



Recommendations on Reservation

 drishtias.com/printpdf/recommendations-on-reservation

Why in News

Recently, an **eight-member committee**, appointed by the government for **suggesting measures for effective implementation of reservation in students admissions and faculty recruitment** in the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**, has come out with its recommendations.

Key Points

- **About the Committee:**
 - It was **chaired by IIT Delhi's Director** and had representatives of secretaries of the departments of **Social Justice and Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Department of Personnel and Training, Persons with Disabilities**, among others.
 - Its report was **submitted to the Ministry of Education in June 2020** and has been made available under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**.

- **Recommendations:**

- Being established and recognised as institutions of national importance, **IITs should be added to the list of “Institutions of Excellence”** mentioned in the **Schedule** to the **Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers’ Cadre) Act, 2019** (CEI Act).
 - **Section 4 of the Act exempts** “institutions of excellence, research institutions, institutions of national and strategic importance” mentioned in the Schedule and “minority institutions” from providing reservation.
 - Currently, many research institutes like the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, National Brain Research Centre, Space Physics Laboratory**, etc. are included under Section 4 of the act, but not the IITs.
- If granting full exemption from reservations was not possible, the committee recommended that the implementation of reservation policies for all categories **including Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) be restricted just to Assistant Professor Grade I and Grade II and not for levels above.**
- **Vacancies not filled in a particular year** due to non-availability, be **de-reserved in the subsequent year.**
- **Conduct of special recruitment drives** to attract candidates from reserved categories.
- To **address diversity issues**, the report argued that a “**system emphasising targeted goals over a period of time**” and **not “specific quotas”** be followed so that IITs can “compete with other top institutions in the world in terms of excellence, output, research and teaching.”
- The panel proposes a **two-year Research Assistantship for students from reserved categories aspiring to join PhD programmes.**

It highlighted that the **enrollment of reserved category students in the PhD programme is low and needs to be addressed**, which is severely limiting the number of reserved category candidates available to be hired as faculty in the IIT system.

Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers’ Cadre) Act, 2019

- It provides for the **reservation of posts in appointments by direct recruitment** of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) and the Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs), to **teachers’ cadre in certain Central Educational Institutions** established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- **The Act not to apply in certain cases:**
 - The institutions of excellence, research institutions, institutions of national and strategic importance specified in the Schedule to this Act.
 - A Minority Educational Institution.
- However, the **Central Government may**, by notification in the Official Gazette, **amend the Schedule from time to time.**

Source: IE