Faith and freedom: On combating forcible religious conversion

Freedom of religion is protected only when state keeps away from matters of faith, marriage

Protracted litigation in the name of combating forcible religious conversion **is** taking up valuable time of courts. The Supreme Court is hearing a **purported Public Interest Litigation** (PIL) **seeking** action to **curb deceitful** religious conversion in the country. Not wanting to be left behind, the Gujarat government is seeking the removal of a **stay** on a **provision** in its **anti-conversion law** that requires **prior** permission from the District Magistrate for any conversion done "directly or indirectly". The Gujarat High Court had correctly **stayed** Section 5 of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 (amended in 2021 to include 'conversion by marriage'), while also staying the operation of other provisions that sought to cover **inter-faith** marriages as **instances** of illegal conversion. The High Court had noted that the prior permission requirement would force someone to disclose one's religious belief or any change of faith, **contrary to** Supreme Court **rulings** that say marriage and faith involve an individual's choice. In a **strange claim**, Gujarat argues that **the stay** on Section 5 **is** affecting even genuine inter-faith marriages that involve no fraud or **coercion**, as **those** who usually **solemnise** such marriages **are** unable to do so. This is based on a claim that the prior permission requirement **obviates** the need to question the genuine nature of the conversion, if any, **consequent** upon an inter-religious marriage.

No one would **buy** the claim that the provision **enables voluntary** conversion. Freedom of religion is protected only when no questions are raised and no **suspicion entertained** based on the **mere** fact that an inter-faith marriage has **taken place**. Common sense would suggest that **forcing** someone to disclose an **intent** to change one's faith **violates** freedom of **conscience** and the right to privacy. Also, when a separate **appeal** against the High Court's **interim** orders staying the provisions **is** pending before the Supreme Court, there was no need for the State government's petition seeking to **revive** the prior permission requirement as part of the ongoing hearing on the PIL against religious conversions. On the larger issue, the **observations** of a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice M.R. Shah **to the effect that** religious conversion through "**allurement**" or charity work is a serious problem **indicate** an **eagerness** to **goad** the Government into coming up with anti-conversion **measures** on a national **scale**. It is questionable whether courts should entertain **exaggerated allegations** of **rampant** fraudulent conversions across the country, instead of leaving it to States to identify the extent of the problem, if any, and adopt steps to protect religious freedom and **communal harmony**. **[Practice]**

Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

- 1. **Combat** (verb) Fight, counter, battle सामना करना
- 2. **Conversion** (noun) becoming a member of a different religion धर्म-परिवर्तन
- 3. State (noun) Government, regime सरकार
- Keep away from (phrase) steer clear of, avoid, shun, evade से दूर रहना
- 5. **Protracted** (adjective) lengthy, prolonged, extended, long लंबा
- Litigation (noun) legal proceeding, trial, hearing, lawsuit, legal case, case मुक़दमेबाज़ी
- 7. In the name of (phrase) for the sake of. के नाम पर
- 8. **Purported** (adjective) supposed, alleged, ostensible, so-called कथित
- 9. Public interest litigation (PIL) (noun) it is defined as a legal action brought in a court of law for the enforcement of a public interest in which the general public or a class of the community has some interest and which could have an effect on their legal rights or responsibilities.
- 10. **Seek** (verb) Ask for (something) from someone. मांगना
- 11. **Curb** (verb) check, restrain, control, restrict, inhibit रोकना

- 12. **Deceitful** (adjective) dishonest, deceiving, fraudulent, cunning कपटी; बहकाने वाला
- 13. **Stay** (noun) a suspension or postponement रोक
- 14. **Provision** (noun) term, clause, requirement, specification प्रावधान
- 15. Anti-conversion law (noun) It prohibits conversion of religion through "coercion, force, misrepresentation, undue influence, and allurement" as well as fraud, or marriage. धर्मांतरण विरोधी कानून
- 16. **Prior** (adjective) previous, preceding, past, erstwhile, earlier पूर्व
- 17. **Stay** (verb) halt, stop, delay, defer, postpone, adjourn रोक लगाना
- 18. **Inter-faith** (adjective) involving persons of different religious faiths
- 19. Instance (noun) example, occasion, occurrence, case, representative case उदाहरण, घटना
- 20. **Contrary to** (phrase) In contradiction of, against, counter to, in contrast to, in opposition to के विपरीत
- 21. **Ruling** (noun) decision, judgment, decree फ़ैसला

