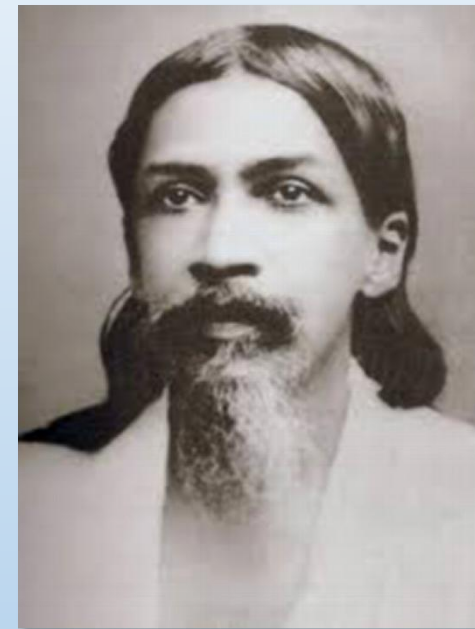




The Great Poet Sri Aurobindo



Sri Aurobindo was one of the first Indians educated in England. He was a poet, thinker, freedom fighter, yogi and spiritual leader. He was born on 15 August 1872 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

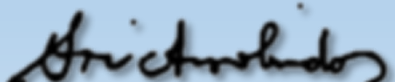


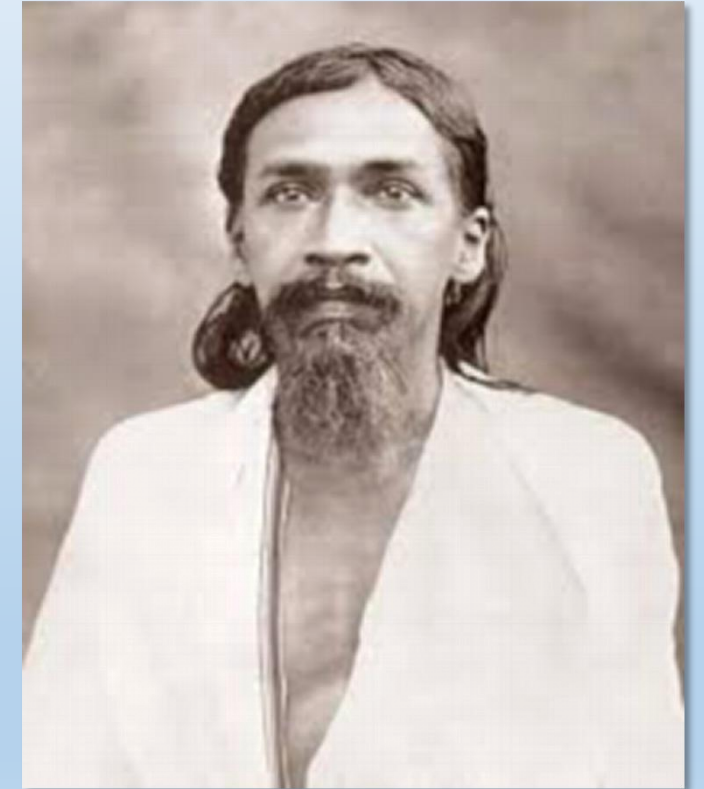
Sri Aurobindo is also known as Aurobindo Ghose and also spelled as Aravinda. He propounded a philosophy of divine life on earth and founded an ashram in Puducherry. His epic poem Savitri is one of the greatest works of him. His participation in the Indian freedom struggle against the British gave him popularity and gradually evolved to become a spiritual and yogic guru. He came up with a new path of spirituality known as 'integral yoga'. The main objective of his teachings was to increase the level of consciousness of people and to aware people of their true selves. He had written several books focused on Indian culture, socio-political development of the country, spirituality, etc.



Introduction of Sri Aurobindo



- Birth Date: 15 August 1872
- Place of Birth: Kolkata, West Bengal, India (Present-day)
- Died: 5 December 1950
- Place of Death: Puducherry, India
- Father's Name: Dr. K.D Ghose
- Mother's Name: Swarnalata Devi
- Spouse: Mrinalini Devi
- Alma mater: University of Cambridge
- Established: Sri Aurobindo Ashram
- Philosophy: Integral Yoga, Involution, Evolution, Integral psychology, Intermediate Zone, Supermind
- Literary Works: The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga, Savitri
- Signature - 





Sri Aurobindo Early Life & Education



When he was born his name was kept Aurobindo Akroyd Ghose. His parents want to give his upbringing in European style. So, they enrolled him in the Loreto Convent School at Darjeeling. At the age of 7, he was sent to England to complete his studies. He did his schooling from King's College, Cambridge. And also, he had learned various foreign languages like Greek, French, Italian German, Latin, and Spanish. In 1892, he came back to India.

