Modern History · GS - I

What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Compare Gandhi's education rooted in productive work, self-reliance and mass emancipation with Tagore's emphasis on creativity, nature and universal humanism; contrast their approaches to nationalism while recognising their shared opposition to colonial domination and commitment to human freedom.

Model Answer

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore were influential thinkers who sought India's regeneration through education and cultural awakening. However, their approaches differed significantly in emphasis.

Body

Approach to Education

Gandhi proposed **Nai Talim**, linking education with productive handicrafts, manual work, self-reliance and moral development. He viewed education as an instrument for empowering the masses and overcoming social and economic inequalities.

Tagore established **Visva-Bharati** based on creativity, freedom of thought, learning in harmony with nature and interaction between Indian and global cultures. He opposed rigid classroom structures and emphasised artistic and

intellectual development.

Approach to Nationalism

Gandhi considered nationalism a means of achieving freedom and mobilising ordinary Indians through non-violence, swadeshi and constructive work. His nationalism was mass-based but ethically restrained.

Tagore was critical of aggressive and exclusive nationalism. He emphasised **universal humanism**, believing that national identity should not undermine humanity's broader unity. He criticised nationalism when it became mechanical, materialistic or imperialistic.

Conclusion

Thus, Gandhi prioritised **self-reliant national reconstruction and mass mobilisation**, whereas Tagore emphasised **creative education, cultural synthesis and universal humanism**. Despite differences, both sought India's freedom and human regeneration through ethical means.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP