

# **CAREERS 360**

## **PREPARATION** **Series**

# **CLAT 2025**

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# **Legal Current Affairs** **(June 2024)**



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# About This eBook

## Dear CLAT Aspirants,

Welcome to our monthly eBook focusing on Legal Current Affairs! This eBook is designed to help you stay updated with the latest developments in the legal world, which will not only enhance your general knowledge but also sharpen your legal reasoning skills.

Each month, we will bring you a curated collection of significant legal events, landmark judgments, legislative changes, and other relevant updates that are crucial for your CLAT preparation. By staying informed about the ongoing legal landscape, you will be better equipped to tackle the GK and Legal Reasoning sections of the exam and secure good marks.

We believe that a strong understanding of current legal affairs is essential for aspiring lawyers and legal professionals. With this eBook, we aim to provide you with a valuable resource that complements your study efforts and contributes to your success in the CLAT exam.

**Wishing you all the best in your preparation journey!**

# Importance of Studying Monthly Legal Current Affairs

## 1. Up-to-Date Knowledge

- **Recent Case Laws:** Legal exams often include questions on recent landmark judgments. By staying updated monthly, you can familiarize yourself with key rulings and their implications.
- **Legislative Amendments:** Laws are frequently amended. Keeping track of these changes ensures that your knowledge is current and reflects the latest legal framework.

## 2. Exam Relevance

- **Direct Questions:** Exams often have questions specifically about recent developments. For instance, if a new law or amendment has been passed, you might be asked about its provisions and impact.
- **MCQs and Short Answers:** Multiple-choice questions and short answer sections often test factual knowledge about recent events. Being up-to-date can help you score better in these areas.

## 3. Contextual Understanding

- **Application of Theory:** Knowing recent legal developments helps you apply theoretical concepts to real-world situations. For example, understanding how a new judgment interprets a particular law can deepen your understanding of that law.
- **Case Studies:** Some exams may include case study questions where you need to analyze a situation using current legal principles and developments.

## 4. Essay and Descriptive Questions

- **Citing Recent Developments:** Essays and long-answer questions benefit from references to recent cases, statutes, and legal trends. This shows examiners that you are engaged with the subject beyond textbook knowledge.
- **Critical Analysis:** Discussing recent developments can help you provide a critical analysis, showcasing your ability to think deeply about legal issues.

## 5. Interviews and Viva

- **Current Affairs Discussion:** Interviews and viva voce often include discussions on recent legal developments. Demonstrating knowledge in this area can impress the interviewers and highlight your preparedness.
- **Opinion-Based Questions:** Being aware of current legal trends allows you to form and articulate well-informed opinions during interviews.

## 6. Analytical Skills

- **Critical Thinking:** Regular engagement with current affairs sharpens your ability to critically analyze new information. This is crucial for both objective and subjective parts of the exam.
- **Debate and Discussion:** Engaging in debates and discussions on recent developments enhances your analytical abilities and helps you view issues from multiple perspectives.

## 7. Time Management

- **Systematic Study:** Breaking down current affairs into monthly segments makes the study process more manageable. This prevents last-minute cramming and helps you retain information better.
- **Regular Revision:** A monthly review schedule allows for regular revision, reinforcing your memory and understanding.

## 8. Retention and Recall

- **Regular Review:** Information that is reviewed regularly is easier to recall during exams. Monthly updates ensure that you are revisiting important information periodically.
- **Active Learning:** Summarizing and discussing recent developments helps reinforce your learning, making it easier to remember key points.

# How to Integrate Monthly Legal Current Affairs into Your Study Routine

## Create a Study Plan:

Allocate specific times each week or month to review legal current affairs. Stick to this schedule consistently.

## Use Diverse Sources:

- **Newspapers:** Read legal sections in reputed newspapers like The Hindu, The Indian Express, or specialized legal news platforms.
- **Legal Journals:** Subscribe to legal journals and magazines that provide in-depth analysis of recent developments.
- **Online Resources:** Websites like LiveLaw, Bar & Bench, and government portals for official updates.

## Make Notes:

- **Summarize:** Write summaries of key judgments, amendments, and legal debates in your own words.
- **Organize:** Keep your notes organized by topic and date for easy reference.

## Discuss with Peers:

- **Study Groups:** Form study groups to discuss and debate recent developments. This helps in gaining different perspectives.
- **Mock Interviews:** Conduct mock interviews or viva sessions with peers to practice discussing the current affair

## Practice Questions:

- **Past Papers:** Practice past exam papers that include questions on recent legal developments.
- **Mock Tests:** Take mock tests focusing on current affairs to assess your knowledge and preparation level.

