



## Sri Aurobindo: Prophet of Indian Nationalism

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

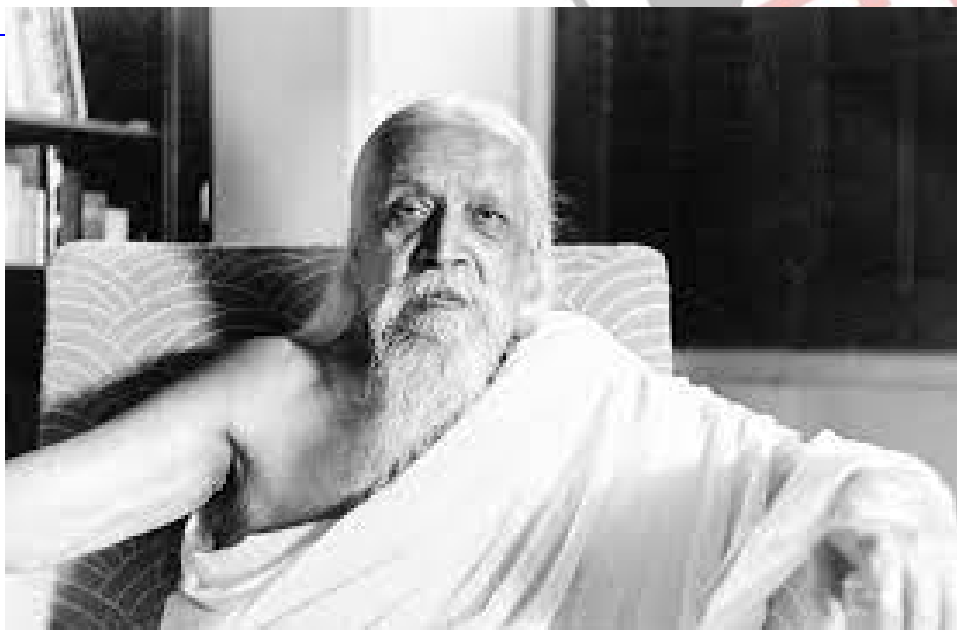
**For Mains:** Sri Aurobindo's Contribution in Indian nationalism Movement.

### Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister has participated in a programme commemorating [Sri Aurobindo's 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### Who Was 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**.
  - 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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