

Nimmi 8 March 2024

Date

Ques Critically examine the recent decision of Maharashtra Assembly to grant 10% reservation to the Maratha community in education and government jobs, considering both the arguments for and against reservation policies in India. (GIS-2, 10 Marks)

Ans) The long-standing demand for the Maratha reservation in Maharashtra has finally seen significant progress with the unanimous passing of the Maratha Reservation Bill in the State assembly. This bill proposes a 10% reservation for the Maratha Community in education and government jobs.

Good Points

Argument For ⇒

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o Socio-Economic Backwardness:

• The empirical data collected by the Shukre Commission underscores the socio-economic challenges faced by the Maratha community, justifying the need for a reservation to uplift them from the poverty and marginalisation.

• The high percentage of farmer suicides among Marathas highlights the severity of their economic distress and the urgent need for targeted interventions to uplift the community.

- Representation: Marathas have historically been excluded from mainstream opportunities due to their backwardness.
- Reservation in govt. jobs and education can enhance their representation and participation in various sectors, contributing to inclusive development.

(Arguments Against) ∴ =

- Legal Viability: Given the history of previous Maratha reservation attempts facing legal challenges and eventual setbacks in higher courts, doubts persist about the new Bill's ability to withstand judicial scrutiny, especially in light of the Supreme Court's previous ruling striking down Maratha reservations due to insufficient empirical data justifying quota extension beyond the 50% ceiling.

The Kunbi Certificate Controversy:

A draft notification proposing recognition of "sage soyare" (extended relatives of Marathas with Kunbi lineage) as Kunbi eligible for OBC reservation, stirred controversy.

Mention about opposition from OBCs, Exceeding reservation limit etc.

In way
forwards, you can
mention here strengthening
the Bill, Review and Reform etc.

Date / /

- Opposition parties have raised questions about the viability of the new reservation and its potential impact on existing OBC reservations.
- Dissent within the Maratha Community:
Some activists and leaders within the Maratha Community expressed dissatisfaction, with the separate reservation, preferring inclusion within the OBC category.
- Need For Comprehensive Approach:
While reservation may address immediate concerns, it may not effectively address the root causes of Maratha's backwardness. A holistic approach addressing issues like education, skill development, and infrastructure is essential for sustainable development.

Ensure that the Maratha Reservation Bill is legally sound and withstands judicial scrutiny by providing robust empirical data to justify the reservation beyond the 50% quota ceiling set by the Supreme Court.