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Supreme Court Rules Religious Conversion Does Not Automatically Grant Quota Benefits

The Supreme Court rejected Tamil Nadu's plea to extend backward class reservation benefits to Muslim converts, ruling it creates an artificial group.

A judicial ruling clarifying that changing religion does not automatically confer backward class reservation status without valid statutory backing.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** delivered the verdict on **October 15, 2026**, rejecting Tamil Nadu's move on reservation benefits for Muslim converts.
- A Bench headed by **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** held that religious conversion does not automatically transfer backward community reservation status.
- The court observed that the **Tamil Nadu government** order granting such benefits created an artificial group lacking statutory backing.
- The bench noted that a member of a **backward Hindu community** does not automatically become part of a notified backward Muslim community merely through conversion.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

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

Article 340 empowers the President to appoint a Commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes.

The **102nd Constitutional Amendment** Act of 2018 inserted **Article 338B**, granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

Tamil Nadu provides **69% reservation** under a special Act placed in the **9th Schedule** of the Constitution to protect it from judicial review.

The Supreme Court in the landmark **Indra Sawhney case** (**1992**) upheld the **50% ceiling limit** on reservations and recognized socially and educationally backward classes based on caste.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Supreme Court ruled that religious conversion does not automatically grant backward class reservation benefits without statutory backing.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for TNPSC Group 1 and 2 Polity questions covering reservation laws, judicial rulings, and constitutional articles.

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