

The biographical information of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore emphasizing essentially his literary and other activities, is primarily based upon most comprehensive chronicles of his eighty years (1861 – 1941) journey, compiled by Shri Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyaya and Shri Kshitis Roy, published in *A Centenary Volume: Rabindranath Tagore 1861-1941*, New Delhi, Sahitya Akademi, pp. 451-503

1861	Born on 7 th May at the Jorasanko House of the Tagore family. He was the 14 th child of Devendranath Tagore, the father and Sarada Devi, the mother.
1866	Rabindranath started learning basic alphabets along with his brothers.
1868	Admitted to oriental Seminary and subsequently to normal school.
1869	Rabindranath tried his first attempt to write verse and was profoundly impressed by the Bengali translation of Bernardin de Saint – Pierr's <i>Paul et Virginie</i> .
1870	Started learning drawing and music along with other subjects and practiced wrestling and gymnastics
1871	Admitted to Bengal Academy, an Anglo-Indian School and began to play truant.
1873	Visited Santiniketan for the first time. While being there, he wrote a drama <i>Prithviraj Parajaya</i> and took an extensive tour of India.
1874	Prepared a verse-rendering of Macbeth and his poem <i>Abhilash (Desire)</i> , was published anonymously and admitted to St. Xavier's School, Calcutta.
1875	Recited a patriotic poem at a Hindu fair, lost his mother; took part in literary functions, composed a poem and a song, contributed serially his long narrative poem <i>Banaphul (The wild flower)</i> and left St. Xavier's School.
1876	First literary criticism of a book of Bengali poems <i>Bhubanmohini Pratibha</i> appeared in Jnanankur.
1877	Wrote and recited a satirical poem on Delhi Darbar arranged by Lord Lytton. Appeared for the first time on the stage in the principal role in a comedy written by Jyotirindranath, wrote his first long story <i>Bhikharini (Beggars)</i> and his first unfinished novel <i>Karuna</i> and a long poem <i>Kabikahini</i> .
1878	Went to Ahmedabad to study English; composed some lyrics and contributed a series articles on English life and letters on the romantic love of poets such as Dante, Petrarch and Goethe, to <i>Bharati</i> . Embarked on the first foreign tour, went to school at Brighton.
1879	Came to London, admitted to University College, contributed a series of letters with laudatory impression of English society, published in the <i>Bharati</i> , began to write his first verse-drama <i>Bhagnahriday (The broken heart)</i> and wrote one long poem <i>Bhagnatari (The wrecked boat)</i>
1880	Returned India without completing any formal course of study, participated in lyrical drama <i>Manmoyi</i> written by Jyotirindranath
1881	Composed his first set of devotional songs, his first musical play <i>Valmiki-Pratibha</i> , two of his books <i>Rudrachanda</i> and <i>Bhagnahriday</i> were published, wrote several articles, delivered first public lecture on music and feeling with vocal demonstration. Embarked on several literary undertakings; started writing his first extent novel <i>Bauthakuranir Hat (The young queen's market)</i> and began to write poems with individualistic note, later published in <i>Sandhya Sangeet (Evening Songs)</i>
1882	Along with Jyotirindranath established Sarasvat Samaj, had an experience of first glimpse of cosmic unity, His first musical play <i>Kalmrigaya (The fatal hunt)</i> was performed at Jorasanko, the poem <i>Nirjharer Swapnabhanga (The Awakening of the Fountain)</i> was the key poem, Prabhat Sangit was written at this time.
1883	Wrote his verse-drama <i>Prakritir Pratisodh (Sanyashi)</i> , started writing the poems <i>Chhabi O Gan (Sketches and Songs)</i> , contributed several articles to <i>Bharati</i> , married to Mrinalini Devi.
1884	Composed the poems <i>Kadi O Komal (Sharps and Flats)</i> , translated some items by Shelley, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Victor Hugo and others, started first prose-drama <i>Nalini</i> , his sister-in-law Kadambari Devi died to whom he dedicated three of his books including an anthology <i>Saisab Sangit (Songs of childhood)</i> , was appointed as Secreatry of <i>Adi Brahma Samaj</i> .
1885	Took charge of the Bengali magazine <i>Balak</i> , edited an anthology of <i>Vaishnava</i> lyrics, his first collection of songs and series of essays were published.
1886	Composed and sang the inaugural song for the second session of the Indian National Congress, first daughter was borne, received his first literary price – a handsome cheque from his father for composing devotional songs.
