

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2017 · 10 marks

According to Sri Aurobindo, Swaraj is a necessary condition for India to accomplish its destined goal. Comment in 150 words.

FLOW SNAPSHOT — how the answer moves

Intro routes

R1 Swaraj not an end in itself → complete independence → precondition for India's spiritual destiny

R2 foreign rule blocks a nation's natural growth → India as Mother in chains → freedom to recover selfhood

Body flow

alien rule obstructs growth + individuality → good government ≠ self-government → destiny larger than freedom → recover individuality + revive *Sanatana Dharma* + guide humanity → national regeneration → universal regeneration → **Heehs**: freedom the indispensable condition for India's world-role

Counter-view

spiritual-Hindu vocabulary risky in a plural society → thin on concrete social/economic reform

Conclusion routes

R1 nation in chains cannot fulfil a spiritual mission → Swaraj the necessary first step to destiny

R2 freedom the gateway, not the goal → Swaraj's worth lies in the destiny it enables

For Sri Anubindo, Swaraj was never an end in itself. It meant complete independence, not minor reforms or seats in the bureaucracy. It mattered because India has a destined spiritual role that foreign rule blocked.

He held that alien rule obstructs the natural growth and individuality of a nation. India, the Mother in chains, was deprived of her selfhood by colonial domination; good government could not replace self-government.

India's destined goal was larger than its own freedom. Swaraj would cleanse India of European pollution, restore its old national individuality, revive Sanatana Dharma and let India guide humanity spiritually. National regeneration would prepare universal regeneration. As Peter Heehs notes, freedom was "the indispensable condition for India to guide the world if it re-awakened to its spiritual greatness."

Critics find this spiritual framing Hindu-centric and weak on concrete social reform. Yet for Aurobindo the logic held: a nation in chains cannot fulfil a spiritual mission, so Swaraj is the necessary first step towards India's destiny.