- 22. **Strange** (adjective) unusual, odd, curious, peculiar, funny, bizarre अजीब
- 23. **Claim** (noun) Assertion, statement, accusation, declaration, allegation, contention दावा
- 24. **Coercion** (noun) force, violence, constraint, duress, compulsion ज़ोर-ज़बर्दस्ती
- 25. **Solemnise** (verb) to perform an official religious ceremony, usually a marriage आधिकारिक धार्मिक समारोह संपादित करना (प्रायः विवाह)
- 26. **Obviate** (verb) preclude, prevent, remove, get rid of, do away with, get round, rule out, eliminate छुटकारा पाना
- 27. **Consequent** (adjective) Resulting, resultant, consequential, subsequent परिणामी
- 28. Buy (verb) accept the truth of.
- 29. Enable (verb) allow, permit, empower, aid, assist, support, facilitate कुछ संभव बनाना
- 30. **Voluntary** (adjective) intended, intentional, deliberate स्वैच्छिक
- 31. **Suspicion** (noun) Doubt, misgiving, thought, distrust, disbelief, wariness संदेह

- 32. Entertain (verb) take into consideration, have in view; agree to, approve of, support to. विचारना, स्वीकार करना
- 33. **Mere** (adjective) no more than, just, only केवल
- 34. **Take place** (phrase) happen, occur, come about, transpire, come to pass घटित होना
- 35. Intent (noun) intention or purpose इरादा
- 36. **Violate** (verb) breach, infringe, rape, break, transgress उल्लंघन करना
- 37. **Conscience** (noun) sense of right and wrong, integrity, morality अन्तश्चेतना
- 38. **Appeal** (noun) plea, petition, urgent/earnest request, entreaty अपील
- 39. Interim (adjective) provisional, temporary, pro tem, stopgap, short-term, अंतरिम, अस्थायी
- 40. **Revive** (verb) revitalize, renew, restore, refresh, reawaken पुनर्जीवित करना
- 41. **Observation** (noun) remark, comment, opinion, thought, statement टिप्पणी, विचार
- To the effect that (phrase) used to refer to the general meaning of something written or spoken.
- 43. Allurement (noun) attraction, persuasion, enticement, temptation. प्रलोभन, लुभाव

- 44. Eagerness (noun) keenness, enthusiasm, readiness, willingness, zeal उत्सुकता
- 45. **Goad** (verb) provoke, spur, prick, sting, prod, egg on प्रेरित करना
- 46. **Measure** (noun) an action that is done for a special reason कार्रवाई, उपाय
- 47. **Scale** (noun) extent, size, scope, magnitude पैमाना/ स्तर

- 48. **Exaggerated** (adjective) represented as greater than is true or reasonable बढ़ाकर कहा हुआ
- 49. Rampant (adjective) uncontrolled, unrestrained, unchecked, unbridled, widespread अनियंत्रित
- 50. **Communal** (adjective) collective, cooperative, community, सांप्रदायिक
- 51. Harmony (noun) a state of peaceful existence and agreement सामंजस्य, सद्भाव

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 - Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

[Editorial page]

1. COERCION

- A. Stagnation
- B. Ramification
- C. Vex
- D. Pressure
- 2. ALLUREMENT
 - A. Attraction
 - B. Temperate
 - C. Corroborate
 - D. Amorous

3. EXAGGERATED

- A. Sublime
- B. Felicity
- C. Acquiesce
- D. Overstated

4. Idioms & Phrase

The immense interconnectivity of social media has <u>tilted the scales</u> of power somewhat back into the hands of the ordinary population.

- A. A situation in which an advantage that is won by one of two sides is lost by the other
- B. Remain calm and determined in a difficult situation
- C. To use one's influence or power to support or promote someone or something
- D. To change the balance of a situation, such that one side or element is favored or gains advantage.
- 5. Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow. In his first visit to West Asia as President, Joe Biden sought to strengthen America's traditional partnerships and alliances in the region, involving Israel and Sunni Arab countries.

P. In his brief visit to the Palestinian West Bank, he was careful not to criticise the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Q. Later, in a summit with Arab leaders in Jeddah, he said the U.S. would not walk away from West Asia, leaving a vacuum which China, Russia or Iran would try to fill.

