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Supreme Court Upholds AP High Court Ruling on BC Quota

The Supreme Court dismissed the Andhra Pradesh government's plea challenging the High Court's judgment on Backward Classes (BC) reservations in local body elections.

This ruling concerns the constitutional validity of reservations for Backward Classes in Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, particularly regarding the 50% ceiling.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** upheld the **Andhra Pradesh High Court**'s judgment regarding **Backward Classes (BC) reservations** in **local body elections**.
- The **High Court** had previously set aside **G.O. Nos. 105 and 1065** issued by the **Andhra Pradesh government**.
- These Government Orders (G.O.s) aimed to provide **34%** reservation for **BCs** in **Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.
- The G.O.s also proposed a **33.33%** quota for **BCs** in **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**.
- A **Supreme Court Bench** comprising **Justices Dipankar Datta** and **Sheel Nagu** deemed the **High Court's order** 'very reasonable'.
- The **Supreme Court** observed that there was no **empirical data** to justify breaching the **50% reservation ceiling**.
- The **judgment** was delivered on **October 09, 2026**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts** of **1992** provided for the reservation of seats for **Backward Classes** in **local bodies**.

Article 243D(6) and **Article 243T(6)** empower states to make provisions for reservation of seats for **Backward Classes** in **Panchayats and Municipalities**, respectively.

The **Supreme Court**, in the landmark **Indra Sawhney case** (**1992**), capped reservations at **50%** for all categories combined.

The **'triple test'** for BC reservations in local bodies was laid down by the Supreme Court in the **K. Krishna Murthy** (**2010**) and **Vikas Kishanrao Gawali** (**2021**) cases.

The **triple test** requires (a) **empirical data** on backwardness, (b) proportion of reservation based on this data, and (c) total reservation not exceeding **50%**.

The **50% reservation ceiling** does not apply to **Scheduled Castes (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribes (ST)** in **local bodies** if their population exceeds 50% in a particular area.

The **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee** (**1957**) recommended the establishment of the **Panchayati Raj system**.

The **Ashok Mehta Committee** (**1977**) recommended a **two-tier Panchayati Raj system**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Supreme Court upheld the 50% reservation ceiling for Backward Classes in local body elections.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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