

A timely halt: On the Haldwani eviction issue

Supreme Court must **lay down rehabilitation norms** for **eviction** from public spaces

The Supreme Court's timely **intervention** has **halted** the **forcible** eviction of some 50,000 people from Haldwani in Uttarakhand, where the **occupants** are **accused** of **squatting** on railway property for **decades**. The Uttarakhand High Court had **taken** a tough **stand against** the residents, and passed a **slew** of directions that would have **entailed** their eviction within a week, **backed** by force, including the **deployment** of **paramilitary forces**. It is significant that the **Bench underscored** the human **angle** to the issue and spoke about the need for rehabilitation before eviction while **staying** the order. In an earlier round of **litigation** over the same land, which **adjoins** the Haldwani Railway Station, court orders had allowed **proceedings** against individual occupants under the Public **Premises** (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, to be completed. This time, too, it was on a **PIL** that the High Court had passed its orders. The High Court's detailed judgment shows that the residents' **claim** is **traceable** to a 1907 Office **Memorandum** that says the area be managed under rules **pertaining** to 'nazul land'. The court has **ruled** that it was not a government order but only a communication on how to manage the land, and it does not **amount to** declaring it as 'nazul land', that is, land that has fallen into the hands of the state by **escheat**. As one of the nazul rules is that there cannot be sale or **lease**, the court rejected all claims made by occupants based on **purported** documents for lease, sale, and, in some cases, purchase through **auction**.

Conflicts between occupants of public land and the state that wants to **reclaim** the land are a never-ending **saga** in the country. A shortage of housing, as well as inadequate **recognition** of the right to **shelter**, means that large **masses** of people **encroach** on **vacant** land, be it on the **bed** of water bodies or government property. This **often leads to** attempts to **evict** the occupants and **spawns** litigation. **Invariably**, there are claims to **occupancy rights** based on long years of stay at the same location. There are court judgments that **stress** rehabilitation measures and consultation with the **oustees** before eviction. Some courts have also recorded the view that mandatory rehabilitation may prove to be an **incentive** for **encroachment**. The Haldwani eviction effort has unfortunately taken **communal overtones**, and there appears to be a **clamour** for the early eviction of the Muslim residents. India does not have a good record on rehabilitation of those evicted from public spaces, and this case presents an opportunity to the Supreme Court to lay down the law on meaningful rehabilitation as well as effective prevention of encroachments. [Practice Exercise]

- **Claim** (noun) – Assertion, statement, accusation, declaration, allegation, contention दावा
- **Nazul Land** (noun) – the type of Government land used for nonagricultural purpose such as building, road, market, playground or any other public purpose or the nazul land which has potential for such use in future including such lands granted on long or short term lease or on no compensation agreement.

Vocabulary

1. **Halt** (noun) – Stop, stoppage, standstill, suspension, break विराम/ठहराव
2. **Eviction** (noun) – Removal, expulsion, kicking out बेदखली, निष्कासन
3. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) – formulate, stipulate, set down, draw up, frame निर्धारित करना
4. **Rehabilitation** (noun) – The action of restoring something that has been damaged to its former condition. पुनर्वास, पुनर्वासन
5. **Norm** (noun) – standard, rule, criterion, yardstick मानदंड
6. **Intervention** (noun) – involvement, intercession, interceding, interposing हस्तक्षेप
7. **Halt** (verb) – stop, pause, terminate, come to an end रोकना
8. **Forcible** (adjective) – done by force. जबरन
9. **Occupant** (noun) – Inhabitant, tenant, dweller, resident, resident निवासी/ रहने वाला
10. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – charge with, indict for, arraign for, take to court for दोष लगाना
11. **Squat** (verb) – to go and live in an empty building without permission from the owner कब्जा करना
12. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years दशक
13. **Take a stand against** (phrase) – To express one's opposition to or disagreement with something के खिलाफ सख्त रुख अपनाना
14. **Slew** (of) (noun) – a large amount or number कई
15. **Entail** (verb) – involve, necessitate, require, demand शामिल होना
16. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, sanction, approve of समर्थन करना
17. **Deployment** (noun) – placement, deploy, stationing, distribution, disposition तैनाती
18. **Paramilitary force** (noun) – It includes CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF etc.
19. **Bench** (noun) – The judge or judges composing a court न्यायपीठ
20. **Underscore** (verb) – emphasize, underline, stress, highlight, accentuate जोर देना
21. **Angle** (noun) – viewpoint, perspective, point of view, outlook दृष्टिकोण
22. **Stay** (verb) – a suspension or postponement of judicial proceedings रोक लगाना
23. **Litigation** (noun) – legal proceeding, trial, hearing, lawsuit, legal case, case मुकदमेबाज़ी

