



Quit India Movement Day

Why in News?

India celebrates **8th August** every year as **Quit India Movement Day**, also known as **August Kranti Diwas**, to commemorate the [Quit India Movement \(QIM\)](#), which demanded the immediate end of British rule in India.

- The **QIM (August Kranti)** was officially launched at **Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay (now Mumbai) Maharashtra**.

Quit India Movement

- **Launch:** By [Mahatma Gandhi](#) on **8th August 1942** to demand the immediate end of British rule following the failure of the **Cripps Mission**.
- **Gandhi's Call:** Gandhi gave the powerful call of **"Do or Die"** at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan** (now August Kranti Maidan).
- **Slogan and Symbolism:** The slogan **"Quit India"** was coined by **Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist from Mumbai, who had also created the earlier slogan **"Simon Go Back."**
 - During the movement, **Aruna Asaf Ali** hoisted the **Indian flag** at **Gowalia Tank Maidan** as a symbol of defiance.
- **Rise of New Leaders:** New leaders like [Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia](#), [Jayaprakash Narayan](#) rose to prominence during this movement.
 - Women also played a significant role, leading protests and sacrificing their lives, such as **Matangini Hazra**, who died with the Tricolour in hand, and [Sucheta Kripalani](#), who later became **India's first female Chief Minister (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- **Nature of the QIM:** The QIM was distinct from earlier peaceful protests like [Non-Cooperation](#) and **Civil Disobedience**, as it was a mass uprising demanding the complete withdrawal of British rule.
 - The movement had elements of **violence in self-defense** and spontaneous actions like **sabotage and guerrilla attacks against British properties**.
 - The **Muslim community** largely stayed absent from the QIM, it was seen as a **Hindu nationalist cause**, highlighting the growing communal divide and the [Muslim League's](#) push for a separate state.

Events that Led to the Quit India Movement

- **Impact of World War II (1939-1945):** Britain involved India in [World War II](#) without consulting Indian leaders, causing widespread anger.
- **Failure of the Cripps Mission (March 1942):** The Cripps Mission was sent by the British in March 1942 to secure **India's support in World War II** and resolve the political crisis.
 - **Stafford Cripps** proposed granting **India dominion status after the war**, with a **Constituent Assembly** where provinces and princely states could opt out.
 - Gandhi called it a **"post-dated cheque on a crashing bank"**.
- **Nationalist Sentiment and Economic Hardships:** Due to Wartime exploitation and famines.
- **Fall of Burma (1942):** The **Japanese invasion of Burma** brought the war to India's doorstep, heightening invasion fears and urgency for British withdrawal.

- Meanwhile, [Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose](#) formation of the **Indian National Army** intensified the fight for independence.
- **Mahatma Gandhi's Leadership:** Facing rising demands for independence, Gandhi launched the Quit India call, declaring, "**We shall either free India or die in the attempt.**"
 - On **8th August 1942** the All-India Congress Committee passed the Quit India Resolution, urging non-violent mass resistance.

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