2025

Gender, Religion and Caste

**Political Science** 

Lecture - 04

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# CS to be covered

- Cask and Politics
- Case Study





### Imandar Nemta Ka Sabhi Baccho Ko Pranam





#### **POORE CHEEMS PARIVAR KI TARAF SE**









SABHI BACCHO KO DIL SE THANKU FOR TEACHERS
DAY WISHES.. HUI HUI...

#### **QUESTION**



Which among the following is based on social exclusion of certain communities?

- A Fundamental Rights
- B Fundamental Duties
- Caste System
- Both a and b

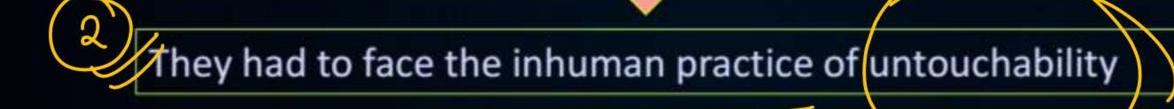


### **Caste System**





Based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups.



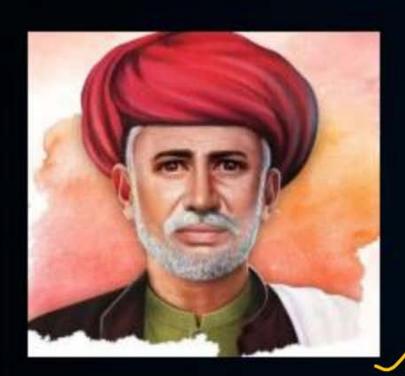


### BREAKING DOWN OF CASTE SYSTEM

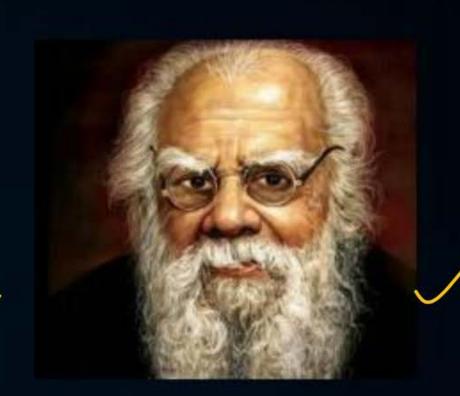


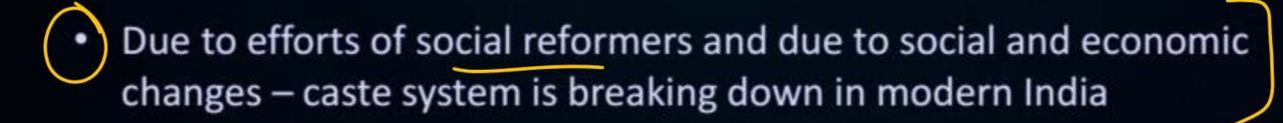
Political leaders and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker worked to remove caste inequality





