reproductive rights are major obstacles to women empowerment. The Government of India has implemented various policies to promote and prevent discrimination against Scheduled tribes in India. They are protected by special provisions in our laws and regulations. Most of these rules are for their lifestyle. The government has also taken various initiatives to integrate these people into the mainstream population (Sareen, 2021).

There are laws related to race both nationally and internationally. They believe that the crimes committed against tribal people in India are due to the misuse of the law (Soren and Mohapatra, 2022). Tribals are the most oppressed class people and lives in multiple states of India. Most of the tribal people in India still live in remote areas with no infrastructure. They avoid contact with the outside world (Dhulipalla, 2022). The term group refers to the poorest and most oppressed of the people since the British era. Today, they are still discriminated against and exploited in many sections of society (Shipra, 2022). Women in the tribe are more vulnerable (Parah, 2022). Crime against women depends on support and protection awareness of the law. Work, health and education are very important to improve the health of women in society (Sahal, 2023).

Therefore, the majority of the reports examined above discussed the significance legislations for empowerment of scheduled tribes and very few are discussed about the crime against the scheduled tribes in southern states of India. For that reason, such topic for critical examination and evaluation have been chosen.

### 3. Main Results

The Constitution of India, Article 366 (25) defines Scheduled Tribes as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution. Article 342 prescribes the procedure to be followed in a matter of specification of Scheduled Tribes. There are 104 tribal communities in south India. Konda kapus, Kattunayakan and Kammara are common tribe in all the states of region. As per the Census 2011, tribal population constituted

nearly 8.9 percent of the total population of the country. They have rich heritage, culture, traditions, and having unique customs and lifestyles.

**Table 1: Population of Scheduled Tribes in South Indian States**

State	Total Population	Scheduled Tribe Population	Scheduled Tribe (%)
Andhra	84,580,777	5,920,654	7.00
Karnataka	61,095,297	4,246,123	6.95
Kerala	33,406,061	484,387	1.45
Tamil Nadu	72,147,030	793,617	1.10

Source: Census Report 2011.

Table 1 discussed the population of scheduled tribes in South Indian States. It has found that Andhra Pradesh has the highest percentage of schedule tribe population followed by the Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Tribals are settlements in several hilly and mountainous areas in the region. They have diverse religion and culture. Agriculture and farming are their major occupation. Porja and Savaras tribal groups of Andhra Pradesh are included in Scheduled Tribes. Mahaboobnagar, Adilabad, Warrangal, Khammam, West Godavari, East Godavari, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, and Visakhapatnam districts are well-known for tribal population. Gonds is the largest tribal tribe in the state. Wayanad, Idukki, Palakkad, and Kasaragod districts of Kerala are popular for the tribal population. Tribal are more concentrated in Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, and Namakkal districts of Tamil Nadu.

**Table 2: Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Tribe(s) - 2020-2022**

State	2020	2021	2022	Actual Population of STs (in Lakhs) (2011)	Rate of Total Crime against STs (2022)	Charge sheeting Rate (2022)
Andhra	320	361	396	26.3	15.1	75.3
Karnataka	293	361	438	42.5	10.3	84.4
Kerala	130	133	172	4.8	35.5	84.5
Tamil Nadu	23	39	67	7.9	8.4	86.8
Telangana	573	512	545	32.9	16.6	82.9

Source: Table 7C.1 Page 1 of 1; Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India.

Table 2 discussed trend of crime occurred against scheduled tribes. It has found that crime against scheduled tribes are increased during the period. Number of crimes held in Telangana is comparatively higher than the other states. Rate of total crime against STs is highest in Kerala followed by Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu is ahead in charge sheeting rate followed by Kerala and Karnataka.

**Table 3: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India– Murder and Attempt to Commit Murder**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC (Total)			SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act					
				Murder			Attempt to Commit Murder		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	379	396	14.4	8	8	0.3	10	10	0.4
Karnataka	434	577	10.2	17	19	0.4	37	50	0.9

Kerala	167	169	34.4	5	5	1.0	1	1	0.2
Tamil Nadu	61	67	7.7	2	2	0.3	1	1	0.1
Telangana	529	549	16.1	10	10	0.3	7	8	0.2

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 3 depicted murder and attempt to commit murder against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that total murder and attempt to commit murder under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC is highest in Telangana followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Incidences and number. of victims of murder (Sec. 302 IPC) is highest in Karnataka followed by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of murder (Sec. 302 IPC) is lowest in Karnataka preceded by Kerala. Incidences and number. of victims of attempt to commit murder (Sec. 307 IPC) is highest in Karnataka followed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of attempt to commit murder (Sec. 307 IPC) is lowest in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

**Table 4: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Simple Hurt and Grievous Hurt**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Simple Hurt			Grievous Hurt					
				Grievous Hurt (Total)			Grievous Hurt		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	87	92	3.3	2	2	0.1	2	2	0.1
Karnataka	69	93	1.6	10	10	0.2	10	10	0.2
Kerala	33	34	6.8	9	9	1.9	9	9	1.9
Tamil Nadu	24	28	3.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Telangana	81	87	2.5	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 4 discussed the simple hurt and grievous hurt against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that incidences and number of victims of simple hurt are highest in Andhra Pradesh followed by Telangana and Karnataka. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of simple hurt is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Kerala. Incidences and number of victims of grievous hurt are highest in Karnataka followed by Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, there are no incidences of grievous hurt in Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

