

Vande Mataram To Be Sung at Red Fort For First Time on Independence Day 2026

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Vande Mataram To Be Sung at Red Fort For First Time on Independence Day 2026 marks an important moment in India's national history. The National Song, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, has been closely associated with the freedom movement and national identity. The 2026 Independence Day ceremony will also highlight the 150 year legacy of Vande Mataram, its historical significance, meaning, national status and place in India's patriotic tradition.

Why is Vande Mataram in News?

Vande Mataram will be sung from the ramparts of the Red Fort for the first time during the Independence Day ceremony on August 15, 2026. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will lead the 80th Independence Day celebrations in New Delhi. The decision is significant because 2026 marks the 150 year commemoration of Vande Mataram, a composition associated closely with **India's freedom movement**.

Vande Mataram To Be Sung at Red Fort For First Time

The National Song will be sung when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrives at the Red Fort. The Prime Minister will then hoist the National Flag and address the Nation.

- **First Red Fort rendition:** Vande Mataram will become a scheduled part of the Independence Day ceremony at the **Red Fort** for the first time in 2026.
- **150 year milestone:** The inclusion coincides with the 150 year commemoration of Vande Mataram, whose composition is traced to 1875. The nationwide commemoration runs from November 7, 2025, to November 7, 2026.
- **Yuva Shakti focus:** The 2026 celebrations will highlight Yuva Shakti and the contribution of young Indians towards the goal of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.
- **2,500 participants:** Around 2,500 NCC cadets and My Bharat volunteers will form 'सत्यमेव जयते' on Gyanpath opposite the Red Fort ramparts.
- **Mi-17 tribute:** An Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter will carry a banner marking 150 years of Vande Mataram and shower flower petals over the gathering.
- **National band performances:** Military and security force bands are performing Vande Mataram themed programmes at 343 prominent locations from August 8 to August 15, 2026.

National Song of India Vande Mataram

Vande Mataram is India's National Song and holds an important place in the history of the freedom movement. Its meaning is commonly understood as "I bow to thee, Mother."

- **Author:** Vande Mataram was written by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**. The composition was first published in Bangadarshan on November 7, 1875 and later appeared in Anandamath, published in 1882.
- **Language:** The composition uses Sanskrit and Bengali elements. It presents the motherland through imagery of nature, prosperity, beauty and devotion.
- **First Congress rendition:** **Rabindranath Tagore** sang Vande Mataram at the 1896 session of the **Indian National Congress** in Calcutta.
- **Freedom movement:** Vande Mataram became a powerful patriotic expression during the freedom struggle. It was particularly associated with the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**.
- **National Song status:** On January 24, 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad announced that Vande Mataram, because of its historic role in the freedom struggle, would be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana.
- **Difference Between Vande Mataram and National Anthem:** Jana Gana Mana is India's National Anthem, while Vande Mataram is the National Song. Both hold distinct constitutional and historical positions in India's national symbolism.

15 August Independence Day 2026

Independence Day 2026 will mark 79 years since independence and India's 80th Independence Day celebration on August 15, 2026. The **Red Fort** will remain the central venue.

- **Historical date:** India became independent on August 15, 1947, following the end of British colonial rule and the transfer of power under the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

- ## Vande Mataram Song Lyrics

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- The full rendition is considerably longer than **Jana Gana Mana**. A Vande Mataram Full Version has been reported at around 3 minutes and 10 seconds, compared with about 52 seconds for the National Anthem.

Vande Mataram Bill 2026

The Prevention of Insults to **National Honour (Amendment) Bill 2026**, was introduced to extend statutory protection under the 1971 law to India’s National Song.

- **Introduction:** The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on July 24, 2026, during the **Monsoon Session of Parliament**.
- **Parliamentary approval:** The **Rajya Sabha** passed the Bill on July 29, while the **Lok Sabha** cleared it on July 30, 2026.
- **Presidential assent:** **President** Droupadi Murmu gave assent on August 11, 2026, converting the amendment into law.
- **Punishable conduct:** Intentionally preventing the singing of the **National Song** or causing disturbance to an assembly engaged in singing it can attract imprisonment up to three years, a fine, or both.
- **Repeat conviction:** A second and every subsequent conviction carries a minimum imprisonment of one year under the amended provision.
- **Legal significance:** The amendment brings Vande Mataram within the statutory protection already available against deliberate disruption of the National Anthem under the Prevention of Insults to **National Honour Act 1971**.

Vande Mataram 150 Years

The **150 year of Vande Mataram** commemoration recognises the long historical journey of Vande Mataram from a literary composition to a major symbol of India’s national movement.

- **Origin year:** Vande Mataram is associated with 1875, when **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** composed the work. Its first publication was in Bangadarshan on November 7, 1875.
- **Year long commemoration:** The Government launched the nationwide 150 year commemoration on November 7, 2025, with programmes scheduled through November 7, 2026.
- **National launch:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the year long commemoration at the **Indira Gandhi** Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, on November 7, 2025. A commemorative stamp and coin were also released.
- **Red Fort Ceremony:** The Independence Day 2026 rendition adds a major national ceremonial dimension to the 150 year commemoration. It links the song’s freedom movement legacy with the country’s 80th Independence Day.
- **National significance:** Vande Mataram continues to represent patriotism, the **freedom struggle**, devotion to the motherland and the historical contribution of generations who participated in India’s independence movement.

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