

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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