

PASSAGE PRACTICE

BASED ON **CLATOPEDIA** GK MAGAZINE

JUNE 2022

100+ MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

NEWS EVENT

- National Affairs
- International Affairs
- Economic Affairs
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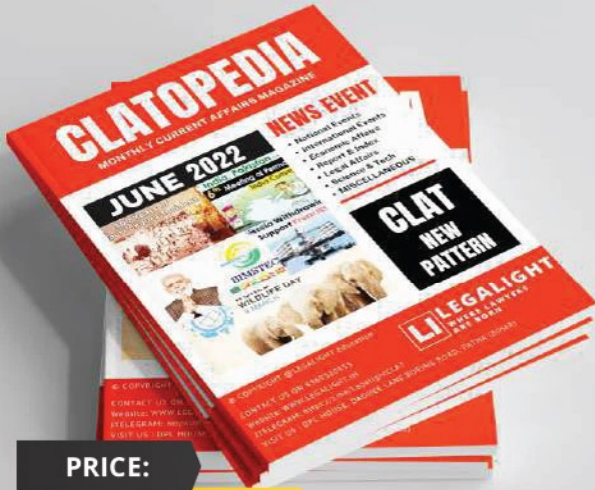
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PASSAGE BASED QUESTIONS (MONTH OF JUNE)**PASSAGE-1**

Q. The UAE and Israel signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Cepa) on Tuesday in a move aimed at boosting non-oil trade and investment between the two countries. The trade and investment pact will push the value of non-oil bilateral trade to more than \$10 billion within five years, Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Trade. Our agreement will accelerate growth, create jobs and lead to a new era of peace, stability and prosperity across the region." The agreement comes after the UAE and Israel normalised relations in September 2020, which led to dozens of initial pacts in sectors ranging from aviation to technology. Israel and the UAE began negotiations for a trade and economic co-operation deal in November 2021, with talks concluding in April. The deal marks the UAE's second Cepa after it signed a similar pact with India in February. It is in trade talks with several other countries, including Indonesia and South Korea.

The Cepa deal, signed after several months of discussions, is Israel's first major trade pact with an Arab nation. The agreement "builds on the strong foundations laid by the Abraham Accords," Dr Al Zeyoudi said in the tweet. Under the deal, tariffs will be eliminated on 96 per cent of goods that generate about 99 per cent of export earnings, according to a Ministry of Economy statement. The deal is expected to create new opportunities in key sectors such as energy, environment and e-commerce. It also covers sectors including hospitality, financial services, distribution and construction while enabling small-and-medium businesses in both countries to expand abroad. The pact was signed by Abdulla bin Touq, UAE Minister of Economy, and Orna Barbivai, Israeli Minister of Economy and Industry, at the UAE Ministry of Economy's headquarters in Dubai. "The UAE continues to take bold steps to advance our economy and enhance our status as a regional hub for trade, investment, and the industries of the future," Mr bin Touq said. "This Cepa with Israel will create a new paradigm for the region." The Cepa is expected to boost bilateral trade beyond \$10bn within five years and add \$1.9bn to the UAE's GDP within the same time period. Total UAE exports are expected to increase 0.5 per cent by 2030.

Q.1 Recently, which of the following nations have signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) agreement with India?

- A. Kuwait
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Morocco
- D. United Arab Emirates

Q.2 Consider the given statements in the reference to the Gulf Cooperation Council & state which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- I. GCC was established by an agreement concluded in 1981 among Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
 - II. The Secretariat is located in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
 - III. It is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation according to its charter.
- A. I & III is incorrect
 - B. Only II is incorrect
 - C. II & III is incorrect

D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.3 The Prime Minister of India had received the 'Order of Zayed' in 2019 which is the highest civilian order of which of the following countries?

- A. Bahrain
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. United Arab Emirates
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.4 During the EAM S. Jaishankar visit to Israel, Which of the following nations have formed a New Quadrilateral Economic Forum?

- A. India, Japan, Australia, Israel
- B. India, Israel, UAE & USA
- C. India, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain & USA
- D. None of the following

Q.5 From the given options, which of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea?

- A. Syria
- B. Jordan
- C. Lebanon
- D. None of the following

PASSAGE-2

Q. The World Economic Forum on Monday announced a new 'Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders India' that will work towards fast-tracking decarbonisation pathways along India's net-zero journey. Collaboration between Kearney and Observer Research Foundation, the Alliance brings together chief executives from India's leading businesses. The Alliance is part of the Forum's Climate Action Platform and will build upon learnings from global projects such as the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders and the First Movers Coalition. It will bring together the government, businesses and other key stakeholders to achieve the Indian Prime Minister's ambitious, five-part "Panchamrit" pledge, which includes the country's net-zero by 2070 target, the WEF said. "As a major global economy, India's role in mitigating climate change is critical and India Inc. must add its full weight to the country's efforts, as well to the global endeavour, against global warming," said ReNew Power CEO Sumant Sinha who is co-chair of the alliance. The Alliance will serve as a high-level platform to support business leaders in planning and implementing plans and programmes to achieve climate targets, including net-zero economic growth. "The Alliance becomes part of our comprehensive nature and climate action agenda in India, which includes collaborative initiatives such as Trillion Trees, Moving India for rapid electric vehicle deployment, clean energy financing, Food Innovation Hubs, Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics and Clean Skies for Tomorrow," said World Economic Forum President Borge Brende. According to Anish Shah, co-chair of the Alliance and Mahindra Group's Managing Director, "The signs of climate change with varying temperature and weather patterns impacting human lives are clearly visible to all of us. Hence, the global initiative and commitment towards climate change, is indeed a positive sign of hope." WEF's Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders India is a "decisive, collaborative step to scale up our efforts this decade in the race to net-zero," he added. A just transition could generate annual business opportunities worth over USD 10 trillion and create 395 million jobs by 2030 worldwide. The government

and business leaders also believe there is a great opportunity before India to step up the green hydrogen game and eventually export it to the rest of the world.

Q.6 Consider the given options & state which of the following is correct regarding the theme for the annual meeting of WEF, 2022?

- A. Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World
- B. Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery
- C. Working Together, restoring Trust
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.7 During the present annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), which of the following state governments have signed an (MoU) with 23 companies, worth over 30,000 crore?

- A. Telangana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.8 Which of the following countries have recently led the First Movers' coalition Initiative, which India has also joined recently?

- A. United States of America
- B. Canada
- C. Russia
- D. Germany

Q.9 India announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by _____ as part of a five-point action plan that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.

- A. 2025
- B. 2050
- C. 2070
- D. None of the following

Q.10 The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a Swiss nonprofit foundation established in 1971 & headquartered at which of the following places?

- A. Berne, Switzerland
- B. Gland, Switzerland
- C. Davos, Switzerland
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

PASSAGE -3

Q. As bad as the Ukraine war is so far, an international agreement signed in 1936 is preventing it from getting even worse. The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits gives Turkey control over the water route between the Black Sea – home to a major Russian naval force – and the Mediterranean Sea and beyond. It sets limits on the passage of civilian vessels and military warships through the Dardanelles and

the Bosphorus straits, which with the Sea of Marmara between them form the seagoing link between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

The international agreement was signed by Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Turkey and has been in effect since November 1936. Now the Montreux Convention is serving an important role in the Ukraine conflict. Ukraine has asked Turkey to close the straits to Russian warships, highlighting the Turkish role in keeping regional peace. The Turkish government agreed on Feb. 28, 2022. However, several Russian warships entered the Black Sea in early February. And Turkey has said it would not prevent Russian warships from entering the Black Sea if Russia claimed they were returning to their home port.

