



Sri Aurobindo: Prophet of Indian Nationalism

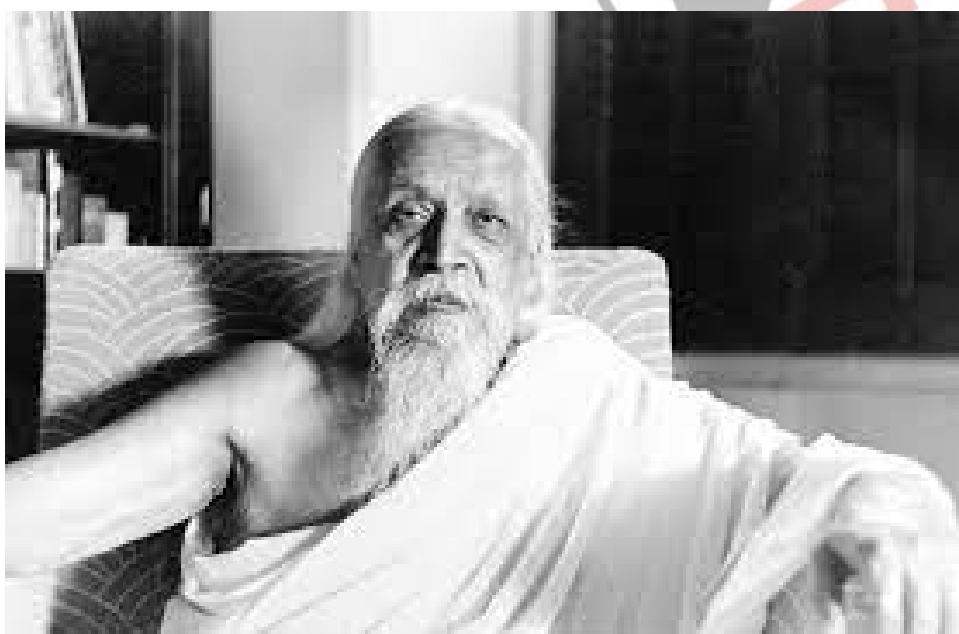
For Prelims: Sri Aurobindo, Prophet of Indian Nationalism, Indian National Movement, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

For Mains: Sri Aurobindo's Contribution in Indian nationalism Movement.

Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister has participated in a programme commemorating [Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary](#) in Puducherry, under the aegis of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

- The PM has released a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honor of Sri Aurobindo.



Who Was Sri Aurobindo?

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

▪ **Death:** He died on 5th December 1950 in Pondicherry.

[Source: PIB](#)

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