

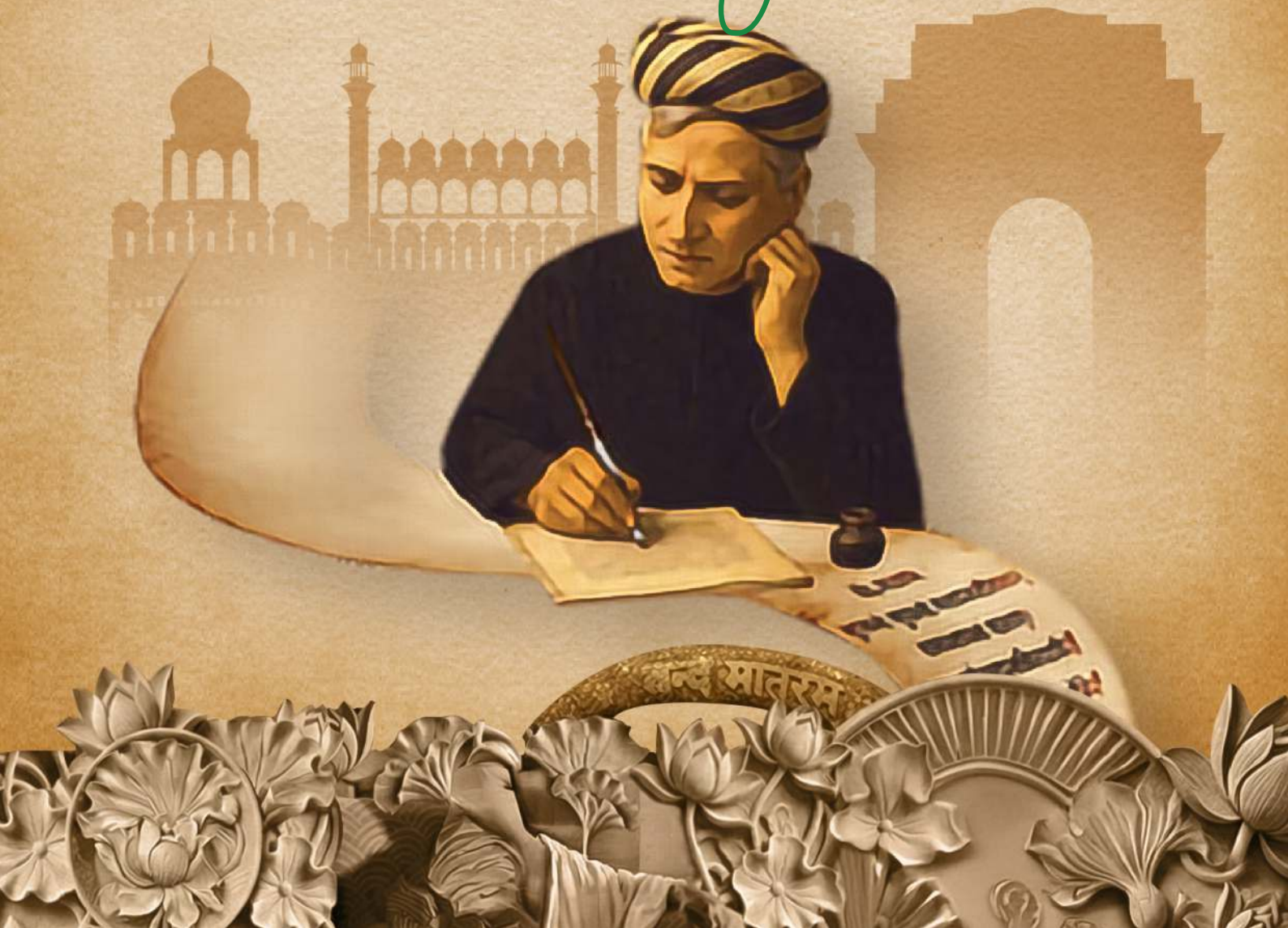


Ministry of Culture
Government of India



एन सी सी
PANDIT GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र

HAPPY REPUBLIC *Day*



VANDE MATARAM

150 Years of the National Song (1876–2026)



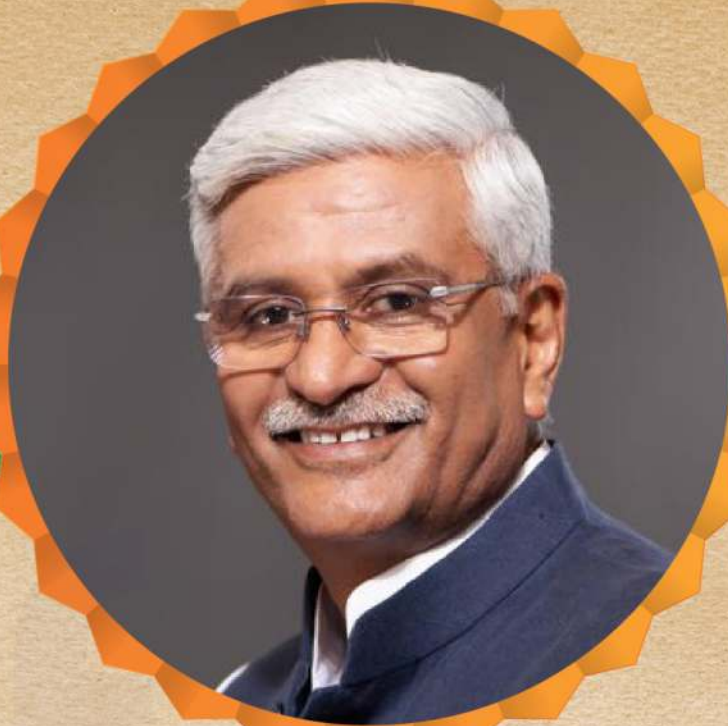
Concept Note

“I bow to thee, Mother.”

Once spoken by every revolutionary, Vande Mataram is far more than a song. Sri Aurobindo saw in it an inherent spiritual power capable of awakening collective consciousness, a vision that history has affirmed. Composed by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, it arose as a civilisational invocation, envisioning the nation as Mother, sujalām, suphalām, abundant in nature and spirit. In colonial times, it restored dignity, turning devotion into courage and poetry into resolve, uniting people across regions, languages, and faiths in prisons, meetings, and marches, seeking reverence rather than conquest.

The Ministry of Culture’s Republic Day tableau gives this journey visual form. A moving tractor bears the manuscript of Vande Mataram, followed by folk artists from India’s four directions, embodying cultural plurality. At the heart of the tableau, Zen G sings Vande Mataram, inspired by the historic tune of Vishnupant Pagnis, who recorded the song in Raga Sarang. By reversing the order of the stanzas to evade colonial censorship, his Rashtrageet emerged as a landmark act of artistic rebellion. Martyrs Madan Lal Dhingra and Khudiram Bose are depicted invoking the song, and the tableau culminates with Bharat Mata holding the Tricolour, an enduring source of inspiration across generations. As India celebrates Republic Day 2026, Vande Mataram calls upon us not only to remember freedom, but to remain worthy of it.

Message from the Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture

Vande Mataram is the heartbeat of India's national awakening. For 150 years, its verses have resonated with the spirit of freedom, dignity, and cultural self-belief. As we celebrate Republic Day 2026, this milestone offers us an opportunity to reconnect with the civilisational values embedded in our national song.

The Ministry of Culture remains committed to preserving and presenting India's living heritage in ways that speak to contemporary India while remaining rooted in timeless wisdom. The Republic Day tableau is a powerful medium through which our cultural narratives reach millions, reaffirming India's unity in diversity.

I commend all artists, scholars, IGNCA and institutions associated with this effort and hope that the commemoration of Vande Mataram's 150 years inspires every citizen to deepen their engagement with our shared heritage.



Message from the Secretary, Ministry of Culture



Shri Vivek Aggarwal
Secretary, Ministry of Culture

India's Republic Day tableaux are far more than ceremonial displays; they are moving archives of the nation's civilisational memory. Year after year, they translate ideas, values, and historical experience into a shared visual language, reminding us that culture is not an ornament of the Republic, but its sustaining spirit.

