150 years of 'Vande Mataram'

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Indian History*

Why in News?

*Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Organises Mass Singing of 'Vande Mataram' to Mark **150 Years** anniversary of the iconic National Song.*

- "Vande Mataram" is ***India's national song,*** a powerful patriotic hymn that translates to "I bow to thee, Mother".
- **Composer -** Written by ***Bankim Chandra Chatterjee*** in Sanskritised Bengali in 1875.
- **Literary Origin** - It was included in his Bengali novel ***Anandamath,*** published in 1882, which depicted the struggle for independence against British rule.

Anandamath is a historical novel written against the backdrop of the devastating Bengal famine of 1770 and the Sannyasi Rebellion against British rule.

- **Historical Role –** It was the rallying cry of freedom fighters during the struggle for independence.
- The song served as a vital emblem of resistance and a unifying force, chanted during mass protests and political assemblies.
- The song particularly sung during the ***Swadeshi movement and the anti-partition of Bengal movement*** in the early 20th century.
- **Use of Vande Mataram during the Partition of Bengal -** In 1905, Vande Mataram was an important part of the protests against the partition of Bengal.
- In 1906, a massive rally was conducted at Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition.
- Legend says Lord Curzon asked 40,000 people to participate in the

meeting, and all of them sang Vande Mataram there.
- Lord Curzon later ordered the police to arrest anyone who sang the song.
- Philosophers like Aurobindo Ghose believed that Vande Mataram's blessings carried divine strength for India's freedom fighters.
- **Vande Mataram Movement in Gulbarga** – It is said to be a significant moment in the history of the Hyderabad-Karnataka Freedom Struggle.
- Vande Mataram was always a symbol of resistance against Nizam's rule.
- Historical leaders like Dr. Sharanabasappa, Dargah Qadeer, and Gulbarga University students participated actively.
- **First Sung By -** The song was first publicly sung by ***Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 session*** of the Indian National Congress in **Kolkata**.
- **Constitutional Status -** On **January 24, 1950**, the ***Constituent Assembly of India*** adopted the first 2 stanzas of the song as the National Song of India.
- It is granted as equal status with the national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana".
- **Significance** - Played a crucial role in mobilising masses during the freedom struggle.

Reference

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