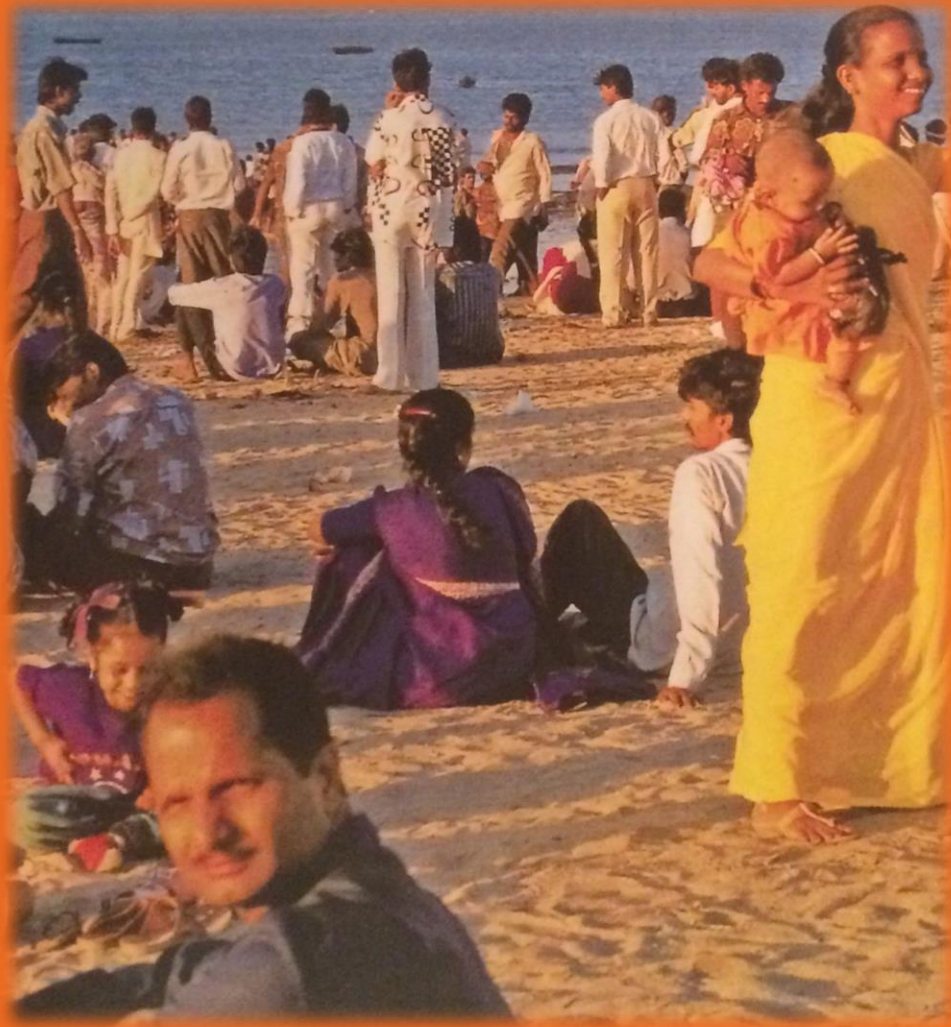
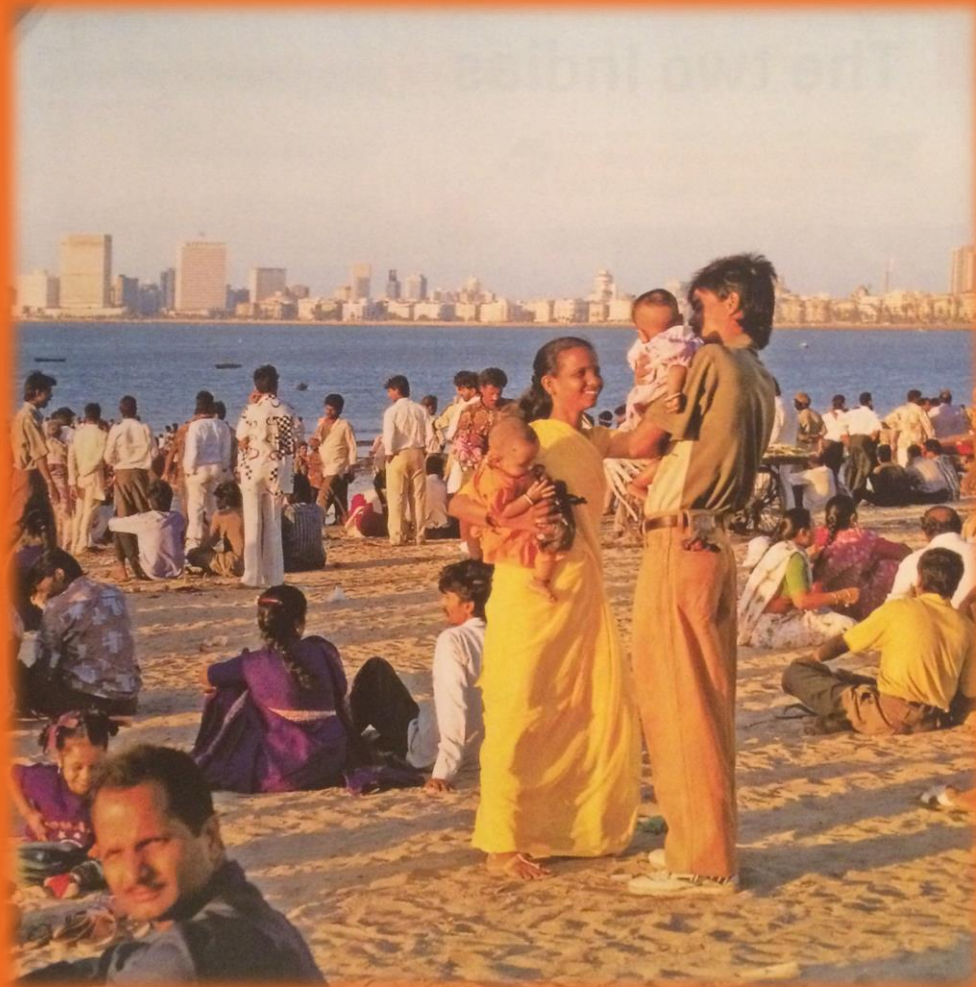