24. **Adjoin** (verb) – Connect, attach, be next to, be close to से सटी होना
25. **Proceedings** (noun) – course of action, action, step, measure, move कार्यवाही
26. **Premise** (noun) – property, buildings, building, place, site परिसर
27. **PIL** (noun) – Public interest litigation is defined as a legal action brought in a court of law for the enforcement of a public interest in which the general public or a class of the community has some interest and which could have an effect on their legal rights or responsibilities
28. **Traceable** (adjective) – able to be found or discovered. पता लगाने योग्य
29. **Memorandum** (noun) – a written record, message, or reminder ज्ञापन
30. **Pertain** (to) (verb) – be relevant to , relate से संबंधित होना
31. **Rule** (verb) – decree, order, direct, pronounce, make a judgement निर्णय करना, फैसला सुनाना
32. **Amount** (to) (verb) – be equivalent to के बराबर होना
33. **Escheat** (noun) – the right of a government to take ownership of estate assets or unclaimed property in the event there are no heirs or beneficiaries
34. **Lease** (noun) –a legal agreement that allows you to use a building or land for a fixed period of time in return for rent पट्टा
35. **Purported** (adjective) – supposed, alleged, ostensible, so-called कथित
36. **Auction** (noun) – a public sale in which goods or property are sold to the person who offers the most money नीलामी
37. **Conflict** (noun) –clash, dispute, tension, quarrel संघर्ष
38. **Reclaim** (verb) – Regain, Retrieve, Recover पुनः प्राप्त करना
39. **Saga** (noun) – chain of events, story, rigmarole कथा/ गाथा
40. **Recognition** (noun) – acknowledgement, acceptance, admission, conceding मान्यता
41. **Right to shelter** (noun) – Right to shelter, therefore, includes adequate living space, safe and decent structure, clean and decent surroundings, sufficient light, pure air and water, electricity, sanitation and other civic amenities like roads etc. so as to have easy access to his daily avocation.
42. **Mass** (noun) – a large amount or number of something बड़ी संख्या में
43. **Encroach** (verb) – to intrude upon, impinge, infringe, invade, trespass अतिक्रमण करना

44. **Vacant** (adjective) – empty, unoccupied, unfilled, free, available, untaken खाली
45. **Bed** (noun) – the ground at the bottom of the sea, a river, or a lake. तल, नदीतल
46. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, in many instances, repeatedly, again and again अक्सर
47. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, give rise to, result in, bring about वजह बनना
48. **Evict** (verb) – Expel. Remove, force to leave, kick out बेदखल करना
49. **Spawn** (verb) – engender, generate, initiate, produce जन्म देना
50. **Invariably** (adverb) – always, regularly, every time, in every case हमेशा/ अनिवार्य रूप से
51. **Occupancy rights** (noun) – someone has the right to live in a home after a spouse's death, and nobody except the occupant has the ability to terminate the agreement.
52. **Stress** (verb) – emphasize, strain, pressure, highlight, underline ज़ोर देना
53. **Oustees** (noun) – A person who is ousted, especially one who is removed from his place of residence or land to make room for an infrastructure improvement or public works project. व्यक्ति जिसे बाहर कर दिया गया है (निवास या भूमि)
54. **Incentive** (noun) – Inducement, enticement, spur, reason, lure प्रोत्साहन, प्रलोभन
55. **Encroachment** (noun) – Infringement, intrusion, invasion, impingement अतिक्रमण
56. **Communal** (adjective) – collective, cooperative, community सांप्रदायिक
57. **Overtone** (noun) – a quality, attitude, or emotion that is suggested in addition to what is stated रंग (सांप्रदायिक)
58. **Clamour** (noun) –demand, request, appeal मांग

