



India Matters



**Cambridge IGCSE India Studies Newsletter 10
December 2010**

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India Matters sets out to support subject teachers in Pilot schools, aiming to keep Centres informed and seeking to encourage the spread of ideas and the exchange of good practice. Please keep in touch with feedback.

India Matters is published every other month and emailed to each Pilot Centre. All India Studies teachers in your Centre should have a copy so please circulate it to everyone involved. There is no restriction on photocopying.

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The cover photograph shows members of the “Gulabi Gang”, Uttar Pradesh. Known also as “the Pink Vigilantes”, they campaign to see that the legal rights of women are enforced and that those guilty of domestic violence or sexual abuse are prosecuted. Most members are dalits. Think about how and why this picture might be used when discussing aspects of Theme 3 in Paper 1 & Case Study 2 in Paper 2.

For further information, see the Gang’s website <http://www.gulabigang.org/> & articles such as news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/7068875.stm or www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2008/feb/15/women.india & http://www.ndtv.com/news/videos/video_player.php?id=135096 [23 min NDTV film, March 2010]

Examination dates May/June 2011

The final examination timetable has been published. The Cambridge IGCSE India Studies examinations are to be sat on the following days:

0447/01: Tuesday 17 May 2011

0447/02: Wednesday 25 May 2011

0447/03: work to be submitted by Saturday 30 April 2011. The supervised controlled task to word process/write-up Investigations may be held at any time that suits each Centre.

How are Cambridge IGCSE grade thresholds determined?

Grade thresholds are determined by a mixture of statistical evidence and the professional judgement of the principal examiners. If a question paper proves to have been easier or harder than the equivalent paper in the previous year, we raise or lower the thresholds to compensate the students. That way, it remains just as hard or easy to obtain a certain grade in the subject from one year to another. For IGCSE India Studies, grading will also include comparison with scripts of other IGCSE subjects to ensure that an appropriate standard is set at the syllabus' first award.

Research Portfolio Paper 3

India Matters 9 in October set out a quick reminder of basis points for the Research Portfolio. Candidates sitting IGCSE India Studies in the May/June 2011 examination session must have finished their Research Portfolio in time for their Centre to submit the scripts by the deadline (30 April 2011).

Paper 3 questions for 2013

In *India Matters 7* (June 2010) we asked for suggestions for topics for the next set of questions. So far the following topics have been submitted:

- Education
- Transport
- The revival of Ayurvedic medicine in the world
- Child labour
- Fairtrade
- Indigenous peoples
- Languages.

We are very keen to hear your thoughts on any of these before the committee starts work on developing the 2013 examination questions.

It is not too late to suggest other possible topics for 2013. Please remember that these should relate to contemporary India and should not duplicate subjects directly covered by the examination syllabus or any of the Paper 3 questions set for 2011 or 2012 (listed in *India Matters 7* in June 2010, pp.3-4). With the fixed topic 'India in film', specific suggestions for the nominated exemplar film alongside the aspect of India to explore through film would also be very helpful.

The 2013 questions will be published in 2011.

Professional development workshops October 2010

Whole day training for teachers was held recently in Bengaluru and Mumbai. Both events were well attended and your feedback shows that you found them useful, especially the focus on:

- enquiry-based classroom study & suggestions for teaching ideas
- skills (judgement, decision-making, problem-solving)

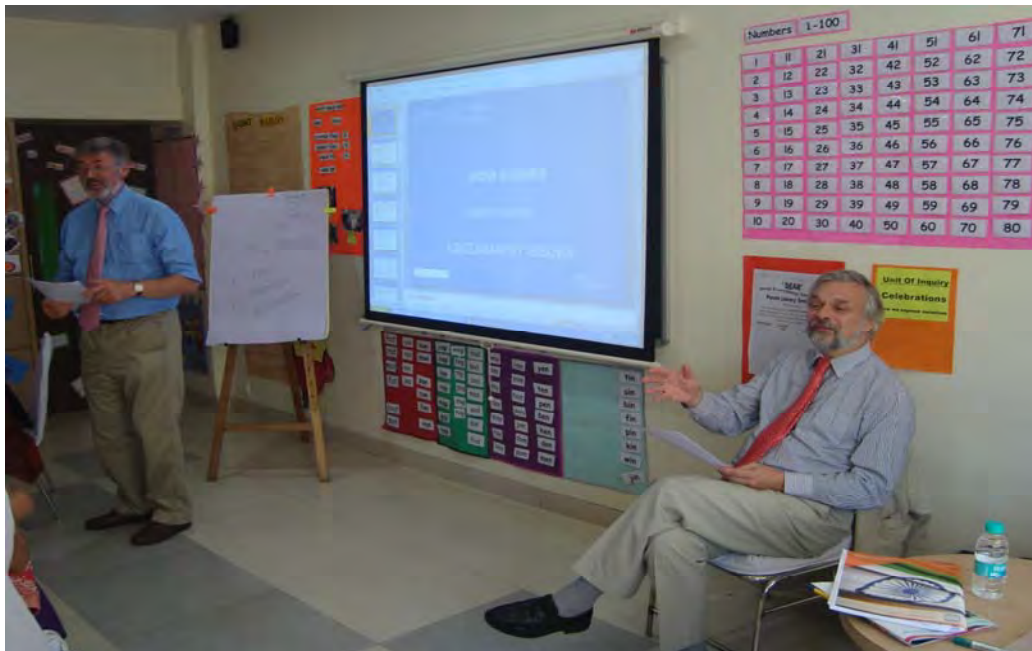
Teacher comments included:

