

KARNATAKA SCHEDULED CASTES (SUB-CLASSIFICATION) BILL, 2025

CONTEXT



- The Karnataka Cabinet approved a revised internal reservation formula within the existing 15% quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs).
- The decision divides the 15% allocation proportionately to ensure equitable distribution of education and employment opportunities across SC sub-groups.



THE REVISED QUOTA MATRIX IS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

- "left-hand" groups (Madigas and allied castes)



5.25%



- "right-hand" groups (Holeyas and allied castes)



5.25%



- other SCs, including nomadic communities (Bhovi, Lambani, Koracha, Korama)



4.50%



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- It is a landmark piece of legislation enacted to divide the 101 Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Karnataka into smaller sub-groups.



- The bill fulfills a decades-long demand to prevent relatively advanced communities from cornering reservation benefits and ensures that more oppressed, nomadic, and backward sub-castes receive an equitable share of education and state public employment.



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT



Legal Backing: The legislation follows a historic August 1, 2024, Supreme Court ruling that granted states the constitutional authority to sub-classify Scheduled Castes.



- **Commission Basis:** The sub-classification framework relies primarily on empirical demographic data compiled by Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission.



Legislative Timeline:



2025 DECEMBER 11

- The State Cabinet cleared the bill



2025 DECEMBER 18

- the Karnataka Legislative Assembly

2026 FEBRUARY 28

Following clarifications requested by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, the bill received Governor's official

