

## Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay – UPSC Notes

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee or Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was a nationalist author from West Bengal. He was born on 27 June 1838 in Naihati, Bengal Presidency, British India (present-day West Bengal, India). Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was a poet, journalist, and novelist. In Bengali, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is known as the **Emperor of Literature (*Sahitya Samrat*)**.

### Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay - Image of Bharat Mata

- An image or a figure is usually used to symbolise the identity of a nation.
- People find it helpful to identify the nation with an image.
- The image of Bharat Mata came to be visually associated with the identity of India, this happened due to the rise of nationalism in the twentieth century.
- The **first image of Bharat Mata** was **created** by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**.

### Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay - Vande Mataram, Anandmath

- As a hymn to the motherland, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote '**Vande Mataram**' in the 1870s.
- During the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, Vande Mataram was widely sung by the people.
- Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay added the Vande Mataram song to his novel **Anandmath**.
- The novel - Anandmath was written in 1882 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- Anandmath inspired strong political movements because of the nation that was imagined in the novel.
- Many freedom fighters were inspired by Anandmath.
- It was a novel about a militia trying to establish a kingdom.

### Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay - Other Important Influence & Inspirations

- The organisation **Anushilan Samiti** was influenced by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- Bankim's cultural and martial nationalism, focus on spartan life and hard work influenced Anushilan Samiti. The name of the organization - Anushilan, was derived from this philosophy of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

- Anushilan Samiti was an Indian organisation in the first quarter of the 20th century that supported revolutionary violence as the means for ending British rule in India.
- Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's reinterpretation of Bhagavad Gita had strongly influenced nationalism.

## Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay - Most Notable Literary Works

Some of the most notable works of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay are

- Durgeshnandini
- Kapalkundala
- Devi Chaudhurani
- Ananda Math
- Bishabriksha

### Anandamath

- It is considered one of the most important novels in the history of Indian and Bengali literature.
- It is inspired by and set in the background of the Sannyasi Rebellion in the late 18th century.
- It is a Bengali fiction published in 1882.

### Durgeshnandini

- It is a Bengali romance novel written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in 1865.
- In the history of Bengali literature, this is the **first major Bengali novel**.
- It is also the first Bengali novel written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

### Kapalkundala

- It is a Bengali Romance Novel published by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1866.

### Devi Chaudhurani

- It is a Bengali novel written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and published in 1884.
- This novel was banned by the British as it fuelled the patriotic struggle for Indian independence from the British Empire.

- Armed face-to-face conflict with the Royal Army is the only way to win independence was the belief reinforced in this novel.
- After independence, the Indian Government removed the ban on this book.

### **Bishabriksha**

- This novel written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was published in 1873.
- This novel deals with the topic of widow remarriage.