**Table 5: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Assault on Women.**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Adults+ Children)			Assault on Women (Above 18 years)			Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	50	57	1.9	47	54	1.8	28	33	1.1
Karnataka	92	136	2.2	86	130	2.0	66	103	1.6
Kerala	36	37	7.4	27	28	5.6	17	17	3.5

Tamil Nadu	7	7	0.9	4	4	0.5	2	2	0.3
Telangana	40	43	1.2	37	40	1.1	23	26	0.7

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt.of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 5 discussed the assault on women against scheduled tribes in Southern States of India. It has found that incidences and number of victims of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (both adults and children) are highest in Karnataka followed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of such crime is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Kerala. The incidences and number of victims of assault on women (18 yrs.+) is highest in Karnataka followed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of such crime is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Kerala. The incidences and number of victims of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty are highest in Karnataka followed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of such crime is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Kerala.

**Table 6: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Assault on Women**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty								
	Sexual Harassment			Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe			Voyeurism		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	12	14	0.5	2	2	0.1	1	1	0.0
Karnataka	8	9	0.2	11	17	0.3	0	0	0.0
Kerala	8	8	1.7	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Tamil Nadu	2	2	0.3	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Telangana	8	8	0.2	1	1	0.0	1	1	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt.of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 6 illustrated the assault on women against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that incidences and number of victims of sexual harassment (Sec. 354A IPC) is highest in Andhra Pradesh followed by Karnataka, Telangana and Kerala. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of such crime is lowest in Tamil Nadu. The incidences and number of victims of assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe (Sec. 354B IPC) is highest in Karnataka followed by Karnataka and Telangana. There are no such incidences and number of victims of the crime in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. There are incidences and number of victims of voyeurism (Sec. 354C IPC) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu do not have any single case of such crime.

**Table 7: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Stalking, Assault of Children, and Insult to the Modesty of Women**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty						Insult to the Modesty of Women		
	Stalking			Assault of Children					
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	4	4	0.2	3	3	0.1	30	30	1.1
Karnataka	1	1	0.0	6	6	0.1	2	2	0.0
Kerala	2	3	0.4	9	9	1.9	2	2	0.4
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.0	3	3	0.4	0	0	0.0
Telangana	4	4	0.1	3	3	0.4	20	20	0.6

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 7 depicted stalking, assault of children, and insult to the modesty of women against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that incidences and number of victims of stalking (Sec. 354D IPC) is higher in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. There are no cases of stalking in Tamil Nadu. The incidences and number of victims of assault of children is highest in Kerala followed by Karnataka. The incidences and number of victims of insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC) is highest in Andhra Pradesh followed by Telangana, Kerala and Karnataka. There is no case of such crime in Tamil Nadu.

**Table 8: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Kidnapping, Abduction, and Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Kidnapping and Abduction			Kidnapping and Abduction			Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped		
	Other Kidnapping & Abduction								
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	8	8	0.3	7	7	0.3	1	1	0.0
Karnataka	1	1	0.0	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0
Kerala	3	3	0.6	3	3	0.6	0	0	0.0
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Telangana	4	4	0.1	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 8 depicted the cases of kidnapping, abduction, and missing children deemed as kidnapped crimes against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that incidences and victims of kidnapping and abduction against scheduled tribes are higher in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. On the other hand, incidences and number of victims of crime against scheduled tribes is lower in Kerala and Karnataka. There are no incidences of such crime against scheduled tribes in Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh is only state having incidence of missing children deemed as kidnapped. There are no incidence and victims of such case against scheduled tribes in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

**Table 9: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Kidnapping, Abduction, and Procurement of Minor Girls**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Kidnapping and Abduction								
	Kidnapping for Ransom			Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage			Procurement of Minor Girls		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	0	0	0.0	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0
Karnataka	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Kerala	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Telangana	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 9 depicted the cases of kidnapping, abduction, and procurement of minor girls against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that there are only one incidence and victims of Kidnapping for Ransom (Sec. 364A IPC) against scheduled tribes in Telangana. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled tribes in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Except Andhra Pradesh, there are no incidence of kidnapping and abduction of women to compel her for marriage (Sec.366 IPC) against scheduled tribes in any south Indian states. There are no incidences of procurement of minor girls (Sec. 366A IPC) against scheduled tribes in south Indian states.

