# Purndas Bandyopadhyay Dept. Of political science

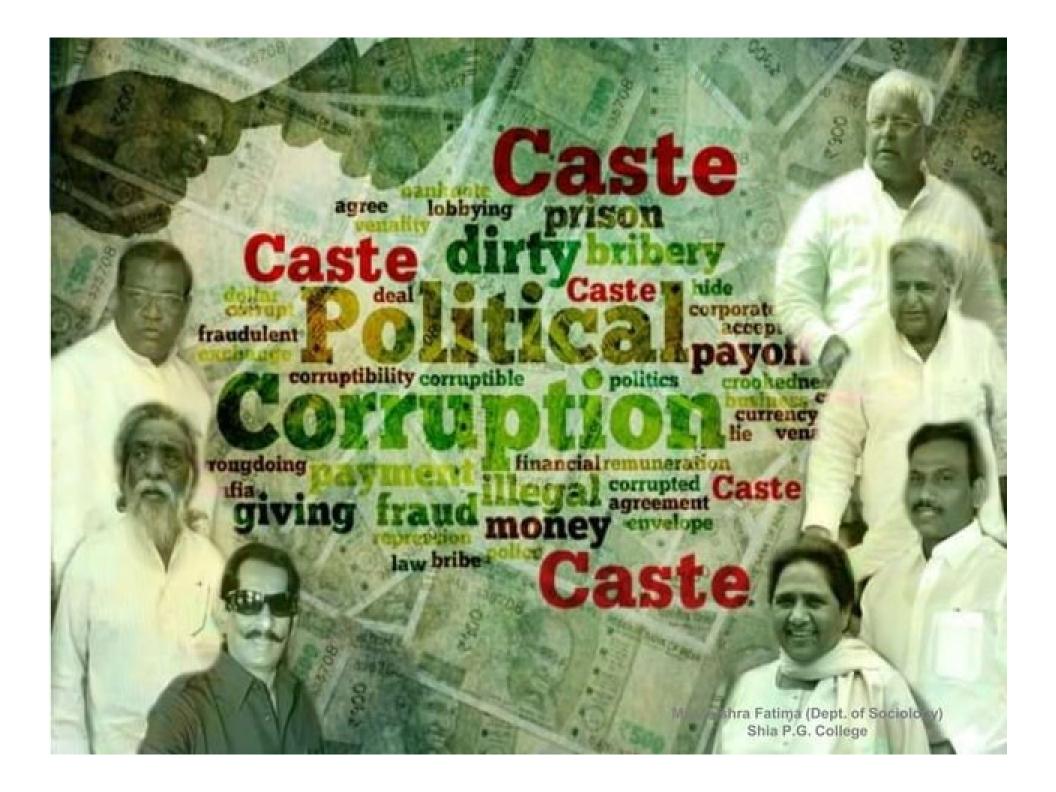
Saltora Netaji Centenary College.

State aided college teacher

(M) - 9933459991



### Caste and Politics in India



#### Meaning of the term 'Caste'

The term caste has been derived from the Portuguese term "casta" meaning race, breed, family, lineage.

A caste system emerge when a society is composed of birth-ascribed, hierarchically ordered and culturally distinct groups. It has been observed that caste is a system of stratification of the society by birth in which mobility of the movement up and down the status ladder is normally not permitted.



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# Politics

Ms. Bushra Fatima (Dept. of Sociology) Shia P.G. College

#### IMPACT OF MODERN IDEAS

The changing socio-economic status has changed the caste system in India. In traditional caste system, each caste was assigned one function or occupation.

Although the rigidity in the caste system has been severely criticized religious preachers as well as social reformers.



Caste in politics in India provides one of the most important organizational clusters in which the population is found to live, politics must strive to organize through such a structure.

Caste prominence has been enhanced in the Indian politics due to introduction of universal adult franchise. Due to this numerically caste groups suddenly become conscious about their bargaining strength and has provided a new dimension to Indian politics.



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## " ANY QUESTIONS?

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