Four key elements in the Montreux Convention regulate which vessels may enter the Black Sea in wartime:

- Turkey can close the straits to warships of belligerent parties in wartime or when Turkey itself is a party to the war or threatened by aggression from another nation.
- Turkey can close the straits to merchant ships belonging to countries at war with Turkey.
- Any country with coastline on the Black Sea – Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Russia or Ukraine – must notify Turkey eight days in advance of its intention to send vessels of war through the straits. Other countries, the ones that don't border the Black Sea, must give Turkey 15 days' advance notice. Only Black Sea nations may send submarines through the straits, only with prior notice and only if the vessels are constructed or purchased outside the Black Sea.
- Only nine warships are allowed to pass through the straits at any one time, and there are limits on how big the ships can be, both individually and as a group. No group of ships may exceed 15,000 metric tons. Modern warships are heavy, with frigates around 3,000 metric tons and destroyers and cruisers around 10,000 metric tons. Modern aircraft carriers are too big to go through, and aren't allowed anyway under Turkish rules.

Turkey has used the convention's powers before. During World War II, Turkey closed the straits to warships belonging to combatant nations. That prevented the Axis powers from sending their warships to attack the Soviet Union – and blocked the Soviet navy from participating in combat in the Mediterranean. In the current situation, the Turkish government finds itself in a difficult position, as both Ukraine and Russia are important partners in critical energy and military trade agreements. Turkey, a NATO member since 1952, wants to strengthen its ties with the West while not upsetting Russia. Its control over these key straits may test its balancing act.

Q.11 The Montreux Convention Regarding the Straits Regime, or simply the Montreux Convention, is an international treaty that governs Turkey's Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits is signed in _____?

- A. France
- B. Switzerland
- C. Germany
- D. None of the following

Q.12 Consider the given statements & state which of the following is/are incorrect in the reference to the Montreux Convention signed among nations?

- I. This convention was signed to address the long-running Straits Question of who should manage the strategically important route between the Black and Mediterranean Seas.
- II. The international agreement was signed by India, the United States of America, Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Turkey and has been in effect since November 1936.

- A. Only I is incorrect
- B. Only II is incorrect
- C. Both I & II is incorrect
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.13 The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits gives control over the water route between the Black Sea to which of the following countries?

- A. Turkey
- B. Russia
- C. United Kingdom
- D. All of the above-mentioned

Q.14 Which of the following regions of Ukraine was seized by Russia which was the first time a European country annexed territory from another country since World War-2?

- A. Donetsk Oblast
- B. Kyiv
- C. Dnipropetrovsk Oblast
- D. Crimea

Q.15 With the reference to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. It is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organisation.
 - II. Its mandate includes issues such as arms control, promotion of human rights, freedom of the press, and fair elections. Its headquarters are in Geneva.
 - III. It is the implementing body of the Open Skies Treaty, which in 2002 established a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territory of its 33 signatories.
- A. Only I & III follows
 - B. Only III follows
 - C. I, II & III follows
 - D. None of the following

PASSAGE -4

Q. Reserve Bank said it is looking at pros and cons of introduction of a virtual currency in the country and it will adopt a graded approach for launching the central bank digital currency. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget 2022-23 had announced that the central bank will launch an Indian digital currency. Introduction of CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 and an appropriate amendment to the RBI Act, 1934 has been included in the Finance Bill, 2022, RBI said in its annual report for 2021-22. The Finance Bill, 2022 has been enacted, providing a legal framework for the launch of CBDC, it said. "The Reserve Bank is engaged in the introduction of a central bank digital currency in India. The design of CBDC needs to be in conformity with the stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability and efficient operations of currency and payment systems," it said in the report. The

Reserve Bank has been looking at the pros and cons of introduction of CBDC in India, it said, adding that it proposes to adopt a graded approach to introduction of CBDC, going step by step through stages of proof of concept, pilots and the launch. Proof of concept refers to an exercise in which work is focused on determining whether an idea can be turned into a reality, or to verify if the idea will function as envisioned. RBI said the design of CBDC needs to be in conformity with the "stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability" and "efficient operations of currency and payment systems". Accordingly, the appropriate design elements of CBDCs that could be implemented with little or no disruption are under examination, said the report. After the budget announcement on February 1, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the Reserve Bank does not want to rush and is carefully examining all aspects before the introduction of the CBDC.

Q.16 According to which of the following articles of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)?

- A. Article 112
- B. Article 110
- C. Article 116
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.17 Which of the following is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the 'Parvat-Mala' Scheme announced during the Budget 2022-23?

- A. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- D. None of the following

Q.18 Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the 'RAMP scheme' which would commence in FY 2022-23, which of the following is the correct full form of 'RAMP'?

- A. Road for Accelerating MSME performance
- B. Raising & Accelerating MSME performance
- C. Rising & Advancing MSME performance
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.19 Which of the following statements is/are incorrect in the reference to the above mentioned passage?

- A. Bitcoin is a payment system released as open-source software in 2009.
- B. The system is peer-to-peer (P2P); users can transact directly without needing an intermediary.
- C. Transactions are verified by network nodes and recorded in a public distributed ledger called the block chain.
- D. None of the above

Q.20 Which of the following persons have introduced the Bitcoin 'a cryptocurrency' to the whole world?

- A. Stuart Haber
- B. W. Scott Stornetta
- C. Satoshi Nakamoto
- D. Dave Bayer

PASSAGE-5

Q. On May 19, the Supreme Court of India (SC) made headlines by giving directions for recognising prostitution as a profession and emphasising that sex workers, like any other professionals, are entitled to dignity and constitutional rights. Prostitution (or sex work), a taboo topic of discussion, was recently brought into drawing-room conversations by the Bollywood movie Gangubai Kathiawadi (directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and said to be based on the life of Gangubai Harjivandas, a much-celebrated social activist of Kamatipura). Interestingly, prostitution is not illegal in India, per se. According to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), however, several activities under prostitution are punishable by law — pimping, renting out property for running brothels, etc. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act emphasised that sex workers can practice their profession but any person who makes an earning from prostitution is to be punished. This involves procuring, abducting or inducing a person for prostitution; a move significant enough to ensure trafficking for the sex trade was under check. Further, the Act states that to lawfully participate in prostitution, sex workers have to maintain a distance of at least 200 metres from any public place, preferably in an isolated area with no public institutions in sight. In other words, sex work is to be done in secrecy, away from the gaze of the larger, “normal” society.

This isolation works into othering sex workers, putting the legality of their profession in ambiguity. Indeed, a simple legal status for prostitution wasn’t enough to ensure sex workers are not pushed to the margins of society. Presently, it is estimated that there are approximately 3 million sex workers in India, an overwhelming majority in the age group of 15-35. The major issues that sex workers in India face stem from the fact that despite not being illegal, the secretive nature of sex work presents an illusion of it being a crime. The police, legal system and legal personnel also contribute to sex workers being seen more as the perpetrators of crime than being at the receiving end of it. The possibilities of rape, violence and trauma that clients can cause to sex workers have been neglected. Moreover, since the work is seen as “immoral” or “dirty”, any disease caused by poor sexual hygiene and menstrual hygiene — most significantly HIV-AIDS and cervical cancer — does not receive proper medical attention. Additionally, due to a lack of ration cards or them not being recognised as valid, sex workers fail to avail any subsidised resources earmarked for the lower socio-economic sections.

Q.21 Recently, Supreme Court have given the landmark judgement regarding the recognition of Sex Work as profession. The decision was given by _____?

- A. Three-Judges Bench
- B. Five-Judges Bench
- C. Nine-Judges Bench
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.22 Under which of the following articles of the Indian Constitution, Every individual in this country has a right to a dignified life?

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 32
- C. Article 21
- D. All of the above-mentioned

Q.23 The legislation governing sex work in India, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act was enacted in which of the following years?

- A. 1987
- B. 1973
- C. 1956
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.24 From the given options, which of the following nations have not recognized the sex work as profession?

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. Netherlands
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.25 Article 142 provides discretionary power to the _____ as it states that the _____ in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.

