

Sri Aurobindo

December 23, 2021

In news—Recently, the Union government has formed a high-level 53 member committee headed by the Prime Minister to mark the 150th birth anniversary (which falls on August 15, 2022) of Indian philosopher Sri Aurobindo.

About Sri Aurobindo Ghose-

- He was a renowned and important personality in the history of the Indian resurgence and Indian nationalism.
- He was **born on August 15, 1872, in Kolkata.**
- His father Krishna Dhun Ghose was a surgeon in Rangpur, Bengal.
- He was **drawn to the Indian freedom movement as a revolutionary leader.**
- He **cleared the Indian Civil Service (ICS) examination** securing the 11th rank out of 250 candidates.
- He joined King's College for the training but had himself **disqualified for an exam by arriving deliberately late as he had no interest in the ICS.**
- He returned to India and **secured employment in the Baroda State Service** with the help of an acquaintance.
- In 1897, he joined Baroda College as a French teacher and also taught himself Sanskrit and Bengali during this time.
- He attended Congress sessions and **helped establish the Anushilan Samiti of Calcutta in 1902.**
- **He and his brother revolutionary Barin Ghose** contributed articles to the **magazine Jugantar** which inspired many young people to take up revolutionary work.
- In 1905, Aurobindo started an **English newspaper called Bande Mataram.**
- **In May 1908**, Aurobindo was arrested in connection with the **Alipore Conspiracy Case or Alipore Bomb Case.**
- This was in the wake of the attempt to assassinate the

Chief Presidency Magistrate Douglas Kingford by Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki.

- **Some of his literary works include:** 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, etc.
- He **passed away on 5 December 1950** in Pondicherry aged 78.

Contribution of Aurobindo Ghosh in Spirituality-

- It was during his **incarceration in Alipore Jail that Aurobindo's life started transforming into one of spirituality and self-realization.**
- He said that he heard the voice of Swami Vivekananda in prison and became convinced of the truth of Sanatana Dharma.
- He **started practicing Yoga and withdrew from political life as then.**
- He **developed a kind of Yoga called Integral Yoga** and believed that human beings can evolve further into something truly divine.
- The British tried to arrest him for sedition for his writings, but he fled to Pondicherry in 1910 which was a French colony, and the arrest warrant against him was withdrawn.
- In 1914, he started **publishing a magazine called Arya.**
- He attracted many followers and this led to the founding of the **Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.**
- In that year he entrusted the work of guiding the seekers to his spiritual collaborator, Mirra Alfassa (1878–1973), who was called “the Mother” in the ashram.