



77th Anniversary of Quit India movement

The 77th anniversary of the **August Kranti Din**, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, was observed on **August 8, 2019**.

- On 8th August 1942, **Mahatma Gandhi** gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the **Quit India Movement** at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- The movement had begun from Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai and the day is observed as August Kranti Day every year.
 - After the failure of the **Cripps Mission**, Gandhiji gave the call **“Do or Die”** in his speech delivered at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan**, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan.
- Gandhiji was soon imprisoned at **Aga Khan Palace in Pune** and almost all leaders were arrested.
- New leaders like **Aruna Asaf Ali** emerged out of the vacuum of leadership.
- The Britishers declared the INC to be an **unlawful association**.
- Over 100000 people were arrested and the **government resorted to violence** in order to crush the agitation.
- Gandhiji was released in 1944 on health grounds. However, in the absence of any central leadership, there were **some incidences of violence**.
- **Muslim League, the Communist Party of India and the Hindu Mahasabha did not support the movement**. The Indian bureaucracy also did not support the movement.
 - The League was not in favour of the British leaving India without partitioning the country first.
 - The Communist party supported the British since they were allied with the Soviet Union.
- Meanwhile, Subhas Chandra Bose, organised the **Indian National Army** and the Azad Hind government from outside the country.
- As, **C Rajagopalachari** was not in favour of complete independence he resigned from the INC.
- There were **strikes and demonstrations** all over the country and workers provided the support by not working in the factories.
- At some places (Ballia, Tamluk, Satara etc.) **parallel governments** were also set up.
- Women took active participation in the movement. Female leaders like **Usha Mehta** has helped set up an underground radio station which led to the awakening about the movement.
- **Aruna Asaf Ali** popularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady' of the Independence Movement is known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.
- While the Quit India campaign was **crushed in 1944**, with the British refusing to grant immediate independence, saying it could happen only after the war had ended, they came to the important realization that **India was ungovernable in the long run** due to the cost of World War II.

Cripps Mission

- **Japanese aggression** in South-East Asia, keenness of British Government to secure the **full participation of India in the war**, mounting **pressure from China and the United States**, as well as from the **Labour Party** in Britain, led British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** to send Cripps Mission to India in March 1942.
- Under Stafford Cripps, the mission was sent to **resolve the Indian question of a new constitution and self-government**.
- **Main proposals** of the mission were:

- An Indian Union with a **dominion status** would be set up; it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies.
- **A constituent assembly** would be convened after the war to frame a new constitution.
- Members of the assembly **partly elected** by the provincial assemblies and partly nominated by the princes.
- Any province not willing to accept the constitution would be given **'the same full status as the Indian Union'**, - designed to appease the Muslim League's call for Pakistan.
- The constitution making body and the British Government would negotiate a **treaty to effect the transfer of power** and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
- The Indian National Congress, however, was not satisfied as its **demand for immediate complete independence had been rejected**.
- Mahatma Gandhi said that Cripps offer of Dominion Status after the war was a **"post-dated cheque drawn on a failing bank"**.

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