



Sri Aurobindo

Why in News?

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

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What do Know about 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.

- He died on 5th 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](#)