

## BIOGRAPHY

**1848, 28 September** - (Saka Era 1771 Ashwina 15)

Radhanath Ray is born in Kedarpur village near Soro in Balasore district of Odisha state in India as the eldest child of Sundar Narayan Ray (father) and Tarini Dasi (mother).

1852- His brother Jadunath is born.

1853- Radhanath loses his mother Tarini Dasi

1854- Radhanath starts education at the study centre (pathshala) in the village set up by his father at the age of 6 years.

1856- Radhanath gets admitted into newly established vernacular school and starts learning Sanskrit.

Radhanath performs well in school examination and wins a prize. The annual report of school mentions “... *the progress made by the boys of the two sections is pretty fair. I recommend Radhanath Ray as deserving a prize. x x x of the second year class Radhanath Ray is decidedly the best and he has won the highest number of marks.*”

1858- Radhanath meets the great activist Karmaveer Gourishankar Ray and gets admitted into Balasore High School (presently Balasore Zilla School) in class Six and learns Persian and Urdu.

1864- Radhanath wins scholarship of rupees 14 for standing first in entrance examination of Calcutta University and gets admitted into Presidency college for higher education, but quits college for illness.

On June 23 Radhanath joins Balasore Zilla School as the 3<sup>rd</sup> teacher for a monthly salary of rupees 30.

1865- Radhanath was praised by the Headmaster for his professional excellence. He writes, “*The third master Babu Radhanath Rai is an intelligent young man and though sometimes before he was little prone to carelessness, he has lately given me great satisfaction.*”

Radhanath meets Fakir Mohan Senapati, Headmaster of Balasore Mission School, Madhusudan Das (Utkalgourav) and Damodar Prasad Das. Damodar Prasad Das set up first printing press in Balasore.

- 1866- *The Utkaldeepika* (newspaper) is launched by Gourishankar Ray in cooperation with Bichitrnanda Das, Jaganmohan Ray and is published from Cuttak. Radhanath describes the terrible picture of the worst famine of 1866 (*Na anka durbhikhya*)
- 1868- Radhanath's Odia translation of Sanskrit *Meghadoot* is published in *Bodhadayini* and *Baleswar Sambadbahika* magazines.
- 1869- Radhanath passes L.A. (F.A.) examination as non-collegiate candidate and joins Puri Zilla School as the second teacher. There Madhusudan Rao (then in class Eleven) gets closer to him.
- 1870- The headmaster of the Puri Zilla School writes about Radhanath Ray, "*I am mainly indebted to the exertions and assistance of the second master, Babu Radhanath Rai, in bringing the school to its present prosperous condition and for the successful results of the university entrance examination. In a word within my whole experience, I have never met with such an energetic teacher.*"

Accepting the report of Kunjabihari Chakrabartty, Inspector of Schools, the head of the Department Martin writes, "*I have much pleasure saying that I believe the late Headmaster's statement to be strictly correct, that Radhananath Babu has passed the First Arts Examination and is most anxious to have a transfer as will enable him to pass the Degree Examination of the University and that as his home is in Orissa. I hope, he will be one of those who will contribute to the uprising of the province.*" (General report of Public Instruction, 1870, p-142)

Radhanath gets married to Parasamani.

- 1871- Radhanath's health condition worsens severely and he goes on leave for four months. During this leave period he starts learning music and law.
- 1872- Radhanath joins Bankura School as the second teacher, but gets degraded for protesting Sibadesh Bhattacharya for his anti-Odia activities.
- Radhanath joins as the Deputy Inspector on 26 June.
- 1873- Radhanath loses his father, Sundar Narayan Ray.
- 1876- Radhanath's eldest son Shashibhushan is born.

Radhanath is highly praised by Nandakishore Das, Joint Inspector of Schools. He writes, "*..... Among other causes, Balasore school owe their success to intelligent supervision by the Deputy Inspector of Balasore, Radhanath Rai, who takes more than an official interest in his work. Radhanath Rai, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Deputy Inspector, Balasore deserves high*

*commendations for the intelligence, tact, earnestness, which he has shown in the execution of his duties."*

1877- On 24 November Radhanath joins as the Joint Inspector of Schools of Odisha.

