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Karnataka HC Strikes Down Law Increasing SC/ST Reservation Beyond 50%

The Karnataka High Court struck down the 2022 law that sought to increase reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes beyond the 50% ceiling limit.

A landmark judicial ruling by the Karnataka High Court upholding the 50% reservation cap as a binding constitutional principle under the Indian Constitution.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Karnataka High Court** struck down Sections 3 and 4 of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reservation law on **October 12, 2026**.
- A Division Bench comprising **Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru** and **Justice K.S. Hemalekha** declared the reservation enhancement constitutionally impermissible.
- The court held that the **50% ceiling** on total reservation is a binding constitutional principle established by the **Supreme Court**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The 50% ceiling on total reservations was famously laid down by the Supreme Court in the landmark **Indira Sawhney v. Union of India** case (**1992**).

Article 16(4) of the Constitution empowers the State to make provisions for the reservation of appointments in favor of any backward class of citizens.

The **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act** (**2019**) introduced a 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), operating outside the 50% cap.

Article 15(4) was added by the **First Constitutional Amendment Act** (**1951**) to enable special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes.

Tamil Nadu's Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act of **1994** provides 69% reservation and is protected under the **9th Schedule** of the Constitution.

Article 335 of the Constitution mandates that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Karnataka HC struck down the law increasing SC/ST reservations, reaffirming the binding nature of the 50% reservation ceiling.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Group 1 and Group 2 questions on fundamental rights, judicial review, and reservation jurisprudence.

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