

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

- 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 Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill were introduced in Lok Sabha on 22 December 2011. The bill was aimed at setting up the body of Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas at the level of the States.
- The Central Information Commission (CIS) held in the first week of January 2012 that all information in possession of the office of the Chief Justice of India is not completely exempt from disclosure under the Right to Information (RTI) act
- 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 Union Cabinet of India on 23 March 2012 approved the redrafted Marriage laws (Amendment) Bill, 2010. The bill seeks to give a woman share in her husband's property in case of a divorce but the quantum of share will be decided by the courts on case by case basis
- Union cabinet of India on 9 February 2012 approved the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP-2012) to facilitate access to central government owned shareable data and information
- 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.
- Rajya Sabha of Indian Parliament on 22 December 2011 passed the bill *the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2011* to amend the list of Scheduled Tribes and add more tribes from North-Eastern India.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security on 12 January 2012 approved the setting up of a National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to counter terrorism effectively

- 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.
- India on 4 January 2012 approved 6600 crore rupees acquisition of 490 French advanced missile systems to arm the Mirage-2000 fighter jets
- Rajya Sabha approved the Export-Import Bank of India Amendment Bill, 2011, on 27 December 2011.
- 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.
- **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.
- The Lok Sabha on 27 December 2011 approved the Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill, 2011 with the government making it clear that setting up of Lokayuktas by the states would not be mandatory.
- The Supreme Court of India on 15 February 2012 directed closure of all unauthorised sandalwood oil factories in the country and asked the Centre to formulate a suitable policy for conservation of sandalwood, particularly red sanders, which is said to be endangered and available only in India
- 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 Lok Sabha on 12 December 2011 unanimously passed the *National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill of 2011*, which granted a three-year term extension to the Master Plan of Delhi (MPD).
- 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

- Rajya Sabha approved the Regulation of Factor (Assignments Receivable Bill, 2011) on 27 December 2011 to help micro, small and medium enterprises.
- 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.
- Supreme Court of India on 8 December 2011 directed all states to ensure vehicles carry tamper-free high security number plates within four weeks.
- 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 Empowered Committee in its meeting on 5 December 2011 decided to send two technical members to inspect the Mullaperiyar dam before finalising its report following apprehensions raised by Kerala about the safety of the dam after mild tremors occurred in the area
- 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 Supreme Court of India on 1 December 2011 stated that section 497 of the Indian penal Code is biased against men. The section punishes a man alone for adultery for having consensual sex with a married woman
- 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 United Naga Council (UNC) on 29 November 2011 decided to lift the economic blockade from Manipur following assurance from Union home affairs minister P Chidambaram.

- 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 Union Cabinet of India on 18 December 2011 approved a draft National Food Security Bill that seeks to give legal entitlement of cheaper food-grains to 62.5 per cent of the country's population
- India became free from bird flu, H5N1. The government made a declaration to this effect on 4 January 2012. The states were advised to have strict surveillance, especially in the vulnerable areas bordering the infected countries and in areas visited by migratory birds
- The Union government of India on 1 March 2012 sanctioned a special package of 130 crore Rupees for Arunachal Pradesh for the modernisation of the police forces in troubled Tirap and Changlang districts of the state
- Rajya Sabha approved the Export-Import Bank of India Amendment Bill, 2011, on 27 December 2011. It aims at promoting international trade by raising the capital funds of overseas trading from two thousand crore rupees to ten thousand crore rupees
- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on 29 March 2012 reconstituted the advisory board on bank, commercial and financial frauds
- National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR) on 9 January 2012 directed the state governments to propose a system called Shiksha Samvad for holding regular dialogues between government officials and civil society on the implementation of the Right to Education Act
- The Supreme Court of India on 30 March 2012 refused to pass any order on a mercy petition in the death sentence to Balwant Singh Rajoana, awarded death sentence for assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh
- The Union government of India on 14 January 2012 directed all the states to tighten norms in granting licenses to open new medical institutes, and ensure fire safety provisions mandatory, for launching any such new ventures
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on 4 March 2012 released guidelines to eliminate physical punishment and to discipline schools
- The Law Commission of India on 18 January 2012 recommended the dilution of Anti-Dowry law to make it less stringent

- The Supreme Court of India on 2 March 2012 appointed its former judge, Justice H S Bedi as the chairman of the monitoring authority. He will investigate the case of 22 alleged fake encounter killings in Gujarat between 2002 and 2006
- The Union Government of India on 1 February 2012 gave the approval for setting up a National Council for Senior Citizens. It will be headed by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry on 28 February 2012 launched a web portal for implementation of the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE) in New Delhi
- The Supreme Court of India on 20 January 2012 dismissed a PIL seeking a direction to the government to restore the Army Chief Gen V K Singh's date of birth as 10 May 1951 and not as 1950
- The Union government decided to operationalise the ambitious National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) from 1 March 2012