

LEADERS IN NEWS

SRI AUROBINDO

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid homage to Sri Aurobindo, on the occasion of his birth anniversary

Early Life & Education

Birth – Born on 15th August 1872 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), into a Bengali family with a strong intellectual tradition.

Schooling – Began his education in Darjeeling at a Christian convent school, excelling in academics from an early age.

Higher Education – Studied at the University of Cambridge, England, where he mastered European languages like Latin, Greek, French, German, and Italian.

Indian Languages – Simultaneously proficient in Sanskrit, Bengali, Hindi, Gujarati, and Marathi, demonstrating a rare blend of Eastern and Western linguistic mastery.

Early Career – Served in the Baroda (Vadodara) State Service from 1893 to 1906, initially in administrative roles and later as a professor, where he promoted education and reform.

Role in the Freedom Struggle

Entry into Revolutionary Politics – Became actively involved in the Indian revolutionary movement following the Partition of Bengal in 1905, advocating radical measures against British rule.

Bande Mataram (1906) – As a key figure in this English-language nationalist newspaper, he promoted swadeshi, self-rule, and political awakening among Indians.

Purna Swaraj Advocate – Championed the idea of complete independence decades before the Congress formally adopted it in 1929.

Alipore Bomb Case (1908–09) – Arrested for alleged revolutionary activities but later acquitted, marking a crucial phase in his nationalist struggle.

Approach to Freedom – Emphasized direct action, revolutionary methods, and armed struggle over petitions or incremental reforms, earning him the title **“Prophet of Indian Nationalism.”**

Philosophical Contributions

Evolutionary Thought – Believed human evolution is ongoing, with the next stage being **Supramental Evolution**, a transformation of consciousness.

Synthesis of East & West – Advocated integrating Eastern spirituality with Western rationalism, science, and thought.

Divine Life on Earth – Proposed the realization of a divine life in the material world, combining spiritual growth with social and material progress.

Integral Yoga – Developed a spiritual practice aimed at transforming the entire being—body, mind, and soul—towards higher consciousness.

Literary Works

Bande Mataram – Writings and editorials (1905–06) that inspired nationalist sentiment.

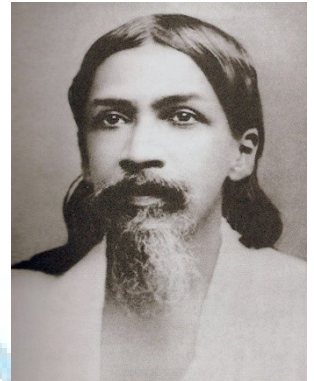
The Life Divine – Magnum opus explaining Integral Yoga, philosophy of evolution, and supramental consciousness.

Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol – Epic poem of nearly 24,000 lines; explores human struggle, divine consciousness, and spiritual destiny.

Essays on the Gita – Reinterpreted the Bhagavad Gita’s teachings for modern spiritual and national awakening.

Other Works

The Ideal of Human Unity – vision of global harmony and cooperation.



Bases of Yoga, Rebirth and Karma, The Hour of God, The Future Evolution of Man – writings on spiritual, philosophical, and ethical evolution.

Legacy

Death – Passed away on 5th December 1950 in Pondicherry, leaving behind a rich legacy in nationalism, philosophy, and spirituality.

Recognition – Revered as a yogi, philosopher, poet, visionary, and a pioneering thinker in modern India.

Influence: Deeply impacted Indian thought on education, nationalism, spirituality, and the integration of material and spiritual progress.

Global Commemoration – UNESCO celebrated his 150th birth anniversary in 2022, recognizing him as an international figure of enduring intellectual and spiritual influence.

