

Expected topics for Punjab state civil services main exam/ HCS MAIN EXAM etc:

1. Same-sex marriage:

Bill 344-France : The bill to legalize same-sex marriage, Bill 344, was introduced to the National Assembly by the French government on 17 November 2012. Article 1 of the bill was passed on 2 February 2013 in its first reading by a 249-97 vote, defining marriage as being an agreement between two people. On February 12, 2013, the National Assembly approved the entire bill in a 329-229 vote. The bill is due to be discussed by the second house of Parliament, the Senate, from the 4th to the 13th of April 2013.

Same-sex marriage is a marriage between two persons of the same biological sex and/or gender identity. Legal recognition of same-sex marriage is sometimes referred to as **marriage equality** or **equal marriage**, particularly by supporters.

The recognition of same-sex marriage is a political, social, human rights and civil rights issue, as well as a religious issue in many nations and around the world, and debates continue to arise over whether same-sex couples should be allowed marriage, be required to hold a different status (a civil union), or be denied recognition of such rights. Allowing same-gender couples to legally marry is considered to be one of the most important of all LGBT rights.

The first laws in modern times recognizing same-sex marriage were enacted during the first decade of the 21st century. As of March 2013, eleven countries (Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Sweden), and several sub-national jurisdictions (parts of Brazil, Mexico, and the United States), allow same-sex couples to marry. Bills allowing legal recognition of same-sex marriage have been proposed, are pending, or have passed at least one legislative house in Andorra, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay as well as in the legislatures of several sub-national jurisdictions (in Scotland as well as parts of Australia, Mexico, and the United States).

2. Execution of kasab/operation X:

Ajmal Amir Kasab (13 July 1987 – 21 November 2012) was a Pakistani militant and a member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba Islamist group, through which he took part in the 2008 Mumbai attacks in India.

Kasab was hanged on 21 November 2012 at 7:30 a.m. and buried at **Yerwada Jail in Pune**. Kasab's plea for clemency was rejected by President Pranab Mukherjee on 5 November 2012. On 7 November, Minister of Home Affairs Sushilkumar Shinde confirmed the President's rejection of the petition. The following day, the Maharashtra state government was formally notified and requested to take action. The date of 21 November was then fixed for the execution, and the Indian government faxed their decision to the Pakistani Foreign Office.

3. Will the Lokpal change the face of corruption?

India does not have lack of laws to curb corruption, but it has lack of political will to curb corruption, and that is why implementation of every law has failed. We have at least 6 laws that deals with corruption from lowest level to highest level in the country, but still top level politicians, bureaucrats, and executives are free after mega scam and that is because of the fault at implementation, not because of lack of laws.

It is no hidden fact that most corrupt class of individuals in India belongs to government employees, more than 80% of government employees are corrupt. In broader view, everyone is demanding to bring all government employees under Lokpal, that is more than 5 million employees. To keep an eye on these 5 million employees Lokpal will need workforce of at least 50000 clerks and in addition to other officials. As we all know more than 80% of our adult population is involved in corruption either by being contributor or being corrupt, then who can vouch that we can get such large number of employees who are clean and honest? I believe this Lokpal bill will do few things, one create one more law, two create some more burden on taxpayers pocket, three add more corrupt workforce in government, four finally like any other law, this law will also fail due to lack of proper implementation like other laws.

On the other hand simple corrective steps with political wills should have resolved not only corruption issue but many other issues. Like first of all millions of pending court cases where neither the complainer nor the accused is found for years, should be closed, that would bring down load from judiciary by more than 50%, and expedite legal proceedings. Next there should be set time limit for inquiry and court cases, and the cases don't complete within time limit, the court should be accountable for providing explanation to higher court, in case of highest court to president, a committee consisting government and non-government individuals should be appointed to monitor on life of court cases. Also law enforcement agencies should be accountable to court in addition to government. Fast track court, mobile courts, evening courts, online courts etc should be increased and promoted to provide easy legal system to citizens. All interaction between law enforcement agencies and citizens should be on camera.

These are few of the steps that suggested, but I can suggest many. I repeat, no new law can help unless implementation is right.

4. Romesh Wadhvani

U.S. President Barack Obama has announced to appoint eminent Indian-American, Romesh Wadhvani, to a key administration post by making him board of trustees of the prestigious John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

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5. Altamas Kabir

Justice Altamas Kabir, seniormost Judge of the Supreme Court, was sworn in as the 39th Chief Justice of India on 29th September 2012.

6.Sunita Williams

Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams has taken over command of the International Space Station (ISS), yet another feather in her cap as she already holds three records for female space travellers including a new record for total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut.

Williams became the first person in history to complete a triathlon in space. Williams, who is currently aboard the International Space Station finished her half mile swim, 18 mile bike ride, and four mile run in one hour, 48 minutes, and 33 seconds.

7.“Operation three star”:

On 9 February in a top secret operation , the 2001 Parliament attack case convict Mohammed Afzal Guru was hanged in Delhi’s Tihar jail. Afzal Guru was given the death sentence by the Supreme Court in 2004. The President rejected the Afzal Guru’s mercy petition on 23 January 2013. The code name of the secret operation was Operation “Three Star” .