- A. Supreme Court
- B. High Courts
- C. Both Supreme Court & High Court
- D. None of the above-mentioned

PASSAGE-6

Q. A successful maiden launch of the Extended Range Version of BrahMos Air Launched was carried out by India on Thursday, which saw the missile set off from the Indian Air Force's frontline fighter Sukhoi-30 MKI achieving a direct hit on a target located in the Bay of Bengal.

While the Air Launched version of the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile has been tested multiple times in the recent past, the latest was the first of the Extended Range Version, which is said to have capability of striking the targets located 350 kilometers away compared to around 290 kilometers in the initial version. "The launch from the aircraft was as planned and the missile achieved a direct hit on the designated target in the Bay of Bengal region. It was the first launch of an Extended Range version of BrahMos missile from Su-30MKI aircraft," said a statement from the Ministry of Defence.

"With this, the IAF has achieved the capability to carry out precision strikes from Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft against land or sea targets over very long ranges. The dedicated and synergetic efforts of the IAF, Indian Navy, DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), BAPL (Brahmos Aerospace Private Ltd) and HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd) have proven the capability of the nation to achieve this feat. The extended range capability of the missile coupled with the high performance of the Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft gives the IAF a strategic reach and allows it to dominate the future battlefields," said the statement. First test of the initial version of the Brahmos Air Launched Cruise Missile was conducted in 2017, making it a significant addition to the IAF's operational capabilities from stand-off ranges. Stand-off range missiles are those which are launched at a distance sufficient to allow the attacking party to evade defensive fire expected from the target area. For the firing of Brahmos from Sukhoi-30 MKI, the missile is gravity dropped from the fuselage of the fighter jet, and the two-stage missile's engine is then fired up and it propels towards the intended target at the sea.

Q.26 Recently, Philippines & India have signed a deal for the supply of a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. This is the first export order for the missile which is a joint product of _____ & _____?

- A. India & United Kingdom
- B. Russia & France
- C. India & Russia
- D. None of the above

Q.27 Examine the given statements & state which of the following is/are incorrect in the reference to the Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile?

- I. BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM.
- II. BrahMos name is based on the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- III. It is a multiplatform missile i.e it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.

- A. II & III is incorrect
- B. Only II is incorrect
- C. I & III is incorrect
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.28 Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) which is an informal partnership among 35 countries to prevent the proliferation of missiles was established by _____?

- A. NATO Member Nations
- B. G-7 Nations
- C. G-20 Nations
- D. None of the following

Q.29 According to the report released by SIPRI, there are nine nuclear armed states in the World. Consider the given statements & state which of the following is not one of them?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Germany
- C. Israel
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.30 What is India's first all weather tracked chassis QR-SAM missile stand for?

- A. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile
- B. Quick Response Surface-to-Air Missile
- C. Quotient Repulsion Surface-to-Air Missile
- D. None of the above

Passage-7

Q. India seems to have deepened its ties with the (X), making the world's largest democracy its top trading partner in fiscal 2021-22, surpassing China. In the financial year ended in March 2022, bilateral trade between the two countries stood at \$119.42 billion (9.25 lakh crore rupees), as against \$80.51 billion in the previous year, according to the Indian commerce ministry. Exports to the US rose to \$76.11 billion in the "In the coming years, the bilateral trade will continue to grow. India has joined a US-led initiative to set up an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and this move would help boost economic ties further," Khalid Khan, vice-president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations. In recent years, India has been reducing its economic dependence on China by way of engaging in multilateral trade agreements. This has followed several stand-offs between the two countries, resulting in widespread calls to boycott China commercially. India can add up to \$20 billion to its GDP if it halves its United States President Joe Biden, who embarked Friday on an East Asia trip that will see him touch down first in Seoul and in Tokyo on Sunday ahead of the May 24 Quad summit, is expected to launch his Administration's much discussed Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in the Japanese capital along with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio. Biden first spoke about the IPEF at the October 2021 East Asia Summit, where he said that the "United States will explore with partners the development of an Indo-Pacific economic framework that will define our shared objectives around trade facilitation, standards for the digital economy and technology, supply chain resiliency, decarbonization and clean energy, infrastructure, worker standards, and other areas of shared interest". According to an "insight" paper on IPEF put out by the US Congressional Research Service in February, the IPEF is not a traditional trade agreement. Rather, it would include different modules covering "fair and resilient trade, supply chain resilience, infrastructure and decarbonization, and tax and anticorruption". Countries would have to sign up to all of the components within a module, but do not have to participate in all modules. The "fair and resilient trade" module will be led by the US Trade Representative and include digital, labor, and environment issues, with some binding commitments. The IPEF will not include market access commitments such as lowering tariff barriers, as the agreement is "more of an Administrative arrangement", and Congressional approval, which is a must for trade agreements, is not mandatory for this.

QUESTIONS (1-5)

Q.31 Which of the following countries has recently surpassed China to become India's Top Trading Partner?

- A. United States of America
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Russia
- D. None of the above mentioned

Q.32 The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), an economic initiative that came a day before the second in-person summit of the Quad leaders, is an initiative led by _____?

- A. India
- B. Australia
- C. United States of America
- D. Japan

Q.33 International trade and domestic trade differ because of:

- A. Different government policies
- B. Immobility of factors

- C. Trade restrictions
- D. All of the above

Q.34 Consider the following statements and state which of the following is/are incorrect in the reference to the above mentioned passage?

- I. Emergence of China as the top trading partner is due to increased import of Chinese medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - II. The trade relations between India & China remain to flourish despite the ban on more than 100 Chinese apps citing national security reasons.
 - III. There is a move from the Indian Govt. and weighing a decision to keep out Chinese companies from 5G trials & rollout.
- A. Only I & II follows
 - B. Only II & III follows
 - C. All I, II & III follows
 - D. None of the above

Q.35 The policies made by the government which is related to exports and imports of the country is known by which of the following terms?

- A. Commercial policy
- B. Fiscal policy
- C. Monetary policy
- D. Finance policy

PASSAGE -8

Q. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) announced at the DC Blockchain Summit that the bipartisan legislation they've been working on would likely be released in June. The bill would place spot markets and futures under the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), while crypto would be overseen by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Crypto mining would also be exempt from broker-dealer regulations, according to the law. "We are truly committed to creating the type of baseline and framework legislation that will allow this industry to grow, allow it to flourish," Gillibrand said. "The best thing we can do for all these businesses is to bring clarity."

Although dozens of bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to regulate the crypto sector, Gillibrand expressed hope that this legislation will have broad bipartisan support and be signed into law before the end of this year or early next. "I'm very optimistic ... because this bill has been heavily researched," she said. "We've talked to stakeholders for over a year. We have tried to incorporate all of the business models and asset classes that have been to date created."

Lummis said that working on crypto legislation isn't inherently partisan, though she highlighted the importance of getting it right the first time. "I've met with [SEC Chairman] Gary Gensler. We've kicked this bill around, and he's a very knowledgeable regulator," she said. "Behind closed doors, I think he expresses a deep understanding. So, I actually have confidence that the regulatory framework that exists is going to be the right regulatory framework going forward."

Q.36 Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed amendments to which of the following acts that would enable it to launch a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)?

- A. Reserve Bank of India Act, 1992
- B. Securities & Exchange Board of India Act, 1934
- C. Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- D. Securities & Exchange Board of India Act, 1992

Q.37 Examine the given statements & state which of the following is/are incorrect in the reference to the regulation of crypto-currency?

- A. Fiat money is a government-issued currency that is not backed by a commodity such as gold.
- B. In April 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified that entities regulated by it should not deal in virtual currencies or provide services for facilitating any person or entity in dealing with or settling virtual currencies.
- C. The Supreme Court supported the view of the Reserve Bank of India on trading of virtual currencies (VC) in India
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.38 Which of the following has become the 2nd nation after El Salvador to adopt Bitcoin as Legal tender?

- A. Honduras
- B. Nicaragua
- C. Guatemala
- D. Central African Republic (CAR)

Q.39 Consider the given options and state which of the following is not one of the forms of crypto-currency?

