



## Sri Aurobindo

### Why in News?

On 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Prime Minister paid tribute to **Sri Aurobindo on his 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.**

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### What do Know about Sri Aurobindo?

#### ▪ About:

- Aurobindo Ghose was **born in Calcutta on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1872**. He was a yogi, seer, philosopher, poet, and Indian nationalist who propounded a philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution.

- He died on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1950 in Pondicherry.
- Aurobindo's pragmatic strategies to get rid of British rule marked him as **“the Prophet of Indian Nationalism”**.

#### ▪ **Education:**

- His education **began in a Christian convent school** in Darjeeling.
- He entered the University of Cambridge, where he became proficient in two classical and several modern European languages.
- In 1892, he held various administrative posts in Baroda (Vadodara) and Calcutta (Kolkata).
- He began the study of Yoga and Indian languages, including classical Sanskrit.

#### ▪ **Indian Revolutionary Movement:**

- From 1902 to 1910 he **partook in the struggle to free India from the British**.
- The partition of Bengal in 1905 provoked Aurobindo to leave his job in Baroda and plunge into the nationalist movement. He **started the patriotic journal Bande Mataram to propagate radical methods** and revolutionary tactics instead of supplication.
- He was **arrested thrice by the British — twice for sedition** and once for conspiring to “wage war”.
  - He was imprisoned in **1908 (Alipore Bomb case)**.
- Two years later he **fled British India and found refuge in the French colony of Pondichéry (Puducherry)**, gave up overt political activities and embraced spiritual pursuits, soon to emerge as one of the most original thinkers, philosophers and spiritual masters.
  - He **met Mirra Alfassa in Pondicherry, and their spiritual collaboration led to “Integral Yoga”**.
  - Integral Yoga, is a yoga of Earth transformation. The aim of this yoga is not an escape from life or a shunning of worldly existence, but a radical change in our life even while living amidst it.

#### ▪ **Aurobindo's Ideas on Second World War**

- Several Indians saw the Second World War as an opportune moment to get rid of colonial occupation; Aurobindo, **asked his compatriots to support the Allies and ensure Hitler's defeat**.

#### ▪ **Spirituality:**

- In Pondichéry he **founded a community of spiritual seekers**, which took shape as the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.
- He believed that the **basic principles of matter, life, and mind would be succeeded** through terrestrial evolution by the principle of supermind as an intermediate power between the two spheres of the infinite and the finite.

#### ▪ **Literary Works:**

- An English newspaper called Bande Mataram (in 1905)
- Bases of Yoga
- Bhagavad Gita and Its Message
- The Future Evolution of Man
- Rebirth and Karma
- Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol
- Hour of God

**Source: IE**