

## CASTE AND GOVERNANCE IN BIHAR POLITICS: AN EVOLUTIONARY ANALYSIS OF ELECTORAL TRENDS, POLICY OUTCOMES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

*Bihar, a state in eastern India, has long been recognized for its dynamic and deeply rooted caste-based political structure. This paper examines the historical development, electoral trends, and governance outcomes influenced by caste politics. The paper explores how caste politics shapes policy decisions and socio-economic development by analyzing post-independence political changes, the Mandal Commission era, and contemporary alliances. The study critiques the impact of caste dynamics on governance efficiency, law and order, and public service delivery in Bihar. Leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar have played pivotal roles in reshaping power equations through caste-based mobilization. Despite improvements in social justice, issues such as corruption, nepotism, and inefficient governance persist. The socio-economic inequalities entrenched by historical caste hierarchies remain significant challenges. This paper proposes balancing caste-based affirmative action with institutional reforms is essential for achieving sustainable development and inclusive governance in Bihar.*

**KEYWORDS:** Bihar, Caste Dynamics, Governance, Electoral Trends, Mandal Commission & Mobilization.

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