

Quit India Movement - 1942

1. Introduction

- The Quit India Movement was a major campaign for India's independence from British rule.
- Launched by Mahatma Gandhi on August 8, 1942, at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee.
- It was a call for immediate independence and mass nonviolent resistance.

2. Causes

- British failure to grant India self-rule despite Indian support in World War II.
- Cripps Mission (1942) failed to offer a satisfactory political framework for Indian independence.
- Growing frustration among Indians due to economic hardships and British policies.

3. Course of the Movement

- Gandhi's slogan: "Do or Die" urged Indians to act decisively.
- The British swiftly arrested top Congress leaders, including Gandhi, Nehru, and Patel.
- Protests erupted across India, leading to strikes, sabotage, and parallel governments in some regions.
- Violent clashes occurred as the British suppressed the movement through arrests, shootings, and censorship.

4. Impact and Consequences

- Despite heavy repression, the movement showcased India's determination for independence.
- Created unity among different sections of society.
- Strengthened the resolve of Indians against colonial rule.
- Though unsuccessful immediately, it set the stage for India's eventual independence in 1947.

5. Significance

- Marked the last major mass movement against British rule.
- Showed the effectiveness of mass mobilization and civil disobedience.
- Weakened British control and highlighted their inability to govern India without force.
- Laid the foundation for post-war negotiations that led to independence.