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## A REMINISCENCE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

**H B Kenchall**

Assistant Professor ,Priyadarshni First Grade College Rattihalli, Dist- Haveri.

**Abstract:-**As we all know the saying “Rome was not built in a day” likewise the same saying holds good for the Indian Independence on 15th August, 1947. In this perspective the “Quit India” Movement of 1942 frame a milestone for the prolonged Indian freedom struggle. When the Crips compromise of 1942 failed bring about the compromise between the Indian freedom Leaders and British government, Mahatma Gandhi awakened and encouraged the Indians by advising two worded slogan “Quit India” also called as “Chale Jaav” Struggle.

**Keywords:** Quit India ,accrue self leadership and voluntarily participate .

### INTRODUCTION

The Executive Congress Committee called upon a meeting on 14th July, 1942 to discuss about the policy to be adopted in case British Government rejects the appeal of Indians and came to a decision. All India Congress Committee organized a meeting at Gavalia Lake in Mumbai on 7th and 8th August, 1942 and declared a stern decision for uprooting the British out of India. On this occasion Mahatma Gandhi in his address called slogans on British to “Quit India”. Further he also appealed every patriotic Indian to accrue self leadership and voluntarily participate in peace struggle. Mahatma Gandhi’s awakening messages electrified the people of the nation.

Soon the British Government became alert and arrested Mahatma Gandhi on 09-08-1942 and jailed him in Aghakhan Palace in Pune, whilst the remaining Congress leaders were taken into custody and sent to prison. Further the British Government declared that Congress Committees as illegal Organizations. It declared that meetings, celebrations and processions cannot be organized. In case they engage in meetings, celebrations and processions they were bludgeoned, if situation seems beyond control they used to shoot at people to scatter them. As the freedom fighters lacked guiding leaders they publically violated the laws and turned out to be disobedient towards the officers. The freedom fighters with the belief attacking the democratic official places would be a better choice starting seizing offices, attacking police stations, hindering government activities, destroying road transportation and other activities. Kishorilal Mashrowala one of the followers of Mahatma Gandhi in his article “Harijan” stated “Fighters under nonviolence principles are free to revolt” which further added spirit to the freedom fighters. The prominent personalities who attended the Mumbai Congress Committee meeting from Karnataka were Shri Channappa Ambli, R.R. Diwakar, R.S. Hukkerikar, M.P. Patil, D.P. Karmarkar, Veeranagoudra Patil etc. The struggle was designed on the basis of the article written in the “Harijan” by Kishorilal Mashrowala. Further the circular instructing about the tasks to be carriedout by the members of the committee was circulated to various centres in Karnataka. Permission to publically violate the laws along with hampering the government activities was accrued. Regional congress, which had close contact with the secret office of the All India Congress Committee used to report the activities and happenings in their region. Further, the All India Congress Committee instructed the freedom fighters to stick to nonviolence and not to harm the common people and not to destroy the property.

So started struggle in 09-08-1942 propagated throughout the nation and took a vivid shape at different regions. At the initiation of the struggle administration was adversely affected. Various government offices were taken into custody which resulted in firing and few of them lost their lives. At some regions the struggle was so ferocious that the British reign temporarily disappeared.

As per government reports an approximate of 319 railway stations was burnt into ashes. 945 Post offices were attacked. The destruction of railway stations resulted in a loss of 6.50 Lakhs whilst cutting-off the cables of the

Post Offices resulted in a loss of Rs. 11,282.00. These incidences affected the Second World War at Europe. Whilst on other hand this struggle was turned out to be fearless revolt. According to the government reports, the Military and Police force killed 1028 people by firing; over 3000 people were injured and above 60000 people were prisoned. The Police force was so brutal that freedom fighters estimate that over 10000 people were killed in the struggle. Despite of this the struggle continued consistently till February 1943 and later the struggle completely ended with the release of Mahatma Gandhi in 1944. Further the Police bludgeon at Bangalore killed 156 people, a boy was killed at Hubli. As the Esuru village of Shimoga District declared themselves as independent village by killing the government officer, six people including one woman was sentenced to death and several villagers were pushed to jail. During this period Mailara Mahadevappa, Veerayya Hiremath and Hosaratti of Haveri district were assassinated in the weekly loot case. Whilst Timmanagoudar of Menisinal was receive severe injuries and died in the Kuppeaalur weekly loot case. Likewise, second level leaders, common people, students of colleges and schools, lawyers, labours and others countrywide voluntarily participated in the freedom struggle. The government imposed police force to preserve the law and order by avoiding people gatherings. Whilst plans adopted by the freedom fighters to hamper the government activities was effective and was very impediment to the government. Moreover jumping of the youths to the calls of the leaders attained immense force. 34 Public Restrooms of the government officials were attacked and destroyed by the fighters and also the important documents stored here were also burnt into ashes. Therefore the government strictly instructed the Village accountant to take initiatives to preserve and safeguard the documents. The situation was so grim that even the policemen did not dare to walk alone on petrol. The defense mechanism was adversely affected and small outpost police stations situated in the rural areas was closed.

