

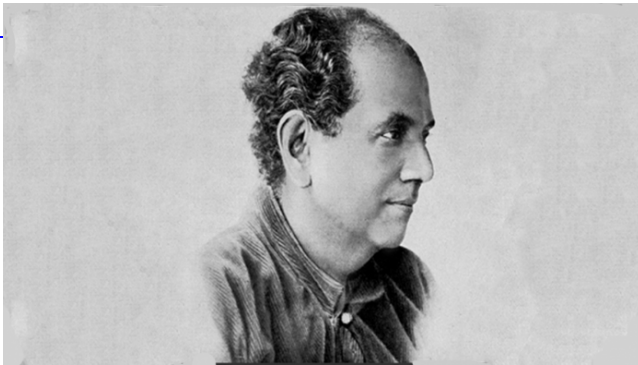


Abanindranath Tagore

Why in News

The **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi** has organised a **virtual tour** titled “**The Great Maestro - Abanindranath Tagore**” to commemorate the **150th birth anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore** on 7th August 2020.

Key Points //



- **Birth:** Abanindranath Tagore took birth in a **family of Tagores of Jorasanko in Kolkata in 1871.**
 - He was a **nephew of [Rabindranath Tagore](#).**
- **Abanindranath Ideology:**
 - In his youth, Abanindranath **received training in European and Academic style from European artists.**
 - However, during the last decade of the **19th century**, he developed **distaste for the corporeality of European naturalism** (which represented things closer to the way one sees them - inspired by the principles of natural science).
 - **Mughal miniatures** influenced his visual ideas deeply.
 - Another source of inspiration came from the **visit of the Japanese philosopher and aesthetician Okakura Kakuzo** to Kolkata in 1902.
 - He leaned towards painting images with historic or literary allusions.
- **Prominent Figure of Modern Indian Art:**
 - Towards the end of the nineteenth century, a stronger connection was established between art and nationalism. Many painters tried to develop a style that could be considered both modern and Indian.
 - **[Raja Ravi Varma](#)** was one of the first artists who tried to create a style that was both modern and national.
 - He mastered the Western art of oil painting and realistic life study, but painted themes from Indian mythology.
 - However, in **Bengal**, a new group of **nationalist artists gathered around**

Abanindranath Tagore.

- They **rejected the art of Ravi Varma** as imitative and westernised, and declared that such a style was unsuitable for depicting the nation's ancient myths and legends.
- They felt that a genuine Indian style of painting had to **draw inspiration from non-Western art traditions**, and try to capture the **spiritual essence of the East**.

▪ 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.
- They broke away from the convention of oil painting and the realistic style, and turned for inspiration to **medieval Indian traditions of miniature painting** and the ancient art of **mural painting in the Ajanta caves**.
- They were **also influenced by the art (wash technique) of Japanese artists** who visited India at that time to develop an **Asian Art movement**.
- **Associated Pupils:** Nandalal Bose and Kshitindranath Majumdar
- **Popular Paintings:** Bharat Mata, My Mother, Journey's End, etc.
- **Popular Books:** Rajkahini, Nalak, etc.
- **Death:** He died on 5th December, 1951.

National Gallery of Modern Art

- NGMA was established in **1954**, at the Jaipur House, New Delhi.
- It is run and administered as **a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- One of its objectives is to acquire and preserve works of modern art from the 1850s onward.

[Source: PIB](#)

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