R. In Israel, he promised that the U.S. would do everything it could to stop Iran from getting a nuclear bomb.

S. The visit practically brought to an end Washington's early attempts to punish and isolate Prince Mohammed.

T. In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Biden met Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince who, according to the CIA, ordered the 2018 killing of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

U. He promised aid, but said the ground situation was not ready for reviving the peace process.

Which among the following will be the **Third** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

A. P B.T C.U D.Q E.R Direction (Q6 – Q7): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

- 6. If I had lots of money (A)/ I'd give some to anybody (B)/ who asked for it. (C)/ No error (D)
- 7. The old man felled (A)/ some of the trees in the garden (B)/ with hardly no efforts at all. (C)/ No error(D)

Directions (8-9): In the following questions two columns are given containing three Sentences/phrases each. In first column, sentences/phrases are A, B and C and in the second column the sentences/phrases are D, E and F. A sentence/phrase from the first column may or may not connect with another sentence/phrase from the second column to make a grammatically and contextually correct sentence. Each question has five options, four of which display the sequence(s) in which the sentences/phrases can be joined to form a grammatically and contextually correct. If none of the options given forms a correct sentence after combination, mark option (E), i.e. "None of these" as your answer 8.

	Column (1)		Column (2)			
Α.	At the heart of what has gone wrong is	D	and it is impossible to disagreeing .			
	the absence of					
В.	One just needs to look at	Е	what last year's Copa America win meant to			
			Lionel Messi.			
C.	Mane called it the best day of his life	F	an effective mechanism to ensure			
	environmental compliance.					
	A. A-E B. B-E, A-F C. A-E, C-D	D. B	-E, A-F, C-D E. None of these			

	Column (1)		Column (2)
Α.	There is no doubt that the	D	the Governor should delay the matter no
	mandatory nature of NEET		further.
В.	The advent of social media has no	Е	on a pan-India basis undermines the role
	doubt changed		of State governments in medical
			education.
C.	Regardless of the Bill's merits,	F	how diplomacy are conducted between
			countries.
9.			

A. A-E, B-F

C. A-E, C-D **D.**B-D

E. None of these

Join us on Telegram channel: **English Madhyam, Email Id: Support@englishmadhyam.in** Website: www.englishmadhyam.in, Phone number: 7722987077

B. A-D, B-E

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Mischievous
- B. Occurrence
- C. Gauge
- D. Embarass

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: The spirit of 1971 – Sep 08, 2022)

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ongoing state visit to India and meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi (A)/ has resulted in positive outcomes and seven agreements, (B)/ which include the conclusion of the first water sharing agreement in 26 years, (C)/ the launch of free trade agreement talks, and infrastructure projects particularly in the railways sector. (D)

The water sharing agreement on the Kushiyara, which was preceded by the first Joint River Commission meeting in 12 years, is a particularly hopeful sign on resolving water management, and a very **contentious** issue, of 54 trans-boundary rivers. While there has been a smaller agreement on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs from the Feni in the interim period, the Kushiyara agreement is the first time the Centre has been able to bring on board Assam and other north-eastern States, for the agreement since the 1996 Ganga water treaty. However, the Teesta agreement, of 2011, held up by West Bengal, remains _______, a point Ms. Hasina made several times. Clearly, the Teesta river agreement will require more efforts by the Modi government, and flexibility from the Mamata Banerjee-led State government, if the deal is to be sealed soon. The timeline grows more important for Ms. Hasina, who is due to hold elections at the end of next year, after three terms in office. Much of her focus was also on attracting investment by Indian industry, which now _______ a small _______ of Bangladesh's FDI inflows. Ms. Hasina made particular mention of two dedicated Special Economic Zones for Indian companies, coming up at Mongla and Mirsarai.

Ms. Hasina's visit, which follows her previous state visit in 2017, and Mr. Modi's visit to Bangladesh in 2021, have set India-Bangladesh ties on a firmer footing, and on course for closer engagement in trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties. However, the positive trend in ties goes further back, to Ms. Hasina's <u>12</u> to power in 2009, her unilateral moves to shut down terror training camps, and to hand over more than 20 wanted criminals and terror suspects to India. It is incumbent on New Delhi, which has benefited from such outcomes and the turnaround in relations with what used to be an <u>13</u> neighbour, to be equally sensitive to Dhaka's concerns, particularly when it comes to comments made by ruling party leaders on deporting Rohingya refugees, comparing undocumented migrants to "termites", the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and more recent references to <u>14</u> Bangladesh for "Akhand Bharat". While cross-border **sensitivities (A)** in South Asia often run high **on (B)** such political **rhetoric (C)**, it is necessary that New Delhi and Dhaka remain focused on their future cooperation, built **over (D)** their past partnership, and what is referred to as the "Spirit of 1971"

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. the Teesta agreement, of 2011, held up by West Bengal, remains _____11____, a point Ms. Hasina made several times.

