

Panchamasali Lingayats' Quota Demand

Source: IE

Why in News?

Recently, the **Panchamasali Lingayats**, a sub-caste within **Karnataka's dominant Lingayat** community, have been demanding inclusion in Category 2A of the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

This move aims to secure a 15% quota in government jobs and educational admissions, in contrast to the current 5% quota under Category 3B of Karnataka's OBC quota matrix.

What is the Panchamasali Lingayats' Quota Demand?

- Panchamasali Lingayats: The Lingayats, officially classified as the Hindu sub-caste 'Veerashaiva Lingayats,' are followers of the 12th-century philosopher-saint Basavanna.
 - Basavanna initiated a radical anti-caste movement, advocating for a personal, affective relationship with God, specifically Lord Shiva, rejecting orthodox Hindu practices.
 - The Lingayat community consists of various sub-castes, with the agriculturalist Panchamasalis being the largest, making up nearly 70% of the Lingayat population and approximately 14% of Karnataka's total population.
- Current OBC Quota Categories in Karnataka:
 - The demand for inclusion in Category 2A emerged prominently in 2020.
 - Karnataka's 32% <u>OBC reservation</u> in government jobs and educational institutions is divided among five categories.
 - The Category 2A, which the Panchamasalis seek to join, includes 102 castes.
 - The complex categorization aims to prevent dominant OBC groups from monopolising the quota benefits, ensuring equitable distribution based on relative marginalisation.

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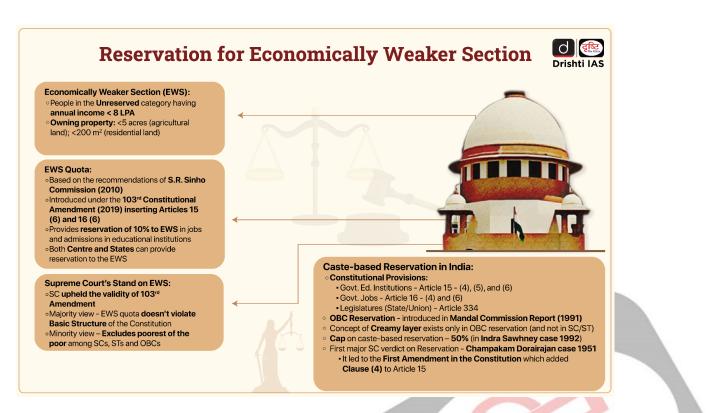
Ta	able 1: Karnataka's current quota ma	atrix
CATEGORY		QUOTA
Other Backward Classes (OBC)		32
Category 1	Backward Castes	4
Category 2A	Other Backward Classes	15
Category 2B	Muslims	4
Category 3A	Vokkaliga, etc.	4
Category 3B	Lingayat, etc.	5
Scheduled Castes (SC)		15
Scheduled Tribes (ST)		3
Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)		10
TOTAL RESERVATIONS		60

Earlier Steps By Government:

- The previous state government attempted to placate the Panchamasalis by reallocating the 4% Muslim quota under Category 2B to the Vokkaligas and Lingayats, creating new Categories 2C and 2D.
- This increased the Lingayat quota from 5% to 7% and the Vokkaliga quota from 4% to 6%.
 - However, the Panchamasalis insisted on inclusion in Category 2A, and the reallocation faced legal challenges.

Current Situation and Government's Stance:

- The government has been awaiting a legal resolution from the <u>Supreme Court</u>. The findings of the Karnataka Social, Economic, and Caste Survey, expected to impact future quota plans, are also pending.
- The state government might consider including all Lingayats in the <u>central OBC list</u> as a balancing act.
 - Currently, only 16 Lingayat sub-castes who are considered "very backward" are provided reservations under the OBC quota for central government jobs and college administrations.



Read more: Vokkaligas, Lingayats share in Reservation

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statements: (2014)

- 1. They live mainly in the State of Uttarakhand.
- 2. They rear the Pashmina goats that yield a fine wool.
- 3. They are kept in the category of Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

<u>Mains:</u>

Q. Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. **(2022)**

Q. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies? **(2014)**

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