



## Abanindranath Tagore

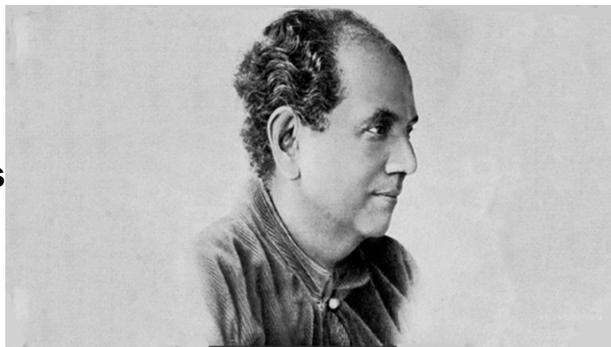
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### Why in News

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The **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi** has organised a **virtual tour** titled “**The Great Maestro - Abanindranath Tagore**” to commemorate the **150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore** on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020.



### Key Points

- **Birth:** Abanindranath Tagore took birth in a **family of Tagores of Jorasanko in Kolkata in 1871.**
  - He was a **nephew of Rabindranath Tagore.**
- **Abanindranath Ideology:**
  - In his youth, Abanindranath **received training in European and Academic style from European artists.**
  - However, during the last decade of the **19<sup>th</sup> century**, he developed **distaste for the corporeality of European naturalism** (which represented things closer to the way one sees them - inspired by the principles of natural science).
    - **Mughal miniatures** influenced his visual ideas deeply.
    - Another source of inspiration came from the **visit of the Japanese philosopher and aesthician Okakura Kakuzo** to Kolkata in 1902.
  - He leaned towards painting images with historic or literary allusions.

- **Prominent Figure of Modern Indian Art:**

- Towards the end of the nineteenth century, a stronger connection was established between art and nationalism. Many painters tried to develop a style that could be considered both modern and Indian.

- **Raja Ravi Varma** was one of the first artists who tried to create a style that was both modern and national.

- He mastered the Western art of oil painting and realistic life study, but painted themes from Indian mythology.

- However, in **Bengal**, a new group of **nationalist artists gathered around Abanindranath Tagore**.

- They **rejected the art of Ravi Varma** as imitative and westernised, and declared that such a style was unsuitable for depicting the nation's ancient myths and legends.

- They felt that a genuine Indian style of painting had to **draw inspiration from non-Western art traditions**, and try to capture the **spiritual essence of the East**.

- **Bengal School of Painting:**

- It is also called the **Renaissance School or the Revivalist School**, as it **represented the first modern movement of Indian art**.

- It rediscovered the glories of Indian art and consciously tried to produce what it considered a truly Indian art inspired by the creations of the past.

- Its **leading artist was Abanindranath Tagore** and its theoretician was E.B. Havell, the principal of the Calcutta School of Art.

- They broke away from the convention of oil painting and the realistic style, and turned for inspiration to **medieval Indian traditions of miniature painting** and the ancient art of **mural painting in the Ajanta caves**.

- They were **also influenced by the art (wash technique) of Japanese artists** who visited India at that time to develop an **Asian Art movement**.

- **Associated Pupils:** Nandalal Bose and Kshitindranath Majumdar

- **Popular Paintings:** Bharat Mata, My Mother, Journey's End, etc.

- **Popular Books:** Rajkahini, Nalak, etc.

- **Death:** He died on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1951.

## **National Gallery of Modern Art**

- NGMA was established in **1954**, at the Jaipur House, New Delhi.

- It is run and administered as **a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.

- One of its objectives is to acquire and preserve works of modern art from the 1850s onward.

**Source: PIB**