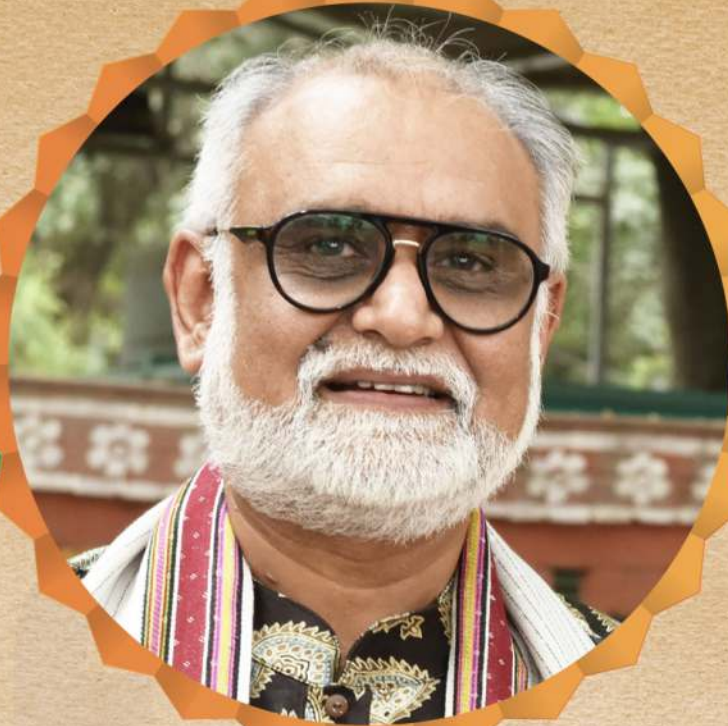
Vande Mataram occupies a singular place in this continuum. Once spoken on the lips of revolutionaries and sung in prisons and processions, it is far more than a song. Sri Aurobindo perceived in it a spiritual potency capable of awakening collective consciousness, a vision history has since affirmed. Composed by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, it imagined the nation as Mother—sujalām, suphalām—abundant in nature, nurture, and inner strength. In colonial times, it restored dignity, turning devotion into courage and poetry into resolve, uniting Indians across regions, languages, and faiths in a shared aspiration for freedom.

Ministry of Culture's Republic Day tableau for 2026 gives this journey a powerful visual form. The moving tractor carries the original manuscript of Vande Mataram, followed by folk artists from India's four directions, embodying cultural plurality. At its heart stands today's generation—Zen G—singing the anthem, inspired by the historic rendition of Vishnupant Pagnis, whose recording in Raga Sarang, became an act of artistic resistance against colonial censorship.

As India celebrates Republic Day 2026, Vande Mataram calls upon us not only to remember freedom, but to remain worthy of it.



Message from Member Secretary, IGNCA



Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi
Member Secretary, IGNCA

At IGNCA, we view culture as a living dialogue between the past, present, and future. Vande Mataram represents this dialogue in its purest form—where poetry, philosophy, and patriotism converge. The Republic Day tableaux curated in recent years reflect India's civilisational continuity:

- **2021: Heralding - 75 years of Indian Independence**
- **2022: 150 Years of Shri Aurobindo**
- **2023: Shakti Rupena Samsthita: Power as the indwelling principle of life**
- **2024: Bharat: Mother of Democracy: India's ancient democratic spirit**
- **2025: Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi: Harmonising legacy with progress**

The Ministry of Culture's tableau being recognised with an award in 2023 is a testament to the strength of this vision. As we mark 150 years of Vande Mataram, IGNCA is honoured to contribute scholarly and artistic depth to this national celebration.



Republic Day Tableaux – A Cultural Continuum

Republic Day Tableau Themes (Ministry of Culture)

2021: Heraldng - 75 years of Indian Independence

2022: 150 Years of Shri Aurobindo

2023: Shakti Rupena Samsthita (शक्ति रूपेण संस्थिता)

Celebrating the divine feminine energy as the source of strength in all beings.

2024: Bharat – Mother of Democracy

Showcasing India's ancient republican traditions, sabhas, and participatory governance.

Award-winning tableau in the Ministry category.

2025: Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi (Legacy along with Progress)

A visual narrative of India's heritage flourishing alongside modern development.

2026: Vande Mataram – 150 Years

A tribute to the national song that ignited freedom, unity, and cultural resurgence.





2021 Tableaux



2022 Tableaux



2023 Tableaux



2024 Tableaux





2025 Tableaux

This booklet stands as a brief cultural record of India's Republic Day journey—where tradition, creativity, and national purpose converge on Kartavya Path, echoing the eternal call: *Vande Mataram*.

Presented by

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Government of India (GoI)

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