1887	Started composing the <i>Manasi (group of poems)</i> , under a pseudo name published a series of imaginary letters between old

	fashioned grandfather and a modern grandson, started writing his musical play <i>Mayar Khela</i> (Play of illusion).
1888	<i>Published Samalochana</i> , the first collection of essays on literary criticism, continued to write the <i>Manasi</i> poems, Devendranath – his father executed Trust Deed of the <i>Santiniketan</i> Trust on March 8, 1888.
1889	The earliest drawing so far available consists of few figure drawings and a bird study in a note-book. Wrote his first five act drama <i>Raja o Rani</i> (The King and the Queen), wrote his famous play <i>Visarjan</i> (Sacrifice) that was staged on 1890.
1890	As mentioned by <i>W.G.Archer</i> "As a youth sitting in a lonely room in the family house at Jorasanko in 1890, he had filled a copy-book with sketches". Severely attacked the anti-Indian policy of Lord Cross, took charge of management of Tagore Estate, visited England, Italy and France, maintained a travel diary published in 1891, returned home on Nov 4, 1890.
1891	Wrote first six short stories including <i>Post Master</i> and <i>Chitrangada</i> , started a Bengali magazine <i>Sadhana</i> contributing numerous short stories, poems and articles
1892	Spent the summer at <i>Santiniketan</i> , toured North Bengal, started writing the poems of <i>Sonar Tari</i> (The Golden Barge), associated with <i>Sangit Samaj</i> , wrote his first criticism on English Education System.
1893	He and his brother Jyotirindranath joined their nephews Surendranath in Shimla and Abanindranath in Calcutta to exchange pictures in the form of letters; surviving pencil sketches by the poet reveal the accuracy of draftsmanship. In a letter to his niece Indira – there is a pointed reference to his "dabbling" with painting. Visited Orissa, started writing the diary – <i>Panchabhuter</i> (Diary of Five Elements), a series of brilliant dialogues on life, literature and art, Visited Bihar, Shimla and went to Santiniketan, wrote his dramatic poem <i>Viday Abhishap</i> (Curse of Farewell).
1894	Elected Vice-President of Academy of Bengali Letters, became the editor of the magazine <i>Sadhana</i> , wrote the story <i>Megh O Raudra</i> (The Cloud and The Sun)
1895	Wrote remarkable short stories including <i>Kshudito Pashan</i> (The Hungry Stones)
1896	Wrote the poems <i>Nadi</i> (The Rivers) and <i>Jivandevata</i> (The Muse of Life), <i>Kavyagranthavali</i> was published, composed and sang a song for the 12 th session of Indian National Congress, composed <i>Malini</i> – lyrical drama.
1897	Wrote the comedy <i>Baikunther Katha</i> (The manuscript of Baikuntha), wrote dramatic poem <i>Sati</i>
1898	Became the editor of <i>Bharati</i> , contributed number of poems, short stories and essays, strongly opposed reactionary policies of British Government, drew up a plan for setting up a school at Santiniketan for imparting religious education, published <i>autobiography</i> of his father.
1899	Assisted Sister Nivedita (Margaret Noble) to organize relief plague victims in Calcutta.
1900	Published <i>Katha and Kahini</i> (Story – Poems), <i>Galpaguchha</i> – his first collection of short stories. In a letter to J.C.Bose on September 17,1900 he wrote that he had been painting a sketch book.
1901	Started editing <i>Bangadarshan</i> and contributed serially for his first psychological novel <i>Chokher Bali</i> (Eng tr. Binodini) and composed poems of <i>Naivedya</i> (Offerings), wrote humorous play <i>Chirakumar Sabha</i> (The Bachelor's Club), established with his father's consent and blessings a school at Santiniketan on December 22, following the model ancient forest school (<i>Tapavana</i>).
1902	Faced severe financial handicaps for running the school, sold his personal property and wife's ornament; wife died on November 23 and composed <i>Smaran</i> (In Memoriam) – a series of moving poems in memory of his wife, wrote <i>Bharatvarsher Itihas</i> – a thought provoking article giving a new interpretation to history of India.
1903	Mostly remained at Santiniketan to attend school's affair, interrupting literary and editorial activities, composed <i>Sisu</i> (The Crescent Moon) and regularly contributed installments of his novel <i>Naukadubi</i> (The Wreck) to <i>Bangadarshan</i> .
