Supreme Court declines plea challenging SC/ST Act amendments

The Supreme Court dismissed a petition challenging the 2015 and 2018 amendments to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is a special central legislation enacted to prevent atrocities against marginalized communities and ensure speedy justice.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** on **September 22, 2026**, declined to entertain a petition challenging the amendments made to the SC/ST Act.
- The challenged amendments pertain to the years **2015 and 2018**, which introduced stricter provisions for offenses against vulnerable sections.
- The 2015 and 2018 **amendments** introduced an expanded list of atrocities to cover evolving forms of discrimination and exploitation.
- The legislative changes aimed to accelerate the **trial process** and ensure time-bound delivery of justice in atrocities cases.
- Enhanced legal protections and support mechanisms for **victims and witnesses** were key features of the contested amendments.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was originally enacted in the year **1989**.

Article 17 of the Constitution of India abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form.

Protection of Civil Rights Act, formerly known as the Untouchability (Offences) Act, was enacted in **1955**.

The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act of **2018** was enacted to neutralize the effects of a controversial Supreme Court ruling regarding immediate arrests.

Article 46 under the Directive Principles of State Policy directs the State to promote the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and weaker sections.

Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts are established under **Section 14** of the SC/ST Act for speedy trial of offenses.

REVISION FLASHCARD

The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted in 1989, with major amendments introduced in 2015 and 2018.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for questions on social justice legislations, Supreme Court rulings, and constitutional safeguards for marginalized communities.

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