

Kashia village to collect lease money. During the Mughal period, the Gopinath temple and the adjacent Shiv Mandir and Radha-Krishna Bathroom were built at Shilaidaha, which belonged to Rani Bhabani's zamindari. Rabinranath renovated the Gopinath temple and built a guest house and a lion door for that temple to enhance the beauty of the village. In 2017 and 2018, Pratimadevi Girls School replete with the memories of Rabinranath, Gopinath Mandir and the Shiva Mandir adjacent to the school, Radha-Krishna Bathroom, Mahatshi Charitable Dispensary, Kachari Bari, and Tagore Lodge were gazetted as protected antiquities. This kuthibari in Shilaidaha is now like a place of pilgrimage for the fans of Rabinranath. Every year on 25th of Barishakh, the birth anniversary of the poet is celebrated here at the national level. Ceremonies are also held here on 22nd Shrawan on the poet's death anniversary. This courtyard, which is reminiscent of the world poet Rabinranath Tagore, has become a popular destination for numerous visitors and tourists from home and abroad. At the premises of the Shilaidaha Rabinindra Kuthibari, under the project titled "Extended Development work of Rabinindra Bhawan at kuthibari, Shilaidaha, Kushtia" and with the support of the Government of India, in the architectural plan of the renowned architect and Rabinindra researcher Mr. Rabul Hussain, through the Public Works Department Kushtia, the guest house, library- research center, open stage, cafeteria, car parking, entrance, Ansar shed, public toilet, water reservoir, gazebo and walkway have been constructed.



Recently Built Guesthouse

Inspection schedule

Summer schedule

April 1 to September 30

Tuesday to Saturday

10.00 am to 06.00 pm

Monday from 02.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs

Weekly closed on Sundays

Winter schedule

October 1 to March 31

Tuesday to Saturday

09.00 am to 05.00 pm

Monday from 01.30 pm to 05.00 pm

Weekly closed on Sundays

The site, including the museum, will be open on other public holidays announced by the government, and will be closed the next day, including the museum.



Regional Directorate Office
Department of Archaeology,
Khulna and Barishal Division
Ministry of Cultural Affairs



Shilaidaha Rabinindra Kuthibari, Kushtia

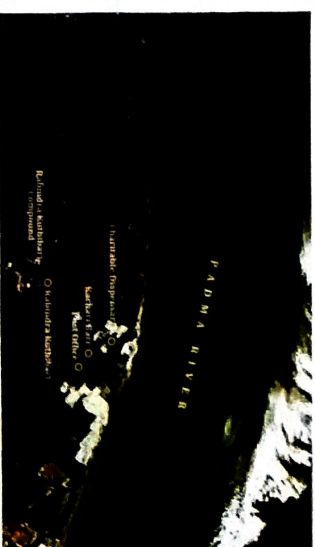
Shilaidaha

Rabinindra Kuthibari



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Shilaidaha Rabinindra Kuthibari is a historical place and tourist center replete with the memories of Bishwakavi (poet of the world) Rabinranath Tagore. From the present-day Kushtia Sadar District, about ten (10) kilometer northeast and across the Gorai River, this place is located on the southern bank of the Padma River. Besides the Sadar Kachari and Kuthibari of the Birahampur Zamindary of the Tagore family, other places are situated at Shilaidaha as well. The name "Shilaidaha" is modern. Earlier, this place was known as "Khorsheedpur". The combined flow of the Gorai and Padma Rivers has led to the formation of a deep "Daha" (i.e. the decay and deepening of the riverbed caused by a whirlpool) at this place. Legend has it that, right above this "Daha", an oppressive British indigo planter named Shelley built a Kuthi (factory). For this reason, the village came to be known as "Sheli-Daha", which gradually turned into Shilaidaha. At that time, Shilaidaha or Khorsheedpur was a part of Birahampur Pargana or Zamindari. The Birahampur Zamindari is very old. It is said that Raja Sitaram Roy, the famous zamindar of Jessore, was the owner of this zamindari. Later, its ownership was transferred to the zamindar family of Nator. In 1800 AD, the great-grandfather of Rabinranath Tagore bought the zamindari from the Maharani of Nator for his little son Dwarkanath (who later received the title "Prince" during the colonial period). Rabinranath Tagore came to Shilaidaha to take care of the zamindari for the first time in October, 1891. Earlier, he had also visited



General View of Rabinindra Kuthibari and Padma River
(Modified after Google Earth)

