

Unique IAS Academy

1st Street Gandhipuram Coimbatore-12

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- **Every year on 1st December World Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Day is being observed to raise awareness of the pandemic caused by the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. It also seeks to remember those who have died of the disease by mourning. The theme for year 2015 is ‘Getting to zero, End AIDS by 2030’.**
- **China hosted the first Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) media summit in Beijing for creating an alternative media platform for the 5 emerging economies.**
- **India has been ranked 131 out of 167 nations on ICT Development Index (IDI) that measures the level of information and communication technology access. It was revealed in UN International Telecommunications**
- **India and France have launched International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the Conference of Parties (CoP21) Climate Conference in Paris, France**

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- **Jharkhand government has declared the entire state as drought hit in view of less rainfall in 2015 monsoon season and loss of crops.**

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF) has included China's Yuan into its elite reserve currency basket mainly used as an international reserve asset with an effect from effect from 1st October 2016. Decision in this regard was taken by the IMF's executive board meeting for regular five-yearly review of the basket of currencies that make up the Special Drawing Right (SDR) .**

- **Yuan also known as the Renminbi will be the fifth freely usable currency along with the US Dollar, British Pound, Japanese Yen and Euro. It was added in the basket after it met all existing criteria for its inclusion.**

- Every year International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is being observed on 3 December to promote an understanding of disability issues.**

- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched Global**

Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) Scheme to boost the quality of higher education in India. It was launched by Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus.

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- **The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing MoU between India and Israel in the field of water resources management and development cooperation. The bilateral cooperation between both countries will benefit them in strengthening the techniques in efficient use of water, micro-irrigation.**
- **The Union Cabinet has approved an agreement with Germany to expand bilateral cooperation in the field of solar energy between both countries. In this regard, Union Cabinet has approved a MoU which was signed in October 2015 between both countries during Chancellor Angela Merkel’s visit to India. It was signed to expand bilateral development cooperation in the field of Solar Energy by**

increasing use of solar energy through technical and financial cooperation in India. Under the agreement Germany will provide concessional loans to India in the range of 1 billion Euros over the next five years i.e. till 2020. Concessional loans will be provided through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), a German government-owned development bank. The loan funds of KfW will be also utilized for providing soft loans to the end-users through partner banks.

- Justice Tirath Singh Thakur was sworn in as 43rd Chief Justice of India (CJI). He was administered oath to the office by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Justice Thakur succeeded incumbent Justice H L Dattu who retired on 2 December 2015 and shall have the tenure till 4 January 2017 i.e. till he attains 65 age.
- Goa Government has launched the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 to benefit more than one third of the state's population

- **The first India International Science Festival (IISF) has begun at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi campus. It has been organised by Union Ministry of Science and Technology.**
- **R 44th Navy Day was observed on 4 December 2015. On this occasion, Chief of Naval staff Robin K Dhowan along with Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha and Army Chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag paid tributes to martyrs at the Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi.**
- **Union Government has released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the Centenary year of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The postage stamp was released by Union Communication and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in the presence of Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. They also released publications of ZSI- the Centenary Souvenir, Centenary Directory and A Glorious 100.**
- **The Delhi Assembly has unanimously passed the Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill, 2015 for establishment of statutory anti-corruption ombudsman.**

- Chief Economic Advisor Dr Arvind Subramanian led Committee has recommended standard rate for Goods and Services Tax (GST) at 17 to 18 per cent.

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- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to start Rotavirus vaccination project under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). The project was launched by Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh from Dharamsala in district Kangra by administering the Rotavirus vaccine drops to the children aged less than 5 years.
- The Rotavirus is a genus of double-stranded RNA virus in the family Reoviridae. It most common causative agent of moderate-to-severe diarrhoea (MSD) among infants below 11 months age group in India.
- According to the recently released India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2015, India's forest and tree cover has been increased by 5081 Square kilometre. The

report was released by the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi Key facts The total forest and tree cover in the country is 79.42 million hectare, which accounts for 24.16 per cent of the total geographical area.

