

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(b)

Is industrial development in India a bane or a boon to agrarian class structure ? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Social Classes in India

Social Classes in India: Agrarian class structure; Industrial class structure; Middle classes in India.

Core demand of the question

- Is industrial development in India a bane or a boon to agrarian class structure? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples

Revision summary

Industry linked some peasants to mills, cooperatives and wages.

It displaced others through dams, mines and land take.

A commercial rich-peasant layer grew; labour became migrant and informal.

COVID reverse migration showed the village as fallback.

Boon or bane depends on who keeps land and who only sells cheap labour.

Introduction

Industrial development in India has been both a boon and a bane for agrarian classes. It opened wages and markets for some. It displaced others and recast the village as a labour reserve.

Body

Boon

- Agro-industry, sugar cooperatives in Maharashtra, and milk unions such as AMUL linked kisans to a wider market, a Thorner kisan who is not only a subsistence tiller.
- Factory and construction jobs pulled surplus labour, easing some pressure on tiny holdings.
- Green Revolution inputs and later food processing thickened a commercial rich-peasant layer in Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh.

Bane

- A. R. Desai read industrial-capitalist growth as strengthening rich peasants and capital while leaving mazdoors insecure.
- Dams, steel, and mining displaced Adivasi and small peasants, so national industry was a local land loss.
- Informal industrial labour, visible in COVID reverse migration, showed that the village remains a fallback, not a partner in secure wages.
- Pollution and groundwater collapse in industrial-agrarian belts hit smallholders who cannot buy their way out.

Class structure recast

- Intermediary landlords declined; a rural rich linked to contractors and mills rose.
- Worker-peasants commute. Dominant castes still overlap with land, as Srinivas's insight travels.
- SECC-type deprivation counts show landlessness beside industrial skylines.

Verdict

- It is a boon where industry pays and buys without taking the field.
- It is a bane where industry is enclosure, casual labour, and a poisoned canal.

Flow diagram

Industry -> Wages markets cooperatives

Industry -> Displacement informal labour

Wages markets cooperatives -> Rich peasant

Displacement informal labour -> Worker peasant mazdoor

Conclusion

Industrial development is neither a simple boon nor a simple bane. It transformed agrarian class structure toward commercial farmers and migrant labour. Who wins still follows land, caste, and the terms of displacement.

Facts & figures

AMUL / sugar co-ops

Agrarian-industrial links that strengthened organised kisan producers in some regions.

A. R. Desai

Saw industrial-capitalist path as incomplete for agrarian labour.

COVID reverse migration

Exposed industrial labour's dependence on the village safety net.

Mining displacement

Central Indian cases where industry is a bane to Adivasi agrarian life.