

# West Bengal School Jobs Scam

## Why In News

- **Calcutta High Court** on cancelled the entire **2016 recruitment panel** for school teachers constituted by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSCC) in the case of jobs scam. Nearly 24,000 jobs have been dismissed by the court.



## All You Need To Know

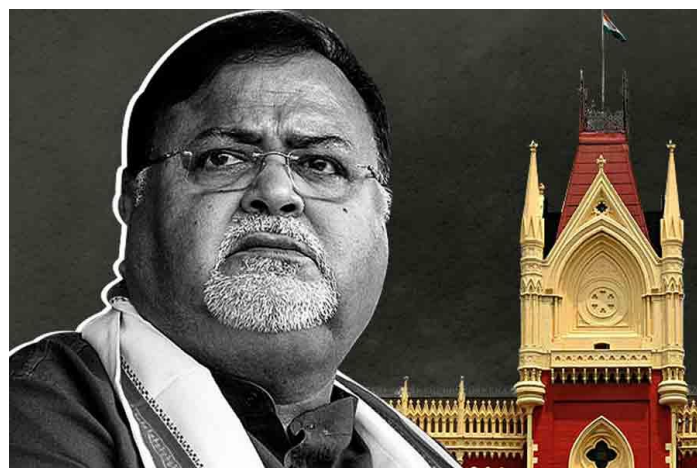
- The **division bench** was hearing the bail prayers of Chatterjee, former secretary of **West Bengal School Service Commission** Ashok Saha, ex-SSC chairman Subires Bhattacharyya and former chairman of SSC's advisory committee Santi Prasad Sinha, who are in custody for about two years in connection with the case.



- A division bench presided by **Justice Debasgu Basak**, in its judgement on the school jobs matters had noted the delay in granting sanction for prosecution of the accused persons.
- The bench had said that it was refraining from issuing any directions to the chief secretary in this regard since a coordinate bench had issued orders for the expeditious disposal of the application for sanction.



- Over 23 lakh candidates had appeared for the **SLST-2016** for **24,640 vacant posts**.
- A total of **25,753 appointment letters** were issued against the vacancies, said Firdaus Shamim, a lawyer for some of the petitioners.
- During the hearing, a division bench comprising **Justices Debansu Basak and Md Shabbar Rashidi** said that school teachers who were recruited illegally (blank OMR sheet) will need to **give back their salaries within four weeks**. The district magistrate has been tasked with collecting the money from these teachers.



- The cancelled recruitment panel includes all appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff, hired through an **WBSC entrance examination in 2016**, to various state-government-sponsored and aided schools in Bengal.



- The bench also ordered the **re-evaluation of as many as 23 lakh OMR sheets** (test paper) of the recruitment entrance exam that had been conducted.
- It rejected a request by some appellants for a stay on the order. The bench also directed the CBI to undertake further investigation into the matter with respect to the appointment process, and submit a report in three months.



- The WBSSC has been asked to initiate a **fresh appointment process**.
- More **than 23 lakh candidates** appeared for the 2016 State Level Selection Test (SLST) conducted by the WBSSC for over **24,000 vacant posts**.
- Hundreds of job aspirants, awaiting outside the court premises for the verdict, rejoiced as soon as it was delivered.