Modern History · GS - I

Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Truth; non-violence; ethical politics; Satyagraha; social harmony; sustainable development; decentralisation; individual responsibility

Model Answer

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi’s philosophy combined ethical conduct with social and political transformation. His ideas remain relevant amid violence, social divisions, environmental degradation and declining public trust.

Contemporary Significance

1. **Truth and integrity:** Gandhi’s emphasis on truth encourages transparency, honesty and accountability in public and private life.
2. **Non-violence:** His approach offers alternatives to violence through dialogue, peaceful protest and conflict resolution.
3. **Social harmony:** His opposition to untouchability and discrimination supports equality and inclusive development.
4. **Sustainable living:** Simplicity, restraint and local production offer lessons for addressing consumerism and environmental stress.

5. **Decentralisation:** His vision of village self-reliance and local participation remains relevant to grassroots democracy.
6. **Ethical leadership:** Gandhi's principle of aligning means with ends challenges corruption and the pursuit of success at any cost.
7. **Global relevance:** Satyagraha influenced civil rights and anti-colonial movements worldwide.

Limitations and Adaptation

Gandhian ideas should be applied critically to contemporary conditions, combining non-violence and local empowerment with modern technology, constitutional institutions and scientific progress.

Conclusion

Gandhi's enduring contribution lies in demonstrating that social change must be guided by ethical means. His philosophy remains a valuable framework for a just, peaceful and sustainable society.

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