

# OBC sub-categorisation panel

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**Context-** The Justice G. Rohini led commission for the sub-categorisation of other backward classes (OBCs) has been given yet another extension in its tenure by the President, according to a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment last week.

## Key Highlights

- The commission, formed in October 2017, was at first given 12 weeks to finish the task of sub-categorising the nearly 3,000 castes within the OBC umbrella and recommend division of the 27% OBC quota among them equitably.
- It is the 14th extension in tenure that the commission has been given.
- As part of its work, the commission had identified dominant caste groups among all OBC communities in the Central list, finding that a small group of dominant OBC communities were crowding out a huge number of communities from the 27% OBC quota.
- Consequently, the commission decided to divide all OBC communities into four broad groups, with the largest share of the quota pie going to the group that has historically been deprived of OBC quota as a result of being pushed out by dominant OBC groups.
- The fresh extension comes as the Bihar government is in the middle of its much-anticipated caste-based survey in the State and the Uttar Pradesh government is in the process of conducting a fresh survey to assess the need for OBC reservation in its local body elections, with other States such as Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra also looking to form panels to implement OBC reservation in local body polls.
- The last country-wide survey was conducted in order to enumerate the number of

castes and their population was in 2011 as part of the Socio-Economic Caste Census. However, data from this were never made public.