

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

Q3(c)

Comment on the increasing significance of caste in politics.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 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

- Comment on the increasing significance of caste in politics
- Use Kothari, parties, and reservation

Revision summary

Democracy organised caste as interest and identity.

Kothari called this politicisation, not disappearance.

Mandal and Dalit assertion expanded who counts as a political caste.

Dominant castes converted land-numbers into legislatures.

This is rising political caste, not a return of total ritual order.

Introduction

Caste has grown more significant in Indian politics even as some village ritual declined. Democracy did not dissolve jati; it organised it as a vote, a quota, and a public name.

Body**Why increasing**

- **Rajni Kothari's politicisation of caste:** parties need clusters, and caste is a ready cluster.
- **Mandal** and OBC assertion made the middle of the ladder a national political subject.
- Reserved seats, panchayat quotas, and census talk keep caste on the file.

What changed, not vanished

- Srinivas's **dominant caste** entered Vidhan Sabhas. Beteille's asymmetry means ritual rank is not the same as MLA power.
- Dalit parties and Ambedkarite symbols made the bottom a political identity, not only a disability.

Caution

- Caste in politics is not the same as the old jajmani. It is competitive dignity and share.
- Class and religion still cut it. A single caste rarely wins a nation.

Flow diagram

Vote quota -> Caste in politics
Kothari -> Caste in politics
Mandal Dalit parties -> Caste in politics

Conclusion

Caste's political significance has increased because the vote rewards organised ascriptive groups. That is transformation of caste, not proof that sociology should return to Dumont's whole as the state.

Facts & figures

Politicisation of caste

Kothari's thesis that modern politics uses and remakes caste.

Mandal

The moment OBC caste became a national bargaining language.

Dominant caste

Srinivas's local power that scales into party machines.

Ambedkarite parties

Political form of Dalit identity beyond Congress tutelage.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-2/2016/comment-on-the-increasing-significance-of-caste-in-politics/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com