# Top 10 Legal Current Affairs of June Month

## 1 India's Supreme Court reconstitutes gender sensitization committee

- The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted its Gender Sensitization and Internal Compliant Committee. This action has been taken under Clause 4(2) of the Gender Sensitisation & Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme of India (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Regulations, 2013.

### Leadership of the Committee

- The new committee is a 12-member committee is headed by one of the judges of the apex court- Justice Hima Kohli as the chairperson. The panel also comprises Justice BV Nagarathnana, Dr. Sukhdam Pritan as the member secretary, various senior advocates, advocate-on-record, and academicians. The composition ensures that the panel comprises of legal minds from different field to bring all perspectives into a single place.

### Composition of the Committee

- The Committee has to be constituted by the Chief Justice of India. It consists of a minimum of 7 members and not more than 13 members. The majority of the members must be women.

### Purpose of the Gender Sensation Committee

- This committee is formed to fulfill an essential public function of sensitizing the public about gender issues such as gender discrimination, harassment, and inequality.
- It also aims to address any complaints made concerning sexual harassment at the Supreme Court premises.
- An annual report is published by the committee at the end of the year to highlight all the achievements and new tasks undertaken by the committee.
- The committee also conducts regular meetings to provide a platform to discuss such issues in detail and ways to address such problems in our society.
- This committee therefore conducts various training sessions and awareness programmes to keep the public informed of their rights.

## 2 Thailand becomes the first South-Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage.

- The Thailand Senate on 18th June approves the Marriage Equality Bill, thereby potentially making Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to permit marriage between people of the same gender. The bill was

passed with favour of 130 senators and opposition from only 4 senators. However, the endorsement of King 'Maha Vajiralongkorn' over the bill is awaited. The bill after its publication in the Government Gazette will become operative after 120 days

#### Features of the Bill-

- The legislation is set to amend the country's Civil and Commercial Code to replace gender-specific words such as 'men and women' with gender-neutral words such as 'individuals', 'spouse', and 'person'.
- The current Marriage Equality Bill grants full legal, financial, and medical rights for marriage partners of any gender.
- Rights that were traditionally reserved for heterosexual couples will now also be granted to marriage between any gender, These rights include adoption, inheritance rights and tax-related benefits.
- On passage of the bill, the ground in front of the main building was decorated with rainbow carpets, flags and a giant balloon in the shape of two hands making a heart sign. There was an occasion at the government's house joined by politicians celebrities, diplomats, and activists from the LGBTQ+ community and their supporters. All these things denoted how the Thai culture has adopted the bill all across the country.

#### Comparison with other Asian Countries-

- In general, Asia has taken a conservative stance while giving marriage rights to members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Following a Constitutional Court ruling and a subsequent legislative act, Taiwan became the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide on 24 May 2019. Nepal has also granted similar rights in 2023.
- Yet several Asian nations continue to prohibit relationships between people of the same gender, with some even imposing the death sentence. India though recognized the consensual relationship between adults of the LGBTQ+ community, does not grant the right to marry or rights of civil union to such couples.

#### Global stance regarding the issue-

- As of 2024, marriage between same-sex couples is legally performed and recognized in 38 countries, with Thailand being the most recent country to recognize such rights. One more country, Liechtenstein is set to begin performing same-sex marriages in late 2024 or in early 2025.

## 3 UGC-NET 2024 was cancelled due to integrity concerns.

- The University Grant Commission- National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) was cancelled by the Ministry of Education just a day after it was held. The decision was taken due to inputs from the National Cybercrime threat analytics unit which indicated the examination's integrity may have been compromised. The cancellation of this paper along with the paper leak possibility of the NEET exam created a huge fiasco and questioned the ability of the National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct national-level exams.

#### What is the University Grant Commission?

- In 1944, the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-War Educational Development in India (Sargeant Report) recommended the formation of the University Grant Commission (UGC) to oversee the work of the three Central Universities of Aligarh, Banaras and Delhi.

- In 1947, this Committee was entrusted with dealing with all the then existing Universities.
- In 1952, the Union Government decided that all cases about the allocation of grants-in-aid from public funds to the Central Universities and other Universities and Institutions of higher learning might be referred to the University Grants Commission.
- The UGC was formally established as a statutory body in November 1956 through an Act of Parliament.

