Modern History · GS - I

Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Non-violence; armed struggle; mass mobilisation; political strategy; international alliances; economic vision; nationalist objectives

Model Answer

Introduction

Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi shared the objective of ending British rule but differed significantly in their strategies, methods and views on political mobilisation.

Differences in Approach

Dimension	Mahatma Gandhi	Subhash Chandra Bose
Principal method	Non-violent mass struggle	Armed resistance alongside political mobilisation
British rule	Sought to weaken it through satyagraha and civil disobedience	Favoured decisive action to overthrow colonial rule
Mass mobilisation	Mobilised peasants, workers, women and other social groups through non-violent movements	Mobilised nationalist supporters and sought to organise military resistance

Dimension	Mahatma Gandhi	Subhash Chandra Bose
International strategy	Emphasised moral pressure and global public opinion	Sought foreign assistance, including from Britain's wartime enemies
Political organisation	Led Congress through mass movements and constructive programmes	Founded the Forward Bloc after differences within Congress
Economic vision	Favoured village industries, decentralisation and self-reliance	Favoured industrialisation, planning and a strong modern state

Areas of Convergence

Both leaders opposed imperialism, promoted national unity and accepted the need for social and economic transformation. Neither viewed independence as merely a transfer of administrative authority.

Assessment

Gandhi's movements generated mass participation and moral legitimacy, while Bose's Indian National Army challenged British military authority and inspired nationalist sentiment. Bose's wartime alliances also involved difficult strategic and ethical questions.

Conclusion

Their approaches differed, but both contributed to the weakening of colonial rule and strengthened the determination for Indian independence.

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