INDIA'S
GREAT DIVIDE







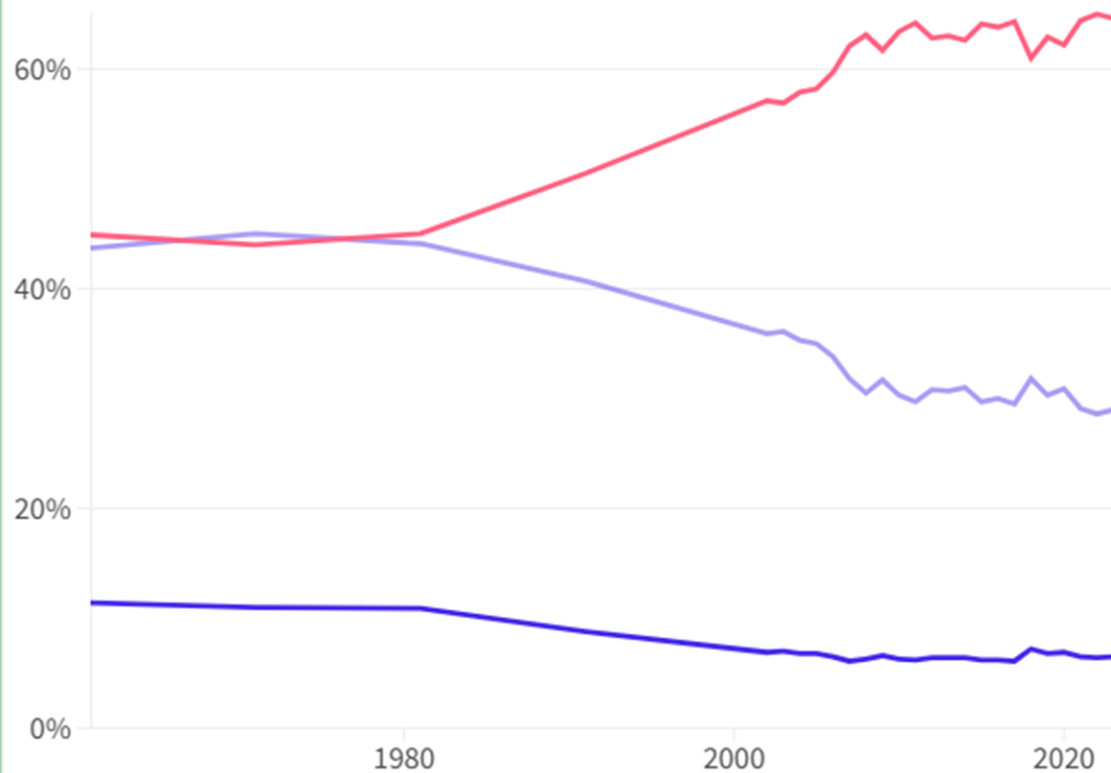




Long-run wealth inequality in India

Share of national wealth (%)

Bottom 50% Middle 40% Top 10%



Source: [World Inequality Lab](#) • Distribution of per-adult national wealth







**"MOM, DAD SINCE I COULD NOT GET A GIRL IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
I DECIDED TO MARRY A GIRL FROM THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY"**

**50
MILLION
MISSING**



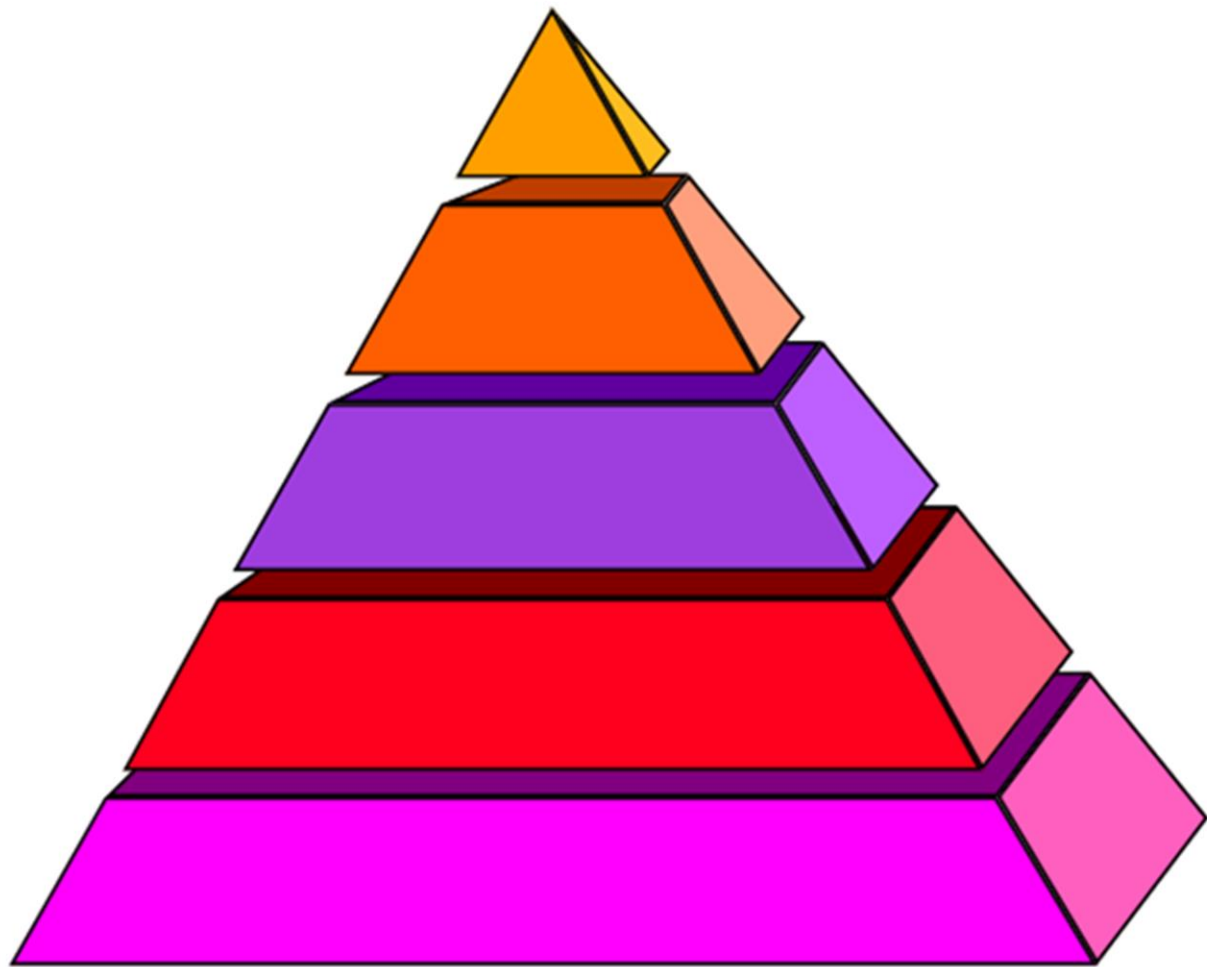
In three generations, more than 50 million women have been selectively eliminated from India's population through infanticide, dowry-related murders, and other gendercide practices.