**Section 12 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 lays down the functions of the University Grants Commission. Some of the functions of UGC are as follows:**

- Inquire into the financial needs of Universities.
- Allocate and disburse out of the Fund of the Commission, such grants to institutions deemed to be Universities in pursuance of a declaration made by the
- Central Government under section, as it may deem necessary, for one or more of the following purposes, namely:-
  - for maintenance in special cases
  - for development
  - for any other general or specified purpose
  - recommend to any University the measures necessary for the improvement of University education and advise the University upon the action to be taken to implement such recommendation.

**What is NET?**

- It is a competitive exam conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on behalf of UGC.
- This exam is conducted twice a year, usually in June and December.
- It is used to determine the eligibility of candidates for awarding of Junior Research Fellowship, appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Phd. In Indian Universities and Colleges.

**What is the National Testing Agency (NTA)?**

- The National Testing Agency (NTA) has been established as a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.
- It is an autonomous agency under the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education of India.
- It was established in November 2017 to conduct entrance examinations and recruitment.
- NTA has been conducting UGC-NET from December 2018 onwards.

**Conclusion**

- The cancellation of UGC-NET has affected more than 9 Lakh candidates. It is to be noted that this year, around 9,08,580 candidates appeared for this exam at 1,205 centers across 317 cities, nearly twice the 4,62,144 who appeared for the exam in June last year, across 181 cities.

## 4 Mifepriston Case and Ruling of US Court: Resurfacing the abortion debate in the US.

In a unanimous ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a petition by anti-abortion groups seeking to overturn the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of the abortion pill mifepristone, preserving access to the commonly used drug for now.

### Key facts regarding the use and safety of mifepristone drug for medical abortion-

- Mifepristone is one component of a two-drug regimen used for medical abortion.
- The process involves taking mifepristone first, which initiates the abortion, followed by misoprostol to expel the contents of the uterus.
- Mifepristone works by blocking the hormone progesterone, which is necessary for sustaining a pregnancy and regulating menstruation.
- Misoprostol causes uterine contractions, leading to the expulsion of the pregnancy, like a miscarriage.
- The FDA approved this two-drug regimen for use up to 10 weeks of pregnancy in the year 2000.
- Since its approval, over six million individuals in the U.S. have used mifepristone for abortion.
- Approximately two-thirds of all abortions performed in the U.S. currently involve the use of mifepristone.
- Extensive research has demonstrated the safety of mifepristone, with serious complications being rare occurrences.

### US Supreme Court's Recent Ruling-

- The U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous decision regarding rejection of the challenge to the FDA's approval of mifepristone was centered on the issue of legal standing.
- The court ruled that the anti-abortion plaintiffs lacked the required direct stake in the case.
- However, the decision leaves open the possibility of future attempts to restrict the drug's availability, reflecting the ongoing legal battles surrounding abortion rights in the post-Roe v. Wade landscape.

## 5 Delhi Water dispute with Haryana.

Recently due to severe water shortage plaguing Delhi amid severe heatwaves in North India, the Delhi government has sought the intervention of Supreme Court to get the required relief. The Delhi Government has approached the SC seeking urgent directions to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh for releasing more water into the National Capital Territory (NCT) region.

### NCT of Delhi vs State of Haryana & Ors.

- The Delhi government's petition to the SC outlines the urgent need for increased water supply to address the severe crisis gripping the National Capital Territory (NCT) amid soaring temperatures.
- It highlights Himachal Pradesh's willingness to share surplus water with Delhi, necessitating cooperation from Haryana to facilitate its passage through existing water channels to reach the capital via the Wazirabad barrage.
- Despite repeated requests to Haryana for cooperation in releasing the surplus water, there has been a lack of positive response, exacerbating the water scarcity crisis in Delhi.
- The Delhi government emphasizes that its plea for additional water supply serves as a temporary measure until the onset of the monsoon season, aiming to alleviate the crisis's immediate impact.

### Constitutional provisions related to water disputes in interstate

- Article 262 of the Constitution- It deals with adjudication of disputes relating to waters of interstate rivers or river valleys.
- Article 262(1)- It grants Parliament the authority to enact legislation for resolving disputes or grievances concerning the utilization, allocation, or regulation of transboundary waters within a river or river valley.

- Article 262(2)- It empowers Parliament to enact laws that may restrict the jurisdiction of the SC, or any other court concerning disputes or appeals mentioned in Article 262(1).

### Conclusion

- The Delhi government's plea urges SC intervention due to severe water shortages exacerbated by high temperatures. It seeks urgent directives to be given to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to release additional water to the National Capital Territory (NCT) region. Despite administrative efforts, the crisis persists, necessitating immediate action to address the escalating demand.

