Caste Is Not Past

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/16/opinion/sunday/caste-is-not-past.html?_r=1>

1. What are the new measurements of social hierarchy in India?
2. What are the two stories that the author suggests Indians tell themselves about urban India?
3. Use context clues-what does “immutable” mean?
4. How does the author describe the caste system?
5. How is the caste system described in urban conversations? What comparison does the author make to America?
6. In what two areas does the caste system still matter?
7. After money and education, what is the third most powerful force in Indian society?
8. What evidence does the author give to support the claim that caste matters in politics?
9. What is “reservation”? What is this similar to in America? What is the argument a supporter can make about reservation? An opponent?
10. What is the problem of discussing caste in India? What happened in 2011?
11. How have Indian political parties used the caste system in politics?
12. What is the conundrum of Indian society?

**Other vocab:**

-defanged: to make harmless, or to become less powerful or threatening

-penchant: a strong liking or inclination for something

-Ostensible: professed or pretended

-Conundrum: riddle or a puzzle

-virility: vigor, spirit, life