

Lecture-36



Quit India Movement

- **Causes:**

- The **immediate cause** for the movement was the **collapse of Cripps Mission**.
- The British assumption of unconditional support from India to British in **World War II** was not taken well by the **Indian National Congress**.
- The anti-British sentiments and demand for full-independence had gained popularity among Indian masses.
- The two decades of mass movement which were being conducted on a much more radical tone under the leadership of the various associated and affiliated bodies of the Congress, like **All India Kisan Sabha, Forward Bloc** etc. had already **prepared the ground** for the movement.
- There were **militant outbursts** happening at several places in the country which got channelized with the Quit India Movement.
- The **economy was also in shatters** as a result of World War II.

- **Demands**

- The demand was to end the British rule in India with immediate effect to get the cooperation of Indians in World War-II against fascism.
- There was a demand to form a **provisional government** after the withdrawal of the Britishers.

- **Phases:** The movement had three phases

- **First Phase** urban revolt, marked by strikes, boycott and picketing, which were quickly suppressed.

- There were **strikes and demonstrations** all over the country and workers provided the support by not working in the factories.
- Gandhiji was soon imprisoned at **Aga Khan Palace in Pune** and almost all leaders were arrested.
- In the **second phase**, the focus shifted to the **countryside**, which witnessed a major **peasant rebellion**, marked by **destruction of communication systems**, such as railway tracks and stations, telegraph wires and poles, **attacks** on government buildings or any other visible symbol of colonial authority.
- The **last phase** witnessed the formation of **national governments or parallel governments** isolated pockets (Ballia, Tamruk, Satara etc.)
- **Spontaneous Violence:** The movement saw **violence** at some places which was not premeditated.
- **Future Leaders:** Underground activities were taken by leaders that included **Ram Manohar Lohia, J.P. Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Biju Patnaik, Sucheta Kriplani**, etc which later emerged as prominent leaders.
- **Women Participation:** Women took active participation in the movement. Female leaders like **Usha Mehta** helped set up an underground radio station which led to the awakening about the movement.
- **Support:**
 - **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.

- The **Hindu Mahasabha** openly opposed the call for the **Quit India Movement** and boycotted it officially under the apprehension that the movement would create internal disorder and will endanger internal security during the war.
- 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.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION:

1. Who among the following headed the Quit India Movement in Satara?

- A. Nana Patil
- B. Nana Saheb
- C. Satish Samanta
- D. KT Bhashyam

Ans: A

2. Which of the following freedom fighter was taken as a prisoner of war by the Japanese and persuaded by a Japanese army officer to work with the Japanese for India's freedom?

- A. Laxmi Sehgal
- B. Captain Mohan Singh
- C. Subhash Chandra Bose
- D. Rashbehari Bose

Ans: B

3. Which of the following freedom fighter was not part of Quit India Movement?

- A. MK Gandhi
- B. Sukh Dev
- C. Bhagat Singh

D. Ram Mohan Roy

Ans: D

4. Who was elected as the president of the Indian Independence League (formed in March 1942) in June 1942?

A. Rashbehari Bose

B. Aurovindo Gosh

C. Subhash Chandra Bose

D. None of the above

Ans: A

5. Which of the following leader is not associated with the underground movement and revolutionary activities in support of Quit India Movement?

A. Ram manohar Lohia

B. Jayprakash Narayan

C. Aruna Asaf Ali

D. RP Goenka

Ans: B