

For Mahatma Gandhi, nationalism was based on a practical understanding of what was required for people to be free from clutches of British rule. Justify.

Mahatma Gandhi is the symbol, soul of India's nationalistic movement. It was his arrival from South Africa, that marked the watershed event in history of Independence struggle. He became the leader of the masses, motivating them with his ideals of just, equal, nonviolent, society.

IDEALS OF GANDHIAN NATIONALISM

Late 18th century India was burdened with acts of slavery, subordination in economic, political, social arena by colonial masters. Very few leaders enlightened the 'ECONOMIC DRAIN THEORY' which did not capture the masses. Creation of nationalistic ideas by Gandhi was based on

- 1) Satyagraha, non-violence
- 2) Elimination of social evils
- 3) Women upliftment
- 4) Realisation of self dignity
- 5) Unity in Diversity
- 6) Fundamental rights

→ Gandhi taught principles of satyagraha through civil disobedience, noncooperation in CHAMPARAN, AHMEDABAD, KHEDA Satyagraha in 1917, 1918. It was to later shape the NM of 1920 and CDM of 1930.

→ India's backwardness was due to caste based social stratification. Gandhi realized it being exploited by Britishers. He associated himself with HARJANS, participated in Self Respect, Temple entry movements. This made people of India ^{realize} that colonial masters were exploiting irrespective of religion, not on caste.

- Mahatma Gandhi fought for women's rights, their education, dignity. Women, the family makers, he made them believe of potential. eg: Sarojini Naidu led salt march campaign post arrests. women secret societies kept spirit of nationalism
- First step of self independence was to inculcate self dignity and confidence to lead the country towards democracy. Thus, Gandhi called for 'atma shakti' principles seen in non cooperation movement in form of regional revolts, individual satyagraha.
- United country is the basement for strong nation. Gandhi vowed for Hindu-Muslim unity in 1917 Lucknow pact, 1929 Karachi session, Cabinet mission
- Fundamental rights reform western nationalism had helped topple monarchs, inequity. Gandhi first enunciated his 14 Fundamental rights as part of Karachi congress session. This was adopted in Nehru report which went on to get adapted by our Indian Constitution

Thus Mahatma Gandhi remains to be seen as a man ahead of his times, who took calculated approach of social, political liberation from British rule considering the safety of future democratic, united India.