- In 2011 it was estimated that there were 940 girls aged six and under for every 1,000 boys.**
- 600,000 girls go missing every year.**
- In 18 years' time, India will be short of 10 million brides.**

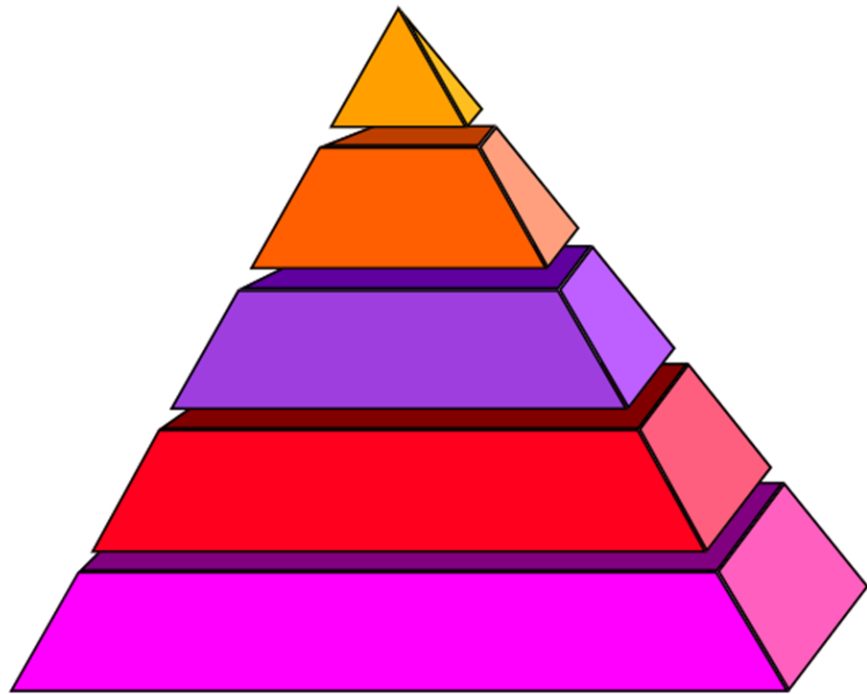
India's 2011 census



“India’s girls go missing.”