- Union Government has launched Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign), a nationwide campaign in a bid to achieve universal accessibility to persons with disabilities. It was launched by Union Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley and Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released 2 commemorative coins on Dr B R Ambedkar as part of the 125th birth anniversary year celebrations of the architect of Indian Constitution.
- Indian Railways has flagged off the first inaugural service of the Goa to Mumbai double-decker air-conditioned Shatabdi train.

- **Singapore has replaced Mauritius as the top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India during the first half of the current fiscal year 2015-16.**
- **Iran has successfully carried out test of medium range Ghadr-110 ballistic missile near the Chabahar, a port city in southeast of country along the Gulf of Oman.**
- **The fifth edition of ‘Heart of Asia’ conference, an annual regional gathering of Asian and other countries commenced in Islamabad Pakistan. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the ministerial-level meeting. Key facts Theme of the meeting: ‘Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process: Enhanced cooperation for countering security threats and promoting connectivity in the Heart of Asia region.’**
- **Human Rights Day (HRD) is marked annually on 10th December to commemorate the day in 1948 when the United Nations (UN) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The theme chosen for the year 2015 HRD is ‘Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always’.**

- **Human Rights Day** was formally established at the 317th Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 4 December 1950.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to carry out official amendments in The National Waterways Bill, 2015.
- **NW 1:** between Allahabad and Haldia (1620 km) on Ganga River (ii) **NW 2:** between Sadiya and Dubri (891 km) (iii) **NW 3:** West Coast Canal (205 km) in Kerala (iv) **NW 4:** Kakinada–Pondicherry stretch River Godavari and Wazirabad–Vijayawada stretch of River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh (v) **NW 5:** Talcher–Dhamra (620 km) stretch on Mahanadi River.
- **Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet (NDQ)** has been awarded prestigious 2015 Nobel Peace Prize at a ceremony held in Oslo, Norway.

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- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released *On My Terms: From the Grassroots to the Corridors of Power*, an autobiography of former Union Minister Sharad Pawar.**
- **Pakistan has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable Shaheen-III ballistic missile.**
- **India and Japan have inked fourteen agreements in various fields to enhance bilateral co-operation between both countries. These agreements were signed during ninth annual Indo-Japan summit talks held in New Delhi. The summit was jointly held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.**
- **India and Japan have signed historic Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) to introduce High Speed Rail (HRS) on Mumbai Ahmedabad sector to revolutionize Indian Railways.**
- **Indian-origin writer Jamaludeen Mohamed Sali from Singapore has been awarded prestigious 2015 South East Asia Write Award. The award was established in 1979.**

- **Ground breaking ceremony of 1800-kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project was held at the ancient city of Mary of Turkmenistan**
- **Powerful Typhoon Melor (also known as Nona) has hit the central Philippines battering the coast with powerful winds with speed of 200 kph followed by intense rainfall.**
- **An Indian-origin politician, Pravin Gordhan has been appointed as South Africa's new Finance Minister.**
- **India has been placed at 130th position in the 2015 Human Development Index (HDI) among the 188 countries.**
- **India's Life expectancy at birth: It has increased to 68 years in 2014 from 67.6 in the previous year and 53.9 in 1980. Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: It has increased to \$5,497 in 2014 from \$5,180 in 2013 and \$1,255 in 1980. India's GNI per capita increased by about 338 per cent between 1980 and 2014. Access to knowledge: Expected years of schooling have remained stagnant at 11.7 since 2011. The mean years of schooling at 5.4 has not changed since 2010. Gender**

Development Index (GDI): GDI value of India is 0.795 in 2014. The female HDI value for India is 0.525 in contrast with 0.660 for males. Gender Inequality Index (GII): India rank at 130th position with value of 0.563 out of 155 countries in the 2014. India's HDI value increased from 0.362 to 0.609 between 1980 and 2014. It indicates an increase of 68.1 per cent or an average annual increase of about 1.54 per cent.

