

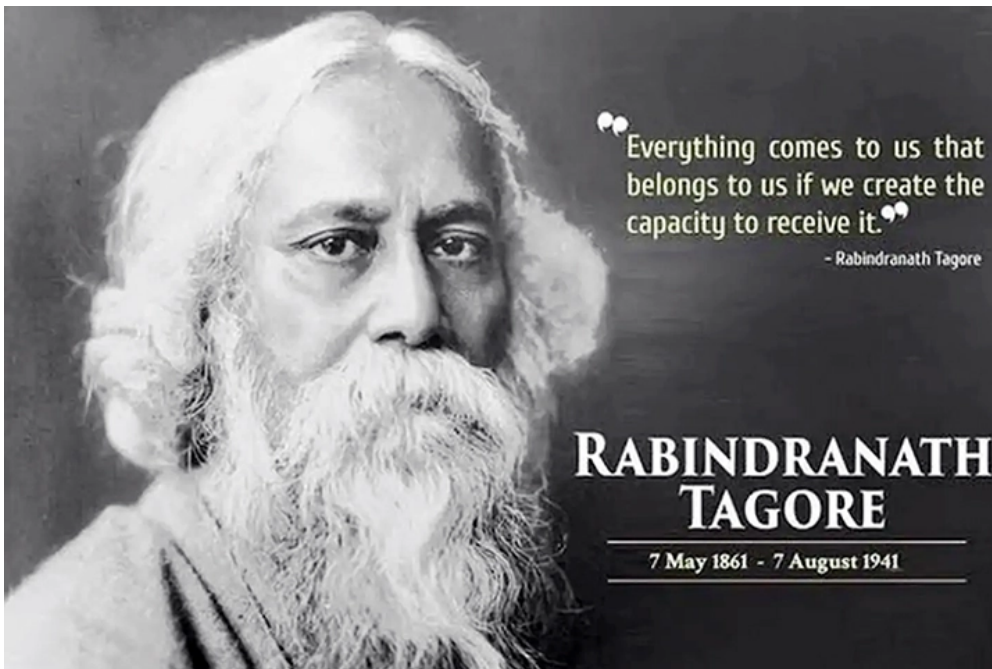


Rabindranath Tagore

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Why in News

The Prime Minister paid tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on **160th Jayanti** on 7th May, 2021.



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