

AXE 7

UNIT 22

SHORT CUT

EMPOWERING THE DALITS

Is India ready to include the Dalits?



YOUR PROJECT

Write an article for *National Geographic* entitled "Empowering the Dalits in today's India".

Au menu de cette unité :

DÉCOUVERTES CULTURELLES

- Les origines et la symbolique du système des castes
- Les actions du gouvernement et des célébrités pour favoriser l'inclusion des intouchables

OUTILS LINGUISTIQUES

- Le présent
- Le présent parfait
- Les modaux
- La voix passive

BEFORE CLASS!

Flash to watch!

Watch the trailer for Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008).

Be ready to talk about it in class!

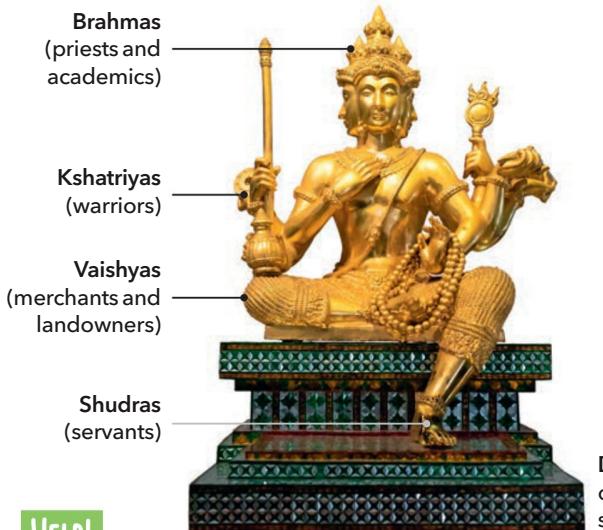


1 Untouchables

How deeply rooted are castes in the Indian mindset?

1 Indian castes

- A. Observe the picture below and guess what a caste is.
Can you guess why the Dalits are out of the caste system?
Guess how they are treated.
- B. Read the Preamble to the Indian Constitution. What image of Indian society is given here?
- C. Can you say India is a modern democracy? Is this text compatible with the caste system? Why?



HELP!

Nouns

- Dalit = Untouchable = outcast
- elite /'elɪt/
- social division
- stratification /strə'tɪfɪk'eɪʃn/

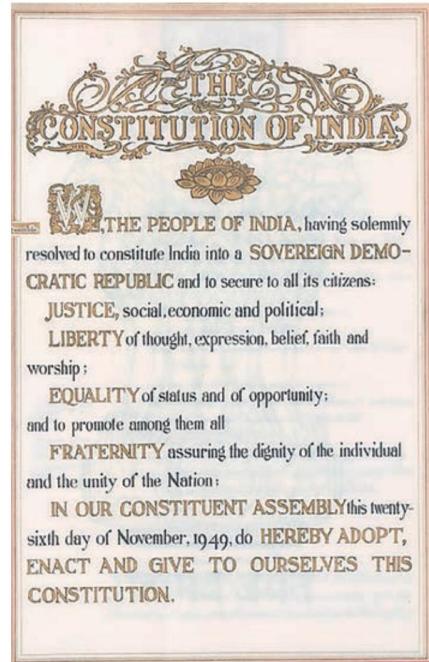
Adjectives

- hereditary
- unjust
- utopian = idealistic

Dalits are outside
of the caste
system.

Verbs & expressions

- be doomed: être condamné(e)
- climb the social ladder
- escape one's fate
- implement



2 Short film: An Impossible Love Story? 🎧

- A. Look at the still of these two students living in the US. Imagine their lives.
- B. Watch the short film. Turn to [Worksheet n°58](#) for help.
- C. Go further. What does the parents reaction mean about Indians and the caste system today?

HELP!

- requirement
- groom: marié
- rooted: ancré(e)
- suitable: convenable
- prevent sb from V-ing
- reject



2 Fighting for Recognition

How are Dalits lifted out of poverty?

1 Affirmative action

Reservation in India is the process of facilitating a person in education, scholarship¹, jobs, and in promotions who has category certificates. Reservation is a form of quota-based affirmative action.

Reservation is governed by constitutional laws, statutory laws, and local rules and regulations. [...]

Arguments for Reservation

- The caste-based reservation cannot be claimed to be completely irrelevant² as even today, the lower class is exploited and discriminated against after 62 years of the abolishment of untouchability [...].
- Due to historical negligence caste-based reservation are a political necessity in India.
- Affirmative Action has helped many backward communities in getting education and jobs, which were denied them since long.
- Meritocracy is an important aspect, but is meaningless without equality.
- Caste-based reservation reduced the gap between upper and lower castes.



