

Economy Current Affairs for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Exam 2012

- The Reserve Bank of India on 29 December 2011 allowed non-residents to hedge their currency risk in respect of external commercial borrowings (ECB) denominated in rupees, with AD Category-I (authorised dealer) banks in India
- According to a data released on 29 December 2011, food inflation fell to its lowest level in six years at 0.42 per cent for the week ended 17 December with a sharp decline in prices of essential items like onions and potatoes
- The Reserve Bank on 27 December 2011 directed all banks to issue cheques conforming to Cheque Truncation System (CTS) 2010 standard with uniform features from 1 April 2012 onwards
- The Reserve Bank on 26 December 2011 tightened the prudential norms for the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) under which the NBFCs will have to account for risks towards off-balance sheet items while computing capital adequacy requirement
- The infrastructure sector recorded a growth of 6.8% in November 2011 after touching five-year low of 0.3% in October 2011. The growth in this sector was propelled by an impressive growth in cement, electricity and refinery products
- According to the Tea Board data released in December 2011, tea imports declined by 14 per cent to 9.91 million kg in the April-October period of 2011. Imports of the brew fell by 15% to 14.15 million kg from 16.57 million kg in January-October 2010
- The information technology (IT) sector led by the top three listed companies, TCS, Infosys and Wipro, created the most jobs in the five years ending 2011 compared with other sectors. Increased employment in the sector was boosted by an over two-fold jump in aggregate revenue
- According to the RBI data, India's foreign exchange reserves fell by a steep \$4.67 billion to \$302.1 billion during the week ended 16 December 2011 on account of a fall in foreign currency assets. The dip marked the lowest in nine months
- According to official data released here on 22 December 2011, food inflation dropped sharply to an almost four-year low of 1.81 per cent during the week ended 10 December indicating an overall easing of prices
- The first pan-India satellite survey jointly commissioned by Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSF) pegged the cane area for 2011-12 crop year starting October at 51.82 lakh hectares (lh). For the first time the survey was carried out State-wise and district-wise for the area under sugarcane, through satellite mapping on such a large-scale
- India's telecom ministry on 22 December 2011 informed mobile phone operators that they must scrap illegal mutual roaming agreements that allow them to provide seamless nationwide 3G services
- Credit rating agency Moody's on 21 December 2011 upgraded the credit rating of the Indian government's bonds from the speculative to investment grade
- According to the International Data Corporation's (IDC) Quarter 3 2011 Mobile Phone Tracker release, the Indian mobile phone market grew 12% in units shipped in the July-September quarter of 2011 to clock 47.07 million units. Year-on-year too, there was a shipment growth of 13.8%
- The Reserve Bank of India on 16 December 2011 left its policy rate unchanged at a three-year high of 8.5 per cent. RBI paused the hike after 13 consecutive rate hikes since March 2010
- Market regulator SEBI on 15 December 2011 directed intermediaries not to outsource their core business activities and compliance functions
- The world's largest coal miner Coal India Ltd (CIL's) board on 14 December 2011 approved a proposal to acquire stakes in unlisted firms overseas, provided the offers were valid

- A parliamentary committee on 13 December 2011 rejected almost all the key changes proposed in the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2008, including the key reform to allow 49% foreign direct investment in the sector
- According to data from research body All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), domestic drugmakers posted sales of Rs 4912 crore in November 2011 compared with Rs 4668 crore in October
- CRISIL Research released its report on profitability of textile companies on 14 December 2011. According to the research firm, profitability of cotton yarn and man-made fibre (MMF) players are expected to improve over the next few quarters on account of decline in input costs and moderate demand growth
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs(CCEA) on 13 December 2011 approved *national electricity fund* to provide subsidy of 8466 crore rupees for projects of electricity distribution sector for a period of 14 years
- According to the data released by the regulator TRAI on 8 December 2011, mobile subscriber base in India increased to 881.4 million by October 2011 from 873.61 million in September 2011 registering a growth of 0.89%
- India's largest private lender by assets, ICICI Bank and IDBI Bank, the seventh largest public sector bank in India together launched India's first credit default swap (CDS) on 7 December 2011. CDS was launched seven days after the product was cleared by the Reserve Bank of India on 30 November 2011. Public sector undertaking Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) bought the CDS cover for its Rs 5 crore loan from ICICI Bank
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 2 December 2011 approved the creation of a separate category of non-banking financial companies for the microfinance institution (MFI) sector
- According to the UNAIDS report, drafted jointly with the UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and released on 30 November 2011, India houses half of Asia's HIV patients and is way ahead of China in disease burden
- As per the Controller General of Accounts' (CGA) data released on 30 March 2012, union government's fiscal deficit during the April-February period of 2011-12 stood at Rs 4.93 lakh crore, or 95% of the revised estimates
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) notified in March 2012 that premium rates for motor third party liability only cover will undergo an upward revision beginning 1 April 2012. IRDA listed the third party liability premium rates for vehicles of assorted categories
- As per the data on the core industries released on 29 March 2012, eight core infrastructure industries registered a robust 6.8 per cent growth in output in February 2012
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 28 March 2012 announced a several revisions with an objective to liberalise the norms for direct investment abroad by Indian residents
- The empowered group of ministers (EGoM) on 28 March 2012 fixed the issue price for the National Buildings Construction Corporation's public offer at Rs.106 a share. The issue price was fixed at higher end of price band of Rs 90-106/share for the state-owned construction company
- The Reserve Bank of India on 26 March 2012 restructured the fair practices code (FPC) to be adopted by non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) while doing lending business
- The union government of India on 23 March 2012 gave its consent to a seven percentage increase in the rate of dearness allowance (DA) for its employees and pensioners
- The Union government on 23 March 2012 reduced the import tariff value of gold from USD 573 per 10 grams to USD 530 per 10 grams
- The Union Cabinet on 23 March 2012 approved the setting up of a credit risk guarantee fund trust with an initial corpus of Rs. 1200 crore to with an objective to encourage housing for low-income groups in the India

- Union Railway Minister Mukul Roy rolled back the railway fare hike as proposed by Dinesh Trivedi in the first Union Rail Budget 2012-13 presented on 14 March 2012. Roy also struck down the plan to restructure Railway Board
- Four States namely Jharkhand, Mizoram, Sikkim and Lakshadweep on 16 March 2012 signed MoU with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation under the Indian Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) for the States and Union Territories
- The Union budget 2012-13 presented by Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 16 March 2012 proposed an increase by 18 per cent to Rs. 20208 crore in the total Plan Outlay for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in 2012-13
- Union Finance Minister in his Union Budget 2012-13 speech tabled on 16 March 2012 announced several provisions for both the education and health sector
- Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in the Union budget 2012-13 proposed allocation of Rs. 50 lakh crore towards infrastructure investment during the Twelfth Plan period. About half of this is likely to come from the private sector
- The Economic Survey was tabled by the Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 15 March 2012. Indian economy was estimated to grow by 6.9% in 2011-12 mainly due to weakening industrial growth
- Union Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi presented the Union Railway Budget 2012-13 in the Lok Sabha on 14 March 2012. The total union budget outlay for 2012-13 stood at Rs 60100 crore
- As per data released by the Commerce Ministry on 9 March 2012, India's merchandise exports in February grew only by 4.3 per cent to \$24.6 billion due to poor overseas demand. Exports in February grew at the slowest pace in three months. The poor performance in the export sector was attributed to dip in demand for electronics, engineering and textiles goods in Europe
- As per the data released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation on 12 March 2012, Indian industrial sector registered a growth of 6.8 per cent in January 2012 on a year-on-year basis
- The Reserve Bank of India on 9 March 2012 cut the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 75 basis points. The CRR was cut to 4.75 per cent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) effective the fortnight beginning 10 March 2012
- As per VCCEdge data, PE investors in February 2012 offloaded stakes worth \$751.45 million across eight open market transactions. PE investors in February 2012 encashed investments worth \$826 million in almost 16 deals
- As per the data released by the Central Statistical organisation (CSO) on 29 February 2012, India's economic growth rate dipped to 6.1% in the third quarter (October-December) of 2011-12 due to poor performance of the manufacturing, mining and farm sectors
- As per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts on 29 February 2012, fiscal deficit stood at Rs 4.34 lakh crore, or 105 per cent of the total annual target in the April-January period of 2011-12
- According to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry on 28 February 2012, output of eight core segments that comprise the manufacturing sector dipped to 0.5% in January 2012, marking the slowest growth in three months
- The Delhi High Court on 23 February 2012 dismissed a plea from the Centre challenging Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal's (TDSAT) authority to stop the department of telecom (DoT) from enforcing a ban on 3G roaming pacts between telcos

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel on priority sector lending on 21 February 2012 proposed increment in the target (priority sector) for foreign banks to 40% of net bank credit from the current level of 32 per cent with sub-targets of 15 per cent for exports and 15 per cent for the MSE sector
- Director General of Foreign Trade [DGFT] on 22 February 2012 issued a formal notification allowing the domestic airlines to directly import Aviation Turbine Fuel [ATF]. At present only state trading enterprises of the government are allowed to import ATF
- The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Panel (PMEAC) on 22 February 2012 projected 7.5 - 8 per cent growth rate for the fiscal 2012-13. India is also expected to achieve a higher economic expansion if the global environment turns favourable
- As per the first nationwide retail inflation data released by the Centre of Statistical Office on 21 February 2012, inflation based on the all India Consumer Price Index stood at 7.65 per cent in January 2012
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 13 February 2012 changed the bank rate, a medium-term signal rate after nine years. The bank rate, a benchmark rate at which RBI buys or re-discounts bills of exchange or other commercial papers eligible for purchase, was hiked with immediate effect to 9.5% from 6%
- The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 15 February 2012 approved the auction route for selling 5 per cent stake in state-run oil major ONGC before the end of the current fiscal 2011-12
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 14 February 2012, issued the 'Draft Circular for Deployment of White Label Automated Teller Machines (WLAs) from non-bank entities
- The number of foreigners availing Visa on Arrival (VOA) scheme registered 72 per cent increase in January 2012 as against January 2011. There were as many as 1359 foreigners, who availed themselves of the scheme in January compared with 790 in January 2011, registering a growth of 72 per cent
- Railway Ministry on 7 February 2012 extended the time period for the advance booking of Railway tickets from 90 days to 120 days. This new reservation policy will come into effect from March 10, 2012
- The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) set up by the Supreme Court to investigate illegal mining in Karnataka submitted its final report on 4 February 2012. The committee recommended the cancellation of leases of 49 mines that have violated the terms of their licence. It also recommended the auction of these leases
- The Baltic Dry Index, a measure of shipping costs for dry bulk goods plunged to its lowest level after it touched 647 points on 3 February 2012. The lowest level was nearly 20 points lower than the previous low of 663 points recorded during the 2008 global financial meltdown
- Heads of the two Public Sector Undertakings, IRCON International Limited and Rail Land Development Authority on 1 February 2012 inked the Memorandum of Understanding to set up the Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited. The MoU was signed in the presence of Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi and Minister of State for Railway K.H. Muniyappa
- HSBC Purchasing Managers' Index — a headline index designed to measure the overall health of the manufacturing sector registered a reading of 57.5 in January 2012 up from 54.2 in December 2011

- Committee of secretaries, led by the prime minister's principal secretary Pulok Chatterji on 1 February 2012 recommended that state-run Coal India should step up supplies and face penalties if it fails to provide 80% of coal allocated to a power plant
- Data released by the Controller General of Accounts on 31 January 2012 showed that the deficit situation in December 2011 was the highest since December 2008 when it stood at 163.8% of the full-year target due to the fiscal stimulus provided by the government to boost the economy
- As per data published by the market regulator SEBI on 27 January 2012, net FII buying crossed the \$2-billion mark in January 2012 making January the best month in terms of foreign fund flows since November 2010
- Market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 28 January 2012 decided to enhance the minimum investment amount per client managed by portfolio managers to Rs.25 lakh from Rs.5 lakh at present by amending the SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 1993
- Government-appointed C R Sundaramurti Committee submitted its report to finance minister Pranab Mukherjee. The report suggested a complete overhaul of government accounting norms in order to enforce transparency and better monitor public spending
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 24 January 2012 cut the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent with effect from 28 January 2012. RBI thus released Rs 32000 crore to banks through a half percentage point cut in the cash reserve ratio
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on 20 January 2012 asked telecom companies to block bulk international SMS. TRAI's move is aimed at giving mobile subscribers further relief from pesky messages
- The Reserve Bank of India in January 2012 allowed banks to grant permission to listed and unlisted companies to hedge price risk in commodities other than precious metals in international exchanges. The move is aimed at helping the companies limit losses from volatility. Currently, banks need RBI's approval to give permission to companies to hedge
- The Indian rupee rose to a two-month high and shares climbed on 18 January 2012 as a result of revival of US dollar flows and also because of the undervalued shares which lost more than 35% in US dollar terms in 2011
- As per data released by the government on 18 January 2012, cheaper food items, including fruit and vegetables, pulled down the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by 0.44 per cent month-on-month in December 2011
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 16 January 2012 proposed a fee of Rs.20 crore for a national-level unified licence under the new regime, which suggests that there will be only four types of licence in future as against many currently available across the communication sector
- India on 13 January 2012 extended for five years anti-dumping duty on import of four Chinese products in the face of widening trade gap with China. The duty has been imposed to protect the domestic industry from cheap imports
- Market regulator SEBI on 13 January 2012 unveiled rules for direct investment in stocks by foreign investors, including individuals. SEBI's guideline was issued seeking to put curbs on opaque structures to prevent routing of funds by resident Indians