He passed the Indian Civil Service examination. But he doesn't want to work for the British Government so, he did not join. But in 1893, he accepted an appointment in the Baroda state service. He worked for 13 years and rose to the post of principal of the Baroda State College. He learned Sanskrit; read the Vedas, the Upanishads, epics, Marathi, Gujarati, and his native language Bengali. In 1901, he married Mrinalini Basu.

During the partition of Bengal (1905-1912), he led the group of nationalists. Later, he became the editor of a nationalist Bengal newspaper named Vande Mataram. He was also imprisoned in 1908 and two years later, he fled British India and found a refuge in the French Colony of Pondicherry (Puducherry). Here. He devoted himself for the rest of his life to the development of "integral yoga". His aim was to spiritually transform the life on earth.



SRI AUROBINDO HAD RETURN TO INDIA



- **Aurobindo Ghose came back to India in 1893 after getting a job with the royal family of Baroda (Gaekwad). He was fluent with many foreign languages but less familiar with Indian culture.**
- **He spent twelve years in Baroda serving as a teacher, secretary to the Maharaja of Gaekwad and also the Vice Principal of Baroda College thereby becoming more familiar with his mother tongue and Indian traditions.**
- **It was only after staying in India for twelve long years that Aurobindo could understand the harm that the British rule had done to the Indian civilization and he slowly and gradually started showing interest in politics.**



Sri Aurobindo Role in Indian Freedom Struggle



- His initial political activism involved emphasis on the urgency of demanding total freedom from the British government.
- While in the services of the Baroda administration, he contributed articles to 'Indu Prakash' and covertly got in touch with resistance groups in Bengal and Madhya Pradesh
- He finally moved to Kolkata in the year 1906 after the announcement of the partition of Bengal. Publicly, Aurobindo supported non-co-operation and passive resistance to the British rule but in private he was involved in secret revolutionary activities and helped build the revolutionary atmosphere in the country.
- In Bengal, he got in touch with revolutionaries and inspired young revolutionaries such as Bagha Jatin, Jatin Banerjee and Surendranath Tagore. He was also instrumental in the formation of several youth clubs including the Anushilan Samiti.
- In 1906, he participated in the Indian National Congress annual session, which was headed by Dadabhai Naoroji. He helped in building the fourfold objectives of the national movement - Swaraj, Swadesh, Boycott and national education. He started a daily newspaper Bande Mataram in 1907.



Sri Aurobindo Role in Indian Freedom Struggle



- In 1907, the congress split due to a showdown between moderates and extremists. Aurobindo sided with extremists and supported Bal Gangadhar Tilak. After this, he travelled extensively across Pune, Baroda and Bombay to educate people and get support for national movement.
- In May 1908, the British arrested him in connection with the Alipore Bomb Case. He was subsequently released after one year of solitary confinement.
- Post his release in 1909, he started new publications - Karmayogin (English) and Dharma (Bengali).
- While in Alipore jail, he slowly realized that he was not destined to lead the freedom struggle and gradually diverted to mystical and philosophical way of life thereby initiating this new journey of spiritual awakening.
- In April 1910, Aurobindo Ghoseh secretly moved to Pondicherry (which was then a French Colony) to start a new life.
- In Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo set himself on a path of spiritual learning and evolution by practicing secluded yoga continuously for four years which he termed as 'Integral Yoga'. He proposed the importance of spiritual practices in human transformation into a divine entity.



Politics to Spiritualism



- During the Alipore Bomb Case, he was kept in confinement in Alipore Jail. It was during this period that his view of life radically changed due to spiritual experiences and realizations.
- Aurobindo said that he constantly heard the voice of Vivekananda speaking to him for almost a fortnight in the jail and from there began a new journey towards spiritualism.
- After settling in Pondicherry, he dedicated himself to his spiritual and philosophical pursuits. In 1914, he started a monthly philosophical magazine 'Arya'.
- Slowly and gradually Sri Aurobindo began to attract followers and the number kept increasing, resulting in the formation of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.
- Apart from yoga and spirituality, he also wrote about the Indian culture, Vedas and society through The Foundations of Indian Culture, The Secret of the Veda, The Human Cycle etc.
- Sri Aurobindo had a flair for poetry even at the time he was settled in England. His poetic inclinations revived in 1930s and took shape of a great piece of literature, Savitri: a poem of 24000 lines and purely resting on spirituality.
- He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature (1943) and Nobel Prize for Peace (1950) for his innumerable contributions in the field of poetry, spiritualism and philosophical literature.



Sri Aurobindo Ashram



- He started his journey in Pondicherry with a few followers, but that increased rapidly and ultimately led to the establishment of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.
- After the establishment of the Ashram, he began using Sri before his name, meaning sacred in Sanskrit.
- The foundation of the Ashram was laid with the help of Mirra Richard (a French national and the spiritual collaborator of Aurobindo Ghoseh) who came to Pondicherry in 1914.
- Mirra Richard d took charge of the management of Ashram after he went into seclusion in 1926. She began to be known as 'The Mother' and was considered and equal to Aurobindo in spiritual wisdom and knowledge.



