



# Abanindranath Tagore

## Why in News

The **year-long celebrations marking 150 years of Abanindranath Tagore** will be started soon, with a host of online workshops and talks paying tributes to the leading light of the **Bengal School of Art**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- **Birth:** Abanindranath Tagore took birth **in a family of Tagores of Jorasanko in Kolkata in 1871.**
  - He was a nephew of [Rabindranath Tagore](#).
- **Abanindranath's Ideology:** In his youth, Abanindranath received training in European and Academic style from European artists.
  - However, during the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, he **developed a distaste for European naturalism** (which represented things closer to the way one sees them - inspired by the principles of natural science).
  - He **leaned towards painting images with historic or literary allusions**. He drew **inspiration from Mughal miniatures**.
  - Another source of inspiration came from the **visit of the Japanese philosopher and aesthetician Okakura Kakuzo to Kolkata in 1902.**

### ▪ Contribution to Indian Freedom Struggle: [//](#)



- In the **last decades of the nineteenth century**, a new art movement emerged which received its primary stimulus from the growing nationalism in India.
- In Bengal, **a new group of nationalist artists** gathered around Abanindranath Tagore.
- He was arguably the first major exponent of an artistic idiom that sought to **modernise the Mughal and the Rajput styles** in order to **counter the influence of Western models of art under the colonial regime**.
- Though many of the paintings of this new trend primarily focused on **themes of Indian mythology and cultural heritage**, they are important sources for studying the modern art movement in India and for the art historians.
- His unique interpretation of **swadeshi themes created a new awakening** and heralded a revival of Indian art.
- He was the creator of the iconic **'Bharat Mata' painting**.
- **Victoria Memorial Hall** is the custodian of the **Rabindra Bharati Society** collection, the single-largest collection of works by the artist.

### **Bengal School of Painting**

- It is also called the **Renaissance School or the Revivalist School**, as it represented the **first modern movement of Indian art**.
- It **rediscovered the glories of Indian art** and consciously tried to produce what it considered a truly Indian art inspired by the creations of the past.
- Its **leading artist was Abanindranath Tagore** and its **theoretician was E.B. Havell**, the principal of the Calcutta School of Art.

**Source: TH**

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