# Protests by SC/STs to revoke the SC Verdict on SC/ST Act

## What is the issue?

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- Recently, the Supreme Court altered some provisions of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act which triggered a controversy.
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- This is seen as a retrospective move and protests are being held all over the country.
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## What was the SC verdict on SC/ST Act about?

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- The SC in pretext of protecting innocent non-SC persons from being victimised by false complaints under the SC/ST Act laid down three guidelines that nullify key provisions of SC/ST law.
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- It removed the bar on grant of anticipatory bail for public servants and when the accused is not a public servant, the police may make an arrest only after approval by a senior superintendent of police.
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- The SC also held that before registering an FIR, the police may conduct a preliminary inquiry to ascertain the veracity of the complaint. Click here to more about this issue.
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## What are the implications for SC/STs due to this verdict?

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- The SC/ST Act held enormous significance for those people not due to the protection it offered from caste injustice, but because it’s very existence is a testament to SC/STs in a dense casteist society.

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- This original mandate was neatly reversed with those three changes made by SC in the SC/ST Act.
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- By which,instead of immediately registering an FIR and investigating the accused, the police would doubt the victim and investigate the complaint for veracity.
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## What are the demands by these protestors?

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- To address the concerns regarding the verdict and its future implications, dalits and Adivasis protested all over the country.
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- They demanded the government to -
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1. Neutralise the Supreme Court order through an ordinance that would reinstate both the SC/ST Act and the SC/ST Amendment Act, 2015, in their original form
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2. Include both these laws in the Ninth Schedule to protect them from judicial review
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3. Release all the Dalits arrested when a ‘Bharat Bandh’ was observed to protest this Supreme Court order
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- The future of justice for the SC/STs lies in steps of government to understand the complex setup of casteism and provide security for all sects of people.
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**Source: The Hindu**

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