**Table 10: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Kidnapping, Abduction, Rape, and Rape of women**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Kidnapping and Abduction			Rape (Total)			Rape of Women (Above 18 yrs.)		
	Other Kidnapping & Abduction								
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	0	0	0.0	29	29	1.1	19	19	0.7
Karnataka	0	0	0.0	51	51	1.2	17	17	0.4
Kerala	0	0	0.0	43	43	8.9	16	16	3.3
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.0	14	14	1.8	3	3	0.4
Telangana	1	1	0.0	86	86	2.6	45	45	1.4

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 10 discussed the incidences of kidnapping, abduction, rape, and rape of women against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has been found that incidences and victims of rape (Sec. 376 IPC) against scheduled tribes is highest in Telangana followed by Karnataka and Kerala. On the other hand, incidences and victims of such crime against scheduled tribes is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Andhra Pradesh. The incidences and victims of rape of women (above 18 yrs.) (Sec. 376 IPC) against scheduled tribes is highest in Telangana followed by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. On the other hand, incidences and victims of such crime against scheduled tribes is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Kerala.



**Table 11: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Rape of Children, Attempt to Commit Rape, and Rioting**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Rape of Children (Below 18 yrs.)			Attempt to Commit Rape			Rioting		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	10	10	0.4	1	1	0.0	1	1	0.0
Karnataka	34	34	0.8	1	1	0.0	41	81	1.0
Kerala	27	27	5.6	1	1	0.2	4	4	0.8
Tamil Nadu	11	11	1.4	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Telangana	42	42	1.2	0	0	0.0	2	2	0.1

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 11 discussed the rape of children, attempt to commit rape, and rioting against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that incidences and victims of rape of children is highest in Telangana followed by Karnataka and Kerala. On the other hand, incidences and victims of such crime against scheduled tribes is lowest in Andhra Pradesh preceded by Tamil Nadu. There are incidences of attempt to commit rape (Sec. 376/511 IPC) against scheduled tribes in Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, but so such incidences in Tamil Nadu and Telangana. The incidences and victims of rioting (Sec. 147-151 IPC) against scheduled tribes is highest in Karnataka followed by Kerala and Telangana. There are no such incidences against scheduled tribes in Tamil Nadu.

**Table 12: Crime Head-wise against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India – Robbery and Dacoity**

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Robbery			Dacoity					
				Dacoity (Total)			Dacoity with Murder		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Karnataka	6	8	0.1	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0
Kerala	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Telangana	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 12 discussed the robbery and dacoity against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that Karnataka is the only state have the incidences and victims of robbery (Sec. 392 to 394, 397 & 398 IPC) and dacoity (Sec. 395, 396, 397 & 398 IPC). There are no such cases in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. There are no incidences of dacoity with murder (Sec. 396 IPC) in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

**Table 13: Total Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Tribes in Southern States of India**

State	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955			Total Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Tribes		
	I	V	R	I	V	R
Andhra	0	0	0.0	396	415	15.1

Karnataka	0	0	0.0	438	582	10.3
Kerala	0	0	0.0	172	174	35.5
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.0	67	73	8.4
Telangana	0	0	0.0	545	565	16.6

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: R=Crime Rate per lakh population, V= No. of Victims, and I= No. of Incidences/Cases.

Table 13 discussed the total crime/atrocities against scheduled tribes in southern states of India. It has found that total crime/atrocities against scheduled tribes is highest in Telangana followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, incidences and victims of total crimes against scheduled tribes is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Kerala.

Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019. It seeks to include the Parivara and the Taliwara communities in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category to ensure they get a reservation and other benefits provided by the government. The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2019 and it will amend Part VI of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, that specifies the tribal and tribal communities which are deemed to be Scheduled Tribes. Part VI of the order contains the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. Funds are released to States under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to enable them to meet the cost of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State for the purpose of promoting tribal welfare.

The Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana aims at providing basic infrastructure in villages with a significant tribal population. Further, the Central Government administers a scheme ‘Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)’ specifically for the PVTG population. Support to Tribal Research Institute (TRI) scheme aims to strengthen TRIs to carry out research, documentation, training and capacity-building activities and serve as a knowledge hub catering to overall tribal development. Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums have been sanctioned in States where tribals lived, struggled against the British and refused to bow down.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, and The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was passed for empowerment of the tribals. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan was launched in November 15, 2023 for development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 for socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes. There are many incidences of racial discrimination against north-eastern tribes in other states of India. Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of atrocities) Act, 1989 was introduced to curb such incidences. Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014 was introduced after a large number of cases of violation against the North –eastern people recorded.

#### 4. Conclusion

Total crime against scheduled tribes is highest in Telangana followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Such incidences against scheduled tribes is lowest in Tamil Nadu preceded by Kerala. Incidences of simple hurt, grievous hurt, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, assault on women, sexual harassment, and assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe are also highest in Karnataka. The incidences and victims of kidnapping and abduction against scheduled tribes are higher in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Except Andhra Pradesh, there are no incidence of kidnapping and abduction of women to compel her for marriage in the region. There are no incidences of procurement of minor girls against scheduled tribes in south Indian states. Incidences and victims of rape against scheduled tribes is highest in Telangana followed by Karnataka and Kerala. Karnataka is the only state have the incidences and victims of robbery.

Schedule tribes are most deprived and distressed people. Government has passed numerous Acts for empowerment and development of such primitive tribes. Apart from the schemes that are administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the focus is given to tribal welfare by initiatives under other ministries of the Government. All these initiatives, along with other steps taken by the government, have paved the path of bringing the tribal communities into the mainstream while honouring their cultures, legacies and ways of life.

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