

CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2015

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Planning Commission is renamed as 'NITI Aayog'. We can expand NITI Aayog as "National Institution for Transforming India Aayog".
- Rajnath Singh launched women safety mobile app 'Himmat'.
- PM Narendra Modi launched national programme for LED-based Home and Street Lighting.
- Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister approval to set up the India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) in Tamil Nadu.
- ICICI launches Digital Village Project in Gujarat.
- Toll-free helpline launched for alcohol and drug addicts. Helpline No. is 1800-11-0031 launched by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot.
- Prime Minister released commemorative postage stamps to mark 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's return home South Africa to India on 8th January.
- On 9 January Vistara (with Partnership of Tata Group and Singapore Airlines) started its first flight from Delhi to Mumbai.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu Haggged off first CNG based train in Haryana on 13th January.
- Manmohan Singh adopted Pachim Bekeli Gaon Panchayat under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Some village adopted :
PM Narendra Modi – Jayapur village in Varanasi
Hema Malini – Raval village in UP
Sachin Tendulkar – Puttamraju Kandrika village
Sonai Gandhi – Uruva village in Rae Bareilly, Andhra Pradesh
- PM Narendra Modi launched Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme on 22 January.
- SBI launched 'Chota ATM's' in Kerala.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- US President Barack Obama arrived in India from 25 January 2015 to 27 January 2015.

- Five new non-permanent members elected to UN Security Council. Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Venezuela, and Spain have begun their two year term replacing Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, South Korea and Rwanda.
- China launches an official military weapons procurement website "www.weain.min.cn" to guarantee transparency in arms procurement.
- Paris March against terror on 11th Jan is the largest March in French history.
- Australia launches online visa pilot programme for Indians.
- Japanese automaker Toyota tops in Global Vehicle Sales.
- South Korean President nominates new Prime Minister Lee Wan koo on 23rd Jan.
- First Female Church of England bishop consecrated in York.
- Italy's lawmakers elect Sergio Mattarella as President.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- World's Smallest Goanna lizard species discovered in Australia.
- China builds world's largest Coal Mine Gas unit to generate electricity.
- ISRO gears up to launch IRNSS 1D.
- NASA's Kepler Space Telescope finds 1000th Alien Planet.
- ISRO Mars Orbiter Programme Team wins National Space Society's Space Pioneer Award for Science and Engineering on 12 January.
- India successfully test-fibre surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic Missile 'Agni-5'.

SPORTS

- The Australian Open Tennis Tournament for the year 2015 was held from 19th January 2015 to 1st February 2015 at Melbourne Park, Victoria, Australia.
- Andy Murray won Mubadala World Tennis Championship 2015.
- Karate is making a push to be part of the programme for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- Brett Lee an Australian player retires from all forms of cricket on 15th Jan.
- India's Open Water Swimmer Bhakti Sharma has set a World Record by swimming 1.4 miles in 52 minutes in one degree temperature at Antarctic Ocean.

- India has been confirmed as host for the 2016 'Twenty-20 World Cup', the ICC announced on 29 January.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- 9th January – Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- 10th January – World Hindi Day
- 15th January – Indian Army Day
- 24th January – National Girl Child Day
- 25th January – National Voters Day
- 26th January – Republic Day of India

DEATHS

- Rod Taylor died on 7th January 2015 – Hollywood Actor
- Perin Romesh Chandra died on 8th January 2015 – Freedom Fighter
- Abdullah died on 23rd January 2015 – Saudi Arabia's King
- RK Laxman died on 26th January 2015 – Cartoonist
- Muninder Nath Rai died on 27th January 2015 – Republic Day Medallist
- Jaswant Singh Rajput died on 28th January 2015 – Hockey Olympian

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Arundhati Subramaniam – Khushwant Singh Memorial Prize for Poetry
- Colonel Munindra Nath Rai – Yudh Seva Medal
- Raghuram Rajan – Governor of the year
- Paulina Vega (Miss Colombia) – Miss Universe
- Naik Neeraj Kumar Singh – Ashoka Chakra
- Major Mukund Varadarajan – Ashoka Chakra
- Leela Samson – Natya Kala Acharya 2015
- Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold Title 2015
 - Men's Single – Parupalli Kashyap
 - Women's Single – Saina Nehwal