

## Caste and Politics in Contemporary India

India after independence adopted democratic structure for its people. Mobilisation of the people in order to aware, participate and played a role led to the various several methods used by the parties.

In this process, caste become decisive ways to mobilise the people. Parties and the caste organisation came together which led to the new novel phenomenon. Earlier, caste associations primarily serve the purpose of advancing the professional interest of the caste. But, once the favour of independence waned or weakened, caste came into fore due to several reason.

Land reforms, lack of representation in public-institution, aims and ambition of certain classes and deepening of democracy led to the new class awakening.

The competition among caste virtually become competition among political parties and political conflicts and competition among caste to get power. When political parties failed to fulfil the aspiration and ambition of RESURG INDIA, they used different mechanism to polarize and mobilize the people. This was understood by the CASTE which need power to empower their caste people.

So, Relationship between CASTE and politics is about share of CASTE. Since, India has a FEDERAL STRUCTURE, relationship between caste and politics can be viewed at different level of the structure, the institution of local government, the Vidhan Sabha election at state level and Lok Sabha at national level.



## Issues in Caste politics

- ① Reservation
- ② CASTE BASED VIOLENCE
- ③ CULTURAL ISSUE
- ④ REDISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

### Reservation:

⇒ It was used as an affirmative action to level playing field for those sections who were at margins due to social economic and educational apartheid.

→ Different castes are involved in Politics of Reservation

⇒ Caste which are excluded from reservation either demand reservation to them, abolition of Caste based reservation or exclusion of certain Caste from the category entitled for reservation

→ OBC/STs/SCs/EAs these sections enjoy the privilege in employment.

→ But, there are opponents

Supporters of Reservation - Opponents of Reservation

Supporters

Level Playing field - (i)  
Ero Mitigate backwardness (ii)  
Society of Egalitarian (iii)  
Inclusion approach (iv)  
Help to more representation and participation

(a) Compromise MERIT  
(b) Parameter must not be Caste but Economy  
(c) Against democratic ethos of Equality  
(d) Discrimination will lead to more social fissure  
(e) Efficiency of Governance could be compromised.

Though both the supporters and opponents put forth the views which created agitation and counter agitation.  
Phase of Agitation, Accommodation and Agreement will be studied.