## 6 Lok Sabha Speaker row in 18th Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha speaker for the 18th Lok Sabha is set to be elected on 26th June 2024. Unlike in the previous two PM Modi-led governments in which the BJP enjoyed an outright majority, the third union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi relies on its allies. While TDP leaders have said the candidate must be jointly decided by NDA partners, JD(U) leader KC Tyagi has indicated that the party might as well support the candidate nominated by the BJP. There have been numerous speculations regarding who will be the speaker. However, before that, it is essential to understand the importance of this post.

### Constitutional powers and mandate of the speaker

- Article 93 of the Indian Constitution- It mandates the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker soon after the commencement of the House.
- The Speaker, chosen by a simple majority, serves until the House's dissolution unless resignation or removal occurs prior.
- Article 94- It provides a mechanism for motion of no-confidence against the Speaker, ensuring accountability.
- The Speaker's position, while open to any member, entails distinct constitutional functions and privileges, from presiding over the House to addressing member disqualifications.
- The Speaker's tenure extends until the House's dissolution, unless resignation or removal intervenes, providing stability and continuity in the House's leadership.

### Powers of Speaker

- The Speaker wields considerable authority in regulating House proceedings, ensuring adherence to rules and procedures.
- By consulting with the Leader of the House, the Speaker controls the flow of discussions, granting permission for member queries and debates.
- The Speaker determines the admissibility of questions raised by members during House proceedings., it decides on the publication of House proceedings and retains the power to expunge unparliamentary remarks, safeguarding decorum.
- The Speaker acts as the gatekeeper, ensuring that questions adhere to parliamentary norms and relevance to the business at hand.
- The Speaker's role in voting procedures is central to the legislative process, as it determines the outcome of crucial decisions taken by the House.

- The Speaker's casting vote serves as a tiebreaker in situations of parity, underscoring the importance of impartiality and judicious decision-making in the exercise of this authority.
- Speaker also plays a pivotal role in the implementation of anti-defection laws.
- Under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, the Speaker possesses the authority to adjudicate defection cases, a power upheld by the Supreme Court in the *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu* (1993).

## 7 Special Category Status: A refuelling Demand

- Bihar's Chief Minister has once again underscored the state's longstanding demand for special category status (SCS) for the state, a designation that promises increased financial support from the central government. The SCS offers special support such as increased central funding and tax benefits to uplift disadvantaged regions of the state.
- Special Category Status and Historical Precedents
  - SCS was conceived in 1969 on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission. It represents a mechanism aimed at bolstering states grappling with geographic, social, or economic disadvantages.
  - SCS is a classification given by the Centre to assist the development of states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.
- Through preferential treatment in terms of central funding and tax concessions, the designation seeks to uplift these regions and bridge the gap with their more developed counterparts.
  - The criteria for eligibility encompass factor
  - Hilly Terrain;
  - Low Population Density and/or Sizeable Share of Tribal Population;
  - Strategic Location along Borders with Neighboring Countries;
  - Economic and Infrastructure Backwardness; and
  - Nonviable Nature of State Finances.
- Article 275 of the Indian Constitution 1950 empowers the central government to offer supplementary financial assistance to any state, bypassing the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

### Benefits of Special Category Status

- In the past, SCS states used to receive approximately 30% of central assistance, determined by the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula.
- The recommendations of the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions (FC) and the dissolution of the Planning Commission, this assistance to the SCS States has been subsumed in an increased devolution of the divisible pool funds for all States (increased to 41% in the 15th FC from 32%).
- The Centre pays 90% of the funds required in a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to SCS states as against 60% or 75% in the case of other states, while the state governments provide the remaining funds.
- Unspent money in a financial year does not lapse and is carried forward.
- Significant concessions are provided to these states in excise and customs duties, income tax, and corporate tax.

## 8 Madhya Pradesh judgement invalidating the presence of Special Marriage Act, 1954.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court, which declared the marriage between a Hindu girl and a Muslim boy invalid even under the SMA, 1954 has been strongly criticized by legal experts and advocates for its regressive nature.

This judgment represents a step backwards in societal progress and overlooks the fundamental purpose of the SMA. The SMA was specifically enacted to offer a legal framework for individuals who decide to marry someone from a different religious or belief background.

### Background of the case

- In the present case, the Judge of MP HC refused to protect an interfaith couple seeking to register their marriage under the SMA. The judge's reasoning was based on the interpretation of Islamic personal law.
- Although SMA is designed to apply to couples irrespective of their religious backgrounds. However, the judge in this case challenges this inclusivity, particularly in cases involving interfaith marriages like that of a Hindu and a Muslim.
- It is to be noted that interfaith marriages, including those between Hindus and Muslims, solemnized under the SMA have previously been recognized and accepted by courts across the country.
- This recent judgement only introduces a new perspective that challenges the settled position of law.

