



# Rajasthan on High Alert Amid Bharat Bandh

## Why in News?

- Rajasthan is on **high alert** following a **Bharat Bandh** organized by the **Reservation Bachao Sangharsh Samiti**.
- The protest is in response to the [Supreme Court's ruling](#) that requires states to identify and exclude the '[creamy layer](#)' among [Scheduled Castes \(SC\)](#) and [Scheduled Tribes \(ST\)](#) from reservation benefits.

## Key Points

- The **Supreme Court** ruled that states are constitutionally allowed to **sub-classify SCs and STs** based on varying levels of backwardness.
- The **seven-judge Bench** ruled that states can now **sub-classify SCs** within the **15% reservation quota** to provide better support for the most disadvantaged groups.
- The **Supreme Court** has ruled that the '**creamy layer**' **principle**, previously applied only to [Other Backward Classes \(OBCs\)](#) (as highlighted in **Indra Sawhney Case**), should now also be applied to **SCs and STs**.
- This means states must **identify and exclude** the **creamy layer** within **SCs and STs** from reservation benefits.

## Constitutionality of Organising a Bandh, Hartal, or Similar Protests

- **Article 19(1)(c)** of the Indian Constitution gives citizens the **fundamental right to form associations or unions**.
- **Article 19** restricts the state's power in relation to the rights of its citizens, particularly the **right to freedom of speech and expression**.
- **Article 19(1)(a)** grants citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression, which includes **expressing opinions, beliefs, and convictions through various means**.
  - **Demonstrations**, as visible representations of ideas, are protected under freedom of speech, provided they are **non-violent and orderly**.
  - **Strikes** are not included within the **scope of freedom of speech**.
- **Article 19** does not explicitly grant citizens the fundamental right to organise **hartals, bandhs, or chakkajams**.