Modern History · GS - I

Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Khadi and Swadeshi, national education, Hindu-Muslim unity, Salt Satyagraha, removal of untouchability, village industries, women's participation, self-reliance and Swaraj.

Model Answer

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi considered constructive programmes essential to Swaraj. Alongside political resistance, he sought social transformation through self-reliance, communal harmony and the removal of inequalities.

During the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22)

- **Khadi and Swadeshi:** Promoted spinning, indigenous textiles and the boycott of foreign cloth to challenge colonial economic dependence.
- **National education:** Encouraged alternatives to colonial educational institutions, including Gujarat Vidyapith and Jamia Millia Islamia.
- **Hindu-Muslim unity:** Cooperation with the Khilafat movement broadened anti-colonial mobilisation.
- **Boycott of colonial institutions:** Encouraged withdrawal from government schools, courts and titles.
- **Social reform:** Emphasised the removal of untouchability and the promotion of social equality.

During the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930–34)

- **Salt Satyagraha:** The Dandi March challenged the salt tax and mobilised ordinary citizens against colonial authority.
- **Village industries:** Spinning, handicrafts and local production were promoted to strengthen rural livelihoods.
- **Women's participation:** Women joined salt-making, peaceful picketing and the boycott of foreign goods.
- **Village reconstruction:** Gandhi emphasised sanitation, basic education, local cooperation and economic decentralisation.
- **Social equality:** Campaigns against untouchability continued alongside civil resistance.

Significance

Constructive work connected nationalism with everyday life, expanded popular participation and promoted economic self-reliance. It complemented political resistance with a programme of social regeneration.

Conclusion

Gandhi's constructive programmes linked the struggle for political freedom with social justice, village development and ethical public life, giving the national movement a broader transformative vision.

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