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Q5

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

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · GS I · 12 marks · The Freedom Struggle

The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country.

Core demand of the question

- Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom
- Cover means, mass base, wartime choice, social programme, and the goal of swaraj
- Keep the explanation within a 12.5-mark length

Revision summary

Gandhi made ahimsa and constructive village work the method of swaraj.

Bose built the Forward Bloc and the INA and allied with the Axis to attack British power.

- **Wartime choice is the sharpest split:** moral refusal versus using Britain's enemy.

Gandhi's social base was rural satyagraha; Bose's was army, youth, and a provisional government.

Both wanted the Raj to end; they disagreed on the cost and the kind of state that should follow.

Flow diagram

Gandhi -> Satyagraha khadi village

Bose -> Forward Bloc INA Azad Hind

Satyagraha khadi village -> Independence

Forward Bloc INA Azad Hind -> Independence

World War II -> Gandhi

World War II -> Bose

Conclusion

- Highlight differences of means and wartime alliance first, then social vision, so the answer does not become a score-sheet of patriotism.
- **Note overlap:** both mobilised beyond the old Moderate petition, and INA trials later fed the same nationalist public that Gandhi had already awakened.

Gandhi sought freedom through non-violent mass suffering and village reconstruction; Bose sought it through organised force and a wartime strike at the Raj. The two approaches divided

the road, not the destination of an independent India.

Facts & figures

Tripuri, 1939

Congress crisis after Bose's re-election as president; he resigned and later formed the Forward Bloc.

Forward Bloc, 1939

Party Bose used to gather left and militant nationalists inside and beside the Congress tradition.

Azad Hind, 1943

Provisional Government of Free India proclaimed by Bose in Singapore, with the INA as its army.

Rani of Jhansi Regiment

Women's INA unit that embodied Bose's willingness to put women in combat roles.

Quit India, 1942

Gandhian mass revolt while Bose was already on the path of foreign-aided armed struggle.

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