

- **Transparency:** Recommendation of commission and tracker of action taken shall be available in the public domain.
- **Capacity building and sensitisation of** lawyers, judges and policemen to ensure empathetic treatment and timely redressal of grievances of backward class members.
- **effective implementation** of existing government policies and impact evaluation for timely course correction.
- **Other steps required:** Coordination with civil society, Incentivise Good Social Work, entrepreneurship promotion etc.

Way Forward

- **Caste based identities** are deeply entrenched and an integral part of Indian society. It plays an important role in deciding access to education, employment and social status of individuals. Constitutional status to NCBC is a good beginning in the right direction to ensure welfare and equality of BCs.

Constraints In performance of welfare schemes for SC/ST/OBC – critical examination

- **Poverty and Inequality** - Problems of isolation, exclusion and occupational subjugation are major obstacles to main streaming these social groups in the socio-economic development of the country.
- **Insufficient funding** -While due allocation for SCs in this year's budget should be Rs 1,39,172 crore as per NITI Aayog guidelines, the allocation was Rs 83,257 crore, or 60%.
- **Poor Governance** - Governance including lack of inter-ministerial convergence and suboptimal targeting of beneficiaries is another major issue.
- **Funds not allocated scheme wise** - Resources are distributed thinly among a large number of schemes, especially under the scheduled caste sub-plan (SCSP) and tribal subplan (TSP), instead of among a few targeted schemes.
- **Ground realities are ignored** - Mainstreaming these groups has also been hampered by the inability to incorporate specific cultural and social requirements of SC/ST groups while designing interventions.
- **Poor outcomes** - Each ministry is supposed to set aside 15 per cent of its spending in a Scheduled Caste Sub Plan, but often their outcomes are insignificant.
- **Top to down approach** - Absence of people's participation in design, planning and implementation, and the absence of accountability.
- **Negligence of Dalit and Adivasi women** - The 2020-21 Budget allocates 0.8% (Rs 7,986.34 crore) for Dalit women and 0.34% (Rs 3,174.91 crore) for tribal women from the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes.
- **Unawareness** - There is limited awareness about the schemes resulting in leakages and denial of benefits.

Way Forward

- Make existing government efforts more effective and participatory.
- **Initiate ranking states** for their innovation, effectiveness, and impact of social schemes.
- **Identify key social practices** across the country that still segregate Dalits—whether in schools, homes, or workplaces — and run targeted communication campaigns for students and teachers, villagers, companies, etc.
- **The budget allocation** for the SC/ST communities should be proportionate to their share in the population.
- **Constant scrutiny**, review and revision" of the effectiveness and quantum of scholarship and fellowship schemes provided to them.

Economic Weaker Sections:

Context:

- Recently ,the government has accepted the report of a three-member panel constituted to revisit the Economical Weaker Section (EWS) criteria
- The Union government has approved reservations for the OBC and EWS (Economically Weaker Section) categories within the All India Quota (AIQ) for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the uniform entrance examination for medical and dental colleges across the country.