



Haryana Adds New OBC Quota

Why in News?

Recently, the **Haryana Government** hiked the creamy layer ceiling for **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** from an **annual income of ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh**. Also introduced a **5% quota for the OBC-B category in Panchayati Raj Institutions and municipalities**.

Key Points

- **OBCs in Haryana** are estimated at around **40% of the State's population** and **comprise 78 castes**.
- The **5% reservation** for the OBC-B category **would be in addition to the 8% quota for the OBC-A category already in force**.

Other Backward Class (OBC)

- The term OBC includes all classes of citizens who are **socially and educationally backwards**.
- Supreme Court concluded that in order to identify OBC's, the **principle of exclusion of creamy layer** should be applied.
 - A **creamy layer** can be defined as those **classes of people within the OBC category who are no longer backward** and are socially and economically at par with other forward classes of the country.

Constitutional Provisions

- Under **Article 15(4)** of the Constitution, the **State has the power to make special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward class i.e., the OBC**.
 - The term "special provision for advancement" includes several aspects like reservation of seats in educational institutions, financial assistance, scholarships, free housing etc.
- Under **Article 16(4)**, the state is empowered to enact laws **for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of OBCs**.