- A. Bitcoins
- B. Ethereum
- C. Blockchain
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.40 Which of the following statements is/are incorrect in the reference to the above mentioned passage?

- E. Bitcoin is a payment system released as open-source software in 2009.
- F. The system is peer-to-peer (P2P); users can transact directly without needing an intermediary.
- G. Transactions are verified by network nodes and recorded in a public distributed ledger called the block chain.
- H. None of the above

PASSAGE-9

Q. Union minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said India's internal security situation has improved sharply during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pointing out that Left-wing extremism (LWE)-affected districts in central India and Afspa areas in the North-East have reduced by 70% and 66% respectively. Shah also said that the number of deaths and terror incidents have gone down in the regions. Inaugurating the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) in New Delhi under the aegis of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations,

Shah spoke about the reduction in violence and death in the North-East and LWE areas, and contrasted the Modi rule with the Congress-led UPA era. "Between 2006 and 2014, the country witnessed 8,700 incidents in North-East, which came down by 70% during PM Modi's governance. A safe North-East and safe Left-wing extremism-prone areas of Central India will pave the way for tribal welfare."

The home minister added that 87 security personnel lost their lives in the North-East under the Modi government as against 304 during the Congress rule. "The number of civilian deaths has come down from 1,990 to 217," he said. Underlining PM Modi has accorded top priority to research and education since he came to power, the home minister said: "Under the Congress government, in 2014, ₹7 crore had been set aside for this purpose. In 2022, we have kept ₹150 crore for it... Similarly, the budget for Eklavya residential schools went up from ₹278 crore to ₹1,418 crore this financial year." Shah also highlighted the key role that NTRI aims to play. "As per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the National Tribal Research Institute is finally coming into existence... By the time we celebrate 100 years of Independence, this institute will be the backbone for tribal communities." NTRI will function as a research institute to train employees and organise capacity-building for other institutes, popularise tribal festivals, and maintain the diversity of tribal museums. It will also serve the purpose of acting as a blueprint for the development of the tribal society, said Shah. The institute will also provide policy inputs to the Union government, and act as a national nodal agency.

Q.41 The AFSPA Act empowers the Governor/Administrator of state/UT to declare an area as 'disturbed'. Once declared, the region has to maintain the status quo for _____?

- A. Minimum of six month
- B. Maximum of one month
- C. Minimum of three month
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.42 Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 is a reincarnation of the British-era legislation that was enacted to quell the protests during which of the following movements?

- A. Non-cooperation Movement
- B. Quit India Movement
- C. Civil Disobedience Movement/ Salt March
- D. None of the following

Q.43 With the reference to the Borders Dispute between Assam & Meghalaya, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. Assam and Meghalaya share an 885-km-long border & as of now, there are 12 points of dispute along their borders.
- II. Meghalaya was carved out of Arunachal Pradesh under the AP Reorganization Act, 1971, a law that it challenged, leading to disputes.
- III. Point of contention between Assam and Meghalaya is the district of Langpih in West Garo Hills bordering the Kamrup district of Assam.

- A. I & II follows
- B. Only III follows
- C. I & III follows
- D. All of the above

Q.44 Which of the following statements is/are incorrect in the reference to the 'Greater Tripaland' demand?

- A. It is an extension of the ruling Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura's (IPFT) demand of Tipraland, which seeks to form a separate state for tribals of Tripura.
- B. Tripura royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya who put forward the demand was the state President of the BJP
- C. It also includes 'Tiprasa' of Tripuris spread across different states of India like Assam, Mizoram and even those living in areas bordering Bangladesh.
- D. None of the above

Q.45 The 'territory of India' is considered as having a wider scope than the 'Union of India' as it includes which of the following?

- I. The territories of the states
 - II. The Union territories
 - III. Any territory that may be acquired in future
- A. I & II follows
 - B. I & III follows
 - C. I, II & III follows
 - D. None of the above

PASSAGE-10

Q. Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case has emerged as the latest flashpoint between the Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP. While the Delhi Chief Minister has called the ED case against Jain "completely fake and politically motivated", the BJP has accused the AAP convenor of shielding the corrupt. Jain has been arrested under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) with the ED case being based on a CBI FIR where he was accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him. Amid the political standoff, here's a refresher into the charges levelled by the Enforcement Directorate against Jain:

Jain's arrest is based on an investigation that dates back to 2015-16. The ED alleged that Jain was involved in hawala transactions with a Kolkata-based firm. As per the ED chargesheet, the investigation revealed that in 2015-16, when Jain was working in the central public works department, four firms "beneficially owned and controlled by him" received "accommodation entries (a term used for hawala transfers) to the tune of Rs 4.81 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through hawala route." In a statement issued last month, the ED had said it issued a provisional order under the PMLA to "attach immovable properties worth Rs 4.81 crore belonging to Akinchan Developers Pvt. Ltd.; Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd; Paryas Infosolutions Pvt. Ltd.; Manglayatan Projects Pvt. Ltd.; J.J. Ideal Estate Pvt. Ltd.; Swati Jain, wife of Vaibhav Jain; Sushila Jain, wife of Ajit Prasad Jain; and Indu Jain, wife of Sunil Jain." "These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for repayment of loan taken for the purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi," the ED said. The persons named in the attachment order are associates and family members of Jain, the officials said. The money laundering case against the Delhi minister stems from an August 2017 FIR filed by the CBI against him and others on charges of alleged possession of disproportionate assets (DA). A charge sheet was filed by the CBI in December 2018 stating that the alleged DA was to the tune of Rs 1.47 crore, about 217 per cent more than his known sources of income, during 2015-17. The Income Tax Department had also probed these transactions and issued an order

attaching “benami assets” allegedly linked to Jain.

Q.46 'An offence of Money Laundering involves 3 steps'. Consider the given options & state which of the following not one of them is?

- A. Integration
- B. Concealing
- C. Layering
- D. None of the following

Q.47 Consider the given statements in the context of the Enforcement Directorate of India & state which of the following is/are correct?

- I. Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a law enforcement agency of the Government of India that is responsible for enforcing Economic Laws and fighting Economic Crime.
- II. It was formed with the purpose of handling Exchange Control Law violations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 1965.
- III. The Enforcement Directorate has its headquarters in Mumbai and has many regional offices all over the country.

- A. I & III follows
- B. II & III follows
- C. Only I follows
- D. All of the above

Q.48 Of the following options, which of these countries have recently declared the fugitive businessman 'Mehul Choksi' as a prohibited Immigrant?

- A. Puerto Rico
- B. El Salvador
- C. Costa Rica
- D. Dominican Republic

Q.49 Which of the following given statements is/are incorrect in the reference to the offence of 'Money Laundering'?

- A. Money laundering is concealing or disguising the identity of illegally obtained proceeds so that they appear to have originated from legitimate sources.
- B. According to the European Commission, global Money Laundering is estimated between 2 to 5% of World GDP
- C. Money laundering is punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 7 years and Fine.
- D. None of the above

Q.50 With the reference to the Punjab National Bank (PNB) Scam, which of the following given statements is/are correct?

- A. India's Punjab National Bank (PNB), the largest public sector lender, stunned the country's financial

sector when it announced a scam in 2018

- B. By far the biggest ever detected by an Indian bank, the PNB fraud involved Mehul Choksi, and the main accused Vijay Mallya, who are absconded from the country before news of the scam came through.
- C. Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi are wanted for allegedly siphoning Rs 13,500 crore of public money from the state-run Punjab National Bank (PNB) using letters of undertaking
- D. None of the above

PASSAGE-11

Q. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is the most widely-used global corruption ranking in the world. It measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be, according to experts and businesspeople. As anti-corruption efforts stagnate worldwide, human rights and democracy are also under assault. This is no coincidence. Our latest analysis shows that protecting human rights is crucial in the fight against corruption: countries with well-protected civil liberties generally score higher on the CPI, while countries who violate civil liberties tend to score lower. The global COVID-19 pandemic has also been used in many countries as an excuse to curtail basic freedoms and side-step important checks and balances, said Daniel Eriksson, Chief Executive Officer, Transparency International Secretariat. Among those with weak scores are some of the world's most populous countries, such as China (45) and India (40), and other large economies such as Indonesia (38), Pakistan (28) and Bangladesh (26). A concerning trend across some of these nations is a weakening of anti-corruption institutions or, in some cases, absence of an agency to coordinate action against corruption.