“It gave vision to my subject and has given life to it.”

“This workshop was very informative. I will love teaching India Studies.”

“Very interactive. A lot of classroom issues discussed with relevant solutions to help teachers.”

Mike Wells and Nigel Price certainly enjoyed meeting you and discussing the course.



Materials from October professional development workshops

The Power Point presentations used at the teacher workshops in Bengaluru and Mumbai will be found on the syllabus' eForum. These resources focus on each of the three components and build on the Power Points used at the three previous training days in 2009 and 2010. Together, these should be used as an essential reference tool by all teachers.

Resources List (6th edition)

A new edition has just been posted to the eForum. In these updated listings, new items have been added for every Theme and Case Study. Teachers might look out especially for the URLs linking to web-based materials for

- Paper 1 Theme 2 on aspects of economic development;
- Paper 1 Theme 3 on cast, community & *adivasis*;
- Paper 1 Theme 4 on foreign policy issues.

Please note also URLs to Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lectures. Distinguished lecturers have included Krishna Menon, Arundhati Roy, Amartya Sen, Manmohan Singh, Lord Stern and Ratan Tata.

“How India’s growth will outpace China’s”

was the claim on the front cover of a recent issue of *The Economist* magazine:



For the second issue running, we focus on how to understand the causes and consequences of India's economic rise. Under the headline “Myths” of recent economic growth?”, *India Matters 9* highlighted Professor Bardhan's reinterpretation of the impact of the reforms which have followed economic liberalisation. Here, we suggest that you look at the lead article in *The Economist* for October 2nd 2010 headed “India's surprising economic miracle”. The editor writes

“HORRIBLE toilets. Stagnant puddles buzzing with dengue-spreading mosquitoes. Collapsing masonry. Lax security. A terrorist attack. India's preparations for the 72-nation Commonwealth games, which are scheduled to open in Delhi on October 3rd, have not won favourable reviews. “Commonfilth”, was one of the kinder British tabloid headlines. At best - assuming that the organisers make a last-minute dash to spruce things up - the Delhi games will be remembered as a shambles. The contrast with China's practically flawless hosting of the Olympic games in 2008 could hardly be starker. Many people will draw the wrong lesson from this.

A big sporting event, some people believe, tells you something important about the nation that hosts it. Efficient countries build tip-top stadiums and make the shuttle buses run on time. That

India cannot seem to do any of these things suggests that it will always be a second-rate power. Or does it? Despite the headlines, India is doing rather well. Its economy is expected to expand by 8.5% this year. It has a long way to go before it is as rich as China - the Chinese economy is four times bigger - but its growth rate could overtake China's by 2013, if not before. Some economists think India will grow faster than any other large country over the next 25 years ...

People power

There are two reasons why India will soon start to outpace China. One is demography. China's workforce will shortly start ageing; in a few years' time, it will start shrinking. That's because of its one-child policy - an oppressive measure that no Indian government would get away with ... The second reason for optimism is India's much-derided democracy. The notion that democracy retards development in poor countries has gained currency in recent years. Certainly, it has its disadvantages. Elected governments bow to the demands of selfish factions and interest groups. Even the most urgent decisions are endlessly debated and delayed.

China does not have this problem. When its technocrats decide to dam a river, build a road or move a village, the dam goes up, the road goes down and the village disappears. The displaced villagers may be compensated, but they are not allowed to stand in the way ... Small wonder that authoritarians everywhere cite China as their best excuse not to allow democracy just yet.

No doubt a strong central government would have given India a less chaotic Commonwealth games, but there is more to life than badminton and rhythmic gymnastics. India's state may be weak, but its private companies are strong. Indian capitalism is driven by millions of entrepreneurs all furiously doing their own thing. Since the early 1990s, when India dismantled the "licence raj" and opened up to foreign trade, Indian business has boomed. The country now boasts legions of thriving small businesses and a fair number of world-class ones whose English-speaking bosses network confidently with the global elite. They are less dependent on state patronage than Chinese firms, and often more innovative: they have pioneered the \$2000 car, the ultra-cheap heart operation and some novel ways to make management more responsive to customers. Ideas flow easily around India, since it lacks China's culture of secrecy and censorship. That, plus China's rampant piracy, is why knowledge-based industries such as software love India but shun the Middle Kingdom.

