



Mains Practice Question

Q. Compare and contrast the contributions of Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Patel to India's independence and nation-building. (150 words)

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Approach

- Introduce the answer by briefing about Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Highlight their Contributions to India's Independence
- Highlight their Contributions to Nation-Building
- Give key similarities and differences
- Conclude by summing up the key points.

Introduction

Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were two stalwarts of India's freedom struggle, each contributing uniquely to the cause of independence and post-independence nation-building.

- While Bose adopted a radical approach, seeking external military support to overthrow British rule, **Patel followed a pragmatic strategy**, strengthening the internal movement under the Congress's leadership.

Body

Contributions to India's Independence

- **Subhas Chandra Bose**
 - **Revolutionary Nationalism:** Bose believed in armed struggle as the path to independence.
 - He formed the **Indian National Army (INA)** and sought Axis powers' assistance to expel the British from India.
 - **Azad Hind Government:** Established the **Provisional Government of Free India** in 1943 in Singapore, gaining recognition from several countries.
 - **Disillusionment with Congress's Moderation:** Disagreed with the Congress leadership's approach, particularly with Gandhi and Patel, **leading to his resignation from the Congress presidency in 1939.**
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**
 - **Non-Violent Resistance:** As a close associate of Gandhi, Patel adhered to **non-violent civil disobedience** and played a leading role in movements like the **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)**, which enhanced mass participation in the struggle.
 - **Role in Quit India Movement:** A key leader in the **Quit India Movement (1942)**, **Patel's organizational ability** ensured widespread protests despite Congress leaders' arrests.
 - **Congress Leadership and Pragmatism:** Unlike Bose, Patel preferred **negotiation and political organization**, strengthening the Congress's hold over Indian politics.

Contributions to Nation-Building

- **Subhas Chandra Bose**
 - **Economic Vision:** Advocated for **socialist planning** and industrialization, proposing a **strong state role in economic development** similar to Nehru's approach.
 - **Secularism and Social Unity:** Emphasized **Hindu-Muslim unity** and condemned communal politics, denouncing organizations like the Hindu Mahasabha as divisive forces.
 - **Rousing Patriotism:** His ideology and slogans, such as "**Give me blood, and I will give you freedom,**" instilled a militant form of nationalism that inspired later generations.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**
 - **Integration of Princely States:** Patel played a decisive role in unifying over **560 princely states**, using a mix of persuasion and force (e.g., **Hyderabad Police Action, 1948** and **annexation of Junagadh**).
 - **Strengthening Civil Services:** Played a pivotal role in establishing the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** and **Indian Police Service (IPS)**, recognizing their importance in governance and stability.
 - **Focus on Private Enterprise:** Unlike Bose's socialist inclination, Patel was more **sympathetic to private enterprise**, advocating economic policies that balanced state control with free-market principles.

Differences Between Bose and Patel:

Aspect	Subhas Chandra Bose	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Approach to Freedom Struggle	Advocated armed resistance against British rule	Believed in non-violent civil disobedience under Gandhi's leadership
Relations with Congress	Clashed with Congress leadership; resigned as party president in 1939	One of Congress's strongest leaders, played a key role in decision-making
View on Governance	Favored a strong central government with socialist planning	Supported democratic governance with administrative decentralization
Economic Philosophy	Advocated state-led economic planning and rapid industrialization	Preferred a mixed economy with private enterprise playing a key role

Conclusion

Modern India can draw lessons from both leaders: **Bose's vision of economic self-reliance** and patriotism combined with **Patel's pragmatism in governance** and unity can serve as a roadmap for a **strong, self-sufficient, and inclusive India**.