



SC Declines Interim Stay of Patna HC Decision | Bihar | 30 Jul 2024

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.

Supreme Court Notice on Collapsing Bridges | Bihar | 30 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, [The Supreme Court](#) has asked the Bihar government to respond to a [writ petition](#) that highlights the recurring incidents of [bridge collapses in the state](#).

Key Points

- The [Chief Justice of India](#) issued notice on the petition filed for a high-level structural audit of bridges in Bihar along with demolition or retrofitting of weak constructions to save lives.

- The petition has requested the court to establish a policy or system for the real-time monitoring of bridges, similar to the mechanism developed by the **Roads and Transport Ministry** for the preservation of **National Highways and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.**
 - The focus of the policy should be on the **"identification and implementation of real-time health monitoring of bridges using sensors"**.

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