... For now, India's problems are painfully visible. The roads are atrocious. Public transport is a disgrace ... Firms are hobbled by the costs of building their own infrastructure: backup generators, water-treatment plants and fleets of buses to ferry staff to work. And India's demographic dividend will not count for much if those new workers are unemployable. India's literacy rate is rising, thanks in part to a surge in cheap private schools for the poor ...

Advantage India

The Indian government recognises the need to tackle the infrastructure crisis, and is getting better at persuading private firms to stump up the capital. But the process is slow and infected with corruption. It is hard to measure these things, but many observers think China has done a better job than India of curbing corruption, with its usual brutal methods, such as shooting people.

Given the choice between doing business in China or India, most foreign investors would probably pick China ... But as the global economy becomes more knowledge-intensive, India's advantage will grow. That is something to ponder while stuck in the Delhi traffic."

[For the full article, see <http://www.economist.com/node/17147648>]

Please keep in touch – with each other as well as CIE.

Appendix: Resource bank: Caste in India today

In this issue, we offer a series of visuals that might be of value when considering with your class aspects of Paper 1 Theme 3 & Paper 2 Case Study 2 that relate to caste in contemporary India.



12 August 2010

India approves caste-based census

... The Indian government has approved the inclusion of information on caste in the ongoing population census ... Caste-based parties say the information will help the government target affirmative action benefits better. But critics say caste is the most regressive feature of Indian society; that it is repressive, reinforces hierarchy and breeds inequity.

... The national census is the only source of primary and credible data in India and is used not just to formulate government policies but also by private companies to identify markets for their products. The full census results will be released in mid-2011.

[for the full article, see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-10949177>]



12 May 2010

My caste is Indian, says Amitabh Bachchan

... While the debate over caste census intensifies with most parties rooting for it, Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan is clear where he stands on the controversial issue. If ever asked to mention his caste, he says categorically, he would be ready with the answer - Indian.

Census enumerators came calling on the Bachchan household, prompting Amitabh to express his views on the issue of caste census. "Wary of the sensitivity that this has raised recently by politicians, they keep away from it. They reason that they would wait for some government

decision on this. I tell them irrespective of what the system decides, my answer is ready - caste, "Indian," he wrote on his blog bigb.bigadda.com.

Big B says his father, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, a noted Hindi poet and litterateur, never believed in caste system. "My Father never believed in caste and neither do any of us. He married a Sikh, I married a Bengali, my brother a Sindhi, my daughter a Punjabi, my son a Mangalorean." ...

[for the full article, see <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/My-caste-is-Indian-says-Amitabh-Bachchan/articleshow/5920912.cms>]

THE HINDU

18/8/2007

The caste system — India's apartheid?

Balakrishnan Rajagopal, *Professor of Law and Development, Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Director of the MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice.*

In what was perhaps a controversial but telling comparison, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, on 27 December 2006, likened discrimination against Dalits in India to the apartheid system in South Africa. A couple of months later, Indian officials in New York were busily denying the existence of caste discrimination and untouchability before a leading UN human rights body ...

This attitude of the Indian bureaucracy flatly flies in the face of not only the Prime Minister's own statement. It does not fit in with India's own track record in dealing with caste discrimination which should not make it act defensively but should make it more determined to wipe out such practices. This attitude also reveals a knee-jerk negativist mindset that the Indian foreign policy establishment has developed over the years towards international human rights, which needs to change.

It is well known that caste discrimination against Dalits is rampant in India. In an overt form, it is both a political reality and social fact. Dalits are subjected to violence, especially in rural areas, their women raped, and their land stolen. Dalits perform the most dangerous and odious forms of labour in Indian society ... Research indicates that social and economic discrimination against Dalits persists to an alarming degree despite all the laws in the books.

... Dalits are poorly represented in the professions, business, media, and the higher levels of the government including the police, the army, and the judiciary. Recent studies indicate, for example, that 47% of the Chief Justices of India have been Brahmins (who constitute 6% of the population) as have been 40% of all the other judges. There is rampant social discrimination against Dalits, including through the caste-ridden system of 'arranged' marriages ...

Measures against discrimination are complicated by the fact that there is increasing evidence of intra-caste differentiation among Dalits, with some sub-castes like manual scavengers suffering significantly more discrimination. For example, in the village of Paliyad, the water source for 47% of manual scavengers is a 30-minute or longer walk from their homes, while for a majority of non-scavenger Dalits that time is only five minutes. Distance to water collection affects health, economic productivity, and gender equality.

