

Commemoration of Quit India Movement - 8 August

8 August 2023 marks the 81st anniversary of Quit India Movement, the historic event to end the British colonial rule in India.



The Quit India Movement, also known as Bharat Chodo Andolan was launched by the All India Congress Committee and led by Mahatma Gandhi. This was a mass movement towards India's struggle for independence. Since it was started on 8 August 1942, it is also known as the August Kranti Movement.

Quit India Movement day is observed every year on 8 August. Mahatma Gandhi delivered his famous speech "Do or Die" during the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee (INC) on 8 August 1942.

In the following article, we will discuss the history, causes and outcome of the Quit India Movement. We will also discuss what happened on Quit India Movement Day 2023.

History of the Quit India Movement

After the British failed to obtain Indian support for the British war effort through the Cripps Mission, Gandhi issued an appeal to Do or Die at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay on August 9, 1942. The All India Congress Committee organized a huge protest, calling for 'an orderly British withdrawal' from India.

During the Quit India Movement, various violent incidents took place against the British regime. Numerous nationwide rallies and strikes were a part of the movement. One of the first widespread active participation in the movement came from individuals in India. Around Tens of thousands of leaders were detained by the British and held in prison until 1945. The liberation of imprisoned freedom fighters marked the end of the movement in 1945. Mukunda Kakati, Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Barua, Kushal Konwar, Bhogeswari Phukanani, and others were martyrs in this freedom movement.

What caused the Quit India Movement?

The Cripps' March Mission (1942) and its failure influenced Gandhi's demand for The Quit India Movement. The Cripps' March Mission (1942) and its failure influenced Gandhi's demand for The Quit India Movement. A draft declaration of the British Government was given, which included elements such as the foundation of a Dominion, the formation of a Constituent Assembly, and the right of provinces to form independent constitutions. In response, Gandhi ji stated, 'It is a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank.'

Other factors were the threat of Japanese invasion in India and the national leaders' realization of the British inability to defend India. By 1939, India's north and east borders were being advanced upon by Japan, one of the Axis Powers that fought alongside the British against them in the Second World War. The communities of South-East Asia that the British had deserted were left in a perilous condition. This action did not instill much faith in the Indian public since they had doubts about the British government's ability to defend India against Axis attack.

Opposition to the Quit India Movement

It was opposed by a number of political organizations involved in the Indian Independence Movement. Hindu nationalist organizations, like the Hindu Mahasabha, publicly condemned and boycotted the Quit India Movement. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, the leader of the Hindu Mahasabha in Bengal, addressed a letter to the British Government outlining how they should react if the Congress called for the British rulers to leave India after the Hindu Mahasabha officially decided to boycott the Quit India movement. The princely states also opposed the movement and supported the opposition.

Outcome of the Quit India Movement

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Over 100,000 people who participated in the movement were arrested. Hundreds of civilians were killed. When World War II was nearly over, the Labour Party of the United Kingdom won elections on the promise of granting India independence. Political prisoners who had been imprisoned were released in 1945. One of the movement's most significant accomplishments was keeping the Congress party unified through all of the subsequent difficulties and tribulations.

Quit India Movement Day 2023

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to those who took part in the Quit India Movement on 9 August 2023. He took to X (formerly known as Twitter), and said 'Tributes to the great who took part in the Quit India Movement. Under the leadership of Gandhi ji, this movement played a major role in freeing India from colonial rule. Today, India is saying in one voice: Corruption Quit India. Dynasty Quit India. Appeasement Quit India.'



Narendra Modi 
@narendramodi

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BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad reacted to PM Modi's tweet and said, 'Rampant family rule in politics quit India, stinking corruption quit India, appeasement politics quit India. If the democratic fabric of the country is to be safeguarded these ills- family rule, and corruption have to quit India', as quoted by a news agency ANI.

While addressing a press conference, Ravi Shankar Prasad spoke about several scams that took place during Congress-led UPA regime at the Centre. He talked about the three ills (dynasty politics, corruption, and appeasement politics) which must quit for the betterment of the country. He also said, "For the sake of India, its security, integrity, it is very important that these three ills, namely blatant family rule, corruption, and shameful appeasement must quit India".

One week before Indian Independence Day (15 August) is Quit India Movement Day, therefore Indians celebrate both of these holidays with great enthusiasm. The day honors the sense of patriotism that each and every citizen of the nation has, and there is no specific topic for Quit India Movement Day celebrations.

Important Facts About the Quit India Movement

- One of the congress leaders, Yusuf Meherally coined the phrase "Quit India". He also coined the famous slogan "Simon Go Back".
- Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady', 'Heroine of 1942 Quit India Movement', 'Queen of the August Resolution' hoisted the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement. It was the first time an Indian tricolor flag hoisted in public.
- The mantra of the famous "Do or Die" speech: We shall either free India or die in the attempt; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery. This speech influenced thousands of people to take part in the movement.

In 1992, the Reserve Bank of India, central bank of India, released a one-rupee coin to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.