

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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14

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SC stays Maratha quota, refers issue to Constitution bench

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New Delhi: In a setback to Maharashtra government, the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed implementation of reservation for Maratha community in government jobs and admissions to educational institutions under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act and referred the entire matter to a Constitution bench to decide validity of the law.

More than a year after the state law was challenged in the apex court, a bench of Jus-

tices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat passed an interim order to restrain the state from implementing the quota law and said that no reservation be granted to the Maratha community. The court also made it clear that those who have availed of the benefit of the reservation, including for admission in medical colleges, would not be affected.

In an earlier hearing, with petitioners seeking a stay, the state government had said there would be no recruitment to jobs this year. The plea for a stay by petitioners,

who approached the apex court against the Bombay High Court order in June last year, had till now failed to elicit a favourable response. The SC had, however, made it clear that any decision taken by the state in giving reservation benefits will be subject to the final outcome of the case. As some of the petitioners pleaded that the issue be referred to a Constitution bench, the court held extensive hearings and finally decided that it has to be adjudicated by a larger bench and asked the Chief Justice to constitute a bench to hear the case.