The freedom fighters targeted and attacked the liquor and arrack shops and stopped the flow of income to the government. The teak timber yards at Ganganavalli, Hattikeri and Sirsi of Uttara Kannada district were struck fire which resulted in the huge loss. Some of the incidents that took place during 1942-1943 Quit India movement are hereby demonstrated.

The Government had announced a reward of Rs. 250 and Rs. 5000 for those who provide the information about the freedom fighters. But none of the patriotic citizens came forward to provide the information about the protestors. A total penalty of Rs. 3,36,000 was imposed on the protestors of which Rs. 1 lakhs penalty was imposed for setting fire to the Post Office and Sub-Registrar's office at Nippani. As curfew was imposed the newspapers could not publically broadcast the news. But still the newspapers managed to secretly broadcast the news to the protestors through handwritten scripts, typewriting and cyclostyling.

Pragmatically, the total population immaterial of gender whether male or female, Caste and religion, Young and old, town and city participated in the protest without any discrimination.

#### **REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT**

The unity among the citizens and participation of all class of people immaterial of caste discrimination was the important feature of the struggle. The struggle had attained total integrity from top to bottom. The Senior and elderly leaders stood and guided whilst the youths gathered and sincerely exhibited the patriotism. Further the youths exhibited immense bravery and valour by protesting in their respective areas. Above all the protestants completely gave-up violence and inculcated non-violent activities in their struggle. The whole of Karnataka state including borders of Mysore dynasty participated in this struggle with a common mindset. Apparently though the revolt had peace facet struggle indeed had great impact.

The Regional Congress had close contact with all the leaders in every district and suggested them to follow their guidance and follow their activities throughout the Nation. Likewise, the leaders of every regions followed the instructions of the Regional Congress.

The activists of Dharwad district included Shri Binducharya Burli, K.F. Patil, Shivarayappa Munnavar, Shivashankarappa Devapur, Kariyappa Sangur, Timmanagouda Menasinakai, Mahadevappa Mailar, Govindacharya Agnihotri, T.R. Neshwi, Narasimha Dabade etc. These various activists guided over 500 various activists under their leadership.

Shri Channappa Wali, Vamanarao Badri, Venkareddy Hooli, Annaguruji, Appanna Patil, Vadavi Ramachandra leaded at Belgaum district, whilst, K.G. Joshi, Dayananda Nadakarni leaded Uttara Kannada district. Likewise the inspiration and encouragement provided by the leaders of every districts to the local leaders lead the struggle towards a success.

The regional Crime Investigation Bureau (CBI) in its report in 1943 has elaborately described about the struggles. The reports throws light that the KPCC made a firm arrangement in releasing the relief funds from the secret location, to all their honest leaders of the districts which further was distributed to the all the activists. Further report states that local level activists honestly and regularly reported about activities in their respective jurisdictions to the KPCC. A CBI Inspector of Pune in his report dated 3rd February, 1943 reported that "There is no changed scenario in both and Dharwad and Belgaum District". He mentioned that when talked with the village accountants it was apparent that they were predicament and were disturbed by the protestors. Though the Village Accountants have not become the victims of protestors, the mentality of the village accountants has enhanced the activities of the

protestors. There for the defense mechanism at both Dharwad and Belgaum as completely become immobile. This report enables us to understand the intensity of the struggle.

