



Socio-economic Criteria in Govt Jobs is Unconstitutional

Why in News?

Recently, the Punjab and Haryana High Court declared the socioeconomic criteria set by the Haryana government for granting **additional marks to certain classes of candidates in state government jobs as unconstitutional** and set it aside.

- The court ruled that this criteria **violated** [Articles 14, 15, and 16](#) of the Indian Constitution.

Key Points

- The Haryana government had **introduced the socio-economic criteria** to provide additional marks **to certain classes of candidates**, including those without family members in government jobs, state-domiciled candidates, and those with family incomes not exceeding Rs 1.80 lakh per annum.
- **Petitioners argued that:**
 - The criteria further discriminates based on domicile and descent, which are **prohibited markers under Article 162** of the Constitution.
 - The petitioner argues that there is **no rationale for granting additional marks to a certain class** when reservations for EWS, Scheduled Castes (SC), and Backward Classes (BC) **are already provided for.**

Note:

- **Article 14:** No person shall be denied treatment of equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
- **Article 15:** No citizen shall be discriminated on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- **Article 16:** Provides for equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment or appointment to any public office.

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