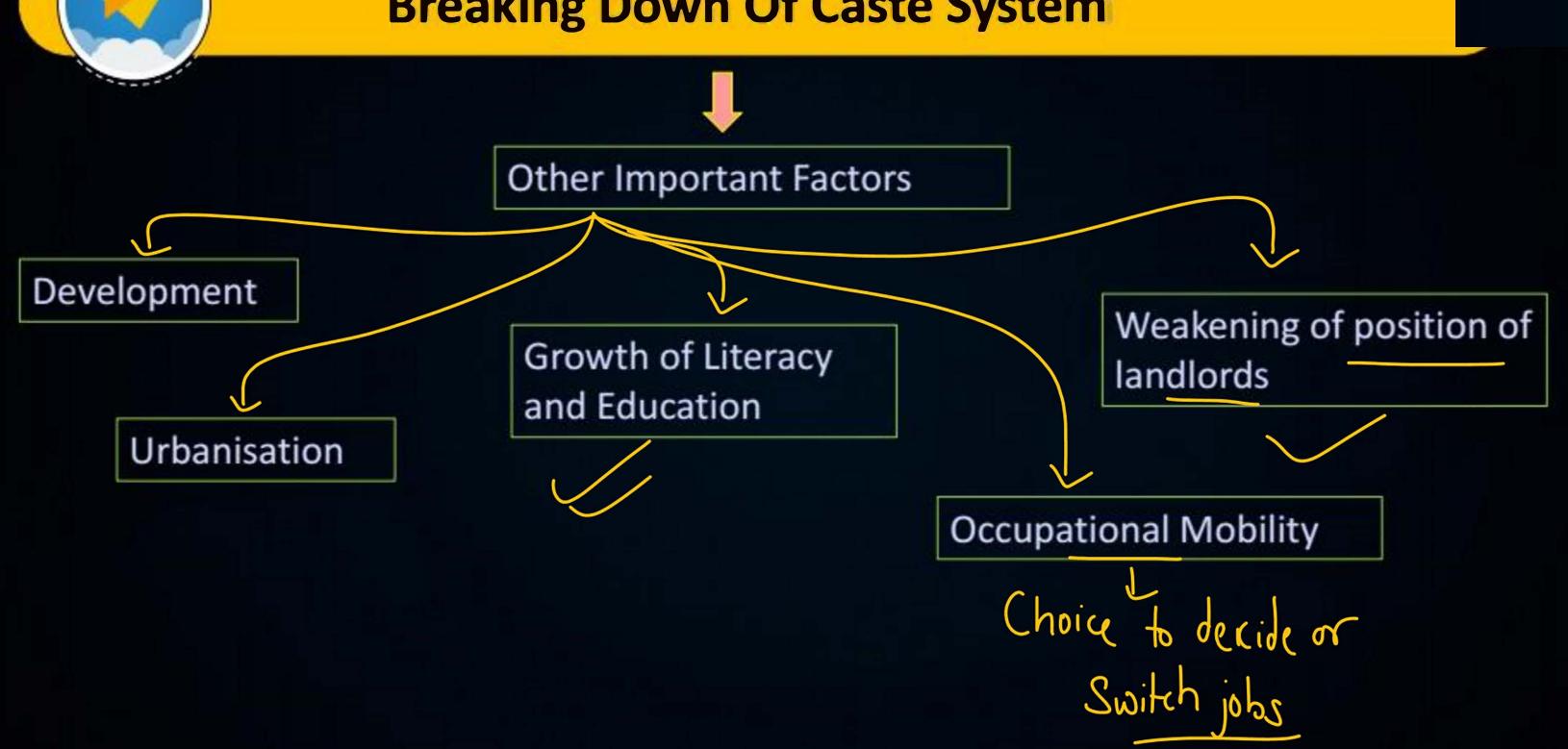








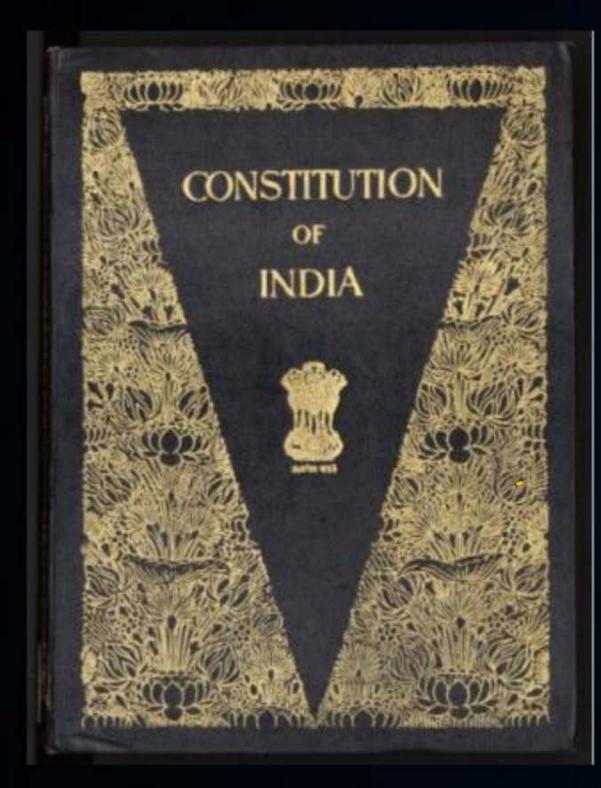
### **Breaking Down Of Caste System**



Ex: in urban areas it does not matter much who is walking along next to us on a street or eating at the next table in a restaurant.