As the notorious activities prevailed even in the villages police force could not control the activities of the protestors and appealed for the military assistance. Therefore report was sent to the government to provide services 8 Military battalions in different districts of Dharwad and Belgaum. Though protestors faced brutality of Police and the military force the day by day numbers of the protestors kept on increasing. Under the eminent leadership of Karmarkar Shri K.P. Dundur and Shri R. V. Jatar succeeded in releasing few protestors.

Shri R.R. Diwakar visited the Yarwad jail and met the arrested protestors and produced the overall report in 1943 describing about the Quit India movement in Karnataka. Gandhiji was very much pleased and later he state that henceforth none has to function absconding instead he appealed to indulge in non-violent protest and fight explicitly to hinder the law and order. As a result the absconding activists started explicitly functioning from May 5th 1944.

Likewise Karnataka contributes a chapter of grandeur to this important movement of India. Looking into the integrity and patriotism and of the Kannadigas, senior leader Shri Jayaprakash Narayan admired the struggle by calling it as "Karnataka Model". Further Jayaprakash Narayan also opined that, had it been other regions followed the steps of Karnataka in the struggle, the struggle certainly would have attained still better results. The facts and figures pertaining to this struggle are collected from the literary work "Karnataka Pratibhatane" of which the facts and figures between 09-08-1942 to 08-04-1943 are selected for the present study.

**Arrest incidences:** 5,610 were declared as criminals, there were 66 incidences of firing, 178 died, 487 people were injured due to firing, bludgeon at 31 places, 89 people were injured in bludgeon. Severe punishment and huge community collective penalty was imposed. 8 people of Belgaum district and 18 people of Dharwad district was imposed a penalty of Rs.1,78,000 and 53,000 whilst, one from Bijapur district and 4 people from Mysore dynasty were imposed a penalty of Rs. 2000.

**Attacks on Railway stations:** Sooladal, Tavaragatti, Gunje, Rayabag, Desur, Sulebhavi, Jumanaal, Minchinaal, Amargol, Kusugal, Hebsur, Byadgi, Hulkoti, Savanoor, Holealur and Nibaal railway stations of British rule Karnataka were attacked.

**Mysore Dynasty:** Davanageri, Tiptur, Mayawad, Banavar, Banasandra, Kodaganur, Holekere, Chickjajur and Hosadurga railway stations of Mysore dynasty were attacked.

Railway tracks were derailed at 8 places in British ruled Karnataka and at 3 places in Mysore dynasty.

**Cutting of Telegram Cables:** Of the total 168 cases of cutting of telegram cables, 56, 07, 39, 18, and 13 cases were recorded in Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad, North Canara, and Bellary districts respectively. Also 35 incidences of cutting of telegram cables were recorded in Mysore dynasty.

**Devastation of Post Offices:** 12 Post Offices were devastated at Nippani, Nandgad, Bailhongal, Saundatti, Belgaum and other places of Belgaum district. Similarly 9 Post Offices were destroyed in Dharwad district and 3 Post Offices were destroyed at Mysore Dynasty.

**Incidences of Snatching of Post Bags:** 7, 5, 24, and 1 incidence of snatching Post Office Bags and breaking of Post Boxes were reported in Belgaum, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada and Bellary districts. Further 12 Post Boxes were also reported broken in Mysore Dynasty.

**Incidences of Destroying Village Records:** Among the 201 incidences of Destroying Village records reported maximum of 134 cases were reported in Belgaum district, 62 cases were reported in Dharwad district and 5 cases were reported in Uttara Kannada districts.

**Incidences of Attacking the Restrooms:** Incidences of attacking restrooms were reported in 34 places of which 17, 9, 3, 4 and 1 cases were reported in Belgaum, Dharwad, Bijapur, North Canara and Bellary districts respectively.

This is the story of Karnataka's participation in the India's Freedom struggle. It is obvious that All India Freedom struggle is the source of inspiration for this struggle in Karnataka. There was no room for violence in the struggle.

## CONCLUSION

Similarly, the Quit India Movement attained briskness. Villages and Towns joined hands to the Quit India movement. The citizens voluntarily came forward and woke-up Leaders and sincerely followed the instructions of the leaders which lead the movement towards success.

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**H B Kenchall**

Assistant Professor ,Priyadarshni First Grade College Rattihalli, Dist- Haveri.

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