

News Capsule: Current Affairs for IBPS PO 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 lay 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 Mallemla. 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
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- 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 20 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 Jallandhar 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 Pulok 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 graced the occasion as 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. Sushil at a ceremony in Kaliningrad