From India to the Philippines to China, such leaders have been able to portray themselves as more effective than state institutions and win mandates to gain and stay in power. However, only a few of these countries have managed to make progress in controlling corruption and these gains remain fragile. Furthermore, in most countries, corruption is spreading through severe restrictions on the very civil liberties – like freedom of association and speech – which allowed people to take to the streets and call for action. "The case of India is particularly worrying. While the country's score has remained stagnant over the past decade, some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening. There are concerns over the country's democratic status, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay. Journalists and activists are particularly at risk and have been victims of attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs and corrupt local officials. Civil society organisations that speak up against the government have been targeted with security, defamation, sedition, hate speech and contempt-of-court charges, and with regulations on foreign funding," Transparency International said.

Q.51 Out of the given options, which of the following International Non-governmental organizations releases the Corruption Perception Index every year?

- A. Transparency International
- B. Amnesty International
- C. GreenPeace International
- D. Freedom House

Q.52 Examine the below mentioned statements & state which of the following is/are incorrect in the reference to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021?

- I. The Index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople.
- II. This year, in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) the top countries are Denmark, United Kingdom

and New Zealand, Norway, United States of America

III. India ranked 85 among 180 countries in the current index & had given a CPI score of 40.

- A. I & II is incorrect
- B. Only II is incorrect
- C. II & III is incorrect
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.53 Which of the following countries is not amongst the top five countries of the Corruption Perception Index 2020?

- A. Iceland
- B. Denmark
- C. New Zealand
- D. None of the above

Q.54 The Central Vigilance Commission was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, named as _____?

- A. Abhijit Sen Committee
- B. Abid Hussain Committee
- C. K. Santhanam Committee
- D. Athreya Committee

Q.55 Which of the following organisations is not correctly matched with its headquarters?

- A. Financial Action Task Force --- Paris, France
- B. Economist Intelligence Unit --- London, United Kingdom
- C. Transparency International --- Berne, Switzerland
- D. All of the above is matched correctly

PASSAGE-12

Q. Space and earth sciences minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said India will achieve the unique distinction of simultaneously launching the first human space mission "Gaganyaan" as well as the first manned human ocean mission in 2023. Addressing the World Ocean Day celebrations in Delhi, Jitendra Singh said trials for both the space and ocean manned missions have reached an advanced stage and the unique feat will be achieved, most likely, in the second half of 2023. "Sea trials of 500-metre rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in early part of 2023, followed by the MATSYA 6000, the deep-water manned submersible that will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024."

Similarly, for Gaganyaan, major missions like the test vehicle flight for the validation of crew escape system performance and the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan are scheduled in the second half of 2022 and that will be followed by the second uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying "Vyommitra", a spacefaring human robot developed by Isro, and finally the first crewed Gaganyaan mission in 2023. Singh also said the Union government will soon unveil the "Blue Economic Policy" and added that an estimated 40 million people will be employed by ocean-based industries by 2030, a statement from the ministry said.

"The government had approved a deep ocean mission in June last year to be implemented by the earth

sciences ministry at a total budget of Rs 4,077 crore for five years," he said, calling upon officials to develop niche technologies and collaborate with industries in carrying out deep-ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulphides and cobalt crusts, located at a depth between 1,000 and 5,500 metres.

Taking a cue from the unlocking of the space sector, the minister proposed to revive the commercial arm of the ministry of earth sciences. He said that marine businesses in India must reach its full potential as oceans provide living and non-living resources, from fisheries to marine biotechnology, minerals to renewable energy.

Q.56 Consider the given options & state which of the following is correct regarding the theme for the World Oceans Day 2022?

- A. Ocean: Life and livelihoods
- B. Gender & the Ocean
- C. Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean
- D. None of the above mentioned

Q.57 The idea of World Oceans Day was first proposed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 in _____?

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. Budapest, Hungary
- C. Santiago, Chile
- D. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Q.58 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved which of the following Ministries' proposals on the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)?

- A. Ministry of Water Resources & River Development
- B. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- C. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- D. None of the following

Q.59 Which of the following given statements is/are correct in the reference to the Deep Ocean Mission of the Central Government?

- I. The cost of the Mission has been estimated at Rs. 4,077 crore over a five-year period and will be implemented in phases
- II. It will be a mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.
- III. The technology and expertise needed in such missions is now available with only four countries - US, Germany, France & United Kingdom. India will now be the fifth country to have it.

- A. II & III follows
- B. Only I follows
- C. I, II & III follows
- D. None of the above

Q.60 The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has announced India's first manned ocean mission in sync with the _____ of ISRO that aims to send a manned mission into space by 2022?

- A. Shukrayaan Mission
- B. Mangalyaan Mission
- C. Gaganyaan Mission
- D. None of the following

Passage-13

Q. A yawning mismatch in the cash grants given by different state governments and union territories to soldiers awarded gallantry and distinguished service medals by the defence services has led to calls from certain quarters in the armed forces for a uniform policy to honour the sacrifice, bravery and service of India's soldiers. Latest official data points to huge variations in the cash rewards given to soldiers for similar acts of valour, and outstanding service --- the monetary compensation for the country's highest gallantry award ranges from a high of ₹2.25 crore to a measly ₹20,000. "A soldier does not fight for his state. He fights for the country. The sharp variation in monetary awards given by states to soldiers is something that needs to be addressed," said a senior officer, asking not to be named. Figures lay bare the inconsistency in the cash grants policy formulated by different states. If a soldier from Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka or Haryana is awarded Ashoka Chakra -- he is eligible for a cash grant of ₹2.25 crore, ₹2 crore, 1.5 crore and ₹1 crore, respectively. However, if the same soldier was from Manipur or Gujarat, all he will get is ₹20,000. A minimum threshold for gallantry awards is needed, said a second senior officer, who also asked not to be named. Chandigarh and Uttarakhand offer ₹30 lakh for Ashoka Chakra (the peacetime equivalent of the Param Vir Chakra), while Tamil Nadu and West Bengal give a cash grant of ₹20 lakh and ₹8 lakh, respectively. The variation is proportionate when it comes to other gallantry awards that are announced by the government every year.

Each state should take equal pride in their soldiers and acknowledge their services to the nation, said military affairs expert Lieutenant General Vinod Bhatia (retd). "The Centre should lay down guidelines to ensure equity when it comes to states honouring the gallantry and distinguished services of soldiers. It's high time that the cash grants policy of different states is standardised," added Bhatia. Take the case of soldiers who are awarded Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peace-time gallantry award. Depending on the states they belong to, the cash grants given to them can vary from ₹1.25 crore to a few thousand, figures show. Similarly, those who are awarded Shaurya Chakra -- India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award -- get anything between ₹5000 and ₹75 lakh. The matter has been taken up by parliamentary panels but it remains unresolved. To be sure, the benefits offered by the Central government to gallantry awardees are standard. The benefits the government gives to gallantry awardees include a month allowance, tax-free pension, discounted air tickets and railway concessions.

Q.61 Post-Independence, first three gallantry awards namely Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were instituted by the government of India on _____

- A. 15th January, 1947
- B. 26th January, 1950
- C. 26th November, 1949
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.62 Examine the given options & state which of the following is not eligible for the three most important Gallantry Awards presented by the President of India?

- A. Armed Forces

- B. Naval Forces
- C. Police Forces
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.63 Which of the following is India's highest military decoration awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valor during wartime whether on land, at sea or in the air?

