

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

## Karnataka Report Card 2022

### State, Chief Ministers, and Political Parties

Under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rule 16(2), notified on 31 March 1995, the state level vigilance and monitoring committee (SVMC) meeting is mandatory in January and July each year. If followed in letter and spirit 55 SVMC meetings would have been conducted by 31 July 2022 – or at the very least by the end of calendar year 2022.

#### State performance

Only nine of the mandatory 55 SVMC meetings were conducted in the period 31 March 1995 to 31 December 2022: on 11 March 2000, 12 December 2006, 27 September 2010, 7 November 2013, 26 May 2015, 13 January 2016, 25 April 2017, 11 November 2020 and 30 August 2021. In the past five years (2018–2022) only two of the ten mandatory meetings were conducted. No meetings were conducted in the calendar year 2022 nor in 20 of 28 years since the rules came into force in 1995.

SVMC meetings conducted: A report card (Till December 2022)								
#	Term		Chief Minister	Party	Meetings		% compliance	Grade
	From	To			Mandatory	Conducted		
1	11 December 1994	31 May 1996	H D Devagowda	Janata Dal	2	0	0%	F
2	31 May 1996	7 October 1999	J H Patel	Janata Dal	7	0	0%	F
3	11 October 1999	28 May 2004	S M Krishna	Congress	9	1	11%	F
4	28 May 2004	28 January 2006	Dharam Singh	Congress	4	0	0%	F
5	3 February 2006	8 October 2007	H D Kumaraswamy	Janata Dal (S)	3	1	33%	C
6	9 October 2007	11 November 2007	President's rule	-	0	0	-	-
7	12 November 2007	19 November 2007	B S Yeddyurappa	BJP	0	0	-	-
8	20 November 2007	27 May 2008	President's rule	-	1	0	0%	F
9	30 May 2008	31 July 2011	B S Yeddyurappa	BJP	7	1	14%	F
10	3 August 2011	11 July 2012	D V Sadananda Gowda	BJP	2	0	0%	F
11	12 July 2012	12 May 2013	Jagadish Shettar	BJP	1	0	0%	F
12	13 May 2013	16 May 2018	Siddaramaiah	Congress	10	4	40%	C
13	17 May 2018	22 May 2018	B S Yeddyurappa	BJP	0	0	-	
14	23 May 2018	25 July 2019	H D Kumaraswamy	Janata Dal (S)	3	0	0%	F
15	26 July 2019	27 July 2021	B S Yeddyurappa	BJP	3	1	33%	C
16	28 July 2021	Incumbent	Basavaraj Bommai	BJP	3	1	33%	B
					55	9	16%	F

In fulfilling its constitutional mandate towards the scheduled communities under the Act Karnataka scores 9 on 55 — just 16% — earning a dismal ‘F’.

#### Chief ministers' scorecard

Conducting this meeting on time is fully, and directly, within the control of the chief minister of the state who is the chairperson of the committee. SVMC meetings are an essential state mechanism to ensure that officials perform their tasks responsibly and are held accountable. It is an important indicator of the chief minister's commitment to social justice and an important ritual and substantive accountability mechanism for the implementation of the Act.

Siddaramaiah tops both in the number of meetings conducted (4) as well as in percentage compliance (40%). Bommai is second in compliance (33%, 1 of three mandatory meetings) while Yeddyurappa (20%, 2 of 10 mandatory meetings) is second in the number of meetings conducted. Kumaraswamy, who had a respectable score of 33% in his first tenure falls steeply in score and rankings due to his nil performance in the second term. S M Krishna, during whose term the Kambalapalli massacre took place conducted just one of the mandatory 9 meetings – a compliance rate of 11%. Half the chief ministers belong to the ignominious 0% club.

#	Chief minister	Mandatory Meetings	Meetings Conducted	% Compliance	Grade
1	Siddaramaiah	10	4	40%	C
2	Basavaraj Bommai	3	1	33%	C
3	B S Yeddyurappa	10	2	20%	F
4	H D Kumaraswamy	6	1	17%	F
5	S M Krishna	9	1	11%	F
6	President's rule	1	0	0%	F
7	Jagadish Shettar	1	0	0%	F
8	H D Devagowda	2	0	0%	F
9	D V Sadananda Gowda	2	0	0%	F
10	Dharam Singh	4	0	0%	F
11	J H Patel	7	0	0%	F
		55	9	16%	F

### Political parties scorecard

The party-wise record is not much better, though all parties profess social justice. The Congress tops the list with an overall compliance rate of 22% having conducted five of the mandatory 23 meetings, largely on the back of Siddaramaiah's four (of the mandatory ten) meetings during his tenure, followed by the BJP at 19%. Janata Dal (Secular) falls steeply due to non-compliance during Kumaraswamy's second term.

SVMC meetings conducted: Party-wise report card					
SI	Party	Mandatory	Meetings conducted	% Compliance	Grade
1	Congress	23	5	22%	F
2	Bharatiya Janata Party	16	3	19%	F
3	Janata Dal (S)	6	1	17%	F
4	Janata Dal	9	0	0%	F
5	President's rule	1	0	0%	F
	Total	55	9	16%	F

All parties fail in minimum compliance when benchmarked against this parameter. Even presidents rule fares no better and falls in the ignominious 0% club.