The Hindu Caste System



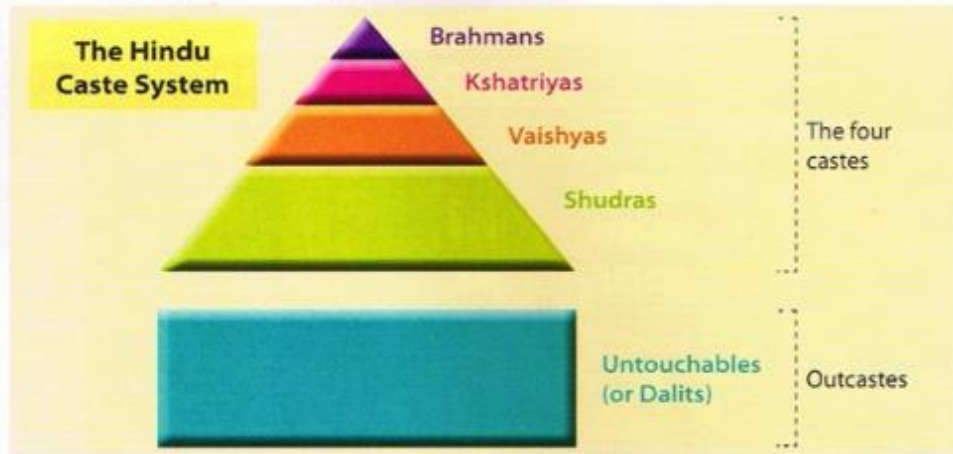
Social Structure in India

A Well-defined Role and Position in Society for Everyone

In ancient India, caste was a defining element of a person's identity. It gave certain people some privileges that other people did not enjoy. The notion of karma could justify this basic inequality: a person's position in society was pre-determined by what he or she had done in his or her previous life, that was why they could not be equal.

There were five large groups of people but only four castes since the lowest group had no caste and were known as Untouchables. Those people usually did the hardest jobs, like cleaning