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 13 January 2012 issued guidelines on compensation of wholetime directors, chief executive officers and other risk takers in private and foreign banks
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notified that the Commerce Ministry on 11 January 2012 lowered the minimum export price of onions by \$100 a tonne to \$150 a tonne to boost exports
- The Prime Minister's Office on 11 January 2012 directed cash-rich public sector undertakings (PSUs) to invest around Rs.1.76 lakh crore, including Rs.1.41 lakh crore domestically to act as a stimulus in the next fiscal (2012-13)
- The tax collection data for the April-December 2011 period was released by Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) on 10 January 2012
- The Finance Ministry announced on 10 January 2012 that rating agency Moody's Investor Services upgrade the short-term country ceiling on foreign currency bank deposit increasing from NP (not prime) to Prime (P-3)
- As per the Forward Markets Commission data released on 9 January 2012 that the turnover of the 21 commodity exchanges in India increased by 66% to Rs 137.22 lakh crore till December 2011 in the current fiscal (2011-12)
- According to data released by the Reserve Bank on 6 January 2012, foreign exchange reserves fell by over \$4.18 billion to \$296.69 billion, slipping below the long-held \$300-billion mark in the week ended 30 December 2011. The drop in the reserves was attributed to the fall in the core foreign currency assets (FCAs) and gold reserves
- Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on 5 January 2012 showed food inflation, as measured by the wholesale price index, fell by (-)3.36% sharply lower than the 0.42% registered in the week ended 16/17 december 2012
- Insurance regulator IRDA on 4 January 2012 introduced uniform asset-liability management norms for market players to ensure their solvency. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) announced a broadly-defined uniform framework for reporting asset liability management activities adopted by life and non-life insurance companies
- The Reserve Bank of India on 3 January 2011 decided to conduct an open market operation (OMO) to inject more liquidity into the system. The RBI will buy up to Rs 12000 crore of government bonds via open market operations on 6 January 2012, including the 10-year paper which till recently was the benchmark paper
- The capital market regulator SEBI on 3 January 2012 allowed auctioning of securities through stock exchanges and introduced a new method for institutional placement of stocks
- The Union government on 3 January 2012 approved Reliance Industries' (RIL) \$1.529 billion investment plan for developing four satellite fields in the flagging KG-D6 block. RIL's investment plan will boost falling output in the Krishna-Godavari Basin KG-D6 block
- State-owned Coal India (CIL) announced on 2 January 2012 that its board approved in a meeting held on 30 December 2011 the switching over to internationally-accepted Gross Caloric Value-based pricing mechanism
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised red flags over the high dependability of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) on the banking system because the apex bank feels that the

higher dependence would mean systemic vulnerability in the context that NBFCs are involved in higher risk activities vis-à-vis the banking system

- As per the to Commerce Ministry data released on 2 January 2012, India's exports recorded their slowest pace of growth in two years at 3.8 per cent in November 2011 as a result of the global slowdown
- The HSBC Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) - a headline index designed to measure the overall performance of the manufacturing sector - registered 54.2 in December, up from 51.0 in November. The PMI was released by the banking major HSBC on 2 January 2012
- The Reserve Bank of India on 29 December 2011 allowed non-residents to hedge their currency risk in respect of external commercial borrowings (ECB) denominated in rupees, with AD Category-I (authorised dealer) banks in India
- The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) recommended a financial package of Rs 257 crore to revive the sick newsprint unit NEPA. The initiative was taken after the government shelved its plan to divest majority stake in the company and revive it through a joint venture with the private sector
- The Reserve Bank on 27 December 2011 directed all banks to issue cheques conforming to Cheque Truncation System (CTS) 2010 standard with uniform features from 1 April 2012 onwards
- The Reserve Bank on 26 December 2011 tightened the prudential norms for the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) under which the NBFCs will have to account for risks towards off-balance sheet items while computing capital adequacy requirement
- State-owned oil companies for the second time in the month of April reduced jet fuel prices by a marginal Rs 312 per kilolitre or kl on 30 April 2012. The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, in the reduction was announced in the wake of a Rs 169.3 per kl cut in rates effected from 16 April 2012
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 27 April 2012 lowered India's growth projection to 6.9 per cent for 2012. The multilateral agency in January projected Indian economy to grow to by 7 per cent for 2012
- Standard & Poor's downgraded credit rating outlook for India to negative from stable on 25 April 2012. The cut in credit rating is the reflection of India's widening fiscal and current account deficits
- The Supreme Court of India on 24 April 2012 turned down the union government's plea to grant 400 days to complete fresh distribution of 2G spectrum licenses
- Apex Indian bank, the Reserve Bank of India on 21 April 2012 directed all commercial banks to print the MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition) and IFSC (Indian Financial System Code) code on the passbook and statement of account of the customers. The bank made the printing of MICR and IFSC code compulsory for all the banks
- The Union government on 20 April 2012 approved 22 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals, amounting to Rs.586.137 crore (\$112.5 million). The proposals were cleared following recommendations made by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) at its meeting on 30 March 2012
- Telecom regulator TRAI on 19 April 2012 approved increase in processing fee for all mobile recharge coupons (top-up vouchers) priced above Rs 20. The government however left the processing fee unchanged for the vouchers below Rs 20

- The Union government on 19 April 2012 permitted companies engaged in the aviation sector to raise working capital resources through the external commercial borrowings (ECBs) route to the tune of \$1 billion
- As per the government data released on 18 April 2012, retail inflation shot up to 9.47% in March 2012 because of higher prices of milk, vegetables, protein-based items and edible oil products
- The Union government on 18 April 2012 decided to liberalise the external commercial borrowing (ECB) norms for the power sector. The announcement was made in tune with the announcement made in this respect by the Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee while presenting the Union budget 2012-13
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 17 April 2012 instructed commercial banks to reduce their exposure to gold loan companies to 7.5% of their capital funds from the existing 10%. The directive will impact the gold loan companies such as Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance as they will receive less funding
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 17 April 2012 banned banks from charging a prepayment penalty on floating rate home loans. Banks were barred from charging any fee from a customer who wants to repay an outstanding loan and close the account
- Reserve Bank of India, the apex Indian Bank, on 17 April 2012, cut the key policy rates for the first time in the past three years. While the repo rate (the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks) was cut down by 50 basis points from 8.50 per cent to 8.00 per cent, the reverse repo rate (normally fixed at a spread of 100 basis points below the repo rate) was reduced to 7.0 per cent
- The Union Cabinet on 12 April 2012 approved a proposal to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to help facilitate the smooth introduction of the new indirect tax regime
- The Union Cabinet on 12 April 2012 approved the extension of funding support for implementing the Swavalamban Scheme under the New Pension System (NPS) from three years to five years for all subscribers enrolled during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13
- The Union Cabinet on 12 April 2012 approved Public Procurement Bill, 2012 which aims at regulating public procurement of above Rs 50 lakh and provides fair treatment to bidders. The move is aimed at bringing transparency in State purchases
- The Union government on 12 April 2012 approved Rs 30000 crore bailout for Air India. It was decided that Rs 6750 crore would be infused immediately to meet the airline's working capital requirement and the total of bailout amount would be spread out over a period of 9 years
- The Union government on 11 April 2012 made it mandatory for individuals with income above Rs 10 lakh to file their tax returns 2011-12 onwards electronically. E-filing was made compulsory for the person who is an individual, or a Hindu Undivided Family, if his or its total income, or the total income in respect of which he is or it is assessable under the Act during the previous year, exceeds Rs 10 lakh for assessment year 2012-13 onwards. E-filing for such individuals was optional till 2010-11
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its flagship annual publication Asian Development Outlook (ADO) released on 11 April 2012 projected moderate increase in growth rate for India to 7 percent in 2012-13

- The Supreme Court of India on 4 April 2012 quashed the review petitions filed by seven telecom companies (Videocon Telecommunications, S Tel, Sistema Shyam Teleservices, Tata Teleservices, Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu), Etisalat DB Telecom and Idea Cellular), whose license was cancelled by the Supreme Court in its 2 February 2012 verdict
- The Reserve Bank of India on 3 April 2012 tightened the reporting requirements of the banks. As per the directions issued, banks will have to submit a monthly statement informing the central bank about the quantity of gold imported and mode of payment adopted
- As per official data at the retail level released on 18 May 2012, retail inflation shot up to the double digit mark at 10.32 percent in April 2012 on account of substantial increase in vegetable, edible oils and milk prices
- The Commerce Ministry, on 16 May 2012, relaxed conditions for sugar exports by raising the quota to 25000 tonnes from 10000 tonnes
- Indian Rupee plunged to its historic low mark of 54.56 against the U.S. dollar on 16 May 2012. At the Interbank Foreign Exchange market, the rupee opened sharply lower at 54.06 and plunged to all time low of 54.56, surpassing the previous all-time low of 54.30 recorded in December 2011. It finally closed at 54.50
- Goa topped the list of the states with highest per capita income in the country with a total per capita income of 192652 rupees
- Union minister of labour and employment Mallikarjun Kharge inaugurated the E-Challan and Receipt (ECR) facility on 1 May 2012 to bring transparency and accessibility for employers in depositing monthly Employees' Provident Fund or EPF contributions of their workers
- The Reserve Bank of India on 2 May 2012 published guidelines for implementation of the new global capital adequacy norms, called Basel III, by March 2018. Indian banks will have to maintain Tier I capital, or core capital, of at least 7 per cent of their risk weighted assets on an ongoing basis
- The Union government constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) for developing a coordinated approach for optimal exploitation of coal bed methane (CBM), underground coal gasification and shale gas
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 4 May 2012 raised the interest rate ceiling on NRI deposits in foreign currencies by up to 3%. The interest rate ceiling on Foreign Currency Non-Resident FCNR (B) deposits of banks was raised from 125 basis points (bps) (1.25%) above the corresponding LIBOR or swap rates to 200 bps for maturity period of one year to less than three years, and to 300 bps for maturity period of three to five years. The RBI's measure was aimed at checking flight of foreign currency in the wake of continued fall in the value of the Indian rupee
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) formed an Eminent Persons Advisory Group (EPAG) on 7 May 2012. The group is constituted to provide CCI inputs and advice on issues impacting markets and competition, among others

National Current Affairs News for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Exam 2012

- The information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry of India on 28 April 2012 notified the much awaited Cable Television Networks Rules, 2012, which paves the way for digitalisation of the sector in four metros.

- The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its much-awaited tariff order issued on 30 April 2012, ordained the TV channels to carry a minimum of 100 free-to-air channels on their networks. As per the TRAI order, the basic service tier (BST) will comprise at least 5 channels of news and current affairs, infotainment, sports, kids, music, lifestyle, movies and general entertainment in Hindi, English and regional language of the concerned region.
- The Rajya Sabha on 27 April 2012 passed amendments to the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act, 2006, exempting some central institutions from implementing the other backward castes (OBC) quota. The institutions where implementation of the Act exceeds the 50 percent reservation limit fixed by the Supreme Court will fall under the amendment.
- The Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Indian parliament, on 24 April 2012, passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill 2010. The amendment seeks to provide the right to receive home-based education to children with severe disabilities.
- The Supreme Court of India on 23 April 2012 dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Lieutenant General Bikram Singh as the next Army Chief. Bikram Singh is slated to succeed General V.K. Singh as the army chief after the latter completes his tenure in the office on 31 May 2012. In a petition filed on 4 April 2012, the army chief designate Singh was accused of being indulged in a fake encounter in the Kashmir Valley during a counter-insurgency operation.
- Supreme Court of India on 18 April 2012 upheld Election commission's poll symbol rules. It entitled a political party the status of state party and common symbol for its candidates only if it secures not less than 6 percent of the total votes polled in a state and returns at least two members to the assembly.
- The Union Cabinet on 12 April 2012 gave its approval to the introduction of a Bill seeking an amendment in the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. The aim is to include registration of marriages as well and to maintain necessary records and statistics for registration of marriages.
- The Supreme Court of India on 12 April 2012 upheld the constitutional validity of the Right to Education Act, 2009, which mandates 25 per cent free seats to the poor in government and private unaided schools across the country. However, the act will apply uniformly to government and unaided private schools except unaided private minority schools.
- The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on 10 April 2012 directed the Union government of India and the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure that there is no reporting on movement of troops by the print or electronic media.
- The Union government on 17 May 2012 cleared a Rs 8500-crore project under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) with an objective to connect 6000 habitations in the 78 naxalite-affected districts of nine states. Under the project money will be utilised for new connectivity and upgradation of habitations, which will be an addition to the core network, approved in 2002 by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
- The Supreme Court of India on 27 April 2012 held that Farmers whose land is acquired for a public purpose are entitled to the highest market value as compensation. The Supreme Court's ruling came following a case of land acquisition in Punjab's Faridkot

district where the land owner was awarded a compensation of 1 lakh rupees per acre despite the land was located in commercially important area.

- The Supreme Court of India on 8 May 2012 directed the Union Government to eliminate the Haj subsidy completely by reducing it gradually over the next ten years. The court further ruled that the amount of Haj subsidy should be used for the uplift of the community
 - a) **Haj Subsidy:** The Haj subsidy is a subsidy provided to Indian Muslim Hajj pilgrims by the Union Government of India through a heavy concession in airfare. Pilgrims who apply through the Haj Committee of India are entitled to the reduced fare. The Government of India reimburses the subsidy to Air India.

International Current Affairs News for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Exam 2012

- The Arab League on 27 November 2011 imposed a set of sanctions against Syria for its failure to comply with the League mediated peace plan to end violence in the country. These include freezing of financial assets, a halt on dealing with Syria's central bank and stopping investments and a travel ban on high- ranking officials.
- India and Nepal on 27 November 2011 signed a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA). This will help prevent tax evasion and facilitate exchange of information on banking between the two countries. DTAA, will allow Indian traders and investors to enjoy tax relaxation in India once they pay taxes in Nepal.
- Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah and the Cabinet resigned on 28 November 2011 amid accusations of corruption. Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, accepted the resignation.
- The Justice and Development Party (PJD) won the parliamentary elections in Morocco according to the poll results announced on 27 November 2011. PJD won 107 seats out of the 395 seats, almost twice as many as the second place finisher. The Polls were held on 25 November 2011 and there was only a 45 percent turnout.
- China on 29 December 2011 issued a white paper entitled China's Space Activities in 2011. The white paper is on the development of space industry since 2006 and the major tasks for the next five years. It was the third white paper on China's space activities.
- India and Pakistan concluded their Sixth Round of Expert Level Talks on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures in Islamabad on 27 December 2011. In this meeting, both the nations agreed to recommend to their foreign secretaries to extend the validity of the agreement on reducing the risk from accidents relating to nuclear weapons. Pakistan suggested to India that heavy artillery should be removed from the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Prime Minister of India visited Russia on 15-17 December 2011 to participate in the 12th Indo-Russian annual summit. India and Russia signed five major agreements during this summit, which includes licensed production of an additional 42 Sukhoi combat planes and to manage fly ash residue at thermal plants in Siberia.
- The United Nations (UN) and the Iraqi Government on 24 December 2011 signed an agreement to relocate Iranian exiles living in a camp in northeastern part of Iraq. UN

High Commission for Refugees will monitor the relocation while Iraqi Government will be responsible for their security. UNHCR would decide the refugee status for the residents of Ashraf here.

