



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% OBC reservation** 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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Table 1: Karnataka's current quota matrix

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 [Supreme Court](#)**. 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 [central OBC list 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.

Reservation for Economically Weaker Section

Economically Weaker Section (EWS):

- People in the **Unreserved** category having **annual income < 8 LPA**
- **Owning property:** <5 acres (agricultural land); <200 m² (residential land)

EWS Quota:

- Based on the recommendations of **S.R. Sinho Commission (2010)**
- Introduced under the **103rd Constitutional Amendment (2019)** inserting **Articles 15 (6) and 16 (6)**
- Provides **reservation of 10% to EWS** in jobs and admissions in educational institutions
- Both **Centre and States** can provide reservation to the EWS

Supreme Court's Stand on EWS:

- SC **upheld the validity of 103rd Amendment**
- Majority view - EWS quota **doesn't violate Basic Structure** of the Constitution
- Minority view - **Excludes poorest of the poor** among SCs, STs and OBCs

Caste-based Reservation in India:

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Govt. Ed. Institutions - Article 15 - (4), (5), and (6)
 - Govt. Jobs - Article 16 - (4) and (6)
 - Legislatures (State/Union) - Article 334
- **OBC Reservation** - introduced in **Mandal Commission Report (1991)**
- Concept of **Creamy layer** exists only in OBC reservation (and not in SC/ST)
- **Cap** on caste-based reservation - **50%** (in **Indra Sawhney case 1992**)
- First major SC verdict on Reservation - **Champakam Dorairajan case 1951**
 - It led to the **First Amendment in the Constitution** which added **Clause (4)** to Article 15

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)

Mains:

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)