up the streets or collecting garbage. Below them were the slaves who were not really considered as a group of people.

The lowest caste was the Shudras – the farmhands or servants who had to work for other people.



Above them were the Vaishyas, or farmers and traders who owned their own farms or businesses.

Above the Vaishyas were the Kshatriyas, or warriors, but there were not many of them.

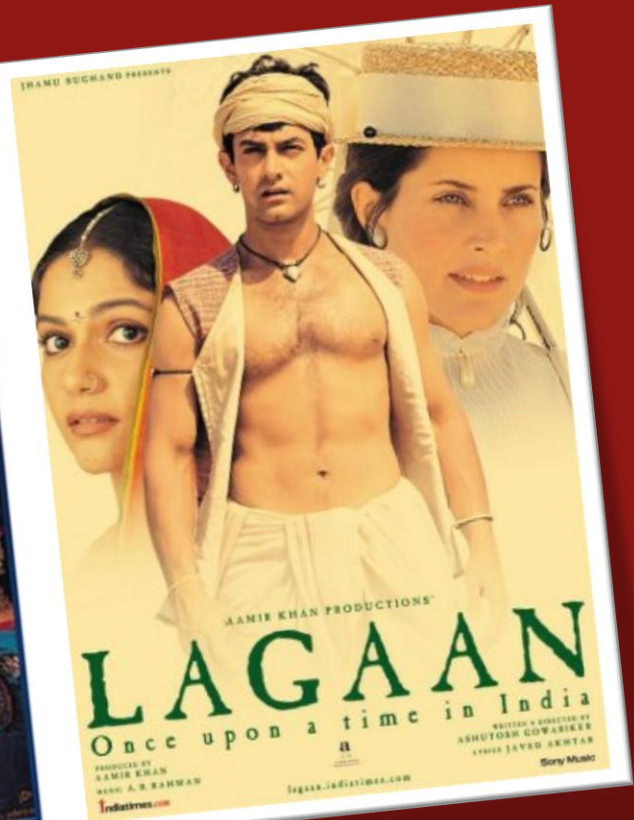
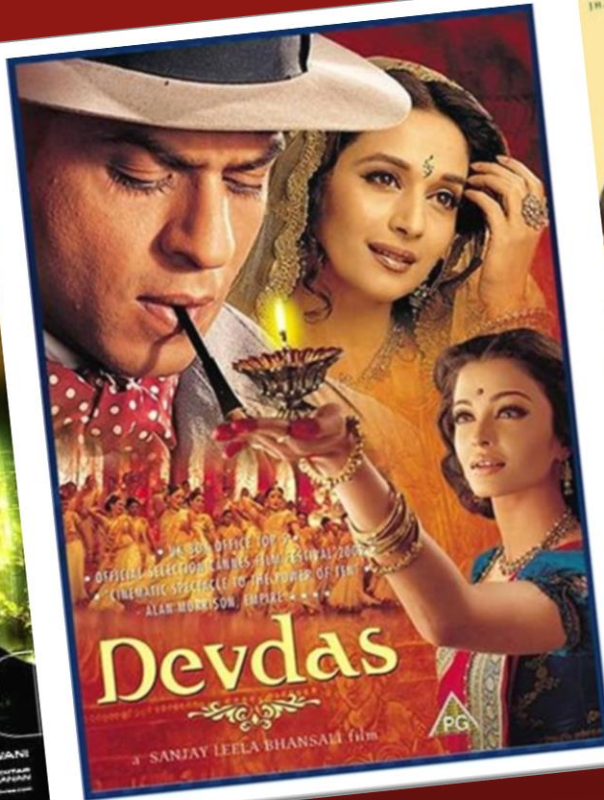
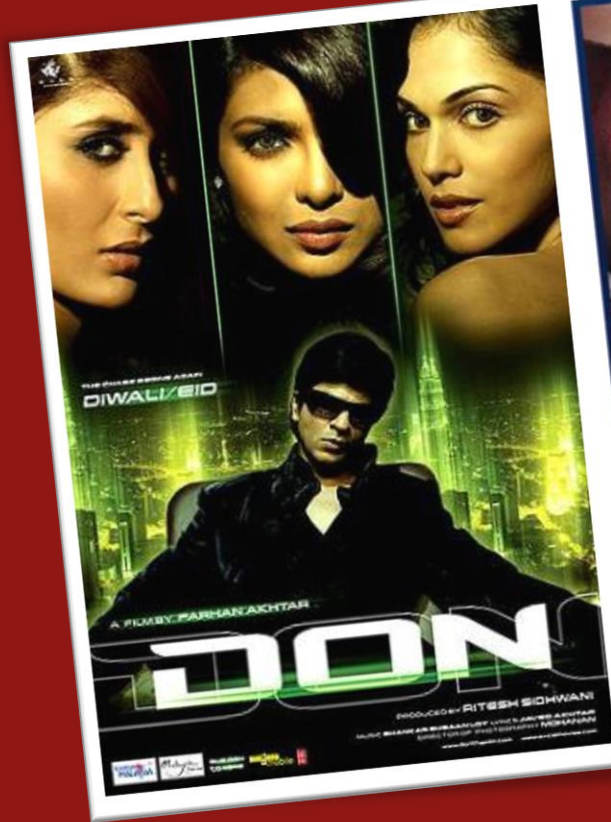
The highest and most powerful caste was the Brahmins: the priests and leaders. There were only a few of them. Going to school or teaching in schools was

