Haryana Govt Seeks to Remove 'Objectionable' Caste Names

Why in News?

The Haryana government has urged the Union Government to **exclude specific caste names, such as Chura, Bhangi, and Mochi**, from the state's **Scheduled Castes** list.

- These names are considered **objectionable, derogatory, and are often used as insulting remarks**.

Key Points

- The state argues that these names are **"not only objectionable but have lost relevance as well."**
- The move aims to **eliminate caste-based prejudices** perpetuated through these appellations.
  - The names sought to be deleted are **Chura** and **Bhangi**, which are mentioned at **serial no. 2 of** the **Scheduled Castes (SC) list**, and **Mochi**, which is listed at serial no. 9 of the **SC list**.
- When used negatively or as insults, these caste names perpetuate caste prejudice and may result in complaints under the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which prescribes strict penalties**.
- However, to remove these names from the SC list, the Centre must amend the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** which is the process for adding or removing castes from the SC/ST lists.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:

- The **SCs and the STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**, also known as the **SC/ST Act 1989,** was enacted to safeguard the members of **SCs** and **STs** from **caste-based discrimination and violence.**
  - Rooted in **Articles 15 and 17 of the Indian Constitution,** the Act aims to ensure the protection of these marginalised communities and to address the inadequacies of previous laws.
- The Act builds on the **Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955,** and the **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955,** which were established to **abolish untouchability and discrimination** based on caste.
- The Central Government is authorised to frame rules for the Act's implementation, while State Governments and Union Territories administer it with central assistance.