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Q7(a)

Discuss B.R. Ambedkar as a wise democrat.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society
Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- Discuss **B.R. Ambedkar** as a wise democrat
- Link caste, constitution, and minority safeguards

Revision summary

Ambedkar saw caste majority as a danger inside adult franchise.

Constitutional rights and reservations are democratic devices, not gifts.

He demanded social and economic democracy beneath the vote.

Law and conversion were tools, not only conscience reform.

Wisdom here is design against graded inequality.

Introduction

Ambedkar was a wise democrat because he refused both Hindu majoritarian custom and a democracy of mere numbers. He built a constitutional machine that could break graded inequality without destroying the republic.

Body**Wisdom about the people**

- For him the people were not a spiritual whole. They were castes in a hierarchy that could outvote the Depressed Classes.
- Separate electorates, then the **Poona Pact** fight, then reserved seats, show a democrat who knew the majority can be a caste majority.

Wisdom in design

- Fundamental rights, abolition of untouchability, and the amendment path made democracy a social revolution in slow legal time.
- He warned that political democracy without social and economic democracy would be a top-dressing, a line that still reads Beteille's disharmony.

Wisdom in method

- He used law, conversion, and party, not only satyagraha. **Gandhi's** moral majority was not enough.
- States and minorities needed safeguards. The **Hindu Code** struggle showed family law as a democratic front.

Flow diagram

Graded inequality -> Wise democracy
Wise democracy -> Constitution rights reservation
Wise democracy -> Social economic democracy

Conclusion

Ambedkar's wise democracy is representation plus enforceable equality, against both priesthood and crowd. India is still taking that exam.

Facts & figures

Annihilation of Caste

The argument that political reform without social revolution fails.

Constitutional architect

Rights, representation, and a civil code horizon as democratic craft.

Poona Pact

The moment he accepted a second-best electoral design under pressure.

Hindu Code

Family-law reform as a test of whether democracy enters the home.

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