Practice Exercise

Direction: (1-5): In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number. [Editorial page]

The shooting down of a Chinese drone by Taiwan's military on September 1 has marked a new phase in the already _____1_____ tensions across the Taiwan Strait, highlighting the growing risks of escalation, even if unintended. Over recent weeks, China's military has carried out _____2_____ military drills surrounding Taiwan, following the visit last month of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Some manoeuvres crossed the median of the Taiwan Strait and were declared by China's military to have also _____3_____ place in territorial waters claimed by Taiwan. Taiwan _____4_____ chose not to engage the PLA vessels. In the wake of the drills, the Chinese military has subsequently sought to continue asserting Beijing's territorial claims by sending drones into Taiwan's airspace. Photographs taken up close of Taiwan military personnel were subsequently shared on social media, apparently to demonstrate Beijing's capabilities, but in the process raising pressure on Taipei to show a response. Taiwan's military said it took the decision to shoot down what it called an unidentified civilian drone over its airspace in Shiyu Island after delivering several warnings. Shooting down a military drone may have elicited a different response from China, which has so far played _____5_____ the incident.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. A. Overdue | B. Complicated | C. Societal | D. Simmering |
| 2. A. Unprecedented | B. Landmark | C. Reparative | D. Variability |
| 3. A. Take | B. Taking | C. Taken | D. Takes |
| 4. A. Often | B. Highlight | C. Drastically | D. Soberly |
| 5. A. Out | B. Down | C. Of | D. Into |

Directions (Q6): In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

6. A. Encroachment
B. Encroachment
C. Incroachment
D. Incrochement

Directions (Q7): In the following questions, the passage/sentence is split into five parts and named P, Q, R, S and T. These five parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentence/passage and find out which of the five combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer.

7. P. We grew together; that is probably why I never found out just how tall he was.
Q. He seemed to remain that high for nearly two years.
R. KARI, the elephant, was five months old when he was given to me to take care of.
S. He lived in a pavilion, under a thatched roof which rested on thick tree stumps so that it could not fall in when Kari bumped against the poles as he moved about.
T. I was nine years old and I could reach his back if I stood on tiptoe.

A.PQRST

B.RTQPS

C.RSPTQ

D. RQPTS

Directions (Q8-Q9): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

8. He wasn't given the information he needed.
- A. Somebody was not given the information he needed.
 - B. The information he need wasn't given to him.
 - C. He needed the information he wasn't given.
 - D. They didn't give him the information he needed.
9. Bipin was not told about the meeting.
- A. Somebody did not tell Bipin about the meeting.
 - B. There was nobody who could tell Bipin about the meeting.
 - C. Nobody told Bipin about the meeting.
 - D. The Meeting was not told about to Bipin.

Directions (Q10-Q11): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.

10. I told her, "It was raining last night when you left".
- A. I told her that it had been raining the previous night when she had left.
 - B. I told her that it has raining last night when she left.
 - C. I told her that it has been raining the night before when she left.
 - D. I told her that it had been raining last night when she had left.
11. He said, "I shall try to bring you the books tomorrow".
- A. He said that he should try to bring me the books the next day.
 - B. He said that he would try to bring me the books the next day.
 - C. He said that he would try to bring me the books tomorrow.
 - D. He said that he should try to bring me the books tomorrow.

Directions (Q12-Q13): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

12. A negotiation between enemies
- A. Zealot
 - B. Parley
 - C. Orthography
 - D. Truism
13. Done or happening in the night
- A. Nocturnal
 - B. Consternation
 - C. Temporal
 - D. Metalloid

Directions (Q14-Q15): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

14. Herculean task
- A. to do nothing and hope that a problem will disappear

- B. a situation in which someone does not have a good or fair chance of winning, succeeding, etc
- C. To continue doing what is being done
- D. Challenging task

15. **Level playing field**

- A. Arrest someone for a crime and ensure that they are tried in court.
- B. A situation in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding
- C. Declare that one is not connected with or a supporter of someone
- D. to work together with someone