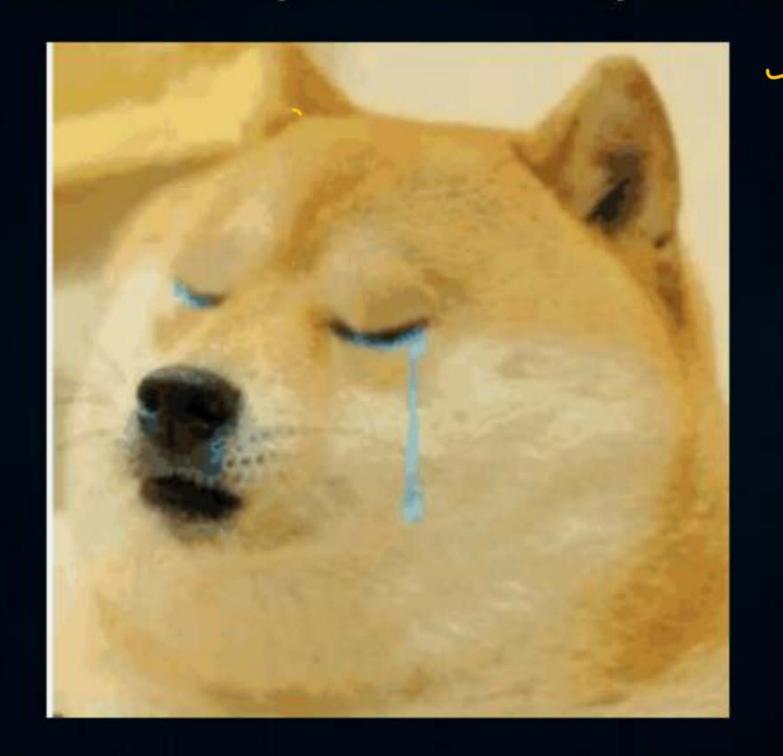




The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system

### Vro! Ye Caste Wala System Abhi Bhi Fully Over Nahi Hua..







### Caste Has Not Finished Completely





Most people marry within their own caste or tribe



Untouchability has not ended completely



### Caste Has Not Finished Completely





Caste Groups that had access to education in old system have got good modern education.



Those groups who were not allowed to get education have been left behind



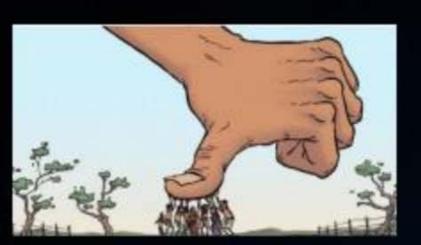
## Pick out the incorrect statement

- (a) People Still freter to marry within their cask
- (b) Inter-religious marriages are very common in India
  (c) People who were treated as 'outcaste' did not get the benefits
  of education for long



### CASTE IN POLITICS

Why Caste is important for politics?



### **CASTE IN POLITICS**



- Casteism has a belief that caste is the only basis of social community.
- According to this way of thinking, people belonging to the same caste belong to a natural social community and have the same interests
  - They do not share this with anyone from another caste.