1904	Along with J.C.Bose and Sister Nivedita visited Bodh Gaya, the seat of Buddha's enlightenment.
1905	His father Devendranath Tagore died at the age of 88, translated from original Pali into Bengali verse the first four chapters of Buddhist scripture <i>Dhammapada</i> , started editing a new Bengali magazine <i>Bhandar</i> . Appealed to the rulers of Indian states to patronize indigenous art and crafts, took keen interest in founding of Indian Arts Society, Calcutta, took active part in formulating the proposal for the establishment of <i>National Council of Education</i> .
1906	He was invited to preside over the first session of <i>Bangiya Sahitya Sammilani</i> (Bengali Literary Conference), wrote a series of articles on the problems of education.
1907	Withdrew himself from active politics due to growing differences between Hindus and Muslims and agitational excesses of Swadeshi Movement; wrote an article <i>Byadhi O Pratikar</i> (The Disease and its Cure), published an edition of his prose works, proceeds of which were given to Santiniketan School, one of his major novel <i>Gora</i> started appearing in <i>Pravasi</i>

	serially, due to the death of his youngest son went into solitary retirement, leaving Santiniketan School in the charge of his colleague.
1908	Presided over the Annual Bengal Provincial Conference; wrote his drama <i>Prayaschitta</i> (Atonement), organized Autumn Festival at Santiniketan, started giving sermons at Santiniketan Temple regularly for about six months, publishes a series of booklet titled <i>Santiniketan</i> .
1909	Mukul Dey has narrated how one afternoon in April 1909, the poet 'with his mysterious smile on his lips' asked him to follow him to an upstairs room at Santiniketan. "There he opened a drawer, pulled out a magnificent black leather-bound drawing book containing some head and figure studies from life and handed the book to him". Delivered a sermon entitled <i>Navajuger Utsav</i> (Festival of the New Age) on the occasion of anniversary of <i>Brahmo Samaj</i> , His essays on Bengali Philology and Semantics were collected and published in a book <i>Sabdatattva</i> , continued his monthly contribution of his novel <i>Gora</i> , the publication of <i>Chayanika</i> – the first anthology of his selected poems with illustrations by Nandalal Bose appeared, <i>The Modern Review</i> published the first <i>English</i> translation of his short stories <i>Samasyapuran</i> (The Riddle Solved), composed number of songs later incorporated in <i>Gitanjali</i> .
1910	Delivered a sermon on <i>Visvabodh</i> – Realisation of Infinity in <i>Sadhana</i> at the anniversary of <i>Brahmo Samaj</i> ; <i>The Modern Review</i> published the English translation of his short story, <i>Hungry Stones</i> (Kshudito Pashan); attended and addressed a literary conference at Bhagalpur.
1911	Met William Rothenstein, the English portrait painter and Count Harmann Keyserling, the German Philosopher in Jorasanko; delivered a sermon on <i>Karmayog</i> at the anniversary of <i>Brahmo Samaj</i> ; Ananda Coomaraswamy who visited him at Santiniketan, translated into English some of his poems with the help of the poet, wrote the play <i>Achalayatan</i> (The Citadel of Immobility), <i>Pravasi</i> serialized his reminiscences under the title <i>Jivansmriti</i> , wrote the play <i>Dakghar</i> (The Post Office), composed his famous song ' <i>Jana-Gana-Mana-Adhinayaka</i> ', sung at the 26 th session of the Indian National Congress, Calcutta which became the National Song after India's independence.
1912	Bengal's intelligentsia felicitated him on his jubilee; described by <i>The Modern Review</i> as 'an unparalleled ovation the first time that such an honour has been done to a literary man in India. Departed for London, while on board translated some of his poems in English, while in London met <i>Rothenstein</i> and gave him the note book containing English translation who sent its typed copies to <i>William Butler Yeats</i> , <i>Stopford Brooke</i> and <i>Andrew Bradley</i> – all of them deeply impressed. The India Society of London published a limited edition of <i>Gitanjali</i> with an introduction by Yeats; it was hailed by the English Literary public as the greatest literary event of the day, the journal <i>Poetry</i> (Chicago) published six poems from <i>Gitanjali</i> ; C.F.Andrews returned to India and wrote about Tagore in <i>Civil and Military Gazette</i> of Lahore.
