



Issue of OBC Reservation in WB

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Recently, the [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) has directed the West Bengal government to clarify the **criteria used** to classify **77 castes**, predominantly Muslim communities, as **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** between 2010 and 2012.

- SC has requested the State to **clarify the survey methods** used to assess the social and educational backwardness of these communities and their representation in public services.
- In May 2024, the Calcutta [High Court \(HC\)](#) annulled all OBC certificates issued by the **West Bengal government since 2010 by invalidating specific sections of the West Bengal Backward Classes (Other than SC and ST) (Reservation in Posts) Act of 2012.**
 - The HC found the **classification and subclassification** of OBCs through executive orders and memos to be illegal and violative of [Article 16\(4\)](#) of the Indian Constitution.
 - Article 16(4) allows the state to designate certain appointments or positions for backward classes of citizens who are considered to be underrepresented in public services.
- **Similar Religion-based Reservation in Other States:**
 - **Kerala:** Provides an 8% Muslim quota within its 30% OBC quota.
 - **Tamil Nadu and Bihar:** Also Include Muslim caste groups in their OBC quota.
 - **Karnataka:** Had a 4% sub-quota for Muslims within the 32% OBC quota.
 - State government in 2023 redistributed this sub-quota among [Vokkaligas and Lingayats](#)

Read More: [Sub-Categorisation of OBCs, Reservation in India](#)

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