

SC Sub-Categorisation in Telangana

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Context

- Telangana Assembly passed the **Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Bill, 2025** to sub-categorise SC reservations.
 - Follows a **2024 Supreme Court ruling** allowing states to classify SCs for equitable reservation.
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Key Provisions

- **SC reservation (15%)** now split into:
 - **Group I: 1% for the most disadvantaged SCs** (3.288% of SC population).
 - **Group II: 9% for moderately disadvantaged SCs** (62.748% of SC population).
 - **Group III: 5% for relatively better-off SCs** (33.963% of SC population).
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Background & Legal Evolution

- **1975 (Punjab):** First SC sub-categorisation, prioritizing **Balmiki & Mazhbi Sikhs**.
 - **2004:** SC struck down Andhra Pradesh's attempt (E.V. Chinnaiah case).
 - **2024:** SC upheld SC sub-classification, allowing states to distribute benefits fairly.
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Significance

- Ensures **fair distribution of reservations** among SCs.
 - **Legally validated** by SC, setting a **precedent for other states**.
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This move aims to **prioritize the most disadvantaged SCs**, making reservations **more equitable**.