

# Subaltern Politics in India

## M.Phil Optional Course

**Course Objectives:** Politics has undergone significant transformation over the decades - from power relations to political participation, from the study of government to the art of governance, justice and development. This course attempts to examine politics from the perspective of the marginal social classes, castes, groups and communities, who constitute the lower rungs of society in India and have come to be known as 'subalterns'.

The course seeks to analyse the evolution of subalterns in various historical discourses before locating it in Indian political discourse. It also examines the issues of development and governance as visualized by the subalterns and focuses on the challenges faced by them in contemporary Indian society.

### I. Interpreting the 'Subaltern': From Enlightenment to Subaltern Schools

- Enlightenment
- Marxism
- Colonization
- Anti-colonial Development - Lohia, JP and Deendayal

### II. Subalterns and Social Movements

- Caste
- Tribe
- Labor
- Peasant

### III. Electoral Politics of the Subalterns

- Democratic Upsurge
- Party Politics
- Coalition Governments

### IV. Developmental Agenda of the Subalterns

- Job Reservation
- Infrastructure
- State Formation/Autonomous Councils

### V. Subalterns and the Contemporary Challenges

- Consolidating the Subalterns
- Development - economic growth, political decentralization, justice
- Governance

## Readings and References:

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Chatterjee, Partha (2004). *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*. New York: Columbia University Press.

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Yadav, Yogendra (2000). 'Understanding the Second Democratic Upsurge: Trends of Bahujan Participation in Electoral Politics in the 1990s', in Francine R Frankel et al (eds.). *Transforming India: Social and Political Dynamics of Democracy*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.