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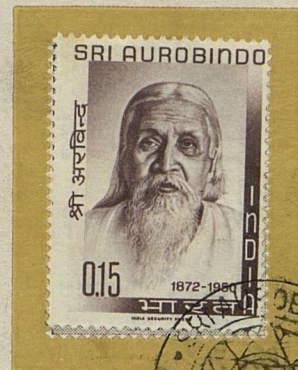


INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

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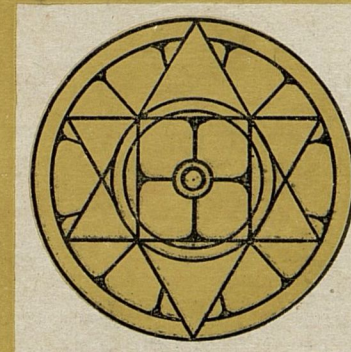
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No. 4/7/P III—August 1964 English 37,500



TECHNICAL DATA

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Printing size	..	3.63 x 2.62 cms.
Set	..	35 per issue sheet
Colour	..	Plum
Perforation	..	13
Watermark	..	All-over Multiple Lion Capital of Asoka
Printing process	..	Photogravure
Designed & printed at	..	India Security Press
Number printed	..	2.5 million



INDIA

SRI AUROBINDO
92nd BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION STAMP

15th AUGUST
1964

SRI AUROBINDO

The latter half of the nineteenth century saw the birth, in India, of several personalities who attained high eminence in diverse fields. Of these, the name of Sri Aurobindo stands among the foremost. He was born in Calcutta on the 15th August, 1872. After receiving his early education in India on western lines, he studied for fourteen years in England. He was a brilliant student and became a master of several European languages including Greek and Latin, passing the Classical Tripos from the University of Cambridge with First Class Honours and, winning all the prizes in the Classics. Later he came out successful in the Indian Civil Service Examination.

However, he did not join the Civil Service but, decided to devote himself to the task of freeing India from foreign yoke. As a student, he participated in the debates of the Indian Majlis at Cambridge, making revolutionary speeches demanding independence for India and, hinting at armed rebellion as a means of attaining it.

On returning to India, he spent thirteen years in the service of the Maharaja of Baroda, initially as an administrator and later as a teacher and officiating Principal of the State College. During these years he learnt several Indian languages including Sanskrit and made a deep study of the literature, the scriptures and, the cultural heritage of our country. He also gave expression to his ideas on political matters through his articles in the *Indu Prakash* of Bombay in 1893, in which he criticised the aims pursued by contemporary nationalist leaders and, put forth his own challenging and radical ideas on the subject. The British authorities directed Sri Aurobindo to desist from publishing such articles. He then drew up his own plan for revolutionary work and took

part in organising it in the Bombay Presidency and Bengal.

The Partition of Bengal in 1905 threw him into the vortex of politics. He relinquished his post at Baroda and proceeded to Calcutta as Principal of the newly established National College at Jadavpur, where he plunged into the political turmoil with all his zeal and energy. In the Varanasi Congress of 1905 he played a leading role in the formulation of a policy for securing the Independence of our country. About this time he started the *Yugantar*, a Bengali daily and, joined the *Bande Mataram*, the English daily of Bipin Chandra Pal. Through these newspapers he gave expression to his ideas of patriotism, love of freedom and sacrifice in the cause of the motherland. He published in the *Bande Matram* his ideas on *The Doctrine of Passive Resistance*, charting out the way in which the Swadeshi and boycott movements were to be conducted. In the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress of 1906, Sri Aurobindo was first to declare openly, that "complete autonomy, free from British control" should be the aim of the freedom struggle.

Early in May, 1908 Sri Aurobindo was arrested along with thirty eight other revolutionaries. He remained in jail as an 'under-trial' prisoner for a year and, it was during this period that he reached the turning point of his life. Even as a young boy he is stated to have had mystic intimations of his own role in the political and spiritual life of our country. The Principal of the State college at Baroda, an Englishman, said of him "If Joan of Arc heard heavenly voices, Aurobindo probably sees heavenly visions". Sri Aurobindo had the realisation of "Cosmic Consciousness" during his incarceration and had the vision of Shri Krishna everywhere. From this point onwards he devoted himself entirely to the life of

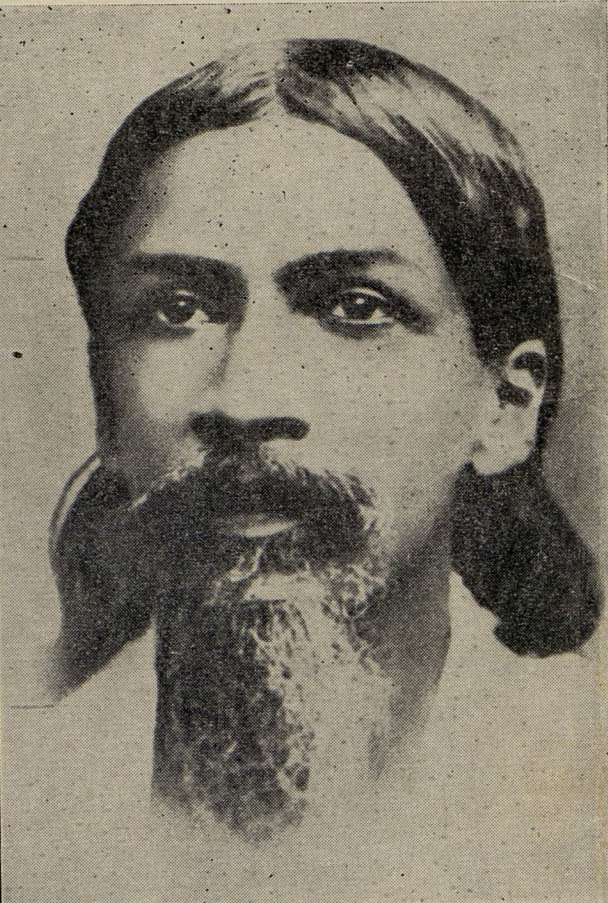
the spirit and, whatever he wrote and said came from a source higher than the mind. Coming out of jail in 1909, he left British India and reached Pondicherry, then a French possession, on the 4th April, 1910. It was here, that his *ashram* was established. In the beginning it was not a planned institution but it grew as disciples came to him from all parts of the world to live in the *ashram* and learn his *yoga*. On the 29th March, 1914 a French lady reverently known as 'The Mother' arrived in Pondicherry and joined Sri Aurobindo in his work. From the *ashram*, the voice of Sri Aurobindo reached the entire world through periodicals, books, essays and poems, revealing new truths about man's destiny.

The sequence of his thoughts has since come out in several books such as, *The Life Divine*, *The Synthesis of Yoga*, *Essays on the Gita*, *The Human Cycle*, *The Ideal of Human Unity*, *The Foundations of Indian Culture*, *The Future Poetry*, *The Upanishads* etc. Sri Aurobindo's greatest spiritual work in poetry is the epic *Savitri* which has 23,813 lines of verse.

Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry consists today of an international community of fourteen hundred people. The Sri Aurobindo Society, World Union and the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education are some of the institutions inspired by him and which propagate his message.

Sri Aurobindo left his mortal frame on the 5th December, 1950 but the work that he initiated continues under the guidance of The Mother.

The Posts & Telegraphs Department considers it a privilege to honour the memory of the great sage and seer, Sri Aurobindo, by the issue of a commemorative stamp on his 92nd birth anniversary on the 15th August, 1964.



SRI AUROBINDO