Modern History · GS - I

What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Second World War, August Offer, Individual Satyagraha, Cripps Mission, failure of negotiations, Japanese advance, economic hardship, Do or Die, mass uprising, parallel governments, repression, underground movement, independence

Model Answer

Introduction

The Quit India Movement of August 1942 emerged from the convergence of wartime political tensions, the failure of constitutional negotiations and growing public impatience with British rule.

Events Leading to the Movement

1. **World War II:** Britain involved India in the war without consulting Indian political leadership.
2. **August Offer (1940):** Its proposals failed to satisfy Congress demands for meaningful self-government.
3. **Individual Satyagraha (1940–41):** It demonstrated continuing nationalist opposition to colonial rule.
4. **Cripps Mission (1942):** Its failure to offer immediate transfer of effective power disappointed Indian leaders.
5. **Japanese advance:** Japanese victories in Southeast Asia created an atmosphere of insecurity and strengthened demands for an immediate political settlement.
6. **Economic hardship:** Wartime inflation, shortages and social distress intensified popular discontent.

Results

1. Gandhi gave the call of **“Do or Die”**, triggering widespread protests.
2. Despite mass arrests and severe repression, strikes, demonstrations and underground activities continued.
3. Parallel governments emerged in some areas, demonstrating local political mobilisation.
4. The movement was suppressed militarily, but it demonstrated the declining legitimacy of British rule.
5. It convinced the British that governing India without Indian cooperation was increasingly difficult and strengthened the political momentum towards independence.

Conclusion

Although the movement did not immediately secure independence, it became a decisive expression of India's determination to end colonial rule.

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