- The leaders of the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organisation) nations on 21 December 2011 agreed that the deployment of foreign bases in their territory would be done with the approval of all partners of the defence alliance. The CSTO summit was held in Moscow.
- As per the Charities Aid Foundation's World Giving Index, India ranked as the most uncharitable nation of South Asia in 2011. India is the worst performer in South Asia with a global ranking of 91. India was ranked at 134 in 2010.
- Syria on 19 November 2011 agreed to allow the Arab League observers to monitor the situation inside the country. The plan is aimed at ending the crackdown on pro democracy protesters in Syria.
- The USA government on 16 December 2011 lifted most of its sanctions on Libya, unfreezing some of Libya's assets held in the United States. The USA government freed about 30 billion dollars in assets owned by the Libyan government and 2 Libyan banks that had been blocked since February. But holdings of the late leader Muammar al-Qadhafi and his family, as well as those of his aides, will be kept frozen.
- India and Australia on 16 December 2011 signed an agreement to amend DTAA (Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement) with the objective of ensuring more effective exchange of financial information between the two countries.
- NATO ended its training mission in Iraq on 17 December 2011. The mission was aimed at assisting in the development of Iraqi security forces training structures and institutions. It was comprised of 120 soldiers from 12 countries.
- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 15 December 2011 signed an agreement for the first tranche (113 million US dollars) under the 350 million US dollars Himachal Pradesh Clean Energy Transmission Investment Programme, which is a multi-tranche financing facility.
- The US military officially ended its mission in Iraq on 15 December 2011. As per Pentagon statistics, approximately 4487 US soldiers lost their lives in Iraq war, with another 32226 Americans wounded in action.
- The Government of Canada following many other countries like Belgium, Netherlands e.tc , announced on 12 December 2011 that women who aspire for Canadian citizenship can't wear burqa when they take oath of citizenship. The government received complaints from lawmakers and judges that they found it difficult to know whether women who masked their faces were actually reciting the oath or not.
- Japan announced on 9 December 2011 that it is imposing a fresh round of financial sanctions against Iran. Japan will freeze the assets of 106 organizations, one individual and three Iranian banks.
- Greek Parliament on 7 December 2011 approved a budget for 2012 pledging tough fiscal goals demanded by European Union partners in return for fresh loans. The austerity budget projects a modest primary surplus excluding interest payments on debt.
- Australia's ruling Labour Party on 4 December 2011 in its annual policy conference approved plans to open up uranium sales to India. The conference held in Sydney

overturned its own ban, which prohibits Australia to sell uranium to nations such as India that have not signed Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty.

- The first Global Buddhist Congregation which was aimed to provide a joint platform to Buddhist communities across the world and also to impact geo-politics in Asia was concluded in New Delhi on 30 November 2011. The four-day congregation decided to set up a new international Buddhist organization in India.
- The United Kingdom shut down the Iranian embassy in London and expelled its entire staff in retaliation to the storming of the British diplomatic compound by an angry mob. They were asked to leave the UK within 48 hours. The British government also shut its embassy in Iran and evacuated the staff.
- The Bangladeshi Parliament on 29 November 2011 passed a landmark bill, *the Vested Properties Return (Amendment) Bill 2011* that will enable Hindus to reclaim their property taken over by the government and individuals.
- Tuareg rebels on 1 April 2012 tightened their grip on northern Mali. It seized control of a key city called Gao and encircled the historic desert town of Timbuktu. Earlier, Army seized power in Mali because the government had not done enough to stem the Tuareg rebellion rekindled in January 2012. Mali is located in western part of Africa.
- The European Union on 28 March 2012 called on North Korea to abandon its planned rocket launch and dismantle its nuclear weapons programme. The EU stated that it was deeply concerned about North Korea's plan to launch a satellite into orbit next month.
- Syria on 27 March 2012 accepted the 19-point UN peace plan to end violence in country. The 19-point plan was handed over by Kofi Annan to Syrian President during his recent visit to the Syria.
- Israel on 25 March 2012 snapped working relations with the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Council passed a resolution recently against Israel. The resolution condemned Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and decided to send a fact-finding mission to investigate such activity.
- Rebel troops in Mali ousted its President Amadou Toumani on 22 March 2012. The rebels blamed the government for failing to control an ethnic Tuareg insurgency in the Northern part of Mali. The Tuareg insurgency includes fighters who supported Mummar Gaddafi in Libya.
- UN Human Rights Council on 21 March 2012 passed a resolution in Geneva calling for a probe into Israeli settlements in occupied territories. The UN resolution states that the Israeli settlements is infringing on the rights of the Palestinian people. The resolution asked Israel to confiscate arms to prevent acts of violence by Israeli settlers.
- The Pakistan government on 20 March 2012 issued the Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) for switching over to a negative list regime for trade with India. As per SRO, the import of 1209 Indian products will be included in the negative list and will not be importable from India. Of the importable items from India, 137 products can be brought in from India through the Wagah land border crossing.
- The Bangladesh government decided to honour 132 foreign leaders, intellectuals, cultural personalities and organisations who helped in the country's Liberation war of 1971. The list of people to be honoured includes 47 Indians. The honour will be conferred on 27 March 2012.

- India and the World Bank on 21 March 2012 signed an IDA credit of 152 million US dollars to finance the Indian government's efforts to help improve the efficiency, quality and accountability of health services in Uttar Pradesh.
- India and Colombia on 12 March 2012 signed a *Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)* in New Delhi for the Years 2012-2016. The CEP was signed in conformity with the provision established in the Cultural Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Colombia. CEP was signed in Bogota, capital of Columbia on 22 May 1974.
- A US (United States) federal judge on 1 March 2012 dismissed a lawsuit filed against the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The lawsuit alleged that the human rights abuses occurred during the civil war in Sri Lanka, and it held President Rajapaksa responsible.
- India handed over 20 million Dollars standby loan to Maldives in view of the difficult financial situation there. Moreover, the 50 million dollar treasury bonds owed to the State Bank of India by Maldives was extended for another year.
- North Korea agreed to suspend its nuclear and uranium enrichment programme in return for US food aid. USA had promised North Korea 240000 tonnes of nutritional assistance and food aid following breakthrough in talks with the latter. North Korea also agreed to allow UN inspectors to monitor its reactor in Yongbyon so that compliance with the measures could be verified and the disablement of the 5-MW reactor and associated facilities could be confirmed. This step was taken two months after Kim Jong-un came to power following the death of his father, Kim Jong-il.
- India and ADB (Asian Development Bank) on 27 February 2012 signed the third and last tranche of loan agreement to support electricity transmission and distribution capacity in Assam under the Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Programme.
- India on 29 February 2012 took over the chair of assembly and governing board of Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI). Vinod Rai, Comptroller and Auditor General of India are the new chairman of the 45-nation strong Asian Organization of the Institutions of the Accountants General. ASOSAI is the largest regional organisation of the government auditors.
- USA on 28 February 2012 refused to change its Afghanistan strategy in view of the recent violence. The American servicemen were killed following the burning of Qurans at a military base. USA appreciated the effort of Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and other senior leaders who called for an end to violent protests.
- India asked Somalia to bring in a national anti-piracy legislation for investigation and prosecution of suspected pirates. Addressing the UN Security Council, India urged that Somalia should itself give a solution to the piracy problem.
- India and Saudi Arabia discussed the World Oil Outlook in New Delhi on 23 February 2012, especially the growing demand for hydrocarbons in Asia and India during the delegation level talks. The talks were held under the India-Saudi Arabia Energy Consultations. India's requirement of incremental quantities of Saudi Arabian oil imports in the years ahead considering the ongoing expansion in India's refining capacity. The Indian side also conveyed its growing requirement of LPG (Butane and Propane) considering the accelerated expansion of LPG coverage in the country's rural areas under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitran Yojana (RGGLVY).

- Iran on 15 February 2012 launched three nuclear projects including a fourth generation Ultra Centrifuge, which is capable of enriching the Uranium faster than its earlier models. The first one was at the Iranian Atomic Organization Research Center in Tehran where Iran's first home-made nuclear fuel rods were loaded into a medical reactor for production of isotopes used in treatment of cancer patients. Iran unveiled two other projects in the Natanz plant in central Iran. These include a facility which will enable the plant to enrich uranium to 20 per cent.
- India and Saudi Arabia on 13 February 2012 agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Defence Co-operation during the visit of Defence Minister A.K Antony to the latter. The focus was on strengthening bilateral co-operation in the defence sector.
- The Arab League asked the UN to send a Joint UN-Arab league monitoring team to Syria. The League sought the nomination of a special envoy to head the Joint monitoring mission.
- Indonesia became the 157th country to adopt the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Indonesia formalised ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty on 6 February 2012 at the United Nations. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) completed its talks on the regional weapons free zone in 2011 and the 10 member states are now completing ratification of that treaty.
- India and the United States of America on 3 February 2012 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Washington to co-operate on Labour and employment issues during the visit of labour and employment minister Mallikarjun Khagre.
- Iran on 3 February 2012 successfully launched an observation satellite called navid satellite into orbit above Earth. It will be placed into an orbit at an altitude between 250 and 370 kilometres. The weight of the satellite is 50-kilogram and it is meant to stay in orbit for 18 months.
- India signed TIEA with Guernsey in the third week of December 2011. This is the 13th bilateral TIEA for Guernsey with a G20 nation. The TIEA will help Indian tax authorities get information on tax evasion cases.
- The inaugural defence dialogue between the Defence Secretaries of India and Sri Lanka was held in New Delhi on 31 January 2012. Regional security situation including issues of maritime security in the Indian Ocean region dominated the inaugural Annual Defence Dialogue. Various issues relating to bilateral defence interactions came up for discussion at the Defence dialogue.
- India, Japan and China entered into a pact to share data to achieve the most efficient use of Naval Forces present in the Indian Ocean Region known as the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE). The initiative began functioning from 1 January 2012. China, India, and Japan also agreed to carry out more effective coordination by establishing a convoy coordination working group as part of the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction Mechanism.
- India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), on 29 January 2012 signed an agreement with Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDP) for setting up a joint venture 1320 MW thermal power plant. The joint venture coal-based power plant will comprise of two units of 660 MW each and will be set up at Rampal in Khulna Division of Bangladesh. The project is the first joint venture power plant in Bangladesh. The project will be completed by 2016.

- Pakistan's Supreme Court on 30 January 2012 granted two more months to the judicial commission probing the memo issue to complete its investigation. The apex court said the panel would decide on American businessman Mansoor Ijaz's request to record his statement outside the country. The Supreme Court had formed the commission on December 30 and given it four weeks to complete its investigation. The term of the commission would have ended on 30 January 2012.
- Muslim brotherhood's the Freedom and Justice Party won 235 seats in the Egypt Parliamentary elections. The election results were declared on 21 January 2012 by the High election committee. Elections were held on 498 seats.
- In New Delhi, India and Pakistan on 25 January 2012 agreed in New Delhi to transit fee formula for Tapi (Tajikistan, Pakistan and India) gas pipeline project. On the Transit Fee, India and Pakistan agreed that the negotiations would be conducted in a transparent manner keeping in mind the overall economics of the Project. Since there is a need to expedite the signing of the Gas Sale Purchase Agreement (GSPA), both sides agreed to settle the Transit Fee issue at the earliest.
- The Bangladesh army foiled a planned coup in December 2011 attempt to topple the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Some officers in military service were involved in the conspiracy to topple the system of democratic governance. Two former army officers were arrested and a manhunt was launched for the fugitive officer while some 16 others were kept under strict military vigil.
- The Government of India and the World Bank on 20 January 2012 signed an IDA credit of 130 million US dollars to finance the project called NERLP (North East Rural Livelihoods Project), to empower rural communities in the growth-deficient North East (NE) region to improve their livelihood opportunities.
- India on 18 January 2012 announced a substantial increase in educational assistance, being given to Sri Lanka. The funding amounting to 2.5 billion Srilankan Rupees will mark a threefold increase in the scholarships and self-financing slots for undergraduate, masters and doctorate-level courses.
- Pakistan's Supreme Court on 16 January 2012 issued a contempt of court notice to Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani for failing to re-open graft cases against President Asif Ali Zardari. The Apex Court also asked the Pakistan Prime Minister to appear before it on 19 January 2012.
- The 10th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) was held on 7-9 January, 2012 at Birla Auditorium, Jaipur.
- Twelve of the 22 Indian diamond traders, detained in China for nearly 2 years on charges of smuggling, reached India on 5 January 2012 after they were let off following deportation orders by a Chinese court. Twenty-two traders, hailing mostly from Gujarat and Mumbai, were arrested in southern China's Shenzhen city in 2010 and were charged with smuggling diamonds worth 50 million yuan or 7.3 million US Dollars. They were accused of sourcing diamonds illegally from Hong Kong for sale in the Chinese market.
- Maldives on 4 January 2012 lifted ban on spas in the upmarket tourist destination following its verification that these spas were not being used for prostitution. Earlier, it was alleged that these spas were the hub of prostitution. Following this, the tourism ministry ordered all massage centres to shut down.
- India on 30 April 2012 announced its decision to export 2.1 million tonnes (mt) of iron ore to steel mills of Japan and South Korea under a long-term agreement due to be signed

in May 2012. The iron ore will be supplied to leading steel mills of Japan and Korea, including Posco, Kobe and Nippon Steel.

- The Union Cabinet of India on 28 April 2012 approved the proposal by Oman to hike the gas price for an Indian fertilizer plant in the Gulf nation to 1.5 per million dollar metric British thermal unit (mmBtu). The move aims to ensure uninterrupted supply of urea to the Indian market.
 - a) ***Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO)***: Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO), a joint venture of Oman's state-owned Oman Oil Co (OCC) and Indian co-operative firms KRIBHCO and IFFCO, produces about 2 million tonnes of urea a year at Sur for exports to India. IFFCO and KRIBHCO hold 25 per cent stake each in OMIFCO, while the balance is with Oman Oil Company.
- The Union Cabinet on 26 April 2012 in a meeting headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh approved the signing of a new liberal visa regime with Pakistan thereby paving way for easing travel restrictions and increasing people-to-people exchange.
- The Supreme Court of Pakistan convicted Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raja Gilani for contempt of court for refusing to reopen corruption cases against President Asif Ali Zardari. Gilani, who is the first Pakistan prime minister to be held guilty for contempt, could have been jailed for six months but was awarded just a symbolic punishment of about 30 seconds.
- Pakistan on 25 April 2012, successfully test-fired an upgraded version of Shaheen-1 missile. The new upgraded Shaheen-1, with its even longer striking range and nuclear carrying capability, can hit its targets in India. The missile test comes less than a week after India successfully test-fired inter-continental Agni-V missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead as far as Beijing.
- The Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his Cabinet resigned on 23 April 2012 after failing to reach agreement on reducing the country's budget to meet European guidelines. Rutte tendered his resignation to Queen Beatrix, the head of state, at her palace in The Hague, which was accepted by her subsequently.
- US and Afghanistan inked a long-awaited strategic pact on 22 April 2012. The pact aims at setting forth guidelines for US involvement in Afghanistan as forces are withdrawn from the trouble-torn nation.
- A passenger aero plane crash near Islamabad in Pakistan on 20 April 2012 left more than 100 people dead. The tragic incident occurred while the airliner was attempting to land during a thunderstorm. The Bhoja airliner had been flying from the southern seaport city of Karachi and burst into flames right before its landing in the Islamabad following a 3½-hour flight. The airline Boeing 737 was carrying 121 passengers, including 11 children, as well as six crew members.
- The Fourth BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit was held in New Delhi on 29 March 2012. The theme of the summit was BRICS partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity.
- World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 11 April 2012 pegged world trade growth at 3.7 per cent for 2012 thereby projecting a further slowdown in world trade. World trade expanded by a mere 5 per cent in 2011 a sharp deceleration from the 2010 rebound of 13.8 per cent. The WTO expects trade to recover by 2013 and result in additional growth of 5.6 percent. According to the WTO, the slowdown of the global economy due to a

number of shocks including the European sovereign debt crisis resulted in the dip in the trade figures.

