



SC Declines Interim Stay of Patna HC Decision

Why in News?

Recently, [The Supreme Court](#) has refused to stay the Patna High Court's order that set aside the increase in reservation for [SC/STs, Backward Classes, and Extremely Backward Classes](#) in Bihar from **50% to 65%** in public employment and educational institutions.

Key Points

- The Patna High Court set aside the **amended reservation laws in Bihar**, which **increased quotas for Dalits, tribals and backward classes from 50% to 65%**, declaring the amendments as **"ultra vires" of the Constitution, "bad in law" and "violative of the equality clause"**.
 - The amendments had followed a **caste survey**, which put the percentage of Other **Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes at 63%** of the state's total population, while **SCs and STs were stated to have accounted for more than 21%**.
- **After the quotas were hiked, reserved seats in the state**, including those for the economically weaker sections, **came to be 75%** of the total.

Reservation

- **Reservation** is a **form of positive discrimination**, created to **promote equality among marginalised sections** and to protect them from social and historical injustice.
- It gives **preferential treatment to marginalised sections of society in employment and access to education**.
- It was also originally developed to correct years of discrimination and to give a boost to disadvantaged groups.

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