Shilaidaha a few times during his childhood and his youth. At his young age, Rabindranath Tagore used to get off at Kushtia railway station and cross the Gorai River by a boat or steamer to reach Shilaidaha. At that time, he stayed in the old Kutibari of his elder brother Jyotindranath. Description of the Kutibari of the past British indigo planters can be found in his writings (Childhood, pp. 61-67). Later, that old building was demolished as the rapid erosion of the Padma River threatened to erode the area close to the Kutibari. The materials from that old building were reused to construct this new Kutibari in 1892. Nihindranath Tagore, the third son of the poet's elder brother Dwyendranath Tagore, oversaw the construction of this building. After that, the son of the poet, Rabindranath Tagore, gave the building its present look. Rabindranath Tagore stayed here at irregular intervals for more than a decade from 1891 to 1901. Later, with his plans to establish a school in Santiniketan on the one hand, and his wife Mrinalini Devi's illness and the marriage of his eldest daughter Madhurila on the other, Tagore left Shilaidaha around the middle of 1901. During his stay, Sir Jagadish Chandra Basu (Acharya), Dwyendralal Roy, Pramatha Chaudhuri, Mohitlal Majumdar, Lokendra Nath Palit and other famous scientists, writers and intellectuals of the then Bengal came to visit on many occasions. Sitting here in this Kutibari and Padma boat, some of the greatest creations of Rabindra-Sahitya were composed: Sonar Tori, Chitra, Chaitali, Korha O Kahini, Khanka, most of the poems of Nabheya and Kheya, stories, plays, novels, of Padmapar, Chinnaparatbali, Gitanjali and songs of Gitanjali.

Sitting right here, he wrote and translated most of the essays of Gitanjali. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1913 for his collection of poems titled 'Song Offerings', an English translation of Gitanjali. Rabindranath had deep affections for Shilaidaha and Padma, which is reflected in Chinnaparatbali. The poet wrote in a letter: "During my youth and my old age, the locality of Shilaidaha, kissed by the course of Padma, remained a place of pilgrimage for my literary pursuits" (10 Chaitra, 1346). The poet had loved Shilaidaha, and the source of that love was Padma. He has composed various verses about Padma at different times. After the bereavement of his wife, the poet often came to Shilaidaha and stayed in the Padma Boat on the riverbank. Later, a room was allotted for him on the second and a half floor of the house from where he used to sit and enjoy the beauty of Pramatha Padma. He remained here until the property was divided. After the division of property, Shilaidaha, that is, the Brahmapur Pargana, fell into the hands of Surendranath Tagore, the nephew of the poet. Tagore last came to Shilaidaha in 1922 following the special interests of Surendranath. But even sitting in Calcutta, he always remembered Padma. Shilaidaha Kutibari covers an impressive area of about 15.93 acres with mango, jackfruit and other evergreen tree orchards, a flower garden and 4 ponds. In the garden, the two and a half story building surrounded by walls is located. It is a terrace-shaped building made of bricks, woods, corrugated sheets and the tiles of Raniganj. It has a total of 15 rooms of different sizes, including the ground floor and the large central hall room on the first floor. The

stopping verandahs on the east and the west as well as the pyramid-shaped roof with triangular edges has brought more diversity to the building. The Kutibari building is surrounded by a fence with an attractive entrance arch. On the east side of the wall, there is a large garden full of fruit trees like mango, jackfruit, litchi, coconut etc. and, on the east-west, there is a long pond. There is an open school on the main courtyard of this Kutibari, and there is a tennis court at the back. There is also a well and a kitchen. There is another large pond to the west of the building. The poet himself planted two Boku trees on either side of the entrance to the paved ghat of this pond. Later, the poet would sing on his own while sitting under the shade and enjoying the gentle fragrance of those two trees. In 1957, under the Ancient Monument Preservation Act, the government declared this Kutibari as a preserved glorious memorial. On 3 August, 1961, Shilaidaha Kutibari was gazetted as a protected antiquities. After 1971, realizing the importance of this Kutibari, the Rabindra Memorial Museum was established here after collecting various works of art of the poet. The handwritten letters of Bishwakavi Rabindranath Tagore and a sample of his self-portrait are being exhibited here. The table used for collecting lease money and a portrait of the boat in which the poet used to sail on the chest of Padma are being exhibited in the room in the middle of the ground floor. The first room on the west side exhibits photographs of Rabindranath Tagore at different ages and filters used for water purification. A lawn mower, brought from England, is being exhibited in the next room.

A variety of palanquins and wooden cupboards is being exhibited in the other rooms. The Palanka, pontoon stairway to the pontoon and a speedboat called Chapla and much more are kept for display on the first floor. Rabindranath Tagore came to Shilaidaha to manage the zamindari and came in contact with Baul Fakir Lalon Shah and Vaisnavism. It was here that he became acquainted with Baul songs. He himself has written in the introduction of the book 'Haramani' written by Muhammad Mansur Uddin that he has taken Baul tunes in many of his songs. He collected the tunes of our national anthem 'Amar Sonar Bangla, Ami Tomay Bhailobasi' from the tunes of the song of Gagan Chandra Das, who was the Harkara of Shilaidaha Post Office. The post office of Gagan Harkara was located near Kachari Bari on the northeast side of Kutibari. It was in Shilaidah that Rabindranath first started to experiment with rural development and modern methods of farming, which he later put into practice in Patisar. He also established a primary school at Khorshedpur in Shilaidaha named after his daughter-in-law Pratima Devi which is known as Pratima Devi Girls School. When the river Gorai was closed due to siltation, Rabindranath built a road from Shilaidaha to Kushtia. That road is now known as Rabindra Road. Here, Rabindranath Tagore built a charitable dispensary called Maharshi Charitable Dispensary at a huge cost. During his stay in Shilaidaha, he built a picturesque building like 'Tagore Lodge' which is now located in Mill Para of Kushtia Sadar Municipality. He built a two-storey kachari house or tehsil khana in

