

Bankimchandra Chatterji

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | History

Why in news?

Ministry of Minority Affairs to inaugurate the celebration of Commemoration of 150 Years of the National Song “Vande Mataram” on 7th November 2025.

- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838-1894), was a novelist, poet and journalist.
- **Early Life & Education**
 - He was born on 26/27 June 1838 in Naihati, Bengal Presidency.
 - He was graduated from the University of Calcutta in 1858.
 - He joined the **British Indian Civil Service** and served as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.
- **Literary contribution**
 - **Inspiration** - His first novel Durgeshnandini (1865) was inspired by the ruins of Gar Mandaran Fort; it is considered the first modern Bengali romance novel.
 - **Works** - He authored 14 novels and numerous satirical, scientific, and critical essays in Bengali.
 - **Pen name** - “**Kamalakanta**” used for satirical essays.
 - Notable works, including Anandamath (1882), Durgeshnandini (1865), Kapalkundala (1866), and Devi Chaudhurani (1884).
 - **Anandamath** - A novel, published in 1882 - introduced the song “Vande Mataram”, later composed by Rabindranath Tagore, which became a symbol of India’s freedom movement.
 - **Publication** - “Vande Mataram” was first published in **Bangadarshan**, Bankim’s literary magazine.
 - **Historical Impact** - The song gained prominence during the *Swadeshi movement*, following the *partition of Bengal*.
- **Role in Bengal Renaissance**
 - He was instrumental in the cultural and intellectual awakening of 19th-century Bengal.
 - He promoted national pride, social reform, and literary excellence.
- **Awards & Titles**

- Known as "***Sahitya Samrat***" meaning "Emperor of Literature", for his pioneering role in Bengali prose and nationalism.
- In 1891, awarded the title of ***Rai Bahadur***, a colonial honour for distinguished officials.
- In 1894, conferred the title Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire (***CMEOIE***), a prestigious award for service to the country.
- He died April 8, 1894, Calcutta.

Quick Fact

Highlights about Vande Mataram

- Vande Mataram was originally penned in **Sanskrit & Bengali**.
- 1st sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the **1896 Congress Session** in Calcutta.
- Vande Mataram, as a **political slogan**, was first used on 7 August 1905.
- Adopted as India's **National Song** by the Constituent Assembly in **1950**.

References

1. [PIB | 150 Years of the National Song "Vande Mataram"](#)
2. [NDTV | Bankim Chandra Chatterjee](#)