Directions (Q16-Q17): choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

16. **HALT**

- A. Broach
- B. Coalesce
- C. Amorphous
- D. Start

17. **VACANT**

- A. Esoteric
- B. Occupied
- C. Morose
- D. Mollify

Direction: (Q18-Q19): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

18. **EVICT**

- A. Expel
- B. Daunt
- C. Circumscribe
- D. Fastidious

19. **CALMOUR**

- A. Abysmal
- B. Proletariat
- C. Demand
- D. Cynic

Directions (Q20): In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined. Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct

20. RBI is in favour of amending currently policies governing operations of foreign banks in India.
- A. Amend currently policies
 - B. Amending currently policies
 - C. Amending current policies
 - D. Amend current policies

Directions (Q21-Q25): Find out the error, if any –

21. We swam up to the drowning man, (A)/ caught hold of his clothes (B)/ before he could go down again (C)/ and pulled him out safe to the shore. (D)
22. If I was knowing (A)/why he was absent, (B)/ I would have(C)/ informed you. (D)
23. Meena was so tired (A)/ that she could not hardly (B)/ talk to the guests for (C)/ a few minutes. (D)
24. He (A)/ goes (B)/ to office (C)/ by foot. (D)
25. The hundred-rupees notes (A)/ that he gave them for the goods bought from them looked genuine (B)/ but later they reliably (C)/ learnt that the notes were all counterfeit(D)

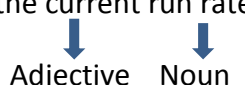
Answers

1. D 2. A 3. C 4. D 5. B 6. D 7. B 8. D 9. C 10.A 11. B 12.B
 13. A 14. D 15. B 16. D 17. B 18. A 19. C 20. C 21. D 22. A 23. B 24. D
 25. A

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

- Simmering** (adjective) – boiling, stewing, burning उबलते
 - **Overdue** (adjective) – late, delayed, delinquent, belated, unpaid विलंबित
 - **Complicated** (adjective) – complex, difficult, intricate, involved, hard जटिल
 - **Societal** (adjective) – social, society, communal, community, public सामाजिक
- Unprecedented** (adjective) – unparalleled, novel, singular, unusual, exceptional अभूतपूर्व
 - **Landmark** (adjective) – Significant, Historic, Pioneering, Radical, Groundbreaking, ऐतिहासिक
 - **Reparative** (adjective) – remedial, restorative, curative, reparatory, amendatory
 - **Variability** (noun) – unevenness, volatility, instability, variance, variation परिवर्तनशीलता
- Take place** (phrase) – happen, occur, transpire, come to pass घटित होना
- Soberly** (adverb) – coolly; calmly; gravely; seriously. संयम से
 - **Often** (adverb) – frequently, much, many times, repeatedly, usually अक्सर
 - **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, stress, underline प्रमुखता से दिखाना
 - **Drastically** (adverb) – dramatically, radically, extremely, significantly, greatly काफी
- Play down** (phrasal verb) – Understate the importance or quality of; minimize, downplay, belittle, diminish, trivialize कम करके दिखाना
- Encroachment** (noun) – Infringement, intrusion, invasion, impingement अतिक्रमण
- RTQPS**
 KARI, the elephant, was five months old when he was given to me to take care of. I was nine years old and I could reach his back if I stood on tiptoe. He seemed to remain that high for nearly two years. We grew together; that is probably why I never found out just how tall he was. He lived in a pavilion, under a thatched roof which rested on thick tree stumps so that it could not fall in when Kari bumped against the poles as he moved about.
- Parley** – A negotiation between enemies परस्पर वार्तालाप
 - **Zealot** – Person who shows great and uncompromising enthusiasm for a religion, party, cause, etc अति उत्साही
 - **Orthography** – Science of correct pronunciation. वर्तनी
 - **Truism** – A truth which is often repeated स्वयंसिद्धि
- Nocturnal** – Done or happening in the night रात्रिकालीन

