

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Joshna Chinnappa and 14th seeded Dipika Pallikkal defeated world number sixteen Joey Chan and world number seven Annie Au respectively.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- **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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 \$500000 BWF World Super Series badminton championship in China on 18 December 2011. In 2011 Saina won only the Swiss Open Super Series title.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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%).
- 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.

- 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.
- Legendary weightlifter Karnam Malleswari resigned as vice-president of the national body, Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) on 1 December 2011 citing unconstitutional functioning of the body as the reason for her resignation. In a letter to IWLF 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 IWLF had earlier suspended Malhotra after he was found guilty of physically assaulting women lifters by the federation's executive committee in April 2011.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.