



OBC Reservation in MP

Why in News?

A hearing was held in **the Supreme Court** on the issue of providing 27% reservation to **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

▪ OBC Reservation Status :

- **OBCs get 27% reservation** in central government **jobs and educational institutions**
- In 1953, the **Kalelkar Commission** was set up, which brought **the first instance of recognition of backward classes beyond Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) at the national level.**
- In 1980, the **Mandal Commission** report estimated **the OBC population at 52% and identified 1,257 communities as backward classes.**
 - To remove the inequality, it suggested increasing **the existing quota** (earlier applicable only to SC/STs) **from 22.5% to 49.5%, with reservation expanded to include OBCs.**
 - Following these recommendations, **the Central Government implemented the reservation policy under Article 16(4), reserving 27% of seats in the Central Civil Services for OBCs.**
 - The policy was also extended to Central Government educational institutions under **Article 15(4).**
- In 2008, the Supreme Court intervened to ensure that these benefits reach the most disadvantaged and directed the Central Government to exclude **the “creamy layer” (advanced classes) among OBCs** from the benefits of the reservation policy.
- In the year 2018, the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act** provided constitutional **status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**
 - It elevated **the NCBC from its previous status as a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment , giving it greater power and recognition to protect the interests of backward classes, including OBCs.**