- A. Ashok Chakra
- B. Param Vir Chakra
- C. Mahavir Chakra
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.64 Consider the given options & state which of the following is/are matched incorrectly?

- A. Ashoka Chakra ----- It is the country's third-highest wartime gallantry award
- B. Kirti Chakra ----- It is the second highest peacetime gallantry award.
- C. Shaurya Chakra ----- Awarded to the personnel of the armed forces for instances of extraordinary gallantry.
- D. None of the following

Q.65 Recently, which of the following had taken over as India's next Chief of Naval Staff succeeding Chief Admiral Karambir Singh who retired in November 2021?

- A. Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla
- B. Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar
- C. Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- D. None of the above-mentioned

PASSAGE-14

Q. Officials from India and Canada are expected to meet virtually next week to commence the second round of negotiations for a free-trade agreement (FTA) that aims to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. India is expected to push for greater market access for pharmaceutical products, readymade garments, agriculture goods and easier movement of skilled workers, to create more jobs for its IT professionals, people aware of the matter said. Canada is expected to seek greater market access for agriculture products such as pulses. Both nations may steer away from including sensitive items such as dairy in the trade deal, they said

"The first round of negotiations happened soon after the fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment, where broader issues were discussed. There will be more clarity on the way forward as something more concrete is expected after the second round of discussions," one of the officials cited above said. India and Canada had launched negotiations towards a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) in 2010. However, no headway was made even after the 10th round nearly five years ago. A joint statement released by India and Canada in March stated that both the countries are looking to finalise an interim or an early progress trade agreement (EPTA). A spokesperson from the High Commission of Canada said that while India has rolled out various reform measures over the last few years, uncertainty caused due to unpredictable tariff rates in India's agriculture sector are some of the hurdles faced by the exporters from Canada. "Canada is happy to note that India is steadily moving up the ranking of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business'. This has been possible, in part, as a result of some Government of India initiatives such as

the establishment of the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, Similarly, the amalgamation of various taxes into one GST has been welcomed by the business community and has facilitated trading across state borders. The debt and insolvency law, as well as implementation of the PLI, are being used by some Canadian producers in India. "However some challenges still exist, mostly at the local and state level, such as permit approvals, land acquisition, supply-chain unpredictability, and high tariffs. And in the agricultural sector, unpredictable tariff rates and quantity restrictions can cause uncertainty," the spokesperson said.

Q.66 Recently, Israel signed a free trade deal with which of the following nations which is its first with an Arab country, building on their US-brokered normalization of relations in 2020?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Bahrain
- C. United Arab Emirates
- D. None of the following

Q.67 Consider the given statements & state which of the following is/are correct in the reference to the Free Trade agreements signed between nations?

- I. FTAs are arrangements between two or more countries or trading blocs that primarily agree to reduce or eliminate customs tariff and non-tariff barriers on substantial trade between them.
- II. India has negotiated FTA with many countries e.g. Sri Lanka and various trading blocs as well e.g. ASEAN.

- A. Only I follows
- B. Only II follows
- C. Both I & II follows
- D. None of the following

Q.68 Earlier to the Abraham Accord which of the two Arab countries have signed a Peace Deal with Israel?

- A. Saudi Arabia and Egypt
- B. Egypt and Jordan
- C. Oman and Iran
- D. Egypt and Oman

Q.69 During the EAM S. Jaishankar visit to Israel, Which of the following nations have formed a New Quadrilateral Economic Forum?

- E. India, Japan, Australia, Israel
- F. India, Israel, UAE & USA
- G. India, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain & USA
- H. None of the following

Q.70 Recently signed Abraham Accord is Peace Deal that is signed between Israel and Arab countries after _____?

- A. 20 Years
- B. 22 Years

- C. 25 Years
- D. 26 Years

PASSAGE-15

Q. India is facing the heat from the Gulf and other Islamic nations over derogatory remarks against Prophet Muhammed by two leaders of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

The foreign ministries of Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia issued official statements slamming the remarks by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and Delhi media head Naveen Kumar Jindal and demanding an apology. Iran too has hit out at India, become yet another country to summon the Indian ambassador ahead of the Iranian foreign minister's first-ever upcoming visit to India.

"Respect for religion" and "extremism" kept coming up, as the nations slammed the two leaders – one suspended and one expelled. Amid the diplomatic outrage, we take a look at religious freedoms in the Islamic world.

In Kuwait, the Constitution declares Islam to be the religion of the state but says freedom of belief is absolute. Sharia is the main source of legislation but all individuals are equal before the law regardless of religion, according to the Constitution. Defamation of the three Abrahamic faiths – Islam, Judaism, and Christianity – publication or broadcast of material the government deems offensive to religious groups, and practices the government finds inconsistent with the Islamic law are prohibited in Kuwait. However, religious minorities continue to face discrimination in the Gulf nation including the Shias, which are mostly migrants from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Iran and form 35 per cent of the population. According to a non-profit, although Shias have the same legal rights as Sunnis and access to education, health care, and other state benefits, they are often perceived as being lower on the social scale and marginalised in religious, economic, social, and political terms.

In Qatar, Islam is the state religion and the legislation is governed by sharia. The law punishes "offending" Islam or any of its rites or beliefs or committing blasphemy against Islam, Christianity, or Judaism. Sunni and Shia Muslims and eight Christian denominations constitute the registered religious groups in the country. Unregistered religious groups are illegal, but authorities permit them to practice their faith but only privately.

US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) places Saudi Arabia on the list of countries of particular concern. Freedom of religion is not provided under the law in the country. The law criminalises "anyone who challenges, either directly or indirectly, the religion or justice of the King or Crown Prince". Religious freedom conditions in Saudi Arabia remain poor. The Saudi government has lifted several religious restrictions on women's rights and passed a parliamentary bill restricting child marriages. However, the public practice of any religion other than Islam is prohibited, and no houses of worship other than mosques are allowed in the kingdom, according to the USCIRF.

Q.71 With the reference to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- A. USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan US federal government commission, dedicated to defending the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.
- B. It is an advisory body to the US Congress.
- C. US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is headquartered in Washington DC.
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.72 The International Religious Freedom Report's primary focus is on two groups of countries, India is

placed on which of the following groups?

- A. Grey List
- B. Special Watch List
- C. CPC List
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.73 Consider the given statements & state which of the following is/are incorrect in the reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

- A. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) consists of 30 rights and freedoms including civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy and economic rights.
- B. The UDHR is a treaty, so it directly creates legal obligations for countries
- C. The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols form the so-called International Bill of Human Rights.
- D. All of the above-mentioned

Q.74 In which of the following landmark judgement, the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution?

- A. K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India
- B. A.K Gopalan v. State of Madras
- C. Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalavaru v. State of Kerala
- D. All of the above

Q.75 Which of the following legislations provided for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission at the Union level, which steers State Human Rights Commission in States and Human Rights Courts for better protection of Human Rights?

- A. Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Act (1948)
- B. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)
- C. Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993
- D. None of the following

PASSAGE-16

Q. The Central government has announced the fresh composition of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council that includes 13 members, including its Chairman Amit Shah. Ministry of Home mentions the move in its gazette notification issued on Friday pointing out that the step was taken in supersession of the Inter-State Council Secretariat's notification dated August 9, 2019, and with the approval of the Prime Minister. Besides Shah, the committee comprises four other ministers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet and eight Chief Ministers. Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are among the Union Cabinet ministers as members of the committee.

Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister Bihar Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister Gujarat Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister Maharashtra Uddhav

Thackeray, Chief Minister Odisha Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Mann, Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath are other members of the committee. The Standing Committee will have continuous consultation on the matters for consideration of the Council. It processes all matters pertaining to Centre-State Relations before they are taken up for consideration in the Inter-State Council. The committee also monitors the implementation of decisions taken on the recommendations of the Council and considers any other matter referred to it by the Chairman or Council. The Standing Committee may, if necessary, invite experts and persons eminent in specific fields to have the benefit of their views while deliberating upon the related subjects.

