



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# Autism

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**Why is in news?** Text of the Vice-President's address at the Inauguration of Higashi Autism School

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a **developmental disability caused by differences in the brain**. Some people with ASD have a known difference, such as a genetic condition. Other causes are not yet known.

A serious developmental disorder that **impairs the ability to communicate and interact**.

Autism spectrum disorder **impacts the nervous system** and **affects the overall cognitive, emotional, social and physical health** of the affected individual.

The range and severity of symptoms can vary widely. Common symptoms include difficulty with communication, difficulty with social interactions, obsessive interests and repetitive behaviours.

Early recognition, as well as behavioural, educational and family therapies may reduce symptoms and support development and learning.

ASD **begins before the age of 3 years and can last throughout a person's life**, although symptoms may improve over time. Some children show ASD symptoms within the first 12 months of life.

In others, symptoms **may not show up until 24 months** of age or later. Some children with ASD gain new skills and meet developmental milestones until around 18 to 24 months of age, and then they stop gaining new skills or lose the skills they once had.

There is **no cure for autism**.

Its symptoms can be **addressed with appropriate interventions** like evidence-based psychosocial interventions, behavioural treatment and skills training programmes for parents and other caregivers, health promotion, care, rehabilitation services, etc.

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared **2nd April as World Autism Awareness Day**.

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