1878- Radhanath's second son Rajanibhushan is born.

Radhanath presides over the first half yearly and annual meeting of Utkal Sabha.

1879- Inspector in charge of Odisha (Bhudeb Mukherjee) recommends Radhanath Rai for the post of Inspector.

1880- Radhanath's sister Swarnmayee gets married to Govind Ballav Ray, landlord of Kasipur.

1881- Radhanath gets the offer of Dewan post of King Krushnachandra Bhanj of Mayurbhanj with high salary, but Radhanath declines the offer.

1884- Radhanath travels to many important places of north and west India.

1886- Radhanath visits the princely states Talcher, Bamanda, etc and becomes close to king Sir Sudhala Dev of Bamanda. There Sir Sudhal Dev honoured Radhanath Ray with the title *KABIBARA* with prize money of 500 rupees. Then he visits Palalahada and Keonjhar.

1887- Sanskarak magazine alleges that Radhanath worked against the Odia people.

1889- A journal of criticism "Sahitya Sammilani Samalochana" gets published and Radhanath Ray, Gourishankar Ray, Madhusudan Rao, Kapilaswar Vidyabhushan, Nimainballav Bhattacharya, Kalipada Bandopadhyaya, Ramashankar Ray etc. work together for its management.

1890- An allegation of corruption against Radhanath is made by Pandit Gobind Rath and the Inspector of Schools make an inquiry into the matter and finally Radhanath is acquitted with the claim that the allegation is completely baseless.

1891- Radhanath works as the adviser of Utkal Prabha, a magazine published by King Ramachandra Bhanja of Mayurbhanj. The goal of this magazine was the development of Odia language.

1892- On 21 June Radhanath gets temporary promotion to the post of Inspector and takes charge of Odisha division. On 01 December he gets permanently absorbed in the same post.

Radhanath learns Hindi from his guest Pandit Mahendranath Tiwari.

1893- Radhanath shifts to his new home in Kaligali, Cuttack.

1895- Radhanath meets Nandakishor Bal during a school visit to Kendrapara.

An entrance school is founded in Dhenkanal by the initiative of Radhanath.

1897- Radhanath is conferred the title of Ray Bahadur in the diamond Jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria.

1899- One of Radhanath's subordinates alleges that the last part of 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of *Mahayatra*, the epic, is antigovernment. It saddens Radhanath so deeply that he promises not to write in Odia language. He burns the last 5 chapters of the epic.

1900- Radhanath is transferred to Bardhaman division as the Inspector.

1901- Radhanath's eldest son Shashibhushan builds a house in Dhabaleswar forest in Cuttack without knowledge of Radhanath. Radhanath gets impressed and expresses his desire to live there after retirement.

Radhanath gets promoted to the highest rank in the education department of the provincial service.

Poetess Nagendrabala publishes *Bhutale Swarga*, an anthology of poems in praise of Radhanath.

1902- Nagendrabala composes *Amiyagatha*, another anthology of poems in praise of Radhanath and dedicates it to Radhanath too.

1903- Radhanath retires from service and settle in Cuttack.

Radhanath presides over the 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of Utkal Sahitya Samaj. *Bharat Geetika*, a poem in praise of the nation, composed by Radhanath is sung as the opening song.

1904- Radhanath is given a warm reception by Artatrana Mishra, Archeologist and the landlord of Manda.

1905- Nagendrabala visits Cuttack and stays with Radhanath for the second time.

1906- Nagendrabala commits suicide.

1907- Radhanath admits his illicit relation with Nagendrabala and repents for it.

1908- Radhanath goes on a tour to Dhenkanal, Talcher, Palalahada and Bamanda and spends almost three months. (January 19 – April 07)

**1908, April 17** – Radhanath Ray breathes his last.