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Remembering Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his 175th Birthday



Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was one of the greatest novelists and poets of India. He is famous as author of Vande Mataram, the national song of India. He was born on June 27, 1838 in the village Kantalpara of the 24 Paraganas District of Bengal. He was a brilliant student. After his early education in Midnapur, Bankim Chandra joined the Mohsin College at Hoogly and studied there for six years. He was very much interested in the study of Sanskrit. Later, when he wrote books in Bengali, his knowledge of Sanskrit helped him immensely. In 1856, he joined the Presidency College in Calcutta. In 1857, there was a strong revolt against the rule of East India Company but he continued his studies and passed his B.A. Examination in 1859. The Lieutenant Governor of Calcutta appointed him as Deputy Collector in the same year. He was in Government service for thirty-two years and retired in 1891.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, began his literary career as a writer of verse. He then turned to fiction. Durgeshnandini, his first Bengali novel, was published in the year 1865. His famous novels include Kapalkundala (1866), Mrinalini (1869), Vishbriksha (1873), Chandrasekhar (1877), Rajani (1877), Rajsimha (1881), and Devi Chaudhurani (1884). Bankim Chandra Chatterjee most famous novel was Anand Math (1882). Anand Math contained the song "Bande Mataram", which was later adopted as National Song.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wanted to bring about a cultural revival of Bengal by stimulating the intellect of the Bengali speaking people through literary campaign. With this end in view, he brought out monthly magazine called *Bangadarshan* in 1872. Bankim Chandra is widely regarded as a key figure in literary renaissance of Bengal as well as India. No Bengali writer before has enjoyed such spontaneous and universal popularity as him. His novels have been translated in almost all the major languages of India. He passed away on April 8, 1894. On the auspicious occasion of 175th birthday of this great son of Bengal, all from BPPIMT family remember him and pay their homage.

- Prof. (Dr.) Sutapa Mukherjee
Principal BPPIMT

