



Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

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The death anniversary of [Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay](#) was observed on **8th April**, remembering his contributions to Indian literature, nationalism, and the cultural awakening of **Bengal** during the 19th century.

- **Early Life:** Born on 27th June 1838 in **Naihati, West Bengal**, Bankim was a brilliant student and joined British service after completing his studies.
- **Nationalism and Literature:** Through works like **Anandamath** (banned by the British), which narrates the **Sanyasi Rebellion**, Bankim became synonymous with India's struggle for independence.
 - The national song of India, [Vande Mataram](#), originated from **Bankim's Anandamath**, becoming a symbol of the freedom movement.
- **Famous Works:** **Rajmohan's Wife ((1864)** (first novel in English by an Indian). His novels **Durgeshnandini (1865)**, **Kapalkundala (1866)**, and **Vishabriksha (1873)** addressed social issues like women's rights, child marriage, and caste discrimination.
- Also, his notable religious writings include **Krishna Charitra**.
- **Role in the Bengali Renaissance:** Bankim started the literary magazine **Bangadarshan (1872)**, which played a key role in fostering **Bengali nationalism**.
 - Bankim's vision for Bangadarshan was to bridge the gap between the educated and uneducated classes and promote Bengali identity.
 - [Rabindranath Tagore](#), deeply influenced by **Bangadarshan**, later revived the magazine, making it a platform for nationalist writings.



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