- Taliban militants on 15 April 2012, unleashed a string of attack in the high profile diplomatic pockets, NATO bases and Parliament of Kabul capital city of Afghanistan. The militants also hit three provinces—in Jalalabad, Logar and Paktia. The attack left 24 people injured and 7 militants killed. The attackers also fired rockets at the parliament building and at the Russian embassy.
- United States of America and Afghanistan on 8 April 2012 signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the controversial issue of conduct of night raids on Afghan homes. It empowered the Afghan security forces oversight over the raids led by the US troops. The agreement leads to a more comprehensive long-term strategic partnership agreement between the two nations after the departure of all foreign troops from Afghanistan in 2014.
- India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board was designated as the 11th member of MEDP (Multinational Design Evaluation Programme) on 4 April 2012. The other members of this body are China, Finland, Japan, Korea, South Africa, USA, UK, Canada, France and Russia.
- India and UAE signed an agreement on 4 April 2012 to ease the entry of Indian contract workers in the Emirates. The agreement was signed in Abu Dhabi, UAE. It provides for an electronic contract registration and validation system to safeguard and protect the interests of migrant Indian workers.
- Qatar on 3 April 2012 rejected Iraq's request to hand over the nation's fugitive Tareq Al Hashemi to face terror charges in Baghdad. Qatar stated that it would not extradite him since such a move would be contrary to diplomatic protocol. Qatar will not hand him over because there is no court verdict against him and because al-Hashemi is a foreign official with diplomatic immunity. Iraq had asked Qatar to extradite the top Sunni leader Tareq Al-Hashemi against whom the Shiite Government issued an arrest warrant in December 2011 on charges of running death squads for killing of Government officials and opponents.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 16 May 2012 decided to set up a 2 billion dollar swap facility for SAARC (South-Asian Association for Regional Co-operation) member-nations. This facility will be available in foreign currency and Indian rupee.
- Jean-Marc Ayrault a moderate Socialist took over as the France's new Prime Minister on 16 May 2012. His predecessor Francois Fillon welcomed him at the 18th century mansion in central Paris that serves as the prime minister's office.
- The Tibetan spiritual leader, *the Dalai Lama*, received the 1.7 million dollar *Templeton Prize* on 14 May 2012 for his role in promoting links between spirituality and science. The award was conferred at a ceremony in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.
- Arsalan Rahmani Daulat, the Key Afghan peace mediator, was assassinated 13 May 2012. The assassination of Daulat has raised the fears of disruption in the already fragile peace talk. Rahmani, until April 2012 was the acting head of President Hamid Karzai's Higher Peace Council. Rahmani had received tremendous success in accelerating the peace negotiation over the past few months.
- An Agni Airplane crashed in Jomsom in western Nepal crashed on 14 May 2012 killing nearly 14 of the 21 people on board while, 7 people were rescued alive. The plane was flying from Pokhara to Jomsom, Mustang.

- Pakistan successfully test-fired Hatf III Ghaznavi missile on 10 May 2012. The missile has a range of 290 km and it can hit its target in India. The missile is capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The missile was launched at the conclusion of the annual field training exercise of Army Strategic Force Command.
- All of nearly 50 people on board were killed in a Superjet 100 aircraft crash about 40 miles (64 km) south of Jakarta on 9 May 2012. The Superjet 100 aircraft, Russia's first all-new passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union went missing on 9 May 2012.
- Vladimir Putin the former Russian Prime Minister and the president of the United Russia Party took the oath as the President of Russia on 7 May 2012. Putin had won the Russian presidential elections with 63.6 % of the vote on 4 March 2012.
- A teenage suicide bomber blew himself up in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of Bajaur on 4 May 2012. The suicide bomber aged 14 to 16, detonated explosives strapped to his chest killing at least 24 people and leaving several others injured.
- 40 people killed and scores others left injured in two powerful bomb blasts in Damascus on 10 May 2012. The blast prompted UN observer chief to appeal for help to finish off the violence in Syria. According to The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, 50 people including civilians and security forces members died in the attack. The target of the attack was an intelligence services base.
- Twenty people died and several others left injured in an attack on a Christian church in Nigeria on 29 April 2012. The attackers targeted a Christian church service at a university in Nigeria's city of Kano.
- Aung San Suu Kyi took the oath of office to become an official member of Myanmar's parliament on 2 May 2012. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Laureate, pro-democracy leader of Myanmar for the first time has held public office since launching her struggle against authoritarian rule nearly a quarter century ago.
- Nepal cabinet tendered its resignation on 3 May 2012. Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai also slated resigned by the end of the month. The decision to step down came in the wake of an agreement among the Nepal's major political parties to form a new coalition government led by Bhattarai.

State Current Affair News for IBPS PO Exam June 2012

- Uttar Pradesh government on 27 April 2012 decided to scrap the post of cabinet secretary of the state. The cabinet also decided to withdraw a proposed amendment Bill meant to give immunity to panchayat heads from no-confidence motion for two years. The decision to withdraw 'kshetra panchayat and district panchayat amendment Bill', 2011 proposed by previous Mayawati government, was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.
- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, former Chief Minister and RJD leader Rabri Devi sworn in as members of the Bihar legislative council on 7 May 2012. The leaders were administered oath by State Legislative Council Chairman Salim Parvej.
- Delhi Government on 24 April 2012 increased the minimum wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers in Delhi. While, the monthly minimum wages of unskilled workers was hiked from 6656 rupees to 7020 rupees, the wages for semi-skilled labour was revised upwards from

7358 to 7748 rupees. In the case of skilled labour the wage was increased from 8112 rupees to 8528 rupees.

- Sikkim on 24 April 2012, won the best state award for strengthening its panchayati raj institutions. The north-eastern state bagged the five prestigious national awards worth of 1.36 crore rupees, at a Panchayat Raj Day function.
- The Planning Commission on 18 April 2012 approved a total plan outlay of 48935 crore rupees for Andhra Pradesh for the year 2012-13. The total outlay for the state for the current year witnessed an increase of 13.8 per cent against the previous figure of 43000 crore rupees in the fiscal year 2011-12.
- Planning Commission on 20 April 2012 approved the 14010 crore rupees annual plan outlay for Kerala. The plan panel outlay was approved at a meeting between Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy. The total plan outlay will witness a substantial increase in the spending for social sector, including education and public healthcare.
- Rajasthan State Assembly on 18 April 2012 passed a resolution to establish an upper house in the state. The resolution to create a Vidhan Parishad (legislative council) was moved in the state assembly under Article 169 (1) of the Indian Constitution.
- The Judicial Commission set up by the Maharashtra government to probe into the Adarsh Housing Society scam, on 17 April 2012 held that the land on which the Adarsh building was constructed, belonged to the state government and not the Army. An interim report prepared by the two-member Commission, was tabled and distributed in the Assembly.
- BJP on 17 April 2012 claimed all the three new civic bodies carved out of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The party bagged 138 of the 272 wards while the Congress was voted to victory in 78 wards. This was the first municipal election after the MCD was divided.
- Himachal Pradesh, the northern hilly state, completed 65 years of its foundation on 15 April 2012. Himachal Pradesh came into being on 15 May 1948, when 31 former princely states and hill areas of the state of Punjab were amalgamated into it on 1 November 1966 and it attained Statehood on 25 January 1971. Chief Minister of the state Prem Kumar Dhumal on the occasion announced to increase the cash prize under Parshuram award from 20000 to 50000 rupees.
- Kerala government on 4 April 2012 decided to impose a 10 per cent power cut on industrial consumers. A formal endorsement of its plea in this regard was conveyed to Kerala State Electricity Board by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission on 4 April 2012.
- Odisha government on 4 April 2012 decided to release eight Left wing extremists and 15 members of the Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh for freeing Jhina Hikaka, BJD MLA and an Italian named Paolo Bosusco.
- Supreme Court of India on 3 April 2012, upheld the Delhi High Court ruling of quashing a cap on number of rickshaws plying in Delhi. The apex court's bench of Justices G S Singhvi and S J Mukhopadhyaya in its ruling held that when there is no cap on number of motorised vehicles, equally there can be no cap on number of rickshaws plying in the city.
- Tamil Nadu government on 3 April 2012 announced to subsidise part of power tariff increase for domestic consumers. The present step taken by the government will benefit 1.5 crore families. The state government announced an additional subsidy of 740 crore rupees to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board taking the total subsidy allocation for the department in 2012 to 4294.16 crore rupees.

- Union Government of India, Asian Development Bank, and State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand on 2 April 2012 inked a 43.84 million dollar loan agreement objected at promoting tourism in the states. The loan, which is part of the 250 million dollar multi-tranche financial aid signed in 2010, aims at enhancing tourism infrastructure in Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.
- Jharkhand Government and the Airport Authority of India on 21 February 2012 signed a memorandum of understanding [MoU] to establish airports in Jamshedpur and Bokaro. The aircraft operation would first be started with small ATR-72 aircrafts but with the increase in air traffic on the airport the bigger aircrafts would also be deployed for operation.
- Himachal Tourism Department on 16 January 2012 signed a pact with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for managing its establishments in the hill State as the department was unable to run its restaurants and wayside eating joints.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal on 19 March 2012 presented his fifth budget in the State Assembly. This was the longest budget speech in the history of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha. The gross budget outlay for financial year 2012-13 was estimated at 20243.93 crore rupees out of which 6285.10 crore rupees would be spent on salaries, 2784.71 crore rupees on Pensions, 2249.67 crore rupees to remit interest payments and 1937.30 Crore rupees for repayment of loan and 1567.55 Crore rupees on maintenance.
- Haryana government on 15 February 2012, suspended the scheme of distribution of social benefits under Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) in the State till the infrastructure of banks is stabilized in the rural areas. The network of private sector banks in the state was found to increase considerably. However the participation of the private sector banks in the social lending require improvement.
- Haryana government on 22 February 2012 announced to increase minimum wages of skilled and unskilled labourers. The state government decided to increase minimum wages of unskilled labourers to Rupees 186 a day while the wages for unskilled labourer was raised to Rupees 211.42 a day.
- Haryana Finance Minister H S Chatha on 5 March 2012 presented a 610.46 crore rupees deficit budget for fiscal year 2012-13. The minister tabled the budget in the state legislative assembly. As per the budget proposals the total receipts (net of public debt) forecast for the year 2012-13 is 44708.47 crore rupees whereas the total expenditure (excluding repayments) are projected to be 45318.93 crore rupees leaving a deficit of 610.46 crore rupees.
- Delhi state cabinet on 26 December 2011 approved the draft of the Delhi Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2011. It also approved the draft of the Salary and Allowances of the Chief Whip in the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2011.
- Delhi became the first State in the country to issue e-stamp papers in all denominations after the Cabinet decided to bring non-judicial stamp papers of Rs.500 denomination and below under the ambit of e-stamp mode on 6 February 2012. The complete switchover to e-stamp mode is expected to prevent all fraudulent practices in this field.
- Delhi government on 13 February 2012 announced medical benefits, financial support and higher compensation packages for various other categories of workers, including those working in industries and covered by the Industrial Workers Act. The benefits are to cover the workers who contribute to the Delhi Labour Welfare Board.

- As a part of the Chacha Nehru Sehat Yojna (CNSY), Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on 20 February 2012 launched a major State-wide de-worming campaign. The campaign was launched by administering chewable tablets to 50 school-going children at her residence.
- Union External Affairs Minister SM Krishna on 23 February 2012 inaugurated 50th Passport Seva Kendra at Herald House near ITO in central Delhi. The newly inaugurated passport office has been equipped with state-of-the-art facilities which will take less than 45 minutes to complete all the formalities for getting a passport.
- Delhi government on 28 February 2012 hiked the reservation for OBC [Other Backward Classes] in higher education institutions from 21 percent to 27 percent. The new quota is set to be effective from academic year 2012-13. The government, however, also decided to enhance the total number of seats by 12 per cent so that the increased quota for OBC doesn't impact general category students adversely.
- Delhi Cabinet on 19 March 2012 approved transfer of 621 crore rupees to the National Highway Authority of India for constructing Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP Expressway), also known as Delhi Western Peripheral Expressway. The expressway is 135.6 kilometres long and it is being constructed in Haryana.
- Ministry of Rural Development sanctioned 3 road projects using latest Polymer-based technologies, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Chhattisgarh. These roads will be constructed using the latest soil stabilization techniques, which is an in-situ method of stabilising the soil with Polymer in the liquid form. The technology has been accredited by Indian Road Congress and also laboratory tests have been carried out at IIT, Kharagpur.
- Union Cabinet of India on 24 January 2012 approved renaming of the Mana Airport at Raipur in Chattisgarh as the Swami Vivekanand Airport, Raipur
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh, who holds the additional portfolio of finance department, presented the state budget 2012-13 in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on 25 March 2012. The plan outlay for 2012-13 is pegged at 20260 crore rupees. Chhattisgarh government in a first in the country, allocated 60 crore rupees to launch a health insurance scheme that would leave no one living in the state uncovered.
- Sushil Kumar Modi, the deputy chief minister and the finance minister of Bihar, on 23 February 2012, presented the budget of state for the year 2012-13. The total budget allocation was 78686.83 crore Rupees with a special emphasis on the sectors like agriculture and education. The revenue surplus is 7088.59 crore Rupees while the public debt is estimated to be 59732.81 crore Rupees.
- Rajasthan state cabinet on 28 November 2011 approved the decision to give khatedari rights to over 30000 farmers occupying the custodian land in Alwar, Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh and Bharatpur. The farmers will have to pay a nominal regularisation fee to get the rights. The lands were vacated mostly by those farmers, who left the country during the partition.
- Union government of India on 23 November 2011 approved the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2011, thus paved the way for dividing MCD into 3 corporations and to increase the reservation of seats for women to 50 percent from the current 33 percent. MCD is Asia's largest civic body.
- Delhi state government on 28 November 2011 launched Kishori Scheme under which sanitary napkins would be distributed to adolescent girls. Delhi becomes the first state in India to reach out to as many as 7.5 lakh girls with this scheme, which aims to promote menstrual hygiene

among these girls. Under the Kishori Scheme, sanitary scheme will be provided to girls every month in their school.