Q.76 Recently, the Inter-State Council (ISC) has been reconstituted with the Chairman and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union Ministers as members. Which of the following will be in the role of Chairman?

- A. President of India
- B. Prime Minister of India
- C. Home Minister of India
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.77 Which of the following committees recommended the establishment of a permanent Inter-State Council as an independent national forum?

- A. Sarkaria Commission
- B. Abid Hussain Commission
- C. Kothari Commission
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.78 Consider the following statements about the issues which may not be brought up before the Inter-state Council:

- I. Any issues which relate to discharge of any duty or special responsibility of the union under the provisions of the constitution or any law of parliament.
- II. Any issue relating to a matter which, under the constitution, is left or the decision of a specified authority other than the central Government such as Election Commission or the Supreme Court etc.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only I follows
- B. Only II follows
- C. Both I & II follows
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.79 The idea of creation of a zonal council was mooted by which of the following famous personalities in 1956?

- A. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. B.R Ambedkar
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.80 Which of the following statements is/are incorrect regarding the inter-state Dispute?

- A. Article 262 of the constitution empowers the state legislatures to make laws for the adjudication of inter-state water dispute
- B. The Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956 was enacted to deal with inter-state water disputes.
- C. The Government of India can constitute a tribunal to hear the disputes concerning claims of water sharing.
- D. The members of tribunal are appointed by the Chief justices of India.

PASSAGE-17

Q. Wearing hard hats, two Sri Lankan labourers wait for their turn to enter Colombo Port City, once envisioned as a 'world class' metropolis. Across the street from them, hundreds of 'GotaGoGama' protesters have been camping for over 50 days, calling for the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. "Let's fight against the corrupt, exploitative economic system," reads a large sign hung from the Colombo Port City fence. Located on the ocean-facing Galle Face Green, the Colombo Port City is symbolic of the economic storm that has engulfed Sri Lanka. The USD 1.4 billion project – sanctioned during Mahinda Rajapaksa's presidency (2005-15) – is being developed by the Chinese on 269-hectares of reclaimed land. China accounts for 10 per cent of the island nation's debt, ranking third among creditors after Japan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

With its 22 million people facing hardships amid a fuel and energy crisis and no foreign reserves to rely on, Colombo is now walking a tightrope with Beijing on the one side and New Delhi on the other. As former Sri Lankan foreign secretary Jayanath Colombage summed it up, "On security, we have an India first policy. But we want economic ties with China, too. Between Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi's visit in January and External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar's trip to the island nation in March this year, Sri Lanka's struggle to characterize its relationships with India and China had been visible for some months now. "Sri Lanka's crisis is partly a crisis of external relations, and the irony is that for a country that prides itself on Buddhist heritage, it has certainly in the post-war period, been following anything but the Buddhist middle path as it were in external relations," said Dayan Jayatilleka, Sri Lanka's former representative to the United Nations (UN) at Geneva. "We are yet to see whether it would be India or China which will turn out to be Sri Lanka's lender of last resort. The needle of evidence is now hovering in the direction of India as the external power that will help us stay afloat," he added.

Q.81 With the reference to the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka, Consider the given statements & state which of the following is/are correct?

- I. Sri Lankan foreign exchange reserves are depleting rapidly and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the country to import essential consumption goods.
 - II. The current Sri Lankan economic crisis is the product of the historical imbalances in the economic structure, the IMF's loan-related conditionality and the misguided policies of authoritarian rulers
- A. Only I follows
 - B. Only II follows
 - C. Both I & II follows
 - D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.82 Out of the given options, which of the following has been replaced by Ranil Wickremesinghe as he was sworn in as 26th PM of Sri Lanka?

- A. Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- B. Mahinda Rajapaksa
- C. Maithripala Sirisena
- D. Sajith Premadasa

Q.83 Examine the below mentioned options & state which of the following is the multilateral platform of which both India & Sri Lanka are members?

- I. BRICS Nations
 - II. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 - III. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- A. I & II follows
 - B. Only II follows
 - C. II & III follows
 - D. None of the following

Q.84 Which of the following Amendments to the Sri Lankan Constitution envisages devolution of necessary powers to the provincial councils to address the just demand of the Tamil people for equality, justice and respect within a united Sri Lanka?

- A. 8th Constitutional Amendment
- B. 11th Constitutional Amendment
- C. 13th Constitutional Amendment
- D. None of the following

Q.85 Which of the following is the joint military exercise conducted between India & Sri Lanka?

- A. Mitra Shakti Exercise
- B. Yudh Abhyas Exercise
- C. Sampriti Exercise
- D. None of the following

PASSAGE-18

Q. India expressed its disappointment over the manner the World Health Organisation (WHO) prepared and published its report on its estimate of 47 lakh excess deaths due to Covid-19, disregarding authentic official data, said Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya at the 75th World Health Assembly. Speaking at the WHO headquarters, the minister said, "it is with a sense of dismay and concern that India notes WHO's recent exercise on all-cause excess mortality where our country-specific authentic data published by the statutory authority has not been taken into account."

On May 5, WHO released a report that, according to its estimates, India's death toll was nearly ten times higher than India's official count of 4.8 lakh Covid-19 deaths during the last two years. The government has slammed the report, saying it is unacceptable as the estimates are drawn from flawed mathematical assumptions. The minister also said that the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, a constitutional body having a representation of health ministers from all Indian states, have passed a unanimous resolution asking him to convey their collective disappointment and concern in this regard. India firmly believes that

WHO has a central role in achieving the goal of health for all in an objective and result-oriented manner, he added. "It should be our collective endeavour to ensure that WHO is fit for dealing with contemporary realities. India has always constructively contributed to making WHO reflect the aspirations of the Member States and that Member States must drive its processes," the minister said.

Q.86 Recently, World Health Assembly's 75th session is being held at World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters (HQ) in _____?

- A. Paris, France
- B. Geneva, Switzerland
- C. Berne, Switzerland
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.87 India's six _____ workers were awarded the Global Health Leaders Award at the ongoing 75th World Health Assembly to recognize their "outstanding contributions to advancing global health, demonstrated leadership, and commitment to regional health issues?"

- A. UJALA
- B. ASHA
- C. NISHA
- D. None of the following

Q.88 Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) which is a maternity benefit programme being implemented by _____?

- A. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Women & Child Development
- C. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- D. None of the above

Q.89 Global Hunger Index report 2020 is co-published by which of the following institutions?

- A. US based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- B. Germany-based Welthungerhilfe
- C. Irish NGO Concern Worldwide
- D. Both B & C

Q.90 Consider the given options & choose which of the following is the correct theme regarding the World Health Day 2022?

- Health Promotion for Well-being, Equity and Sustainable Development
- Building a fairer, healthier world
- Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere
- None of the above

PASSAGE -19

Q. The Ministry of Defense on Tuesday issued a gazette notification of guidelines which broadens the scope of eligible officers for the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The next Chief of Defence Staff could be

anyone from the three serving chiefs, any serving three-star officer, any retired chief who is below 62 or any retired three-star officer also below the same age. The notification issued by the Indian government aims to amend regulations of three defence forces related to appointment of Chief of Defence Staff. According to the notification, the top serving and retired officers from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy will now be eligible for the top post. The notification also opens a path for the second-highest active rank officers of the defence services to supersede their seniors - the chief of the army, air force, or navy - to take on the role. This is made possible because the notification mentioned that a serving Lieutenant General or their equivalent in the navy and air force could become the CDS.

Another change in eligibility criteria marks the inclusion of recently retired service chiefs and vice chiefs, despite the age ceiling being 62 years.