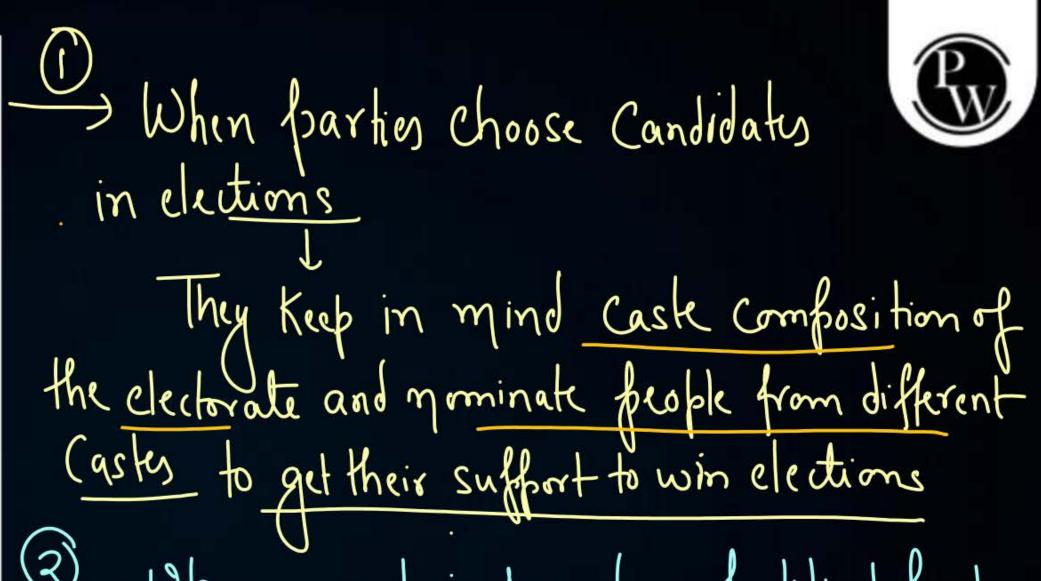


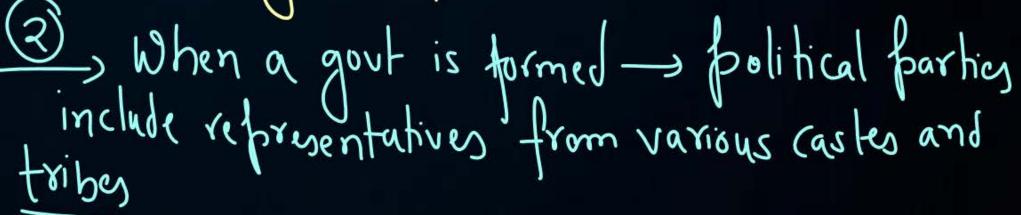
Ques...

(ask can take various forms in politics. Euplain

(3/5)

- Caste can take various forms in politics:
- When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections. When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it.
- Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiment to muster support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.







- 3) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to Cask Sentiment to gather support
- (9) Some forties are known to be the representatives
  of certain Caste. En. BSP.

 Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote

compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support. It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.

(5) Universal Adult Franchise and the principle of One Person, One Value, Makes it compulsory for political leaders to get or ask the support of all cask This has also brought awareness among the people who were earlier treated as inferior and low-caste



"The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else". (3/5)

PYQ





In the country, no parliamentary constituency has an obvious majority of a single caste.



Every candidate and party –needs to win confidence of more than one caste and community – to win elections

