

## **National Song: Vande Mataram**

Vande Mataram (also pronounced Bande Mataram) is a poem written in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1870s, which he included in his 1882 Bengali novel Anandamath. The poem was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore in the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. The first two verses of the song were adopted as the National Song of India in October 1937 by the Congress Working Committee prior to the end of colonial rule in August 1947.

On 24 January 1950, the Constituent Assembly of India has adopted "Vande Mataram" as national song. On the occasion, the first President of India, Rajendra Prasad stated that the song should be honoured equally with the national anthem of India, "Jana Gana Mana". However the Constitution of India does not have any mention of "national song".

### **LYRICS:**

Vande Mataram!  
Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja shitalam,  
Shasyashyamalam, Mataram!  
Vande Mataram!  
Shubhrajyotsna pulakitayaminim,  
Phullakusumita drumadala shobhinim,  
Suhasinim sumadhura bhashinim,  
Sukhadam varadam, Mataram!  
Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram!

### **Translation**

I bow to thee, Mother,  
richly-watered, richly-fruited,  
cool with the winds of the south,  
dark with the crops of the harvests,  
The Mother!  
Her nights rejoicing in the glory of the moonlight,  
her lands clothed beautifully with her trees in flowering bloom,  
sweet of laughter, sweet of speech,  
The Mother, giver of boons, giver of bliss.