## 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
4. Keep away from (phrase) - steer clear of, avoid, shun, evade से दूर रहना
5. Protracted (adjective) - lengthy, prolonged, extended, long लंबा
6. 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 ज़ोरज़बर्दस्ती
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
42. 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 tilted the scales 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 sentence. 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) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A. | At the heart of what has gone wrong is <br> the absence of | D | and it is impossible to disagreeing . |
| B. | One just needs to look at | E | what last year's Copa America win meant to <br> Lionel Messi. |
| C. | Mane called it the best day of his life | F | an effective mechanism to ensure <br> 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) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A. | There is no doubt that the <br> mandatory nature of NEET | D | the Governor should delay the matter no <br> further. |
| B. | The advent of social media has no <br> doubt changed | E | on a pan-India basis undermines the role <br> of State governments in medical <br> education. |
| C. | Regardless of the Bill's merits, | F | how diplomacy are conducted between <br> countries. |

9. 

A. $A-E, B-F$
B. $A-D, B-E$
C. $A-E, C-D$
D. B-D
E. None of these

## 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 $\qquad$ a small
$\qquad$ 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 $\qquad$ 12 $\qquad$ 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 $\qquad$ 13 $\qquad$ 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 $\qquad$ 14 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 $\qquad$ 11 $\qquad$ 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 $\qquad$ 12 $\qquad$ 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 $\qquad$ 13 $\qquad$ 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 $\qquad$ 14 $\qquad$ 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 $\qquad$ a small $\qquad$ 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. $\mathrm{D}-\mathrm{C}$
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 $\qquad$ 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
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. D
11.C
10. B
11. C
14.A
12. B
13. B
14. 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 विवादपूर्ण
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 <br> 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 |