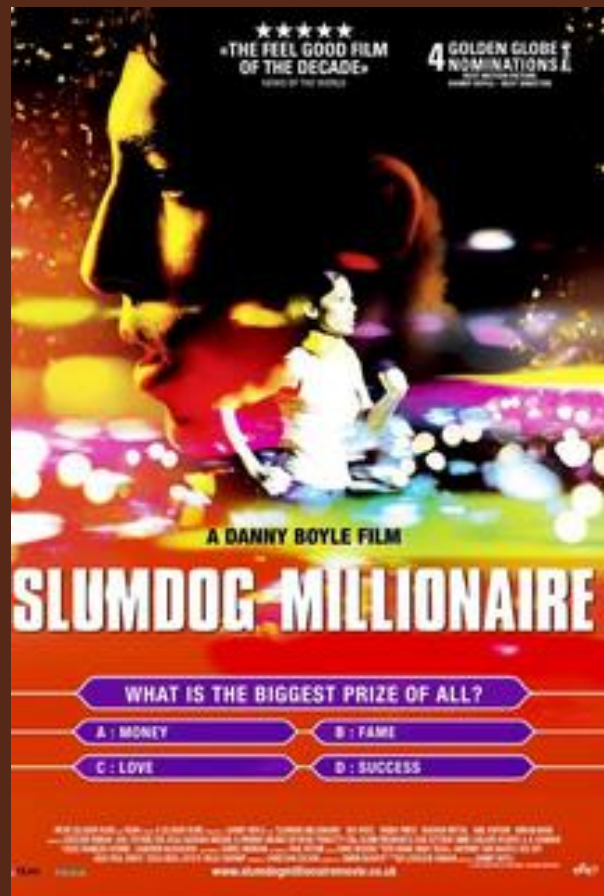
a privilege reserved for Brahman men. Brahman women were not allowed to go to school.

Within each caste, there were a lot of smaller groups. Usually people from one caste did not have much contact with people from another caste because little interaction was allowed between the groups, one example being that marriages were forbidden between castes.

**Infosys Technologies Ltd. headquarters in
Bangalore, India**







“Changing India”

Adapted extract from ***“Farewell to an India I hardly Knew”***

By ANAND GIRIDHARADAS

The New York Times, July 4, 2009