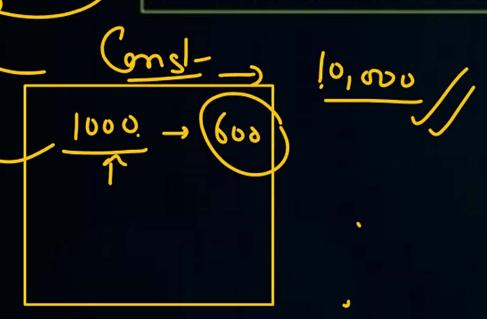


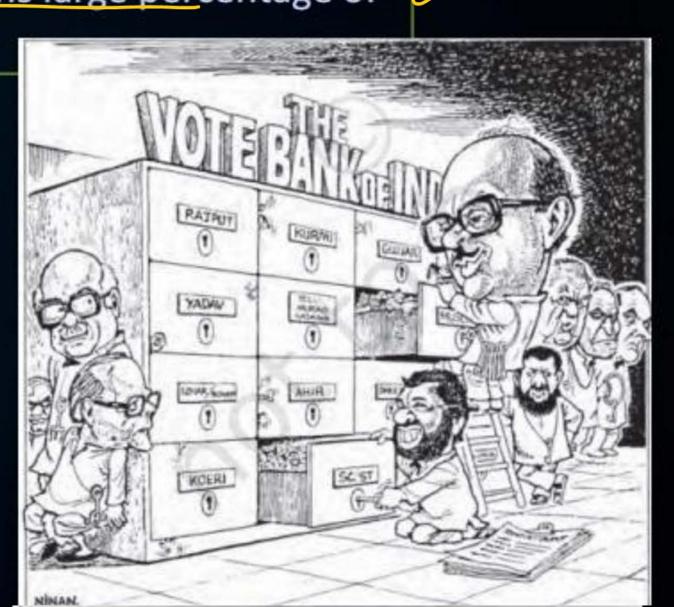


Nimta (

No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community. When parties call a caste – **vote bank** –means large percentage of

voters from that caste vote for that party











Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste





Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste while many voters have no candidate from their caste.



The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose

elections in our country.



Elections Har Gaye! Are Mori Maiyya .. Caste Ka Jadoo Nahi Chala

### Ques: "Clearly, while caste matters in electoral politics, so do many other factors." Discuss (3 marks)



- The voters have strong attachment to political parties which is often stronger than their attachment to their caste or community.
- People within the same caste or community have different interests depending on their economic condition.
- Rich and poor or men and women from the same caste often vote very differently.
- People's assessment of the performance of the government and the popularity rating of the leaders matter and are often decisive in elections



# POLITICS IN CASTE

Why politics is imp. for cask?



"It is not politics that gets caste-ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised." Elaborate

(3)



Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it neighbouring castes or sub-castes which were earlier excluded from it.



(2)

Various caste groups enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.

New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.



Ques: Expression of caste in politics can have both negative and positive outcomes. Discuss (5 marks)



- Caste plays different kinds of roles in politics. In some situations, expression of caste differences in politics gives many disadvantaged communities the opportunity to demand their share of power.
- In this sense, caste politics has helped people from Dalits and OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.
- Several political and non-political organisations have been demanding and agitating for an end to discrimination against particular castes, for more dignity and more access to land, resources and opportunities.
- At the same time, exclusive attention to caste can produce negative results as well.
  politics based on caste identity alone is not very healthy in a democracy.
- It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption. In some cases, caste division leads to tensions, conflict and even violence.

### Social and Religious Diversity of India

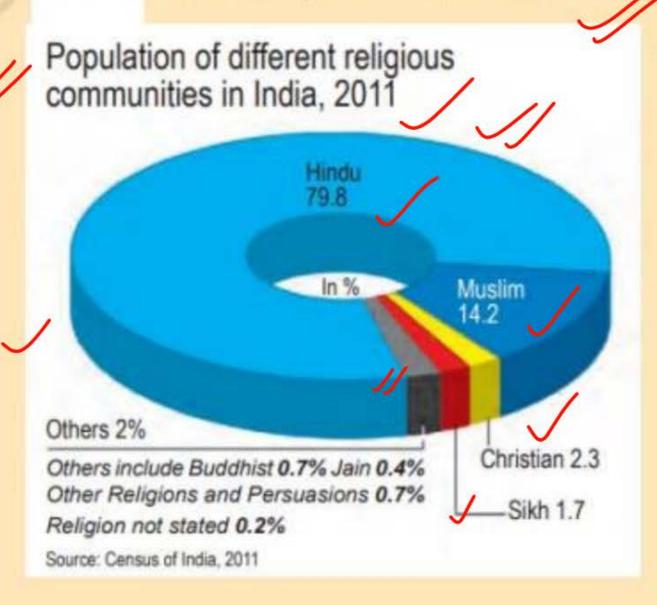
The Census of India records the religion of each and every Indian after every ten years. The person who fills the Census form visits every household and records the religion of each member of that household exactly the way each person describes it. If someone says she has 'no religion' or that he is an 'atheist', this is exactly how it is recorded. Thus we have reliable information on the proportion of different religious communities in the country and how it has changed over the years. The pie chart below presents the population proportion of six major religious communities in the country. Since Independence, the total population of each community has increased substantially but their proportion in the country's population has not changed much. In percentage terms, the population of the Hindus, Jains and Christians has declined marginally since (1961) The proportion of Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist population has increased slightly. There is a common but mistaken impression that the proportion of the Muslims in the country's population is going to overtake other religious communities. Expert estimates done for the Prime Minister's High Level Committee (popularly known as Sachar Committee) show that the proportion of the Muslims is expected to go up a little, by about 3 to 4 per cent, in the next 50 years. It proves that in overall terms, the population balance of different religious communities is not likely to change in a big way.