1913	Reached Chicago and lectured at the University on the Ideals of Ancient Civilization of India and on The problem of Evil at the Unitarian Hall of Chicago. The Macmillan & Co. London published a popular edition of <i>Gitanjali</i> followed by <i>The Gardener</i> , <i>The Crescent Moon</i> and <i>Chitra</i> His play <i>Post Office</i> was performed at the Irish Theatre, delivered a series of lecture at Caxton Hall, returned to Santiniketan in November. News reached Santiniketan, on November 13 about the award of the <i>Nobel Prize for Literature</i> to the Poet; University of Calcutta awarded him D.Litt. Degree on December 26. Mukul Dey accompanied Tagore to Ram Garh Hills where Tagore made one sketch of his daughter-in-law and two of Mukul Dey.
1914	Dedicated his book of poems <i>Utsarga</i> to C.F Andrews; accorded an impressive ceremonial welcome to Nandalal Bose who for the first time visited Santiniketan. His literary works were translated in principal European languages and some also into Arabic. Composed the poems <i>Chhabi</i> and <i>Shahjahan</i> and a cycle of four stories published under the title of <i>Chaturanga</i> (Broken Ties).
1915	Delivered inaugural address at the Bengal Social Service League on <i>Karmayajna</i> (The Worship of Labour); Mahatma Gandhi visited Santiniketan to meet the Phoenix party, started writing <i>Phalguni</i> (The Cycle of Spring) and novel <i>Ghare-Baire</i> (The Home and The World), delivered a lecture on <i>Sikshar Vahan</i> (Medium of education) emphasizing the adoption of mother tongue along with English as a medium of instruction.
1916	<i>Phalguni</i> was staged. Organised a service camp against Cholera epidemic, advised village workers for systematic tea planting and cautioned against the growing estrangement between English and Indians. Sailed to USA on a lecture tour accompanied by Mukul Dey.
1917	Reached Calcutta via Honolulu and Japan, supported the candidature Anne Besant for the Presidentship of Indian National Congress.
1918	Acknowledged Hindi as the only possible national language, published his series of story-poems as <i>Palataka</i> (The Flitting One), conceived the idea of Inter Cultural Centre at Santiniketan, formulated the idea of about creating an institution which could be a true centre for the different cultures of the East; formal foundation stone of <i>Visva-Bharati</i> was laid.
1919	Supported Patel's Inter-Caste Marriage Bill in an open letter, visited and lectured at various places of South India, busy

	writing the prose sketches of <i>Lipika</i> , cautioned Mahatma Gandhi against the use of 'passive resistance' as a political weapon without first preparing the minds of the masses; in protest of Jalianwallah Bagh renounced his Knighthood, he signed ' <i>La declaration pou l'indpendence de l'esprit</i> ' on June 26 at the request of Romain Rolland; Nucleus of Visva-Bharati was formed, Mahatma Gandhi invited him to attend the Gujrati Literary Conference at Ahmedabad. Nandalal Bose joined Santiniketan, department of fine arts under the name of Kala Bhavan was formed.
1920	Took a tour of Western India, presided over Gujrati Literary Conference, spent one night at Sabarmati Ashram, left for England on a lecture tour to raise funds for Visva-Bharati.
1921	Visited Helen Keller on January 4 at her home, lectured at Harvard University. During this tour he received magnificent resources as collectives for Santiniketan. On December 23 Visva Bharati was inaugurated formally.
1922	Completed his dram <i>Muktadhara</i> , visited South India and Ceylon, delivered a series of lecture at Colombo and Galle.
1923	A page from his manuscript <i>Rakta Karavi</i> contains complex figurative configuration. The Governor of Bengal visited Santiniketan, showed interest in the newly formed Swaraj Party and took interest in strengthening Hindu Muslim relations
1924	Lived in a cottage perched on a tree, designed by a Japanese Craftsman Kasahar, visited many cities of China and Japan. On board the ship he wrote <i>Yatri</i> and <i>Puravi</i> . The manuscript of <i>Puravi</i> contains decorative images emerging out of erring lines and erasures. He could not proceed beyond Buenos Aires due to his illness and became the guest of Madam Victoria Ocampo, his writing <i>Puravi</i> was dedicated to his hostess whom he called Vijaya, he made doodles and pictures; these impelled Victoria Ocampo to acknowledge him as an artist. He met the President of the Argentine Republic on December 30.
