

150 Years of Vande Mataram

CONTEXT India is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its national song, Vande Mataram.

Historical Background



It was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel *Anandamath* in 1882.



First sung by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the 1896 Indian National Congress session gave it national exposure.



The song celebrates the motherland as an embodiment of **strength, prosperity, and divinity** and provided a poetic voice to India's awakening national consciousness.

Rise of National Consciousness



During the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**, Vande Mataram emerged as the anthem of civil resistance.

Vande Mataram, as a **political slogan**, was first used on **7 August 1905**.



For many young revolutionaries facing execution, **Vande Mataram became the last chant before martyrdom**, turning the song into a symbol of sacrifice.

In **1907**, **Madam Bhikaji Cama** raised the tricolour flag for the first-time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. The words Vande Mataram were written on the flag.



In October **1905**, a **Bande Mataram Sampradaya** was founded in North Calcutta to promote the idea of the Motherland as a mission and a religious passion.



In **1906**, an English daily titled **Bande Mataram** was launched under the editorship of **Bipin Chandra Pal**, with Aurobindo later joining as joint editor.



National Song



After independence, the Constituent Assembly deliberated on the status of Vande Mataram.



On **24 January 1950**, the first two stanzas were adopted as India's National Song.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay



Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was one of the **architects of modern Indian literature**.

Other works:

Durgeshanandini (1865), **Kapalkundala (1866)**, and **Devi Chaudhurani (1884)**.



As a distinguished **novelist, poet, and essayist**, his contributions significantly influenced the **development of modern Bengali prose and the articulation of an emerging Indian nationalism**.