- A. Perquisite
- B. Tenuous
- C. Elusive
- D. Infamous

12. the positive trend in ties goes further back, to Ms. Hasina's _____12____ to power in 2009, her unilateral moves to shut down terror training camps, and to hand over more than 20 wanted criminals and terror suspects to India.

- A. Egregious
- B. Advent
- C. Indolent
- D. Dilettante
- 13. It is incumbent on New Delhi, which has benefited from such outcomes and the turnaround in relations with what used to be an _____13____ neighbor.
 - A. Clandestine
 - B. Martyr
 - C. Inimical
 - D. Perjury
- 14. particularly when it comes to comments made by ruling party leaders on deporting Rohingya refugees, comparing undocumented migrants to "termites", the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and more recent references to _____14____ Bangladesh for "Akhand Bharat".
 - A. Annexing
 - B. Vicarious
 - C. Arduous
 - D. Avuncular
- 15. The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ongoing state visit to India and meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi (A)/ has resulted in positive outcomes and seven agreements, (B)/ which include the conclusion of the first water sharing agreement in 26 years, (C)/ the launch of free trade agreement talks, and infrastructure projects particularly in the railways sector.

- (D)
- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error
- 16. Directions: In the question below, a sentence is given with two blanks that indicate that some parts are missing. Identify the correct pair of words that fit in the sentence to make it grammatically and contextually correct.

The timeline grows more important for Ms. Hasina, who is due to hold elections at the end of next year, after three terms in office. Much of her focus was also on attracting investment by Indian industry, which now ______ a small ______ of Bangladesh's FDI inflows.

- A. Establish, group
- B. Constitutes, Fraction
- C. Instituted, amount
- D. Composed, Parts
- E. None of the above
- 17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence CONTENTIOUS
 - (i) She has some very **contentious** views on education.
 - (ii) Opponents of the government have criticized the president's **contentious** approach and believe broader international alliances are required.
 - (iii) Until such functional mutations are identified, the biological mechanisms underlying the interaction will remain **contentious**.
 - A. Only (i)
 - B. Only (ii)
 - C. Only (iii)
 - D. (i), (ii)
 - E. (ii), (iii)
- 18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

While cross-border **sensitivities (A)** in South Asia often run high **on (B)** such political **rhetoric (C)**, it is necessary that New Delhi and Dhaka remain focused on their future cooperation, built **over (D)** their past partnership, and what is referred to as the "Spirit of 1971".

- A. C A
- B. A D
- C. B D
- D. D C
- E. No arrangement
- 19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.
 - (i) He may be the best-dressed man around.
 - (ii) he has a really good taste in fashion.
 - A. Then
 - B. Although

- C. Indeed
- D. Instead
- E. None of the above

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

He repented ______ the misdeeds of his youth.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

1. D 2. A 3. D 4. D 5. C 6.D 7. C 8. B 9. C 10. D 11.C 12. B 13. C 14.A 15. B 16. B 17. A 18.C 19.C 20.A [Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- 4. **Tilt the scales/balance** (phrase) –To change the balance of a situation, such that one side or element is favored or gains advantage.
- 5. RPUTSQ

In his first visit to West Asia as President, Joe Biden sought to strengthen America's traditional partnerships and alliances in the region, involving Israel and Sunni Arab countries. In Israel, he promised that the U.S. would do everything it could to stop Iran from getting a nuclear bomb. In his brief visit to the Palestinian West Bank, he was careful not to criticise the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. He promised aid, but said the ground situation was not ready for reviving the peace process. In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Biden met Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince who, according to the CIA, ordered the 2018 killing of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The visit practically brought to an end Washington's early attempts to punish and isolate Prince Mohammed. Later, in a summit with Arab leaders in Jeddah, he said the U.S. would not walk away from West Asia, leaving a vacuum which China, Russia or Iran would try to fill.

- 6. No error
- 7. 'hardly' को हटाना पडेगा या 'hardly any' का प्रयोग होगा तो 'no' तथा 'at all' को हटाना पडेगा क्योंकि 'hardly, scarcely, rarely seldom' और 'no, not' का प्रयोग एक साथ नहीं होता है; जैसे
 - i. I have no money at all.
 - ii. I have hardly any money.

