Modern History · GS - I

Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Gandhian mass mobilisation; peasants; workers; women; tribal communities; revolutionary nationalists; socialist groups; business classes; regional leadership; diverse methods of resistance; inclusive nationalism

Model Answer

Introduction

The Gandhian phase of the Indian national movement, beginning with Gandhi's emergence as a national leader in the second decade of the twentieth century, transformed nationalism from a largely elite-led movement into a broad-based mass struggle. Its strength came from the participation of diverse social groups with different grievances, aspirations and methods of resistance.

Body

1. Peasants and Rural Communities

Peasants participated in movements such as Champaran, Kheda and the Bardoli Satyagraha. Their struggles against oppressive revenue demands, exploitation and unjust agricultural arrangements connected local grievances with the larger anti-colonial movement.

2. Industrial Workers

Workers participated in strikes and protests against poor working conditions and low wages. Labour mobilisation expanded the social base of nationalism, although industrial workers' interests sometimes differed from those of business leaders.

3. Women

Women such as Sarojini Naidu, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Aruna Asaf Ali and Kasturba Gandhi participated in demonstrations, picketing, constructive programmes and civil disobedience. Their participation challenged traditional gender roles and broadened the movement's social legitimacy.

4. Tribal Communities

Tribal resistance, including the Rampa rebellion led by Alluri Sitarama Raju, reflected opposition to colonial restrictions, exploitation and interference with traditional livelihoods. Such movements expressed anti-colonial sentiment through region-specific struggles.

5. Revolutionary Nationalists

Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad and other revolutionaries advocated more radical methods. Their activities, writings and sacrifices inspired young people and intensified the demand for complete independence.

6. Socialists and Left-Wing Groups

Socialists and communists brought questions of class exploitation, workers' rights and economic inequality into nationalist debate. Leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose broadened discussions about economic transformation and the nature of independent India.

7. Business Communities and Regional Leaders

Some industrialists supported nationalist activities, while regional leaders adapted mass mobilisation to local conditions. Students, teachers, journalists and religious reformers also spread nationalist ideas.

Conclusion

The Gandhian movement was strengthened by its diversity of participants and methods. Although these groups did not always agree, their combined efforts expanded nationalism's reach, challenged colonial authority and laid foundations for a democratic and socially diverse independent India.

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