The same is true of the major caste groups. The Census of India counts two social groups: the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Both these broad groups include hundreds of castes or tribes whose names are listed in an official Schedule. Hence the prefix 'Scheduled' in their name. The Scheduled Castes, commonly known as *Dalits*, include those that were previously regarded as 'outcaste' in the Hindu social order and were subjected to exclusion and untouchability. The Scheduled Tribes, often referred to as *Adivasis*, include those communities that led a secluded life usually in hills and forests and did not interact much with the rest of society. In 2011, the Scheduled

Castes were 16.6 per cent and the Scheduled Tribes were 8.6 per cent of the country's population.

The Census does not yet count the Other Backward Classes, the group we discussed in Class IX. Hence there are some differences about their proportion in the country's population. The National Sample Survey of 2004–05 estimates their population to be around 41 per cent. Thus the SC, ST and the OBC together account for about two-thirds of the country's population and about three-fourths of the Hindu population.





#### Caste inequality today

Caste is an important source of economic inequality because it regulates access to resources of various kinds. For example, in the past, the so-called 'untouchable' castes were denied the right to own land, while only the so-called 'twice born' castes had the right to education. Although this kind of explicit and formalised inequality based on caste is now outlawed, the effects of centuries of accumulated advantages and disadvantages continue to be felt. Moreover, new kinds of inequalities have also developed.

The relationship between caste and economic status has certainly changed a lot. Today, it is possible to find very rich and very poor people in every caste, whether 'low' or 'high'. This was not true even twenty or thirty years ago – it was very rare indeed to find rich people among the 'lowest' castes. However, as this evidence from the National Sample Survey shows, caste continues to be very strongly linked to economic status in many important ways:

- The average economic status (measured by criteria like monthly consumption expenditure) of caste groups still follows the old hierarchy the 'upper' castes are best off, the *Dalits* and *Adivasis* are worst off, and the backward classes are in between.
- Although every caste has some poor members, the proportion living in extreme poverty (below the official 'poverty line') is much higher for the lowest castes and much lower for the upper castes, with the backward classes once again in between.
- Although every caste has some members who are rich, the upper castes are heavily over-represented among the rich while the lower castes are severely under-represented.



#### Percentage of population living below the poverty line, 1999-2000

Caste and Community groups	Rural	Urban
Scheduled Tribes	45.8	35.6
Scheduled Castes	35.9	38.3
Other Backward Classes	27.0	29.5
Muslim Upper Castes	26.8	34.2
Hindu Upper Castes	11.7	9.9
Christian Upper Castes	9.6	5.4
Sikh Upper Castes	0.0	4.9
Other Upper Castes	16.0	2.7
All Groups	27.0	23.4

Note: 'Upper Caste' here means those who are not from SC, ST, or OBC. Below the poverty line means those who spent ₹327 or less per person per month in rural and ₹454 or less per person per month in urban areas.

Source: National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Government of India, 55th Round, 1999-2000





### Ques

According to 2011 census -> population of Hindus was \_\_\_\_

(9)79.8.1.

(b) 84.2.1.

(C) 78.921.

(d) 81.037.

Ques
Accor. to 2011 census, Scheduled Castes were \_\_\_\_ of the population
(a) 14.2.1.

(b) 16.6.1.

(c) 8.2.1.

(d) 18.04.1.