'hardly' has to be removed or if 'hardly any' is used then 'no' and 'at all' will have to be removed because 'hardly, scarcely, rarely seldom' and 'no, not' are not used together; like-

- i. I have no money at all.
- ii. I have hardly any money.

8. Correct Option: B

At the heart of what has gone wrong is the absence of an effective mechanism to ensure environmental compliance.

Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

One just needs to look at what last year's Copa America win meant to Lionel Messi.

Fragment B of column 1 is matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

Mane called it the best day of his life and it is impossible to disagreeing.

Fragment C of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually but grammatically it wrong. **The correct sentence would be**: Mane called it the best day of his life and it is impossible to **disagree**

9. Correct Option: C

There is no doubt that the mandatory nature of NEET on a pan-India basis undermines the role of State governments in medical education.

Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

Regardless of the Bill's merits, the Governor should delay the matter no further. Fragment C of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

The advent of social media has no doubt changed how diplomacy are conducted between countries.

Fragment B of column 1 is matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually but grammatically it wrong. **The correct sentence would be:** The advent of social media has no doubt changed how diplomacy **is** conducted between countries.

- 10. Embarrass (verb) shame, humiliate, mortify, abash, discomfit शर्मिंदा करना
- 11. Elusive (adjective) difficult to find, achieve हाथ न आनेवाला
- 12. Advent (noun) Emergence, approach, arrival आगमन
- 13. Inimical (adjective) unfriendly, harmful, detrimental, hostile, antagonistic विरोधी
- 14. Annex (verb) To attach or connect मिला लेना
- 15. Replace 'Have' with 'has' as the subject is plural (i.e. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ongoing state **visit** to India and **meeting** with Prime Minister Narendra Modi)
- 16. Constitute (verb) form, establish, make, compose, बनाना

Fraction (noun) – portion, part, piece, fragment, section अंश, भाग

17. **Contentious** (adjective) – controversial, quarrelsome, combative, disputatious, argumentative विवादपर्ण

According to the given options only (i) is contextually correct.

Because the (ii) and (iii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

ii. Opponents of the government have criticized the president's unilateral approach and believe broader international alliances are required.

iii. Until such functional mutations are identified, the biological mechanisms underlying the interaction will remain elusive.

- 18. While cross-border sensitivities in South Asia often run high over such political rhetoric, it is necessary that New Delhi and Dhaka remain focused on their future cooperation, built on their past partnership, and what is referred to as the "Spirit of 1971".
- 19. He may be the best-dressed man around. **Indeed**, he has a really good taste in fashion.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Stagnation	noun	Motionless; inactivity	स्थिरता
	Ramification	noun	A consequences; a branching out	शाखा विस्तार
	Vex	verb	To annoy; to pester; to confuse	तंग करना
Q2	Temperate	adjective	Mild; moderate; restrained	हल्का; मध्यम
	Corroborate	verb	To confirm; to back up with evidence	पुष्ट करना
	Amorous	adjective	Feeling loving; especially in sexual sense in love; relating to love	कामुक, प्रणयशील
Q3	Sublime	adjective	Awesome; extremely exalted; lofty; majestic	अति उत्तम
	Felicity	noun	Happiness; skillfulness, especially at expressing thing; adeptness	परम सुख, आनंद
	Acquiesce	verb	To comply passively; to accept; to assent; to agree	संतुष्ट होना, चुपचाप स्वीकार कर लेना
Q11	Perquisite	noun	A privilege that goes along with a job; a perk	रिआयत
	Tenuous	adjective	Flimsy; extremely thin	तुच्छ
	Infamous	adjective	Shamefully wicked, having an extremely bad reputation; disgraceful	बदनाम
Q12	Egregious	adjective	Extremely bad; flagrant	भयंकर, असाधारण
	Indolent	adjective	Lazy	आलसी
	Dilettante	noun	Someone with superficial knowledge of the arts; an amateur; a dabbler	कला-प्रेमी, शौक़ीन
Q13	Clandestine	adjective	Secret; sneaky; concealed and usually, up to no good	गुप्त
	Martyr	noun	Someone who gives up his or her life in pursuit of a curse, especially a religious one; one who suffers for a cause; on who make a show of suffering in order to arouse sympathy.	शहीद
	Perjury	noun	Lying under oath	झूठा साक्ष्य
Q14	Vicarious	adjective	Experienced performed or suffered through someone else.	उपनियुक्त
	Arduous	adjective	Hard; Difficult	कठिन
	Avuncular	adjective	Like an uncle, especially a nice uncle	चाचा या मामा का



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