The Indian government delegation that appeared before the UN human rights body cited a litany of laws that have been passed to end caste discrimination and atrocities against Dalits. This

much is, in fact, true and India should certainly take much pride in the establishment of a formal system of equality through laws. The political gains made by Dalit parties in recent years can also be celebrated as a healthy example of the virtues of Indian democracy in ending social ills. But, in practice, these laws are poorly implemented.

... India's position before the UN human rights body typifies its overall attitude towards the place of human rights in its foreign policy. Nervous, Third Worldist, lacking confidence in its own democratic credentials, India constantly sides with the likes of Zimbabwe and Sudan at the UN on human rights issues. In international politics, as in domestic life, one is often judged by the company one keeps. There is no reason why India should not recover the moral high ground it occupied in the first few decades after Independence, suffused with the glow of Gandhian anti-colonialism, and often taking a leading position on human rights issues of the day. Instead, it has abandoned the human rights agenda to the West. On the issue of caste discrimination against Dalits, India's recalcitrant and nervous attitude is only reminiscent of similar attitudes adopted by the government of the US in its treatment of minorities or the white South African state over apartheid. It is no wonder that the Prime Minister aptly compared caste discrimination to apartheid.

... How to end caste discrimination against Dalits is a profound issue because its roots go to the structural importance of caste for the operation of Indian society and the economy itself. After decades of legislating to end caste discrimination, it is legitimate now to ask: can one end caste discrimination without ending caste itself? If so, what does that imply for policy making and law? Caste discrimination exists because people continue to believe in caste. Indian democracy is, paradoxically, a culprit. By encouraging the formation of democratic participation along the lines of identity, caste is reinforced every time India goes to the polls. The recent electoral gains of the BSP in Uttar Pradesh must be seen in the context of this double-edged nature of caste ...

While the Indian Constitution outlawed untouchability and caste discrimination, it did not abolish caste itself. This was realised by Dr. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution, who called for the 'annihilation of caste' itself. It may be time for the government and society to reorient themselves towards this goal and begin the process of ending India's system of apartheid.

[for the full article, see <http://www.hinduonnet.com/2007/08/18/stories/2007081856301200.htm>]



"The caste system in India", a 25 minute filmed talk by Professor Mridu Rai, March 2009. Part of the MacMillan Report series run by Yale University, Professor Rai considers caste in modern India: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7_zmUghLmw

TIME

India's Affirmative Action War

25 May 2006

... 50 students at the hyper-competitive All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are doing what any doctor would tell them not to - starving themselves. Now on the sixth day of an indefinite hunger strike, their hand-written white T-shirts make clear their position on the government's controversial new policy to increase quotas for lower-caste students at the country's elite educational institutions: DON'T MIX POLITICS WITH MERIT; QUOTAS: THIS CURE IS WORSE THAN THE DISEASE; MERIT IS MY CASTE, WHAT'S YOURS?

"Modern India should be built on merit, not caste," says Dr. Sudip Sen, a student at AIIMS. "Are we going to let a slow runner represent India in the Olympics? No, we are going to send our best runner, no matter his caste. It should be the same for all fields."

... The government has sworn that it will not back down. Increased quotas, it claims, are the only way to foster social equality at the institutions that are driving the Indian economy forward.

... Unlike race or class, caste is not something that can be read in the color of one's skin or in the cut of one's clothes. Caste is written in a far more nuanced language of family name, livelihood, origin and identity politics; yet it is an issue that has managed to polarize the nation. Urban Indians, increasingly categorized by wealth, say that caste has no bearing on the kind of jobs they can get, yet classified matrimonial ads often list caste as a principal criterion in the search for a suitable spouse. In the countryside, caste defines not just social status and employment opportunities, but also access to education.

... Some people who theoretically would benefit from such quotas oppose them on principle. "I came here under my own merit," says Deepika Gupta, a first-year student at AIIMS and member of a lower caste herself. "I don't want anyone thinking I'm here because of a quota. If everyone comes here on their own steam then they will get equal respect for what they have achieved."

Detractors stress that it is not just because of merit that they oppose the quota system; they believe it is not addressing the real problems in India. If the lower castes and classes had equal opportunities earlier in life, they argue, quotas wouldn't be necessary for higher education. "Instead of reserving 10 seats at AIIMS, educate 10,000 children. Then you will see a difference in Indian society," says Sen.

Like the battles over affirmative action in the United States, the rhetoric in India has been at times fierce. Sharad Yadav, a former Union minister, wrote an op-ed for the *Hindustan Times* in which he accused opponents of the reservation proposal of trying to undermine India's long-sought social equality ...

[for the full article, see
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1198102,00.html#ixzz13f0lir3N>]

subcontinent



FUTURE PM?

U.P. CHIEF MINISTER MAYAWATI

Photo with headline for a meeting between Mayawati Kumari, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, May 2007. Mayawati is perhaps the most prominent politician of dalit origin in India today.