Arguments against Reservation

- Many upper castes are still suffering from poverty and illiteracy.
- The present reservation system can harm the economic structure of the country as it could bring down the efficiency of its labour.
- Caste-based reservation is one of the many issues which may develop into communal riots³.
- Many times, economically sound⁴ people enjoyed the benefits of caste-based reservation, leaving aside real needy people.

1 bourse • 2 not pertinent • 3 violent public disorder • 4 sain

, 6 September 2017

A. Look at the photo and describe it.

Guess why people are in the street and the meaning of the word "reservation".

B. Read the article and check your guesses. Find keywords (l. 1-7) to explain what "reservation" is (concept, origin).

C. Say in your own words what "affirmative action" means.

Then, find why it is a necessity for some Indian people, and why others criticise it.

HELP!

- demonstrator
- placard = pancarte
- fair ≠ unfair
- disadvantaged

2 An 'untouchable' fights for her rights

video n°42



A. Look at the still and imagine Hausa Sasane's job and the caste she belongs to.

B. Watch the video. Sum up what you have understood.

C. Go further. Say how important Dalits are for local communities.

HELP!

- pick = collect
- sort trash: trier
- toil = work hard

3 Bringing down social barriers

A. Watch the video and take notes about:

- how long they have lived this life;
- what they reject;
- what they are called;
- what they want.

B. Say how BR Ambedkar is considered by the Dalits and why (status, action, famous quote).

C. Say how old the Indian Constitution is. What does it reveal about Indian society?

D. Go further. Say how the Dalits can make their lives better.



HELP!

Nouns

- hierarchy /'haɪərəkəzi/
- inequities /ɪn'ekwɪtɪz/ = unfairness
- a share in sth = a part of sth

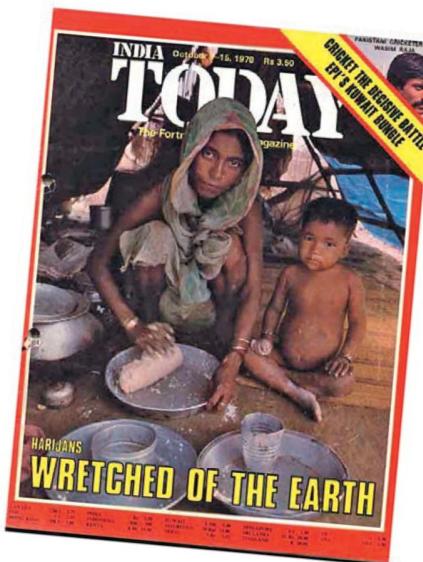
Verbs & expressions

- have had enough /həv hæd ə'nʌf/ of sth
- take to the streets
- rise up against sth = revolt

YOUR TURN! 4 Discussing the Dalits' situation

Pairwork. You are two journalists for an Indian News Channel. Discuss the evolution of Dalits' living conditions (how they were treated in the past and how it has changed).

With the help of the two magazine covers and the documents in these pages, act out the discussion.



HELP!

- policy
- reserved job
- improvement
- illiterate
- be prejudiced against
- demonstrate = take to the streets
- fight / stand up for one's rights
- make one's voice heard
- make up for = compensate

Fighting the Caste System

How can music give a voice to the voiceless?

1 Committed artists

- A. Read the article. How does Sumeet Samos feel about the caste system? How does he fight back?
B. Give the names of other artists and how they use their art to make a change.

Sumeet Samos's first rap music video, 'Ladai Seekhle' talks about caste discrimination, oppression and subversion of the 'lower castes' in a caste-ridden¹ society. The rapper also critiqued the centuries-old system of criminalizing

5 the identity of individuals based on caste.

In an interview with News18.com, the former Jawaharlal Nehru student said that through his music he's trying to raise questions about the existence of the caste system. "How have human beings been classified as 'high and

10 low'? How could one class of people decide that we, Dalits, are low?" Sumeet asked.

According to the rapper, it is important to use art to tell the stories of everyday oppression of people, especially the downtrodden² masses.

15 Sumeet feels that with fast mediums of information dissemination, music and visual content with the right kind of messaging can be a very important tool in shaping the consciousness of people.

"The country is still just as oppressive toward Dalits as it
20 was in the past, only now it is veiled," he said.

However, the artist said that in the last few years Dalits have mobilized themselves and resisted [...].