1925	Visited Geneva and Milan on the way to India, presided over by the Duke of Milan, visited Venice and returned India, Mahatma Gandhi visited him to discuss the ethics of Khadi, presided over the first India Philosophical Congress in Calcutta speaking on deeper truths of folk culture and folk religion of India.
1926	Accepted the invitation of the University of Dacca, representatives men of different nations offered him felicitations on his 65 th Birthday. Maharaja of Porbunder sent a handsome donation for Kala Bhavan, visited Rome, Vienna, Paris; met Albert Einstein, visited Munich, Nuremburg, Stuttgart, Cologne, Dusseldorf and Dresdon where he lectured and recited his poems, In Athens, the Greek Government decorated him with the 'Order of the Redeemer', reached Santiniketan on December 19.
1927	Took a tour of South East Asia where he lectured at various occasion and appealed for financial support for Visva Bharati. Pratima Devi mentioned that Tagore was painting in one of her note.
1928	Delegates of India Science Congress visited Visva Bharati, visited Sri Aurobindo in Pondichery and reached Colombo, due to his illness he returned to the main land, stayed in Bangalore and started writing the novel <i>Shesher Kavita</i> (Farewell My Friend), Devoted much time to the new medium of creative self expression, painting.
1929	Participated Triennial Conference, Canada travelling by way of Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Kobe and Tokyo, delivered lecture on The Philosophy of Leisure at Victoria and The Principles of Literature at Vancouver, was invited by the University of California, USA, visited Detroit, Harvard, Columbia and Washington, terminating his tour at Los Angles as a protest against the derogatory remark by the Passport Officer.
1930	About this time painting is pursued very seriously devoting much time. Visited Oxford University to deliver the Hibbert Lecture, arrived in Marseilles via Colombo and finally to Paris to exhibit his paintings at Gallery Pigalle. Visited Geneva and Moscow and met leading writers and artists.
1931	He was in London where he had a long talk with Bernard Shaw; his letters from Russia were collected and published as <i>Russiar Chithi</i> . The Sanskrit College Calcutta conferred on him the title of ' <i>Kavi Sarvabhauma</i> ' (The Poet Paramount), An exhibition of his paintings and drawings was organized for the first time in India.
1932	Visited Persia on an invitation from the King, went to Shiraz, Persepolis, Ispahan, Tehran and Baghdad. Accepted the Calcutta University Chair of Bengali.
1933	Presided over the inaugural meeting of the Rammohan Centenary and delivered a lecture on Rammohan Roy. Received Uday Shankar at Santiniketan, Exhibition of his paintings and those of other artists at Kala Bhavan.
1934	Strongly protested against anti-Gandhi agitation, started writing the poem of <i>Bithika</i> series and spoke at the International Relations Club, An exhibition of his paintings and of other artists held at Santiniketan. Another exhibition of his paintings and the paintings of Santiniketan School was also held at Chennai.
1935	The Benaras Hindu University conferred on him the Degree of D.Litt (Honoris Causa), Japanese poet, Yone Neguchi visited Santiniketan; in a letter to Mukul Dey he outlined his scheme for the establishment of National Gallery of Art.
1936	University of Dacca conferred on him the Degree of D.Litt;

1937	Delivered the Convocation address in Bengali in Calcutta University and addressed Ramkrishna Centenary Parliament of Religions in Calcutta, wrote a number of poems with an undertone of mystic realization, later published as Prantik (Borderland).
1938	C.F.Andrews laid the foundation of Hindi Bhavan at Visva Bharati, Osmania University conferred on him a Degree of D.Litt, Lord Zetland opened an exhibition of his paintings at the Calman Gallery, London on November 18.
1939	The Raja of Puri honoured him with the title of 'Paramaguru' (The Great Preceptor), laid the foundation of Mahajati Sadan at Calcutta.
1940	The Oxford University held a special convocation at Santiniketan to confer on him the Degree of D.Litt on August 7. He condemned Soviet Rusia's aggression in Finland; Spoke on village service on the anniversary of Sriniketan, inaugurated <i>Gitali</i> – an organization for propagation of music in Calcutta.
1941	His last address on Rammohan Roy was read on January 24; The Maharaja of Tripura conferred on him the title of 'Bharat Bhaskar'. He dictated his last poem on July 30, which contained the following lines: <i>"...the last reward he carries To his treasure-house..... the unwasting right to peace"</i> He took his last breath on August 7, 1941