

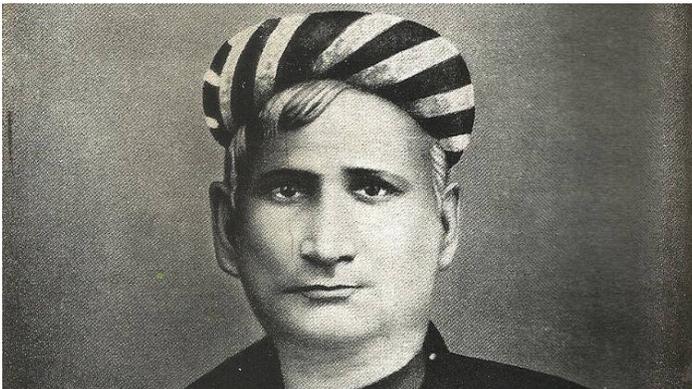


Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

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Why in News

Indian Prime Minister paid homage to Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his Jayanti on 27th June.



Key Points

- **About:**

- He was **one of the greatest novelists and poets of India.**
- He was **born on 27th June 1838 in the village of Kanthapura** in the town of North 24 Parganas, Naihati, present day **West Bengal.**
- He **composed the song Vande Mataram in Sanskrit**, which was a source of inspiration to the people in their freedom struggle.
- In 1857, there was a strong revolt against the rule of East India Company but Bankim Chandra Chatterjee continued his studies and passed his B.A. Examination in 1859.

The Lieutenant Governor of Calcutta appointed Bankim Chandra Chatterjee as Deputy Collector in the same year.

- He was **in Government service for thirty-two years** and retired in 1891.
- He **died on 8th April, 1894.**

- **Contributions to India's Freedom Struggle:**
 - **His epic Novel Anandamath** - set in the background of the **Sanyasi Rebellion (1770-1820)**, when Bengal was facing a famine too - made Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay **an influential figure on the Bengali renaissance.**
 - He kept the people of Bengal intellectually stimulated through his literary campaign.
 - India got its national song, **Vande Mataram, from Anandamath.**
 - He also **founded a monthly literary magazine, Bangadarshan, in 1872**, through which Bankim is credited with influencing the emergence of a Bengali identity and nationalism.
 - Bankim Chandra wanted the magazine to work as the medium of communication between the educated and the uneducated classes.
 - The **magazine stopped publication in the late 1880s**, but was **resurrected in 1901 with Rabindranath Tagore as its editor.**
 - While it carried Tagore's writings - including his first full-length novel Chokher Bali - the 'new' Bangadarshan retained its original philosophy, nurturing the nationalistic spirit.
 - During the **Partition of Bengal (1905)**, the magazine played a vital role in giving an outlet to the voices of protest and dissent. Tagore's Amar Sonar Bangla - the national anthem of Bangladesh now - was first published in Bangadarshan.
- **Other Literary Contributions:**
 - He had studied Sanskrit and was very interested in the subject, but later took on the responsibility to make Bengali the language of the masses. However, his first published work - a novel - was in English.
 - His **famous novels** include Kapalkundala (1866), Debi Choudhurani, Bishabriksha (The Poison Tree), Chandrasekhar (1877), Rajmohan's wife and Krishnakanter Will.

Sanyasi Rebellion

- The Sanyasi Uprisings took place in Bengal between the periods of **1770- 1820s.**
- The Sanyasis rose in rebellion after the great famine of 1770 in Bengal which caused acute chaos and misery.
- However, the immediate cause of the rebellion was the **restrictions imposed by the British upon pilgrims visiting holy places** among both Hindus and Muslims.

Source: PIB