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Q3

Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · GS I · 10 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

- Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of **Mahatma Gandhi** in the present times
- Link **satyagraha**, swaraj, **trusteeship**, and communal peace to current public problems
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Satyagraha still judges how protest and power use violence and hate.

Swaraj and **Antyodaya** still test whether growth reaches the last person.

Trusteeship and village industry speak to inequality and jobless growth.

The fight against untouchability is unfinished in atrocity and scavenging.

The Constitution and law must carry **Gandhi's** ethic into a modern state.

Flow diagram

Gandhi -> Satyagraha means

Gandhi -> Swaraj village last person

Gandhi -> Communal unity

Satyagraha means -> Present politics

Swaraj village last person -> Present politics

Communal unity -> Present politics

Conclusion

- Use **satyagraha** as non-violent civic action, **trusteeship** as corporate and public duty, and swaraj as local self-rule inside a constitutional republic.
- Teach **Gandhi** as a living method for peace, sanitation, and the poor, not only as a national anniversary.

Gandhi still matters because India still faces communal heat, caste hurt, and a growth path that can forget the last person. His thoughts stay useful when they shape means, not when they are reduced to a portrait.

Facts & figures

Hind Swaraj, 1909

Gandhi's text that criticised modern industrial civilisation and set out swaraj as moral self-rule.

Satyagraha

Non-violent insistence on truth, used from Champaran and Kheda to the Salt March.

Constructive programme

Village work on khadi, sanitation, basic education, and Hindu-Muslim unity besides civil disobedience.

Trusteeship

Gandhi's idea that wealth is held in trust for society, not as unlimited private right.

Antyodaya

The test of policy by the welfare of the last and weakest person.

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