### What is the Special Marriage Act, of 1954?

- Special Marriage Act, 1954 was designed to oversee civil marriages between Indian nationals, both within the country and abroad, regardless of their religious backgrounds.
- The SMA applies uniformly across all Indian states and to Indian nationals residing in other countries. It allows any two individuals, regardless of religion, to marry under its provisions. This means that even individuals of the same faith can choose to marry under the SMA if they prefer.
- To get married under this act, neither party must have a living spouse. Both individuals must be capable of freely and fully consenting to the marriage.
- The female partner must be at least 18 years old, and the male partner must have reached 21 years of age at the time of applying for marriage.
- Marriage cannot be solemnized if the parties fall within the prohibited degrees of relationship according to the customs of either party.

### Conclusion

The Special Marriage Act, of 1954 stands as a landmark legislation that upholds the principles of secularism, equality, and individual freedom in the realm of marriage. By providing a legal framework for inter-religious and inter-caste marriages, the Act promotes social unity and inclusivity. However, efforts are needed to raise awareness about the Act and address societal prejudices to fully realize its potential.

## 9 The European Union introduced Chat Control Legislation

The European Union (EU) proposed the 'chat control' law that aims at combating online sexual abuse. This law has sparked controversy worldwide with some countries supporting while some countries like France,

Germany, and Poland opposing the same. The countries opposed the parts of the bill that could compromise privacy, particularly the ability to scan private messages.

Tech companies and privacy advocates have also voiced strong objections, arguing that the law could undermine online privacy and potentially create avenues for government surveillance.

### **Facts regarding the EU's Chat Control Legislation**

- A new draft of the EU's 'chat control' law will be reviewed on June 30, 2024.
- The new version focuses on scanning shared photos, videos, and links, not text messages or audio.
- There's a plan to ask for user consent before scanning, but critics say it's not a real choice.
- If users don't agree to scanning, they might not be able to send or receive images, videos, or links.
- The EU has sometimes made exceptions to these kinds of rules before.
- In November 2023, the EU allowed some online services to scan messages for child abuse content.
  - This rule is ending in August and plans to extend it were stopped in February.
  - The founder of the Signal app says these changes are just for show.
- Some experts worry that if the EU does this, it could encourage less democratic countries to increase surveillance too.

### **Points of Concern**

- The EU's proposed 'chat control' law presents a complex challenge in balancing child protection with digital privacy rights.
- This law aimed at combating online child sexual abuse, legislation has sparked significant controversy due to its potential to undermine encryption and privacy.
- Key concerns regarding the law include the risk of mass surveillance, potential of governmental abuse, and the precedential value across the world.

## **10 CBIC releases draft bill to amend Central Excise Act**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on 4th June 2024 released a draft of a new Bill to amend the 80-year-old Central Excise Act.

### **The objective of the Bill-**

- The statement issued by the CBIC mentions that the bill aims to enact a detailed modern Central Excise law that will focus on promoting ease of doing business and repealing old and redundant provisions.
- The bill also aims to introduce new provisions that are needed to fit the current business and economic climate of India.

### **Details of the Bill-**

- The existing Act has 11 chapters with over 110 sections and 4 schedules. Also, after the introduction of GST, Central Excise is currently mainly levied on petroleum products.
- On the other hand, the new bill now consists of 12 chapters, 114 sections, and 2 schedules.
- The new bill is working on a consensus to bring all products including petroleum products under the ambit of GST.

**Public Consultation Process-**

- As part of the check on legislation, a feedback process is initiated for the draft bill as well. The industry interested and affected by the current bill can provide suggestions on any area of the bill to CBIC by 26th June 2024.
- The new bill will likely be introduced in the upcoming bill session and it will also be the first bill for the new Government.

# Other Useful Resources

## Monthly Legal Current Affairs eBook series

In our commitment to providing comprehensive resources for legal enthusiasts and aspirants, we proudly present the “Monthly Legal Current Affairs PDF for CLAT Aspirants.”

This monthly eBook is an indispensable tool for students preparing for the CLAT’s General Knowledge and Legal Reasoning sections. Each edition compiles the most recent legal current affairs, covering everything from constitutional amendments to landmark judgments. With insightful analyses, real-world examples, and expert commentary, this digest ensures you remain well-informed about the ever-evolving legal landscape.

By exploring these resources, you can enhance your understanding, sharpen your legal reasoning skills, and boost your success in CLAT preparation. To facilitate easy access, we have provided download links for each monthly digest eBook.

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