

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q5(b)

Discuss the changing interface between state and civil society in post-independent India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Politics and Society

Politics and Society: Sociological theories of power; Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties; Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology; Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the changing interface between state and civil society in post-independent India
- Keep the discussion within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Civil society sits between household and state as associations and public claim.

Early independent India fused planning, party, and a tutoring state.

Emergency, rights groups, and post-1991 NGOs changed the interface.

RTI and PIL audit the state; identity associations crowd the same space.

Chatterjee's political society qualifies a clean dualism.

Introduction

Civil society is the sphere of associations, movements, and public debate between household and state. In post-independent India the interface has shifted from a developmental tutelage to a more crowded field of NGOs, media, and contested rights.

Body

Early decades

- The Nehruvian state claimed to modernise on behalf of a weak civil society. Planning, public sector, and Congress networks blurred party, state, and association.
- M. N. Srinivas's dominant caste and village panchayats already showed that "civil" life was not a liberal club.

After the 1970s

- Emergency and later JP and civil-liberties groups named the state as a threat as well as a provider.
- Liberalisation after 1991 thickened NGOs, corporate social work, and media while shrinking some public employment.

Present interface

- RTI, PILs, and social audits pull the state into accountability.

- Identity movements and religious associations also occupy civil space, so the sphere is not only secular NGOs.
- Partha Chatterjee's political society reminds that the poor meet the state through claims, not only through bourgeois civil law.

Flow diagram

State -> Developmental tutelage
Civil society -> NGOs movements media
State -> NGOs movements media
Political society poor -> State

Conclusion

The interface moved from a tutoring developmental state to a plural, often conflictual field. Associations now audit and also polarise. Civil society in India remains entangled with caste, party, and welfare, not a clean Western dualism.

Facts & figures

Emergency 1975-77

A turning point for civil-liberties talk about the Indian state.

RTI Act 2005

A legal tool of civil audit of official files.

Chatterjee

Political society: subaltern claims on the state outside classic civil-society law.

1991 reforms

Opened space for NGOs and markets beside a changing public sector.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2017/discuss-the-changing-interface-between-state-and-civil-society-in-post-independent-india/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com