See the notification here The top post fell vacant last year after the sudden demise of General Bipin Rawat, after the helicopter he was travelling in crashed on 8 December, 2021. The crash also killed Rawat's wife and a dozen others who were on board. India has been left without a CDS since then. The Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces (CDS) is the military head and permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC) of the Indian Armed Forces. The Chief Of Defence Staff is the highest-ranking uniformed officer on active duty in the Indian military and chief military adviser to the Minister of Defence. The Chief also heads the Department of Military Affairs. The CDS is assisted by a vice-chief, the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff. Rawat had retired as an Army Chief before he was appointed as the CDS. He took office on 1 December, 2020. The position was created with the aim of improving coordination, tri-service effectiveness and overall integration of the combat capabilities of the Indian armed forces. At the time of the creation of the post, no analogous position existed.

Q.91 Out of the given options, which of the following heads the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the Ministry of Defence?

- A. Chief of Army Staff
- B. Vice Chief of Army Staff
- C. Chief of Defence Staff
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.92 After the sudden demise of General Bipin Rawat, the then Chief of Defence Staff in a plane crash, which of the following was appointed Chairman Chief of Staff Committee?

- A. General MM Naravane
- B. General Manoj Pande
- C. Lieutenant General BS Raju
- D. None of the following

Q.93 Examine the mentioned below statements & state which of the following is/are incorrect in the reference to the role of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?

- I. The CDS will be the single-point military adviser to the Defence Minister on matters involving all three services and the service chiefs will be obliged to confine their counsel.
- II. CDS is first among equals, he enjoys the rank of Secretary within the DoD (Department of Defence) and his powers will be confined to only the revenue budget.

- A. Only I follows
- B. Only II follows

- C. Both I & II follows
- D. None of the following

Q.94 Which of the following has been recently appointed as Chief of Army Staff replacing MM Naravane?

- A. General YK Joshi
- B. General Manoj Pande
- C. General R. Hari Kumar
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.95 Consider the given options & choose which of the following is the correct theme regarding the Army Day 2022?

- A. Indian Army Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive
- B. In Stride with the Future
- C. Swarnim Vijay Varsh
- D. None of the above-mentioned

PASSAGE-20

Q. A prominent politician and a senior journalist made a legal point recently on 'The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991'. They have argued that this law is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India. In precise terms, this is an incredibly wrong legal position to argue. It is true that in courts anything and everything can be argued, still there are some legal ground realities which are not up for a debate. Even a cursory reading of the statement itself proves that it is wrong. The 1991 law is an ordinary law enacted by Parliament, it is not a part of the Constitution of India, which is a separate document. To argue that this law is part of the basic structure of the 'Constitution' is counterintuitive. The Basic Structure Doctrine was propounded by the Supreme Court of India in the celebrated case of Kesvananda Bharti v State of Kerala. This decision was given by a bench of 13 judges of the Court, which remains the highest bench strength of the Court till date to pronounce any judgment. In any judgment of any Court there is something known as the ratio decidendi (often referred as just ratio) of the judgement which is the legal question which was put to the court and which the judges have decided in that particular case. This is also the part of the judgement which is binding. The ratio in the judgement of the Kesvananda case has been deliberated upon by multiple jurists and there are differing opinions on the same. However, what everyone agrees on is that the majority judgement places restrictions on the amending power of the Parliament.

Article 13 of the Constitution provides that the Parliament of India can't enact any law which is in violation of the Fundamental Rights as provided in the Constitution. Article 368 provides that Parliament has the power to amend any provision of the Constitution. Hence, a legal question arose — what if the Parliament tries to amend a fundamental right itself? The Court held that the Parliament has power to amend any provision of the Constitution, but it can't amend the basic structure. The Court has from time to time pronounced what all provisions and principles form part of the basic structure of the Constitution. These provisions, thus, become immune from any amendment which can be made by Parliament.

Q.96 According to the popular belief, Gyanvapi Mosque was built in 1669 by the Mughal ruler _____ by demolishing the ancient Vishweshwar temple.

- A. Aurangzeb
- B. Shahjahan

- C. Jahangir
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.97 Which of the following Sections of the Places of Worship Act, 1991 bans the conversion of a place of worship or even a section of it into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or of a different segment of the same religious denomination?

- A. Section 2
- B. Section 3
- C. Section 4 (1)
- D. None of the following

Q.98 With which of the following Constitutional amendments, the Preamble to the Constitution asserted that India is a "secular" nation?

- A. 42nd Amendment Act, 1976
- B. 44th Amendment Act, 1978
- C. 63rd Amendment Act, 1989
- D. None of the above-mentioned

Q.99 "Ayodhya" that is land of dispute for many years is a township of which district of Uttar Pradesh?

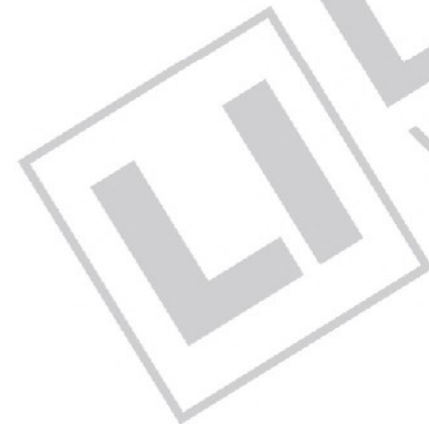
- A. Moradabad
- B. Faizabad
- C. Prayagraj
- D. Mathura

Q.100 The five-judge Constitution Bench, led by then Chief Justice of India _____ gave the verdict that the ownership of the disputed 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya to the Ram Janmabhoomi trusts in November 2019.

- A. S A Blonde
- B. SA Nazeer
- C. D Y Chandrachud
- D. Ranjan Gogoi

ANSWERS

1-D	2-B	3-C	4-B	5-B	6-C	7-B	8-A	9-C	10-D
11-B	12-B	13-A	14-D	15-A	16-A	17-C	18-B	19-D	20-C
21-A	22-C	23-C	24-D	25-A	26-C	27-D	28-B	29-B	30-A
31-A	32-C	33-D	34-D	35-A	36-C	37-C	38-D	39-C	40-H
41-C	42-B	43-C	44-B	45-C	46-B	47-C	48-D	49-B	50-C
51-A	52-B	53-A	54-C	55-C	56-C	57-D	58-B	59-D	60-C
61-B	62-C	63-B	64-A	65-B	66-C	67-C	68-B	69-F	70-D
71-D	72-C	73-B	74-A	75-C	76-B	77-C	78-C	79-A	80-A
81-C	82-B	83-C	84-C	85-A	86-B	87-B	88-B	89-D	90-A
91-C	92-A	93-C	94-B	95-B	96-A	97-B	98-A	99-B	100-D



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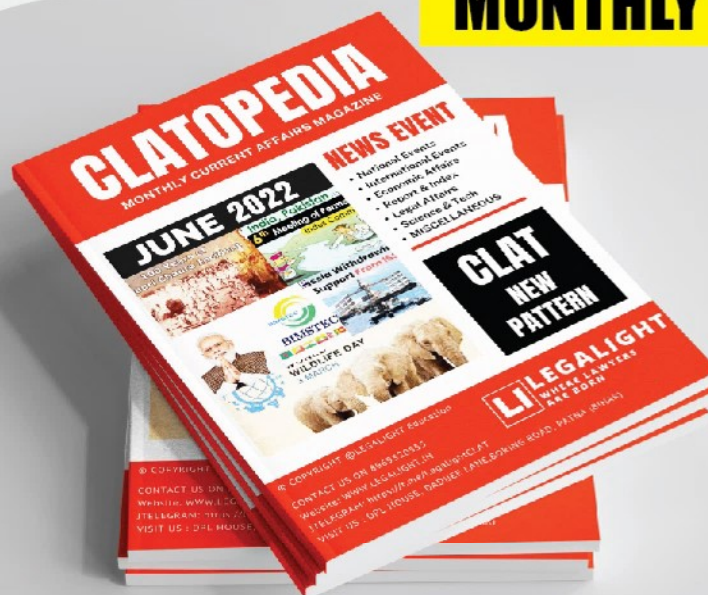


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