Modern History · GS - I

Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Integration of princely states, Constitution, democracy, planning, mixed economy, land reforms, IITs, UGC, non-alignment, Panchsheel, decolonisation

Model Answer

Introduction

The early decades after independence were devoted to transforming a politically fragmented and economically impoverished country into a sovereign, democratic and development-oriented republic.

1. Political Consolidation

The integration of over 500 princely states under leaders such as Sardar Patel and V.P. Menon was followed by the Constitution in 1950. Universal adult franchise, parliamentary democracy, independent institutions and linguistic reorganisation of states strengthened political integration.

2. Economic Consolidation

India adopted a mixed economy with public-sector leadership and national planning. The Planning Commission, Five-Year Plans, major infrastructure projects, land reforms and community development programmes sought to overcome colonial economic backwardness and regional disparities.

3. Educational Consolidation

Expansion of universities, establishment of the UGC and creation of institutions such as IITs reflected emphasis on scientific and technical capacity. Education was increasingly viewed as an instrument of nation-building.

4. International Relations

India pursued non-alignment, Panchsheel, anti-colonialism and peaceful coexistence. It played an active role in Afro-Asian solidarity and emerging multilateral institutions.

Conclusion

Thus, political democracy, planned development, institutional education and independent foreign policy operated together as instruments of national consolidation and modernisation.

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