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully placed six commercial satellites from Singapore in their dedicated orbits. These satellites were launched using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C29) from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **President of France Francois Hollande will be the Chief Guest at the 67th Republic Day parade of January 26, 2016.**
- **Sahitya Academy has announced the names of 23 poets and authors who will be conferred the prestigious 2015 Sahitya Akademi Award. This award has recognised premier works in 23 Indian languages that includes 6 Essays: Rasik**

Shah (Gujrati) and A. Madhavan (Tamil) books of short stories, 6 of poetry, 4 novels, 2 books each of essays, criticism and plays and 1 memoir.

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- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to enforce the ban on the use of polythene across the state to protect the environment and public health.
- Former Defence Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur (62) has been appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC). He will have tenure of about three years (2017) till he attain the age of 65. He succeeds Vijai Sharma as he has retired after completion of his tenure.
- Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach has been 64th crowned Miss Universe
- Afghanistan has become 164th member nation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), global trade body after 11 years of negotiations. WTO has formally approved Afghanistan's membership proposal at its ongoing 10th ministerial conference in the Nairobi, Kenya.

- **Chennaiyin FC has won the second edition of Indian Super League (ISL) Football tournament.**
- **Barcelona FC has won the 2015 FIFA Club World Cup for a record third time.**
- **New Zealand cricket team captain Brendon McCullum has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket viz., tests, ODIs and twenty20.**
- **Every year 22nd December is observed as National Mathematics Day to celebrate birth anniversary of great Indian autodidact Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.**
- **The Union Cabinet has approved the reconstruction and completion of Salma Dam Project in Afghanistan at the Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of 1775.69 crore rupees. Decision in this regard was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Key facts**
- **In India, 24th December is being observed as National Consumer Day. On this day the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the President.**

- **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution to designate 5th November every year as World Tsunami Awareness Day.**
- **India's first indigenously designed warship INS Godavari has been decommissioned after 32 years of service. It was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai (Maharashtra) after it completed its full life cycle, meeting all responsibilities and duties assigned in 3 decades of service.**
- **Australian cricketer Steve Smith has been named Cricketer of the Year for 2015 at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards ceremony in Dubai.**
- **In India, National Good Governance Day is being observed every year on 25th December on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna recipient Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new building of Afghanistan Parliament in the capital city Kabul built by India.**
- **China has officially abandoned its One Child Policy amid deepening demographic crisis of shrinking workforce and aging population in the world's second largest economy.**

- Eminent Gujarati litterateur Raghuvver Chaudhary has been selected for the 51st Jnanpith award. Mr. Chaudhary is the fourth Gujarati litterateur to bag this prestigious award after Uma Shankar Joshi (1967), Pannalal Patel (1985) and Rajendra Shah (About Jnanpith Award Jnanpith Award is one of the prestigious literary awards in country and its name has been taken from Sanskrit words Jnana and Pitha which means knowledge-seat. It was instituted in 1961 and is presented annually by Bharatiya Jnanpith trust founded by the Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain family that owns the Times of India newspaper group. It is bestowed upon any Indian citizen who writes in any 22 official languages of India mentioned in VIII Schedule of Constitution of India. Prior to 1982, the award was only given for a single work by a writer. But after 1982, the award is given for lifetime contribution to Indian literature. Award Carries: Includes cash prize of 11 lakh rupees, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Saraswati.

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- **China has successfully launched its most sophisticated observation satellite Gaofen-4, as part of the country's high-definition (HD) earth observation Gaofen project. It was launched aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the southwestern province of Sichuan. It was the 222th space flight of the Long March rocket series and China's 19th space mission in year 2015.**
- **India and Israel jointly developed Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) Barak 8 was successfully test fired from INS Kolkata. The firing trial of the LR SAM has been jointly carried out by the Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industrie**
- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation deal that came into force on November 13, 2015.**