

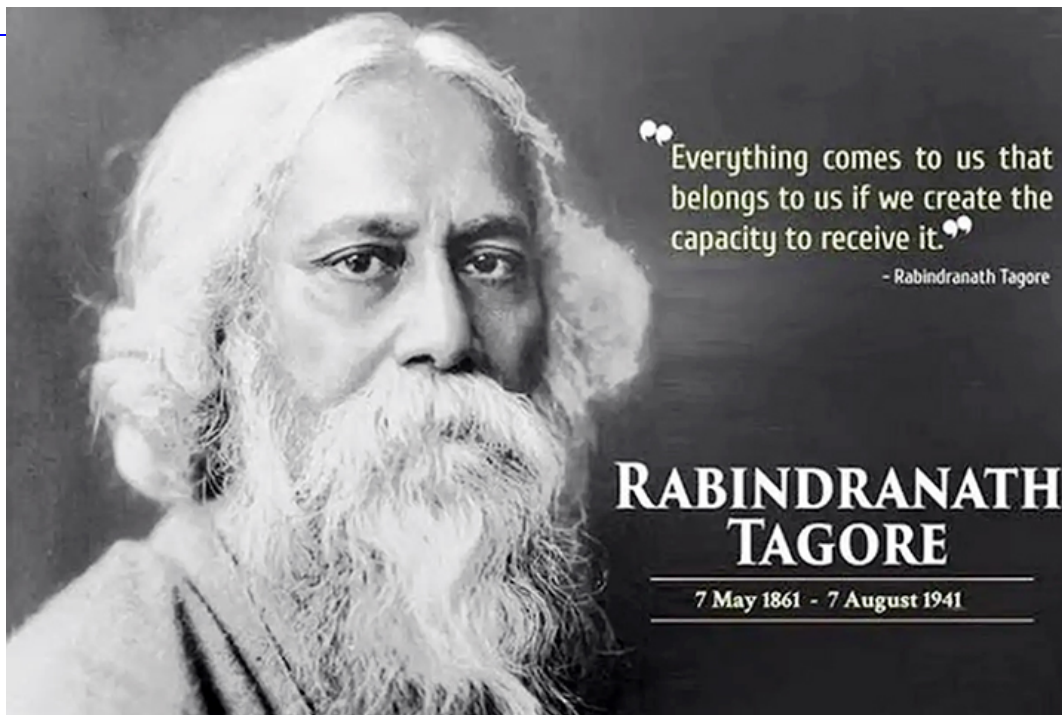


Rabindranath Tagore

Why in News

The Prime Minister paid tribute to [Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore](#) on **160th Jayanti** on 7th May, 2021.

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Key Points

▪ Birth:

- He was born in **Calcutta** on **7th May 1861**.

▪ About:

- He was also referred to as **'Gurudev', 'Kabiguru', and 'Biswakabi'**
- He is regarded as the outstanding creative artist of modern India and hailed by W.B Yeats, Rabindranath Tagore was a **Bengali poet, novelist, and painter**, who was highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the west.
- He was an exceptional **literary figure and a renowned polymath** who singlehandedly reshaped the region's literature and music.
- He was a **good friend of Mahatma Gandhi** and is said to have **given him the title of Mahatma**.
- He had always stressed that **unity in diversity** is the only possible way for India's national integration.
- He had spoken at the **World Parliament for Religions in the years 1929 and 1937**.

▪ Contributions:

- He is said to have **composed over 2000 songs** and his songs and music are called **'Rabindra Sangeet'** with its own distinct lyrical and fluid style.
- He is responsible for modernising Bengali prose and poetry. His notable works include **Gitanjali, Ghare-Baire, Gora, Manasi, Balaka, Sonar Tori**, He is also remembered for his song **'Ekla Chalo Re'**.
 - He published his first poems aged 16 under the pen-name **'Bhanusimha'**.
- He not only gave the **national anthems for two countries, India and Bangladesh**, but also **inspired a Ceylonese student of his, to pen and compose the national anthem of Sri Lanka**.
- Besides all his literary achievements he was also a philosopher and educationist who in **1921 established the Vishwa-Bharati University**, a university that challenged conventional education.

▪ **Awards:**

- In **1913** he was awarded the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#) for his work on Gitanjali.
 - He was the **first non-European** to receive the Nobel Prize.
- In 1915 he was awarded **knighthood** by the British King George V. In 1919, following the [Jallianwalla Bagh massacre](#) he renounced his Knighthood.

▪ **Death:**

- He died on **7th August 1941 in Calcutta**.

[Source:PIB](#)

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