The song also talks about atrocities committed against Dalits [...].

25 According to Sumeet, it was important to reach new generations with pop culture so that the knowledge of these atrocities, that are often under-reported by large sections of the media, could be passed on to newer generations. In recent years, the Dalit identity has tried to find expres-

C. Find the social problems the singer writes about.

D. Go further. Post your opinion about Sumeet's art on the [News18.com](#) forum.



30 sion in various spheres of pop culture and entertainment.

In Punjab, Dalit artists have flagged off a genre of pop music generally referred to as 'Chamar pop'. One of the biggest Chamar Pop icons, Roop Lal Dhir, sings about rich Dalits who own Lamborghinis, live in foreign locales and work respectable, high paying jobs. His albums include 'Putt Chamaran Da' (Son of a Chamar), which aims to create a shift in perception of the Dalit identity and strives to create a sense of pride in being Dalit.

Ginni Mahi is yet another Dalit singer who has gained

35 popularity in the last two years. Her music promotes the image of a strong Chamar girl who isn't to be messed with.

1 sans caste • 2 opprimé

, 27 July 2018

HELP!

Nouns

- role model
- oppression

Adjectives

- downtrodden = oppressed
- proud

Verbs & expressions

- take pride in + V-ing
- raise questions
- resist
- shape sb's opinion
- reach
- mobilise oneself

YOUR PROJECT

Write an article for *National Geographic* entitled "Empowering the Dalits in today's India". Use what you have learnt in this unit.



LANGUAGE LAB



- Unit's vocabulary
- Audio words
- MP3
- Interactive Test

★ 1. Put the verbs in the preterite or the present perfect.

- A. The caste system (**exist**) for decades.
 B. Untouchability (**be abolished**) more than sixty-two years ago.
 C. The reservation system (**do**) more harm than expected.
 D. Last month, India's PM (**give**) an interview to describe the evolution of the Dalits' situation.
 E. Sumeet says that through his music he (**raise**) questions about the caste system.

★ 2. Match each verb with its synonym.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. improve | 1. stop sb from doing sth |
| B. deny (rights) | 2. forbid |
| C. prevent sb from doing sth | 3. increase |
| D. ban | 4. refuse |

★★ 3. Fill in the blanks with these modal auxiliaries.

cannot • must • may • can.

- A. Thanks to affirmative action, some backward communities ... have access to education.
 B. Although it's not certain, caste-based reservation ... develop into riots.
 C. This is too unfair, the entire social fabric ... change!
 D. The Indian caste system ... be difficult to understand.
 E. Some Indians ... stand the caste system.

★★ 4. Use these words to complete the sentences.

*slums • caste • hereditary • fate • stratification
 • unsanitary*

- A. Indian society is based on a ... system, which is a strict social ... based on people's occupations.
 B. This system is ...: you inherit your social status from your parents. You cannot escape your ...
 C. They live in ..., where the living conditions are

★★★ 5. Translate into French.

- A. Because of the reservation system, Hausa was refused a scholarship.
 B. This caste has been exploited for generations.
 C. Sachin was fired because of his caste.

6. Interactive test! What is your score?



OPEN YOUR EARS!



PHONOLOGY

La prononciation de la lettre « a »

- Classez les mots suivants dans la colonne qui correspond à leur prononciation.
- part • name • fast • fat • basket • bat • came • harm

/æ/	/eɪ/	/a:/
...

- Écoutez les mots et vérifiez vos réponses. **MP3 n°119**

Récapitulons

La lettre a est majoritairement réalisée /æ/, comme dans cat, ou /eɪ/, comme dans fate.



Toutefois, elle peut aussi être réalisée /a:/.

- a + r → /a:/ ex: art, large, artist
- a + s + consonne → /a:/ ex: caste, outcast, class, ask, past, last, passed

- Entraînez-vous à répéter ces mots.

AUDIO MYSTERY

Listen and write what you hear.

Have you discovered who the speaker is talking about? **MP3 n°120**



Quote challenge

- ★ 3 sentences
- ★★ 4 to 6 sentences
- ★★★ 7 sentences and +

Read the quotes. Do you agree with the authors?
 Justify your answer. Make as many sentences as possible.

"Our struggle does not end so long as there is a single human being considered untouchable on account of his birth".

Gandhi (1869-1948)
 Leader of the Indian independence movement

"I do not propose any leveling of castes.
 Caste is a very good thing.
 Caste is the plan we want to follow".

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)