- In Manipur, Cabinet on 29 November 2011 decided to extend the Disturbed Area Status for another one year in the state except the seven assembly constituencies under the Imphal Municipal Area where the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was already withdrawn. The Cabinet reviewed the prevailing situation in the state.
- Delhi Assembly on 1 December 2011 passed the Delhi Municipal Corporation, MCD (Amendment) Bill -2011 to trifurcate the Civic body with voice vote. As per the bill, the MCD, which came into existence on 7 April 1958 under an Act of Parliament, will be divided into North, South and East Delhi municipal corporations and 50 per cent of total two hundred and seventy-two seats will be reserved for women as against current 33 per cent.
- In Assam, the militant outfit Mar People's Convention-Democratic (HPC-D) on 2 December 2011 declared a unilateral ceasefire paving the way for peace talks with the Government.
- The state assembly of Bihar on 7 December 2011 passed the Bihar Lokayukta Bill 2011 to constitute a strong and effective Lokayukta in the state. The bill will have Chief Minister, ministers, former chief Ministers, the Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha and Chairman of the Legislative Council, Legislators and former legislators under its purview. It will cover also public servants, employees of the government and corporations or organizations getting government grants.
- Delhi state government on 7 December 2011 launched the Electronic Public Distribution System (e-PDS). This system will help consumers get online information on the availability of food grains, distribution of important commodities and ration shops. It will reduce complaints of divergence and other corrupt practices.
- The Chhattisgarh government on 7 December 2011 decided to raise the percentage of reservation for the scheduled tribes (STs) and scheduled castes (SCs) in government jobs. The STs will now get 32 per cent whereas the SCs will get 12 per cent reservation. The OBCs will continue to be given 14 per cent reservation as usual.
- Planning Commission of India approved Investment clearance for the scheme Flood Protection works for River Banks of Ghatprabha River at Gokak Town of Belgaum District of Karnataka. The project envisages strengthening of the right bank of the river Ghatprabha at Gokak town to enable it to carry the full capacity discharge of 7361 cumec for 100 year return period to avoid damages to right flood bank, residential and commercial houses, town, roads etc.
- Maharashtra state government on 28 December 2011 planned to spend 800 crore rupees on the first phase of a health scheme for the poor. This plan will benefit 50 lakh families from eight districts. The health scheme will be executed under the Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana. Under this yojana any family earning below 1 lakh rupees per annum will be given free medical treatment worth 1.5 lakh rupees a year.
- Maharashtra government announced a package of two thousand crore for the distressed cotton, soya and paddy growers mainly belonging to the Vidarbha, Marathwada and Khandesh regions of the state. The fiscal package would cover all the cotton farmers and only those soya and paddy growers, who suffered crop losses of more than 25 per cent.
- Himachal Pradesh government on 15 December 2011 decided to amend the industrial policy of the state to make it more environments friendly. The amended industrial policy seeks to promote environmentally sustainable development in the state and encourage cleaner production and

adoption. Under this policy, disincentive industries will be put on negative list and public disclosure of pollution status at the unit and cluster will be promoted.

- Special session of Tamil Nadu Assembly on 15 December 2011 passed the resolution, which seeks immediate deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force at the vicinity of the Mullaperiyar dam. It also states that Kerala Government should bring in necessary amendments in the Kerala Irrigation and water protection Act passed in 2006 and accept the Supreme Court's order to increase the water level to 142 ft.
- Delhi government on 20 December 2011 inked an agreement with the National Institute for Smart Government, NISG, Hyderabad for digitisation of its archival records. It will preserve 10 crore documents including CID records, Gazettes, Maps, Manus, photographs and records of eminent personalities.
- Manipur Legislative Assembly on 22 December 2011 unanimously passed the Manipur Lokayukta Bill, 2011. The Bill seeks to establish the institution of Lokayukta in the state to inquire into the allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries. With the passage of the Bill, Manipur will be the third state in North-Eastern India after Assam and Tripura, to have a legislation of Lok Ayukta.

News Capsule: Current Affairs News for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Exam 2012

- India's first cooperative university will be set up at Sibsagar in Assam. To be known as the Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, it will offer courses on cooperative management and train existing manpower in both the government and the private sectors, to manage the cooperative sector
- The cyclonic storm 'Thane' formed in the last week of December 2011 over South-East and adjoining South-West Bay of Bengal moved Westwards and lay centred over South-West and adjoining South-East Bay of Bengal, about 750 Km South of Gopalpur. The severe cyclonic storm lays centred in East Southeast of Bay of Bengal, 350 kilometres off Chennai coast
- The West Bengal Government on 28 December 2011 declared its decision to take over Indira Bhavan, which was the official residence of former Chief Minister Jyoti Basu at Salt Lake. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee declared that Indira Bhavan would be turned into a museum and a research centre devoted to Kavi Nazrul Islam, a contemporary of Rabindranath Tagore
- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 26 December 2011 declared the birthday of the great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, 22 December as National Mathematics Day. Singh also declared 2012 as the National Mathematical Year as a tribute to the great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan
- A Delhi court set 6 February as a deadline for 22 social networking sites including the Facebook, the Google, the Yahoo and the Microsoft to remove all anti-religious or anti-social content. The court directed the social networking sites to file compliance reports by 6 February 2012
- Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal dedicated the Malappuram (Kerala) off-campus of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to the nation

at a function held in Perinthalmanna on 24 December 2011. The Aligarh Muslim University special centre in Malappuram is one of the five such centres being set up in the country

- Iran's former Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Wilayati on 21 December 2011 released a 1000-year-old manuscript; Nahjul Balagha believed to be a collection of letters, speeches and aphorisms of the fourth Caliphate of Islam Hazrat Ali at Aligarh Muslim University
- Green Film Festival was held in Delhi from 6 December to 10 December 2011. Leading environment and wildlife films from across the world were screened as part of the CMS Vatavaran film festival. *Biodiversity Conservation was the theme of the festival*
- Fourteen persons (Leading writers and journalists) were given Bharatendu Harish Chandra Awards for 2009 and 2010 by Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, S Jagathrakshakan on 28 December 2011. The Bhartendu Harishchandra Awards are given to published or unpublished books in four categories- Journalism and Mass Communication, Women's Issues, Children's Literature and National Integration. The awards were instituted in 1983 to encourage original Hindi writings on topics related to journalism and mass communication
- The Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences on 21 December 2011 chose Apple co-founder Steve Jobs to be posthumously honoured with a Grammy award for his contribution to music technology. Jobs is to be honoured as a creative visionary. He is one of 11 people who will be honoured with special awards
- Jamil Ahmad was declared the winner of the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for his book *The Wandering Falcon* at the British Council in New Delhi on 21 December 2011. *The Wandering Falcon* is a narrative about the lives of tribal people along the borders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran
- Veteran Bollywood actress Hema Malini was named the person of the year by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). PETA named her the Person of the Year for raising her voice to oppose cruelty to animals and her staunch commitment to a vegetarian diet
- S.R. Nathan, former President of the Republic of Singapore represented the Sangita Kalanidhi M.S. Subbulakshmi Award to Sangita Kalanidhi-elect Trichy Sankaran at the inauguration of the 85th annual conference of the Music Academy in Chennai on 15 December 2011
- Lord Swraj Paul, leading NRI industrialist was conferred with the Life Time Achievement award for his outstanding contributions in various fields. The award, instituted by an Indian company Powerbrands, was presented to Lord Paul on 12 December 2011 by Subrata Roy, chief of the Sahara Group
- Theatre director, screenplay writer and actor Satyadev Dubey, credited with introducing existential and absurd theatre, passed away on 25 December 2011. Dubey was a maverick who went on to become a theatre guru
- Veteran politician and former Chief Minister of Karnataka S.Bangarappa who was the Chief Minister of Karnataka from 1990-92 died on 26 December 2011. He was born on 26 October 1932 in Kubatur village of Shimoga District, he was a highly respected leader among backward classes
- Jacob E. Goldman, a founder of the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) that developed breakthrough computing innovations died on 20 December 2011. The Palo Alto Research

Center developed computing innovations such as the graphical user interface and ethernet networks

- Former Indian Test (medium-pace) cricketer Vasant Ranjane passed away in Pune on 22 December 2011. Born in Pune on 22 July 1937, Ranjane grabbed 19 wickets in Tests at 34.15 per innings and 175 wickets from 64 first class ties
- India's top nuclear scientist and nuclear physicist PK Iyengar who designed India's first atomic bomb and was a staunch opponent of the Indo-US nuclear deal, passed away at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) hospital in Trombay on 21 December 2011
- KV Varadaraj, one of the few Indian footballers who played in two Olympics in 1948 and 1952, passed away in Bangalore on 20 December 2011. Varadaraj was nicknamed 6-footer by the English. Born on 7 May 1924, Varadaraj came up quickly through the ranks representing Challenge Union Mysore, Mysore Railways and Bangalore Blues
- Former Indian footballer Hamilton Bobby passed away following a cardiac arrest on 17 December 2011. Bobby, an assistant manager of Indian Bank who fell unconscious at his place of work could not be saved though he was immediately rushed to the hospital
- The enigmatic leader of North Korea Kim Jong-il passed away on 17 December 2011 after he suffered a massive heart attack on a train. The news of his death was announced by the state television from the North Korean capital, Pyongyang on 19 December 2011. An autopsy conducted mentioned that the death was caused by physical and mental over-work
- Former Czech president Vaclav Havel who had been suffering from chronic respiratory problems died on 18 December 2011 at the age of 75. He was one of the leading anti-Communist dissidents of the 1970s and 1980s
- Poet Ram Nath Singh, popularly known as Adam Gondvi, breathed his last in Lucknow on 18 December 2011. Gondvi lived like a villager throughout his life and wrote revolutionary poetry focusing on the pathetic state of dalits and the poor. He himself died in poor financial condition and cultural and social activists had to appeal for donations for his treatment
- George Whitman, the American-born owner of Shakespeare & Company, a famed English-language bookstore on the Left Bank in Paris died in Paris on 14 December 2011. His bookstore served as a magnet for writers, poets and tourists for close to 60 years
- Veteran Telugu film producer and noted lyricist MS Reddy passed away on 11 December 2011. He was popularly known as Mallemala. Reddy, during a career that spanned about 60 years, produced hit films like Ankusam, Talambralu, Ahuti, Baala Ramayanam, Ankusam, Ammoru, Agraham and the more recent Arundhati
- The world renowned cartoonist, Mario Miranda died in Goa on 11 December 2011. He was 85. He famously captured vignettes of Goan life on canvas in his trademark style for over two decades. Miranda was the recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2002) and Padma Shri (1988) awards
- Charismatic and controversial South African Indian politician Amichand Rajbansi died on 29 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa. He was nicknamed The Bengal Tiger because of his fiery nature. Rajbansi courted political controversy throughout his career but remained popular with a section of the Indian community which repeatedly voted him back into positions through his Minority Front party

- According to the Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) report, India emerged as the third largest purchaser of US arms with contracts worth \$4.5 billion in the year ended 30 September 2011 as US weapons sales rose to \$34.8 billion in fiscal 2011. Defence Security Cooperation Agency is the Pentagon agency that oversees foreign arms sales
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Vinod Rai was on 8 December 2011 elected chairman of the United Nations panel of external auditors. Rai succeeded Norbert Hauser, vice-president of Germany's Federal Court of Auditors as chairman of the United Nations panel of external auditors
- England batsman Alastair Cook on 6 December 2011 received Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) medal from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace
- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) won a green award for reducing emissions of polluting gases in the national capital by 6.3 lakh tons every year. The best Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project award was presented at Urban Mobility Conference, 2011 which concluded in New Delhi on 7 December 2011
- Former president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam presented the Justice P.N. Bhagwati Award to O.P. Jindal Global University chancellor and managing director of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd, Naveen Jindal on 6 December 2011. The award was conferred upon Jindal for his outstanding contribution to legal education and corporate philanthropy
- Brazil's former football captain, Socrates who led Brazil in two World Cups died of septic shock on 4 December 2011 in Sao Paulo. Socrates was also known as the Golden Hee and the Big Thin One. He was renowned as one of the great playmakers of his generation
- An icon of Indian cinema and evergreen star Dev Anand died at the age of 88 in London on 3 December 2011 (4 December according to IST) after suffering a massive cardiac arrest. Dharam Dev Anand was born on 26 September 1923 and is more popularly known as Dev Anand. Dev Anand was an Indian film actor, director and producer known for his work in Hindi cinema
- The state government of Delhi on 28 November 2011 launched a Kishori Scheme under which sanitary napkins would be distributed to adolescent girls. The scheme aims to promote menstrual hygiene among these girls. Under the Kishori Scheme, sanitary scheme will be provided to girls every month in their school
- The Karnataka State government on 1 December 2011 announced its decision to confer the prestigious *Basava Sri Award* for the year 2010 on noted environment activist *Medha Patkar*. Social activist and Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar was chosen for the Basava award for the year 2010 for excellence in service in the social sector
- The 2011 New York Film Critics Circle Awards announced its winners on 29 November on its official Twitter feed. The the black-and-white silent movie *The Artist* won the top prize of Best Picture
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 23 November 2011 constituted advisory committee for SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund. The committee consists of eight members. The committee is to be headed by Infosys chairman KV Kamath
- Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's only daughter, Lana Peters, who had defected to the US while in India at the height of the Cold War died on 22 November 2011 in Wisconsin. At her birth, on 28 February 1926 she was named Svetlana Stalina, the only daughter and last surviving child of the brutal Soviet tyrant Josef Stalin

- The first Eld's deer was born via in vitro fertilization in Thailand. The researchers at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) collected eggs, inseminated in vitro with thawed semen to produce embryos and transferred the embryos to a surrogate mother. As a result, a fawn was born on 17 October 2011 at the Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Thailand
- Eminent Assamese litterateur and Jnanpith award winner, Indira Goswami, popularly known as Mamoni Raisom Goswami passed away in Guwahati on 29 November 2011. Dr. Goswami authored several bestseller Assamese novels and short story collections in her life time. She was also instrumental in initiating peace talks between the government and insurgent United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)
- The acclaimed and eccentric British film director Ken Russell died on 27 November 2011. The director was known for florid adaptations of classic literature and over-the-top biopics that ranged from perverse to merely provocative. Russell is best known for controversial films including Women in Love and The Devils
- Film maker and journalist from Brazil, Oscar Maron Filho died of a fatal heart attack on 27 November in Goa while addressing an open forum arranged as part of the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
- NASA on 26 November 2011, launched Rover, nicknamed Curiosity to explore the planet Mars. The rover was launched from Florida on an Atlas 5 rocket. The Rover will take eight and a half months to reach the Red Planet (Mars). The cost of the NASA space mission is 2.5 billion US dollars
- Renowned sarangi maestro and singer Ustad Sultan Khan died of kidney failure on 27 November 2011. He belonged to the Indore Gharana of singing
- DRS Chaudhary on 30 March 2012 was appointed as the new Secretary of Ministry of Steel. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on 30 March 2012
- India hosted the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) summit for the first time on 29 March 2012. It was the fourth BRICS summit. It was held in Indian capital New Delhi
- The US Senate on 30 March 2012 confirmed career diplomat Nancy Powell as ambassador to India. The position had remained vacant for the past year following the resignation Timothy Roemer. Obama's first ambassador to India, former congressman Timothy Roemer had announced his resignation in April 2011
- Chandigarh girl Vanya Mishra crowned as the Pantaloons Femina Miss India World 2012 in the grand finale of the 49th edition of the beauty pageant on 30 March 2012 in Mumbai. The Miss India Earth title went to 24-year-old Prachi Mishra of Pune won the Miss India Earth title while Chennai girl Rochelle Maria Rao was crowned as the Miss India International. The 2012 winners selected among 20 finalists were crowned by last year's winners Kanistha Dhankhar, Hasleen Kaur and Ankita Shorey
- The John Templeton Foundation on 29 March 2012 decided to honour Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama with one of the world's leading religion prizes, Templeton Prize for 2012. The Buddhist leader who lives in exile in India had won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for advocating nonviolent liberation for Tibet
- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on 29 March 2012 appointed Shyamala Gopinath as the Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds

- Pakistan government on 18 March 2012 appointed Lt General Zaheerul Islam, Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency. Islam replaced General Shuja Pasha to the top position
- Russian President Dimitry Medvedev was conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the Jawaharlal Nehru University on 28 March 2012. JNU Vice-Chancellor Sudhir K. Sopory conferred the degree on the Russian President who is on the visit of India to attend the BRICS summit
- The Union Government of India on 28 March 2012 stayed the hanging of Babbar Khalsa terrorist Balwant Singh Rajoana. Rajoana was sentenced to death by the Chandigarh Sessions Court in the case related to the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh. The decision to stay death sentence came following a mercy petition by top sikh religious body Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) to President Pratibha Patil
- The session's court in Delhi on 28 March 2012 absolved top Maoist leader Kobad Ghandy of severe charges under the anti-terror law and charged him only for minor offences due to a procedural goof-up by the Delhi Police Special Cell
- BrahMos, the supersonic cruise missile, was successfully test-fired on 28 March 2012 by BrahMos Aerospace, from the Interim Test Range, Chandipur from Balesore district of Odisha. BrahMos, which has a target range of 290-km, is the surface-to-surface cruise missile. It is capable of carrying a conventional warhead of 200 to 300 kg
- Naxalites killed eleven Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) men and left several others injured in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on 27 March 2012. The incident occurred when a bus in which the CRPF men were travelling was blown up in a landmine blast
- Marathi poet and Sahitya Akademi awardwinner, Manik Godghate passed away in Pune on 26 March 2012 after battling liver cancer for a year. He was popularly known by his pen name *Grace* and it was the ambiguity in his poetry that caught the imagination of his readers
- West Bengal government on 13 February 2012 appointed Sharukh Khan as the brand ambassador for the state. The actor was appointed given his widespread popularity and mass appeal across the country
- Abd-Rabbuh Mansour Hadi became the President of Yemen, a West-Asian country, on 27 February 2012. Hadi, a General People's Congress party leader replaced Ali Abdullah Saleh to the position
- Abd-Rabbuh Mansour Hadi became the President of Yemen, a West-Asian country, on 27 February 2012. Hadi, a General People's Congress party leader replaced Ali Abdullah Saleh to the position
- Legendary versatile Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee was on 21 March 2012 selected for India's highest film honour - the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2012
- Union Minister Mukul Roy was on 20 March 2012 elevated was sworn in as the Union cabinet Minister by President Pratibha Patil in New Delhi. He is to head to Union Railway Ministry following the resignation of his predecessor Dinesh Trivedi
- Former East German pro-democracy activist Joachim Gauck was elected as Germany's new president, a position largely ceremonial on 18 March 2012
- Akhilesh Yadav, 38, of Samajwadi Party, was sworn in as the 33rd Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 15 March 2012. He was administered the oath at Lucknow's La Martiniere college ground by the UP Governor B L Joshi

- The Prestigious 59th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi on 7 March 2012. The awards were announced by the Chairpersons of the three juries- Rohini Hattangady for feature films, Ramesh Sharma for non- feature films and Vijaya Mulay for Best Writing on Cinema category. The Best Actor was given to Girish Kulkarni for film Deool (Marathi) and Best Actress to Vidya Balan for the film The Dirty Picture (Hindi). Chillar Party (Hindi) won Best Children Film
- Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chief Yasin Malik was on 24 February 2012 was charged by a local court under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Pota) for allegedly raising funds to strengthen armed activity
- Indian soccer legend Sailendra Nath Manna, popularly known as Sailen Manna, died in Kolkata on 27 February 2012. Born on 1 September 1924, Manna had joined Mohun Bagan in 1942 at the young age of 18 after a short stint with the local league's second division side Howrah Union which he had joined in 1940
- United Nations (UN) on 23 February 2012, appointed former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan as the joint United Nations-Arab League envoy to Syria. Annan would be assigned with task to set up a dialogue process with all relevant stakeholders of the trouble-torn nation
- The largest rough pink diamond ever found in Australia was discovered in a West Australian mine owned by Rio Tinto. The 12.76-carat rough pink diamond was christened the Argyle Pink Jubilee. Natural pink diamonds are considered one of the most valuable types of diamonds
- A stampede erupted at Junagadh during the Mahashivratri fair on 19 February 2012. The stampede turned deadly as it left at least six people including three women, two children and a man dead, and 30 injured
- New York Times' foreign correspondent and a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Shadid died in eastern Syria on 16 February 2012 after having suffered a severe asthma attack. Anthony Shadid had worked for The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe and The Associated Press and covered nearly two decades of Middle East conflict and turmoil
- Renowned Urdu poet and noted lyricist of Umrao Jaan, Akhlaq Mohammad Khan passed away in Aligarh on 13 February 2012 after battling lung cancer. Khan who wrote under the pen name *Shahryar* had received the Jnanpith Award for 2008 in September 2011. He is best known for songs like *Dil cheez kya hai aap meri jaan lijiye, in aakhon ki masti ke mastaane hazaron hain* from Umrao Jaan. He will be best remembered for his lyrics in super hit films like Gaman and Fasle (1978), Umrao Jaan (1981) and Anjuman (1986)
- Singer and actress Whitney Houston died on 11 February 2012 in a Beverly Hills hotel room California. Former wife of New Edition singer Bobby Brown Houston is a winner of six Grammy Awards including record of the year for I Will Always Love You and album of the year for The Bodyguard. Houston was the only artist to have seven consecutive No. 1 singles on Billboard magazine's pop chart
- Veteran Hindi film music composer Rajesh Roshan was honoured with the Lata Manageshkar award by the Madhya Pradesh government on 8 February 2012. The Lata Manageshkar award for 2010-11 contained Rs two lakh in cash and a scroll of honour
- Al-Qaeda's Chief in Pakistan Badar mansoor is among four terrorists killed in a US drone attack in Pakistan's restive North Waziristan tribal region. Badar Mansoor, a former commander of the banned Harkat-ul-Mujahideen militant group that was active in

Kashmir, was killed with three others when a spy plane fired two missiles at a compound in Miranshah

- Astronomers found the fourth habitable planet outside our solar system called GJ667Cc. The planet is 22 light years from Earth. The newly found planet is rocky in nature. It orbits its star every 28.15 days. It has a mass at least 4.5 times that of earth
- Veteran environmental filmmaker Mike Pandey was honoured with the prestigious V. Shantaram Life Time Achievement Award at the Mumbai International Film Festival 2012 on 3 February 2012
- Bollywood producer-director Raj Kanwar passed away in Singapore on 3 February 2012 following kidney transplant complications. Raj Kanwar directed Bollywood films like Deewana, Laadla, Daag: The Fire, Har Dil Jo Pyaar Karega, Andaaz and many other films
- The pact signed by India, Japan and China to achieve the most efficient use of naval forces present in the Indian Ocean region
- The Enforcement Directorate on 2 February 2012 filed a complaint against former Organising Committee chairman Suresh Kalmadi for alleged financial irregularities in the conduct of the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) of the Commonwealth Games. The ED also named him for violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (Fema)
- Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan received a Green Globe for Outstanding Efforts by a Celebrity for his efforts toward a greener future at the fourth edition of the Panasonic Green Globe Foundation Awards on 2 February 2012. He received the award from Hollywood actor and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Bangalore artist Sheela Gowda, who uses unconventional materials like cow dung, ash and hair to make sculptures was shortlisted for UK's biggest contemporary art prize, the 40000 pounds Artes Mundi. Gowda is among seven artists chosen from over 750 nominations from around 90 countries.
- Freedom fighter and one of the doyens of Indian diplomacy, Ambassador A K Damodaran passed away in New Delhi on 31 January 2012. Born in Tripunithura, Kerala in 1921, Damodaran was an IFS officer of the 1953 batch
- Environmental historian and political commentator Mahesh Rangarajan was selected and appointed as director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, one of the country's top centres for research on modern Indian history. The Delhi High Court had earlier struck down his original appointment on the grounds of an invalid selection process. Dr. Rangarajan's appointment had been challenged in court by a history professor from Rohtak
- Kerala governor and former Puducherry chief minister and MP, M O H Farook died in Chennai on 26 January 2012. Veteran Congress leader, Farook was born in Karaikal on 6 September 1937
- Sukumar Azhikode, award-winning Malayalam writer, scholar and one of the most influential Gandhian intellectual in Kerala, died on 24 January 2012. As an intellectual giant, humanist, a cultural guru, a committed secularist, a champion of human rights and a sentinel of social values, he gave expression to his ideals through more than 35 books, thousands of articles and countless orations
- Senior congress leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh C. Jagannatha Rao died of a heart attack in Secunderabad on 23 January 2012. Jagannatha Rao served as deputy Chief Minister in the Cabinet of Bhavanam Venkatram in 1982

- Singapore-based Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka was awarded the DSC Prize for South Asia Literature 2012, at the Jaipur Literature Festival in Rajasthan on 21 January 2012. Karunatilaka won \$50,000 for his book *Chinaman*. The novel explores cricket as a metaphor to uncover a lost life and a lost history
- Dutch teenager Laura Dekker on 21 January 2012 became the youngest sailor to complete a solo circumnavigation of the world. The 16-year-old Dekker completed her solo round-the-world journey when she sailed into harbour on the Caribbean island of St Martin, which is shared by Netherlands and France. Dekker, who left the island on 20 January 2011, surpassed the previous record by eight months. Dekker turns 17 on 20 September 2012 and she had to complete her journey before September 16 to beat the record for the youngest sailor to make an unassisted world tour
- Pakistani film actress Salma Mumtaz died in Lahore on 22 January 2012 after battling diabetes for several years. Mumtaz was born in Jalandhar in 1926. Her family moved to Pakistan after the Partition in 1947. She made her debut in films in the 1960s with the Urdu film *Neelofar*
- Nikhat Kazmi, noted film critic died on 20 January 2012 at 53. She had been suffering from breast cancer. Kazmi wrote for nearly 25 years. She reviewed films for the newspaper *Times of India*
- India was ranked the sixth most innovative country in the world in multinational conglomerate GE's second Annual Global Innovation Barometer published on 18 January 2012. The report is based on a survey of 2800 senior business executives in 22 countries including Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan. US topped the list
- Senior television journalist Pankaj Pachauri was appointed as Communication Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office on 19 January 2012. Pankaj Pachauri who has been given the rank of additional secretary will report to Pulkesh Chatterjee, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. Following his appointment, Harish Khare resigned as media advisor to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
- N. Ram stepped down as Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of *The Hindu*, *Business Line*, *Frontline* and *Sportstar*. Siddharth Varadarajan succeeded Ram, with effect from 19 January 2012, as Editor of *The Hindu* responsible for the selection of news under the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act of 1867
- Anthony Prabhu Gonsalves, India's first music 'arranger' died on 18 January 2012. Born in Majorda, in Goa, Anthony Gonsalves' love for music led him to merge Goan melody with Hindustani music. He found his first job in the group of the composer Naushad in 1943. His career began with the Bombay Talkies
- Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2012 was held at Taj Palace, New Delhi on 16 January 2012. Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari was the chief guest. 30 awards in total were given away for outstanding work done in print and broadcast media in various categories
- Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 11 January 2012 launched the signature tune of the Indian Customs, *Pragati ki Dhadkan* in New Delhi. The signature tune composed by noted music director Adesh Srivastava was launched to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Customs Act, 1962
- Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and International Association of Sanskrit Studies jointly organised the 15th World Sanskrit conference from 5 to 10 January 2012 at Vigyan

Bhavan in New Delhi. An announcement was made during the 14th World Sanskrit conference held in Kyoto, Japan that the 15th conference would be held by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in New Delhi

- The Delhi High Court on 11 January 2012 directed Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to hold deliberations with the experts and frame necessary guidelines to make healthy food available in school canteens
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on 11 January 2012 inaugurated a 5-MW solar energy plant by SunEdison. SunEdison is the leading solar energy services provider, at Phalodi in Jodhpur district. The plant was set up under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM)
- Researchers discovered world's first hybrid sharks in Australian waters. It suggests that the species is adapting to climate change for survival. The hybrid sharks were found along a 2000 km stretch from Queensland to New South Wales
- The Election Commission on 5 January 2012 decided to change the DGP of Manipur, Y Joykumar Singh after the Commission reviewed election preparations in the state. Singh was then appointed as the Managing Director of Police Housing
- Former Delhi state footballer Mohd Akram passed away in New Delhi on 3 January 2012. He had started playing in the Delhi Senior Division league from leading City Football Club and was a prominent figure in Delhi league from 1960 to 1980
- Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was presented the Mallikarjun Mansur award in recognition of his achievements on 3 January 2012. He has enthralled audience worldwide with his unique style of playing the instrument with his finger nails
- Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama was presented the Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation on 4 January 2011, the fourth day of the ten-day Kalachakra initiations. The granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Ila Gandhi, presented the award, instituted in 2003, to the Dalai Lama at the Kalachakra ground
- Former Textiles Secretary, Rita Menon on 3 January 2011 took over as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which organises exhibitions and trade fairs. She succeeded Rajeev Kher, Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry, who was officiating as the CMD of the organisation since August 2011
- President Pratibha Patil visited the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR) at Sriharikota on 2 January 2012 and inaugurated the new Mission Control Centre. Following the inauguration, she witnessed a simulation of the launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) at the Mission Control Centre
- Kiro Gligorov, the first democratically elected president of Macedonia died in Skopje on 1 January 2012. He had led his nation through a bloodless secession from the former Yugoslavia
- Jammu & Kashmir High Court Chief Justice FM Ibrahim Kalifulla was sworn in as Supreme Court judge on 2 April 2012. Chief Justice SH Kapadia administered the oath of office to him in the presence of the Full Court and members of the Bar
- President Pratibha Patil on 30 April 2012 re-appointed Goolam E. Vahanvati Attorney-General for two more years with effect from 8 June 2012. Vahanvati was appointed to the post of Attorney-General in 2009 for three years. His term was due to end on 8 June 2012

