

PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMINARY EXAM 2013
PUNJAB STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **Mudgal Committee(OCT, 2013)**

The Supreme Court has appointed a probe panel headed by former Chief **Justice of the Punjab** and Haryana High Court, Mukul Mudgal, to investigate spot-fixing in IPL matches. The panel also has Additional Solicitor-General L. Nageswara Rao and BCCI member Niloy Datta as its members.

- **Freedom Fighter Ranjit Singh passed away(SEPT, 2013)**

Veteran freedom fighter Captain Ranjit Singh (97) passed away. He was a close associate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

- **Jaspal Bhatti dies in road accident**

Famous Indian satirist and film-maker Jaspal Bhatti died in a road accident. Bhatti was on the promotion of his upcoming movie "Power Cut", which is based on frequent power cuts in Punjab.

- Before joining television, Bhatti was a cartoonist for The Tribune in Chandigarh.
- Bhatti was famous for his satirical take on the problems of the common man.
- He is most well known for his two shows on Doordarshan in late 1980s and early 1990s: Flop Show and Ulta Pulta

- **Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala declared as Smoke-Free districts in Punjab (COTPA, 2003) :**

Punjab Government on **31 August 2013** declared Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala as Smoke-Free districts in the state. **Before** these two districts, Ajitgarh, Mansa, Amritsar, Roopnagar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, Sangrur, Bathinda and Sri Muktsar Sahib districts were declared as smoke-free districts of Punjab. Punjab Government also announced that the Ferozepur, Fazilka, Faridkot, Tarn Taran and Jalandhar districts will be declared Smoke-Free in the next phase.

Section 4 of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA, 2003)

- Smoking in all Public Places is Prohibited
- Creation of Smoking Areas
- Display of Prominent Non Smoking Signs e.g. Smoking here is strictly prohibited is mandatory at all public places

- **Punjab Government launched Night Policing Scheme(NPS):**

Punjab state government on **14 July 2013** launched the Night Policing Scheme (NPS) comprising 4000 police personnel and an independent cadre and command structure.

Key objectives of NPS:

It would give a fillip to night commerce and trade, provide a security umbrella to restaurants, roadside eateries, street-hawkers, industrial labourers and other night shift workers such as doctors, nurses, call-centre employees, toll-barrier and excise barrier employees and others.

Punjab Government approved Online Lottery System:

Punjab government on 28 May 2013 gave its approval for starting an online lottery system. Functioning of the Online Lottery System

- The online lottery system would be conducted, operated and regulated as per provisions of the Lottery Regulation Act, 1998 and the Punjab State Lotteries Rules, 1998.
- The online system ideates offering lottery games through a network of computer terminals and with some devices that may be approved by the government to be installed at retail locations.
- The terminals would be connected to a main data centre at a central headquarter.
- A distributor or a selling agent would be appointed by the government who is supposed to design procure, install and commission, operate and maintain, promote and market and carry out other activities to be required for managing the online lottery.
- The selection of the distributor or the selling agent would be done through tenders and a monitoring committee.

- **Punjab Government increased Minimum Wages:**

The Punjab government on 1 May 2013 announced to increase the minimum wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers with effect from 1 March 2013.

Highlights of the revised wages

- The wages of unskilled labourers like chowkidaar, peon, and helpers have been revised from 5200 to **5695 Rupees per month**.
- The wages of semi-skilled workers have been revised from 5980 to 6475 Rupees per month.
- The skilled worker like black smith and electrician having five year experience on un-skilled post will get minimum **7372 Rupees per month** instead of 6877 Rupees.
- Wages of high-skilled like graduate, technical degree holder, truck driver has been revised from 7909 to **8404 Rupees**.
- The wages of category-A staff like post graduate, MBA has been revised from 10370 to **10865 Rupees**.
- Category-B Staff like graduate has been revised from 8700 to **9195 Rupees**
- Category-C staff like under-graduate has been revised from 7200 to **7695 Rupees**
- Category-D staff like matriculate has been revised from 6000 Rupees to 6495 Rupees per month.

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