Sri Aurobindo: Works



In Pondicherry (Puducherry), Sri Aurobindo patrons were French couple namely Paul Richard and his wife Mirra Alfassa Richard (later she was the Mother of the Pondicherry (Puducherry) Ashram). He started publishing the monthly journal Anya with the assistance of his French friends. In the journal, he focussed on the divine destiny of humankind, unification of the human race, the spirit and the significance of Indian civilisation and culture. Later, he mentioned these articles in the Life Divine. He also wrote his epic poem Savitri in 23,813 lines of blank verse. Do you it is one of the longest poems in the English language.

His works at a glance

- The Divine Life his major works includes Essays on the Gita (1922).
- Collected Poems and Plays (1942)
- The Synthesis of Yoga (1948)
- The Human Cycle (1949)
- The ideal of Human Unity (1949)
- Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol (1950)
- On the Veda (1956)



Sri Aurobindo Works



In 1926, he retired to complete seclusion. He met the poet Rabindranath Tagore in 1928. His yoga system empowers the people in transforming life, mind, and body.

Sri Aurobindo had five-part vision namely:

- He wished to see free and independent India that he witnessed on 15 August, 1947 on his birthday.
- Resurgence of Asia
- World Union
- The spiritual gift to India to the world
- A step in evolution which would raise man to a higher and larger consciousness.



Main Works



- **Sri Aurobindo Primary Works Set 12 vol. US Edition, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-93-0**
- **Sri Aurobindo Selected Writings Software CD ROM, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-914955-88-8**
- **The Life Divine, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-61-2**
- **Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-80-9**
- **The Synthesis of Yoga, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-65-5**
- **Essays on the Gita, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-914955-18-7**
- **The Ideal of Human Unity, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-914955-43-8**
- **The Human Cycle: The Psychology of Social Development, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-914955-44-6**
- **The Human Cycle, Ideal of Human Unity, War and Self Determination, Lotus Press. ISBN 81-7058-014-5**
- **The Upanishads, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-914955-23-3**
- **Secret of the Veda, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-914955-19-5**
- **Hymns to the Mystic Fire, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-914955-22-5**
- **The Mother, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-79-5**



Compilations and Secondary Literature



- **The Integral Yoga: Sri Aurobindo's Teaching and Method of Practice, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-76-0**
- **The Future Evolution of Man, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-940985-55-1**
- **The Essential Aurobindo – Writings of Sri Aurobindo ISBN 978-0-9701097-2-9**
- **Bhagavad Gita and Its Message, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-78-7**
- **The Mind of Light, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-940985-70-5**
- **Rebirth and Karma, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-63-9**
- **Hour of God by Sri Aurobindo, Lotus Press. ISBN 81-7058-217-2**
- **Dictionary of Sri Aurobindo's Yoga, (compiled by M.P. Pandit), Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-74-4**
- **Vedic Symbolism, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin ISBN 0-941524-30-2**
- **The Powers Within, Lotus Press. ISBN 978-0-941524-96-4**



Last Days of Sri Aurobindo

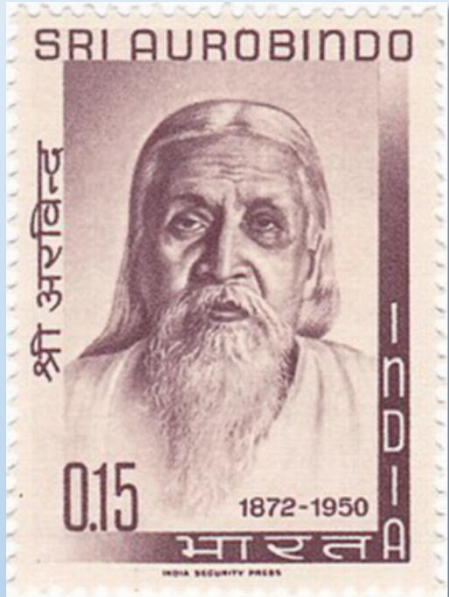


On 5 December 1950, he left the world. His work was continued by the Mother and after her death by her successors at the Pondicherry (Puducherry) Ashram. Do you know the international community; Auroville established on the outskirts of Pondicherry (Puducherry) celebrates Aurobindo's revolutionary utopian vision. Several authors were inspired by the works of Aurobindo Ghose and one such scholar, the late Haridas Chaudhuri, established the Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco in 1971. His philosophical as well political works were appreciated by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then President Rajendra Prasad.





Some Glimpse of Sri Aurobindo



Sri Aurobindo on a 1964 stamp of India



Photographs of Aurobindo as a prisoner in Alipore Jail, 1908.



Copy of Bande Mataram, September 1907



Aurobindo (seated center next to his mother) and his family. In England, ca. 1879



Source of Information References



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<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/sri-aurobindo-76.php>