- Justice Dalveer Bhandari, the judge of the Indian Supreme Court, was elected to the position of Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the elections held in New York, United States on 27 April 2012. He secured 122 out of 197 votes in the General Assembly and 13 out of 15 votes in the Security Council
- India in the last week of March 2012 appointed Amarendra Khatua as its special envoy to South Sudan and Sudan to broker peace between the two countries. This was done with the objective of strengthening India's pursuit of oil and other hydrocarbon resources in Africa. Amarendra Khatua is the MEA additional secretary and handles the passport division
- The 1977 batch Indian Defence Accounts Service Officer; Priti Mohanty took over as Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) on 01 April 2012
- Lieutenant-General Gautam Ravindranath on 31 March 2012 took over as the Director General Medical Services (Army). Gautam Ravindranath, who was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps as Captain on 16 January 1975, has held various important appointments such as Senior Adviser (Paediatric Surgery) at Army Hospital (R & R) and Deputy Commandant, Artificial Limb Centre in Pune
- Yesteryear Bollywood actress Achla Sachdev died in Pune on 29 April 2012. Born in Peshawar, Sachdev made her film debut with Fashionable Wife (1938). Her most memorable role was as Balraj Sahani's wife in the 1965 blockbuster Waqt
- Veteran litterateur, freedom fighter and former Minister Nityananda Mohapatra died on 17 April 2012 at the age of 100. Born in July 1912, he was eldest son of celebrated Odia poet Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra
- Former Tamil Nadu State secretary of the CPI (M) and three-time MLA, N Varadarajan, died in Chennai on 10 April 2012. Known as NV in party circles, Varadarajan was one of the 32 members of the united Communist Party of India (CPI) who quit the party in 1964 and formed the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Tamil Nadu
- One of China's best-known dissidents and astrophysicist, Fang Lizhi died in exile in the US on 6 April 2012. He had become a force to reckon with prominent during the 1989 pro-democracy movement
- Former BCCI president and former Union Minister NKP Salve passed away on 1 April 2012 in New Delhi. Salve was associated with cricket administration for several years. He was the president of the Vidarbha Cricket Association, one of the affiliates of the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) in India, from 1967 to 1977
- Abhishek Manu Singhvi, the spokesperson of the ruling Congress Party, tendered his resignation on 23 April 2012. Singhvi also resigned from a powerful parliamentary law committee that he headed
- The President of Mali, Amadou Toumani Toure resigned on 8 April 2012 following the agreement signed with the mediators. He was in hiding since the Army coup against him in March 2012. The speaker of the Malian parliament Diounounda Traore will be the interim president
- The Indian navy inducted newly-built INS Teg in its fleet at the Yantar shipyard in Russia's Kaliningrad on 27 April 2012. The warship was commissioned by the Southern Naval Command chief Vice Admiral K.N. Sushil at a ceremony in Kaliningrad
- India on 19 April 2012 successfully test-fired its maiden nuclear-tipped inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) Agni-V. The missile successfully struck its target ranging more

than 5000 kms away from its launching point. It was test-fired from a mobile launcher at the Wheeler Island off the Orissa coast in the Bay of Bengal

- The Indian Navy on 4 April 2012 inducted a Russian-origin nuclear submarine, INS Chakra, into its flotilla. The nuclear submarine has placed India into the elite group of nations which operate nuclear vessel
- At least 31 people killed and several left injured in passenger plane crash in Siberia on 2 April 2012. The ATR-72, a French-Italian-made plane crashed shortly after taking off from Tyumen
- United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki Moon visited India from 26 April to 29 April 2012. The UN Secretary General was accompanied by his wife, Madam Ban Soon-taek and a high-level delegation
- Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga was on 15 April 2012 elected next chairman of the US-India Business Council (USIBC). USIBC is a trade association made of 350 top American and Indian companies. Banga succeeded Terry McGraw III, president, chairman, and CEO of The McGraw-Hill Companies
- The World Bank on 16 April 2012 appointed Korean-born American health expert Jim Yong Kim as its new president. Kim, who is president of Dartmouth College, will assume his new post on 1 July 2012. He succeeded Robert Zoellick as the head of World Bank. The decision by the World Bank's 25-member board was not unanimous
- The three-day Arab League summit was held in Baghdad from 27 March 2012 to 29 March 2012. The summit was hosted by Iraq for the first time since 1990 when its late dictator Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait
- The 2012 Pulitzer Prize was announced on 16 April 2012. The Associated Press won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for documenting the New York Police Department's spying on Muslims
- A committee was formed by Delhi Government on 18 May 2012 under the chairmanship of principal secretary of the finance department to promote the welfare of Delhi Transport Corp (DTC) workers
- Rajasthani -Hindi lyricist, musician and poet Gajanan Verma died on 17 May 2012 during his visit to his native town Rattangarh in Churu district of Rajasthan
- The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on 18 May 2012 banned Kolkata Knight Rider's co-owner and Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan from entering the Wankhede Stadium for five years. He was banned for misbehaving with its officials and violating its rules
- The Union Government of India appointed Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar as the new chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) for a three-year term on 13 May 2012. Khullar, a 1975 batch IAS officer of Delhi cadre, replaced J S Sarma, whose tenure ended on 14 May 2012. The tenure of Khullar, who was due to retire in April, next year, will be till May, 2015
- Veteran Communist Party of India leader and former Left Front Minister Nandagopal Bhattacharya died in Kolkata on 6 May 2012. Nandagopal Bhattacharya served three terms, from 1996 to 2011, as Minister in the West Bengal Government
- Yesteryear actress Sushma Seth and Miss India World Vinya Mishra were awarded with Kalpana Chawla excellence award on 6 May 2012 at Mavlankar Auditorium, New Delhi. The other awardees included Padmabhushan kuchipudi and bharatnatyam dancer

Swapnasundari, IPS Officer Shalini Singh, who had won the police medal for meritorious service in 2012 and jewellery designer Puneeta Trikha

- Vice President of India Hamid Ansari conferred the 59th National Film Awards across various categories upon the winners at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 4 May 2012. Ansari also presented the Dadasaheb Phalke award, highest honour in Indian cinema to Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee
- Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 4 May 2012 was elected as Chair of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Board of Governors. India will host the 46th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank in New Delhi in 2013. Though India was the founding member of the ADB in 1966, the lending operations in India began two decades later
- Union Rural development Ministry of India on 4 May 2012 roped in National award winning actor Vidya Balan as the brand ambassador for improving the state of sanitation in the country. Rural Develop Minister Jairam Ramesh brought in the leading bollywood star to promote the sanitation campaign started by him. Vidya in her new role will spread awareness about the need of sanitation among the people
- Sukma District Magistrate Alex Paul Menon who was abducted by Maoists on 21 April 2012 at gunpoint while he was addressing tribal villagers in Majhipara was released on 3 May 2012. The collector was set free following an agreement between the government and Maoists after 11 days in captivity
- Indian-American Vikram Singh, an expert on Afghanistan and Pakistan and a close aide of late diplomat Richard Holbrooke, was appointed to an important position of deputy assistant secretary of defence for South and South East Asia at the Pentagon. He replaced Robert Scher who has been assigned as deputy assistant secretary of defence for plans
- Bollywood actor Mithun Chakravarti received the PC Chandra lifetime achievement award in Kolkata on 29 April 2012. West Bengal Governor MK Narayan conferred the award upon the iconic Bengali actor. The award was comprised a memento, citation and five lakh rupees cash. Mithun has bagged the national award thrice - for Mrigaya (1976), Tahader Katha (1996) and Swami Vivekananda (1998). PC Chandra group has also felicitated stalwarts like the late Ustad Bismillah Khan, Sunil Gavaskar and P T Usha in the past
- BV Vanchoo was appointed the Governor of Goa on 28 April 2012. A 1976-batch IPS officer from West Bengal cadre, Vanchoo retired as the head of the Special Protection Group on 31 October 2011 after leading the elite unit for more than seven years
- Two boats carrying nearly 350 people capsized in the Brahmaputra River in Assam's Dhubri and Jaleswar district on 30 April 2012. More than 100 people were killed in the deadly incident
- The Indian navy inducted newly-built *INS Teg* in its fleet at the Yantar shipyard in Russia's Kaliningrad on 27 April 2012. The warship was commissioned by the Southern Naval Command chief Vice Admiral K.N. Su

Sports Current Affairs News for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Exam 2012

- Indian striker Sunil Chhetri was on 20 December 2011 voted Player of the Year by the All India Football Federation. He was chosen by I-League coaches from a five-player shortlist. He will receive a cash award of Rs 2 lakh and a silver plaque.
- The Archery Association of India (AAI) announced in late December 2011 that the 32nd Sahara senior National archery championship (recurve and compound) held at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur from 24 to 29 January 2012.
- Indian football team defender Mahesh Gawli announced his retirement from international football on 26 December 2011. He however announced his decision to continue to play at the club level for some more years. Gawli who made his international debut in the pre-Olympic qualifier against Thailand in 1999 represented India in 82 matches.
- Delhi's Honey Baisoya became the youngest winner of the 22nd Goodricke East India amateur golf championship at RCGC on 25 December 2011. The 15-year-old defeated the country's No.1 amateur, S Chikkarangappa to win 3 and 2.
- Indonesia's experienced shuttler, Taufik Hidayat, won his first Men's Singles title of 2011 at the 2011 \$120,000 Syed Modi India Open Grand Prix Gold badminton championship when he defeated Sourabh Verma of India. Taufik is currently World Number 12 in Men's Singles world rankings.
- Mumbai skipper Wasim Jaffer on 22 December 2011 overtook former teammate Amol Muzumdar (8237 runs) as the highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy. He scored a total of 8242 runs against Muzumdar's 8237 runs.
- Indian ace badminton player and World No. 4 Saina Nehwal of India was defeated by World No. 1 Wang Yihan 18-21, 21-13, 21-13 in the women's singles final of the \$500,000 BWF World Super Series badminton championship in China on 18 December 2011. In 2011 Saina won only the Swiss Open Super Series title.
- Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta won the London Chess Classic's open section, with a hard-earned victory over Grandmaster Keith Arkell of England. Abhijeet, a former world junior champion and reigning national champion, scored eight points in all. The chess tournament was held from 3 December 2011 to 12 December 2011.
- India won its 6th SAFF Championship title against the newcomer, Afghanistan on 11 December 2011. India's star striker Sunil Chhetri won all the individual awards in the tournament.
- Laa Talar defeated Ansal Yadav of Uttar Pradesh to clinch the title of the 25th national sub-junior badminton championship on 8 December 2011. He is the first from North East India. It was the maiden National singles title for the lad from Itanagar, who had earlier won the under-16 boys' doubles title in the National championship. The tenth standard student trains at the Prakash Padukone Academy in Bangalore.
- Legendary weightlifter Karnam Malleswari resigned as vice-president of the national body, Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLFF) on 1 December 2011 citing unconstitutional functioning of the body as the reason for her resignation. In a letter to IWLFF president BP Baishya, Malleswari mentioned that the reason for her resignation was the appointment of Coach Ramesh Malhotra as one of the technical officers for selection trials in Bangalore in early 2011. The IWLFF had earlier suspended Malhotra after he was found guilty of physically assaulting women lifters by the federation's executive committee in April 2011.

- Swiss tennis star Roger Federer defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France in their singles final tennis match at the Barclay's ATP World Tour Finals, in the O2 arena in London on 27 November 2011. The victory earned him a record sixth ATP World Tour Finals title.
- Indian women boxers M.C. Mary Kom and Sarita on 25 March 2012 clinched two gold medals in the Asian women's boxing championship at Mongolian capital Ulaanbator.
- Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso on 25 March 2012 won the Formula One Malaysian Grand Prix. The Spaniard defeated Mexican Sergio Perez and British national Lewis Hamilton who came second and third respectively. Alonso, a two-time World Champion had won his first Formula One World Driver's Championship title at the age of 24 years and 58 days, in year 2005.
- Indian ace badminton player and World no five Saina Nehwal retained the Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold trophy by securing a victory over China's Shixian Wang in a 48-minute summit clash at Basel, Switzerland on 18 March 2012. With the victory at the Swiss Open GP she won her first title of 2012. The world number five Indian defeated third ranking Shixian 21-19 21-16 and thus defended her title.
- Indian batting maestro and former captain Rahul Dravid, on 9 March 2012, announced his retirement from international cricket. The 39-year-old has to his credit the second highest aggregate of runs in the test history only after Sachin Tendulkar. Dravid which scored 13,288 runs in 164 Tests, including 36 hundreds has been one of the most successful batsmen India has ever produced.
- Veteran Anjum Chopra was slated to captain the Indian women's cricket team in the limited-over series against Australia, started from 12 March 2012 in Ahmedabad.
- Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) appointed Dav Whatmore as its national team coach on 4 March 2012. Whatmore would remain on the position for next two years.
- Former Australian Cricket Captain Ricky Ponting on 21 February 2012 announced his retirement from the One day cricket. Ricky Ponting, who led the Australian squad twice to world cup victory in 2003 and 2007, announced his retirement after he was dropped from the one day squad.
- South African Golfer **James Barry Kruger** won Avantha Masters Golf tournament in New Delhi on 19 February 2012. Popularly called Jbe Cruger, it was his maiden European Tour title. The 25-year-old Kruger made four birdies and overcame a bogey on the 17th to finish with a 14-under total of 274 in New Delhi.
- Former Indian tennis player Manisha Malhotra on 16 February 2012 conferred upon a top International Olympic Committee Award for her contribution in promoting sport among women. The award was presented by IOC President Jacques Rogge at the fifth World Conference on Women and Sport.
- **The International Olympic Committee (IOC)** on 16 February 2012 announced that Dow Chemicals will remain a sponsor of the London Olympics. The Indian Olympic Association had appealed to the IOC and London Games Organizing Committee to withdraw the Dow's chemical sponsorship from the London Olympics earlier.
- Serbian tennis star, Novak Djokovic was awarded with the highest Serbian award, the Gold Star of Karadjordje on 15 February 2012. The award was conferred upon him by the Serbian President Boris Tadic.
- US fast food chain McDonald's in January 2012 extended its global sponsorship agreement with the International Olympic Committee until 2020. McDonald's signed up to sponsor the Olympics for a further eight years till 2020. It essentially means athletes

and fans will be offered its burgers and fries in the official restaurants at Games venues until 2020.

