Supreme Court Rules Converts Cannot Claim Reservation Based on Pre-Conversion Caste

The Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment on October 15, 2026, ruling that individuals who convert to a non-Hindu order lose eligibility for reservation benefits tied to their birth caste.

A judicial ruling determining the legal status and continuity of reservation benefits for individuals undergoing religious conversion in India.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** declared in an **October 15, 2026** judgment that Hindus who convert to a non-Hindu order cannot claim reservation benefits.
- The case originated from **Tamil Nadu** involving an individual born in **Thoothukudi district** in 1993 who converted to Islam in **September 2015**.
- The Bench comprising Justices **Prashant Kumar Mishra** and **Shree Chandrashekhar** held that reservation status is strictly tied to current religion and law.
- The legal proceedings involved the Secretary to Government versus **Sameer Ahamed N.** case.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 341 of the Constitution empowers the President to specify the castes, races, or tribes which shall for the purposes of the Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to a State or Union Territory.

The **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** initially stipulated that only persons professing the Hindu religion could be deemed to be members of a Scheduled Caste.

The **1956 amendment** to the Presidential Order extended Scheduled Caste status to Sikhs, and a **1990 amendment** further extended it to Buddhists.

Article 15 and **Article 16** of the Constitution prohibit discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth and guarantee equality of opportunity in public employment.

The **Justice Ranganath Misra Commission** examined the issue of linguistic and religious minorities and reservation benefits in its report submitted in **2007**.

Tamil Nadu government previously moved courts on backward status and legal provisions regarding religious converts and reservation frameworks.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Supreme Court ruled that individuals converting to a non-Hindu order cannot claim reservation benefits based on their pre-conversion caste.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for Unit 5 (Indian Polity & Constitution - Constitutional Judgments and Reservation Policies).

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