- Argentina's Lionel Messi was awarded the 2011 FIFA Ballon d'Or on 9 January 2012 in Zurich. He won the award for the third consecutive year for the world's outstanding footballer. Messi who plays for club Barcelona won 47.88 per cent votes and finished ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo (21.6%) and Xavi (9.23%).
- The shooting World Championship of 2018 was awarded to Korean city of Changwon on 17 April 2012. The decision regarding the venue of the championship was made at the General Assembly meeting of International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) in London.
- Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic announced retirement from tennis on 15 April 2012 after he suffered a 6-0,6-3 defeat to Ivan Dodig at the Monte Carlo Masters. Ivan's career high ATP ranking was number 3. He won his first ATP singles title at Lyon in 2001.
- The 18-year-old Shiva Thapa (56kg category) on 11 April 2012 became the youngest Indian boxer to qualify for the Olympics by beating Japan's Satoshi Shimizu 31-17 to enter the final of the Asian qualifiers in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Top Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal won a 3-2 victory over Robbie Temple of England at the \$120,000 El Gouna International Open in El Gouna, Egypt on 9 April 2012. Ghosal defeated Robbie 8-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4 in a match that lasted 85 minutes. Ghosal had earlier lost to Willstrop at the Canary Wharf Classic tournament in March 2012.
- India's Vijender Singh on 8 April 2012 qualified for the London Olympics in the 75-kilogram category. He is the first Indian boxer to qualify for the Olympics for the third time in succession. Vijender Singh is also the first Indian to win an Olympic and World Championships medal (bronze in both events).
- Geeta Kumari, the woman wrestler, won a gold in 55kg category at the ongoing Asian qualifying tournament in Astana, Kazakhstan. Geeta with this victory also made a history, as she became the first Indian woman wrestler to have ever qualified for the Olympics. Women's wrestling was first introduced at the Olympics during the 2004 Athens Olympics.
- Indian athletes bagged four gold, one silver and four bronze medals, in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix in Bangkok on 8 May 2012. Sajeesh Joseph bagged gold in the men's 800m in 1:47.78 while; MR Poovama clinched the women's 400m in 52.94.
- India's leading discus thrower Krishna Poonia on 7 May 2012 created a new national record by winning the silver medal at the Altius Track Crew Throwdown meet in Maui Island, Hawaii. Krishna hurled the discus to 64.76 meters and broke the existing national record of Seema Antil who had hurled 64.64 meters.
- Seven-time World snooker champion Stephen Hendry announced his retirement 1 May 2012 after losing in the quarterfinals at the World Championships. The 43-year-old legend called it a day after a 13-2 defeat to fellow Scot Stephen Maguire.
- Shon Wan Ho of Korea defeated Chinese defending champion Lee Chong Wei in the final clash and clinch his maiden Super Series title, at the India Open badminton on 28 April 2012.
- Indian women squash team won its maiden gold at the *16th Asian Squash Championship* in Kuwait on 5 May 2012. The women team created a history by defeating the top seeded

Hongkong team in the title clash. Indian women 71st seeded ed Joshna Chinnappa and 14th seeded Dipika Pallikkal defeated world number sixteen Joey Chan and world number seven Annie Au respectively

Science and Technology Current Affairs News for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Exam 2012

- NASA's Kepler mission on 20 December 2011 discovered the first Earth-size planets orbiting a sun-like star outside our solar system. The planets, called *Kepler-20e* and *Kepler-20f*, are too close to their star to be in the so-called habitable zone where liquid water could exist on a planet's surface, but they are the smallest exoplanets ever confirmed around a star like our sun.
- China on 23 December 2011 launched a high-speed bullet train in Qingdao, Shandong province. Its speed can reach up to 500 kilometres per hour. The train was launched by China's largest rail vehicle maker, CSR Corp. Ltd. The six-car train has a maximum tractive power of 22800 kilowatts, compared with 9600 kilowatts for the CRH380 trains. The train is made from plastic materials reinforced with carbon fibre. It is designed to resemble an ancient Chinese sword.
- A team of neuroscientists found a gene that turns on when memories are stored in the brain. This discovery could help trace the exact locations of memories in the brain. It could help in creating and altering memory. The gene is called *Npas4*, which is very active in the hippocampus. The animal is known to have a brain structure critical in forming long-term memories.
- Scientists discovered a way to transform ordinary tissue into beating heart muscle cells. It could pave the way for new therapeutic approaches for making a damaged heart to repair itself. Scientists used a zebrafish system to develop a small and robust molecule, which can transform stem cells into beating heart muscle cells.
- Scientists invented the Oncotype DX test to detect breast cancer. It will help those women who are in the early stages of breast cancer. It will save them the trouble of undergoing chemotherapy.
- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) built a prototype capable of launching test harpoon tips across a distance of a mile (1.6km). It would be safer to collect comet material using the space harpoon before landing on the celestial bodies.
- Scientists developed a hydrogel that regenerated healthy and scar-free tissue on skin damaged by severe burns. The hydrogel helps in formatting of new blood vessels and skin including hair follicles. The injured soldiers, fire victims and people with third degree burns can avail of the gel. Third-degree burns typically destroy the top layers of skin down to the muscle.
- Scientists claimed that now a simple test could diagnose breast cancer in women in eight seconds. They claim to have developed it from a technology that is used to detect land mines. The new screening tool, called *MARIA*, is safer and more comfortable than traditional mammogram X-rays. It can be used on women of any age, unlike current technology.
- A team of researchers from NASA's Kepler Mission discovered a habitable earth-like planet, called *Kepler-22b*. This newly discovered planet orbits around a sun-like star 600

light years away from the planet earth. The star is located near the constellations of Lyra and Cygnus.

- An international team of scientists led by Prof Richard Harvey of the University of New South Wales and colleagues at Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute discovered a new population of adult stem cells in the heart. The findings were published following recent reports that stem cells harvested from human hearts during surgery show promise for reversing heart attack damage.
- India successfully test-fired its nuclear capable Agni-I strategic ballistic missile on 1 December 2011 from the test range at Wheeler Island off Odisha coast, as part of the Indian Army's user trial. It was test-fired from a mobile launcher, from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR). The Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the Army, as part of their training exercise, executed the trial with logistic support provided by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) at the ITR. The trajectory of the missile, which had an operational strike range of 700 km, was tracked by sophisticated radars and electro-optic telemetry stations located along the sea coast and ships positioned near the impact point in the downrange area.
- Scientists discovered the biological clue to male baldness. It increased the chances of a treatment to stop or even reverse hair-loss. They found that most men go bald in middle age. About 80 percent of men have some hair loss by the age of 70. The male sex hormone testosterone as well as genetic factors cause the hair follicles to shrink, which leads to the appearance of baldness. A key protein's presence (called prostaglandin D synthase) is increased in the cells of hair follicles which can be located in bald patches on the scalp, but not in hairy areas.
- A scientist from Iran developed a gas-filled aspirin that can enhance the cancer-fighting ability of the drug. The new Aspirin was dubbed NOSH, which stands for Nitric Oxide and Hydrogen Sulphide. The new Aspirin reduces the harmful side effects of taking aspirin. Aspirin is effective against Cancer. But it can also cause bleeding in the gut and ulcers.
- Scientists identified at least two genes, NACP and MAPT linked to Parkinson's disease, a finding which may pave the way for better treatments for the second most prevalent neurological condition after dementia. The two genes are related to protein accumulation in the brains of people with Parkinson's disease and can indicate how quickly the disease will progress in a person.
- India on 26 April 2012 launched its first indigenous all-weather Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1). The satellite, whose images will facilitate agriculture and disaster management, was launched successfully on board the PSLV-C19 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- Scientists recently discovered a combination of proteins involved in prostate disorders. This could pave the way for effective and better treatments. In fact, scientists identified the G protein-coupled receptors, which enable cells to respond to neurotransmitters and hormones. G protein-coupled receptors are essential proteins on the outside of cells that enabled signals from hormones and neurotransmitters to be transferred into the cell.
- Italian Scientists in the second week of April 2012 found an intestinal parasite in pigs called *Dientamoeba Fragilis*, which also causes diarrhoea in humans. This discovery will help scientists understand its transmission better and find effective treatment.

- Scientists identified two genes called OLFM4 gene and HOXB5 that increase the risk of common childhood obesity. The early Growth Genetics (EGG) Consortium made this finding. This finding will pave the way for preventive interventions and treatments for children based on their individual genomes.
- A three-man team on 15 May 2012 blasted off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on board a Russian-made Soyuz craft for a half-year stay at the International Space Station. Nasa astronaut Joseph Acaba and Russian cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revin set off from the Baikonur facility as scheduled.
- Scientists are building a human brain. For that they are using the world's most powerful supercomputer. It will stimulate the entire human mind to fight against Alzheimer's and other brain diseases

Environment & Ecology Current Affairs News for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Exam 2012

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 1 December 2011 approved 1656 crore rupees scheme for phase-3 of Yamuna Action plan. Under this project, the sewage treatment plants situated in Kondli, Rithala and Okhla will be rehabilitated. At present, the project is operational in 21 cities of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana. The Indian government will execute the phase-3 of Yamuna Action Plan with help from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). JICA is providing financial help since 1993.
- The WGEEP (Western Ghats expert Panel) designated entire Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area. The panel in its report classified the 142 taluks in the Western Ghats boundary into Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ) 1, 2 and 3.
- Scientists discovered a fossil of a tail-bone belonging to a titanosaur on Antarctica. The new specimen was discovered on James Ross Island. Their remains were found around the world but this is the first evidence to support the fact that they roamed Antarctica.
- The Senate of Brazil on 7 December 2011 approved the bill that reforms rules on the amount of land farmers must preserve as forest. Brazilian senators voted by 59 to seven to approve the legislation.
- The National Green Tribunal on 30 March 2012 suspended the environment clearance granted to Posco's mega steel project in Orissa in January 2011. The tribunal comprising Justice C V Ramulu and Devendra Kumar Agarwal held that the clearance given to Posco's mega steel project in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa will remain suspended till the environment ministry reviews it afresh.
- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) on 10 November 2011 released the red List of threatened species, which includes 14 species of birds from India. These birds are critically endangered. The endangered birds include, Indian Vulture, Red-headed Vulture, Pink-headed Duck, Sociable Lapwing, Jerdon's Courser, Siberian Crane, White-bellied Heron, Christmas Frigatebird, Bengal Florican, Forest Owlet, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Himalayan Quail, and White-rumped Vulture.
- A new frog species was found by researchers in the second week of March 2012 at Mawphlang, about 25 kilometre from Shilong, capital of Meghalaya. The new species was named *Fejervarya Sengupti* in honour of Saibal Sengupta. Sengupta was the head of

Aryavidyapeeth College and one of the pioneers of amphibian research. The new species was different from all congeners in terms of body size and call characteristics.

- The Government of Niger, in the first week of March 2012, declared the whole area-*the Termit Massif and Tin Toumma desert*- to be a national nature and culture reserve. Significantly, the area is home to some critically endangered species. It is now the largest single protected area in Africa.
- The Indian Black Eagle was spotted in the Aravali Biodiversity Park after a gap of 90 years. The bird was last seen in 1920-21 by Basin Edwardes.
- The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary also known as Manas National Park on 20 February 2012 got four rhinos from Kaziranga, which has the largest number of one-horned rhinos in the world. The translocation of rhinos has been done under the programme Indian Rhino Vision 2020.
- An international team of scientists on 13 February 2012 found that how the bees shook their abdomens when bee-eating hornets approached. This signal triggered the hornet to retreat. The researchers described how all the guard bees simultaneously vibrated their abdomens from side-to-side for a few moments when a hornet approached the colony.
- In Madagascar, one of the world's tiniest lizards called *Brookesia micra* was found by German researchers on 14 February 2012. It reaches a maximum length of 29mm. The researchers also found three new species in the north of the island. During daytime, the lizards mostly live in the leaf litter in the day and at night climb up. The lizards were limited to very small ranges and they are at risk from habitat disturbance. This discovery could help scientists explain the reason behind island dwarfism.
- Scientists rediscovered a large grey monkey-the Miller's grizzled langur- in the dense jungles of Indonesia. The monkey was believed to be extinct. The monkey has black face framed by a fluffy, Dracula-esque white collar. It has hooded eyes and a pinkish nose and lips. The animal one roamed the north-eastern part of Borneo, as well as the islands of Java and Sumatra and the Thai-Malay peninsula.
- Indian Meteorological Department on its 137th foundation day (15 January 2012), installed C-Band Polarimetric Doppler Radar system at Mausam Bhawan, New Delhi. This system uses advanced data to give information in severe weather condition like rain, hailstorms and dust storms.
- The researchers identified a new species of earthworm in Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar islands. The species was named *Moniligaster ivaniosi*, after the name of the college. The new species has unique features, which includes three pairs of genital apertures and a black line running along the middle region.
- UK scientists discovered new crab species on the Southern Ocean floor. The new crab species was named the Hoff because of its hairy chest. The Hoff lives around volcanic vents off South Georgia. The animal has yet to be formally classified. It is, however, a type of yeti crab.
- An Australian study published in the journal Science on 27 April 2012 revealed that climate change has accelerated the rainfall cycle. The study conducted by Australian and US scientists looked at ocean data from 1950 to 2000 and found that salinity levels had changed in oceans around the world over that time.
- According to a study report published in the journal Nature Geoscience on 22 April 2012, the Arctic Ocean could be a significant contributor of methane, a powerful greenhouse

gas. The researchers found concentrations of the gas close to the ocean surface, especially in areas where sea ice had cracked or broken up.

- A study published in the journal Public Library of Science One on 23 April 2012, described that the diversity is the mammal's best defense when it comes to adapting climatic changes.
- The Union ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) on 16 April 2012 banned the use of live animals in dissection and other experiments in educational and research institutions. The ban is based on the prevention of cruelty to Animals Act (1960).
- Scientists in the first week of April 2012 unearthed fossilized bones of a foot in Ethiopia which they believe could be of a new species of human that roamed the planet some three million years ago and could offer insight into how man evolved to walk on two feet. The shape of the bones shows that the creature could walk upright at times.
- The Supreme Court of India on 10 May 2012 directed the union government to put off its decision to reintroduce the Cheetah in India. The big cats faced extinction in the sub-continent nearly a decade ago. The government was planning to import Cheetah from Africa, while the plan was not discussed with the National Board for Wildlife, a statutory body for the enforcement of wildlife laws in India.
- NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) said in a reply to the RTI Query that 337 Tigers lost their lives in India in the last decade. NTCA elaborated that 58 tigers were found dead in 2009 and 56 in 2011. While in 2008, the number was 36 and 28 each in 2007 and 2002. As per the DATA released By NTCA, as many as 68 tigers were killed due to poaching during the period. While others died of natural causes like old age, accidents, starvation