- **Consternation** – Fear and anxiety विस्मय
 - **Temporal** – Concerned with time or world
 - **Metalloid** – Of or being a non-metallic element that has some of the properties of metal
14. **Herculean task** – daunting task, challenging task, demanding task, arduous task, onerous task
कठिन कार्य
15. **Level playing field** – a situation in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding.
16. **Halt** (noun) – Stop, stoppage, standstill, suspension, break विराम/ठहराव
- **Broach** (verb) – To open up a subject for discussion, often a delicate subject विषय छेड़ना, चर्चा चलाना
 - **Coalesce** (verb) – To come together as one; to fuse; to unite संगठित होना
 - **Amorphous** (adjective) – Shapeless; without a regular or stable shape; blob like अनाकार, आकारहीन
17. **Vacant** (adjective) – empty, unoccupied, unfilled, free, available, untaken खाली
- **Esoteric** (adjective) – Hard to understand; understood by only a selected few; peculiar गुप्त, अजीब, गूढ़
 - **Morose** (adjective) – Gloomy; sullen उदास
 - **Mollify** (verb) – To soften; to soothe; to pacify शांत करना
18. **Evict** (verb) – Expel. Remove, force to leave, kick out बेदखल करना
- **Daunt** (verb) – To make fearful; to intimidate काबू में करना, भय दिखाना
 - **Circumscribe** (verb) – To draw a line around; to set limit; to define; to restrict प्रतिबंध लगाना, शर्त लगाना, पाबंदी लगाना
 - **Fastidious** (adjective) – Meticulous; demanding; finicky नकचढ़ा, तुनक मिजाज
19. **Clamour** (noun) – demand, request, appeal मांग
- **Abysmal** (adjective) – Extremely hopeless or wretched; bottomless अथाह, अति-गहन
 - **Proletariat** (noun) – The industrial working class सर्वहारा
 - **Cynic** (noun) – One who deeply distrust human nature; one who believes human are motivates only by selfishness. निंदक, मानवद्वेषी
20. (B) **'currently'** के बदले **'current'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि **'currently'** एक adverb है जबकि **'current'** एक adjective और noun **'policies'** की विशेषता बताने का काम adjective करेगा, न कि adverb; जैसे-
- (i) I do not know the current run rate.
- 

(ii) All the options are currently available.

21. (D) 'safe' के बदले 'safely' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'safe' एक Adjective है जिसका अर्थ है 'सुरक्षित' जबकि 'safely' एक Adverb है जिसका अर्थ है 'सुरक्षित रूप से' और Verb 'pull out' की विशेषता एक Adverb बताएगा, न कि एक Adjective; जैसे-

- i. I wished him a safe Journey.
- ii. The house was safely locked up.

(D) 'safely' will be used instead of 'safe', because 'safe' is an Adjective while 'safely' is an Adverb and The Verb 'pull out' will be characterized by an Adverb, not an Adjective; As-

- i. I wished him a safe Journey.
- ii. The house was safely locked up.

22. (A) 'was knowing' के बदले 'had known' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि past के unreal situation को व्यक्त करने के लिए सामान्यतः 'If+ Subject + had + V3....., S + would / could/might/should have + V3.' का प्रयोग होता है और प्रश्न में दिये गए वाक्य में past का unreal situation है।

(A) 'had known' will be used instead of 'was knowing', because to express an unreal situation of the past, 'If+ Subject + had + V3....., S + would / could/might/should' have + V3.' is used and the sentence given in the question there is an unreal situation of the past.

23. (B) 'not' या 'hardly' में से किसी एक का ही प्रयोग कर वाक्य को Negative बनाया जाता है क्योंकि 'not' का अर्थ है 'नहीं' और 'hardly' का अर्थ है 'न के बराबर' जैसे-

- i. He will not do it.
- ii. He will hardly do it.

(B) Using only one of 'not' or 'hardly' the sentence is made negative because 'not' means 'not' and 'hardly' means 'negligible' like-

- i. He will not do it.
- ii. He will hardly do it.

24. (D) 'by foot' के बदले 'on foot' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'on foot' idiomatic use है जिसका अर्थ है 'walking' अर्थात् 'पैदल, टहलते हुए'; जैसे-

- i. Are you going by bicycle or on foot ?

(D) 'on foot' will be used instead of 'by foot' because 'on foot' is idiomatic use which means 'walking' ; As-

Are you going by bicycle or on foot ?

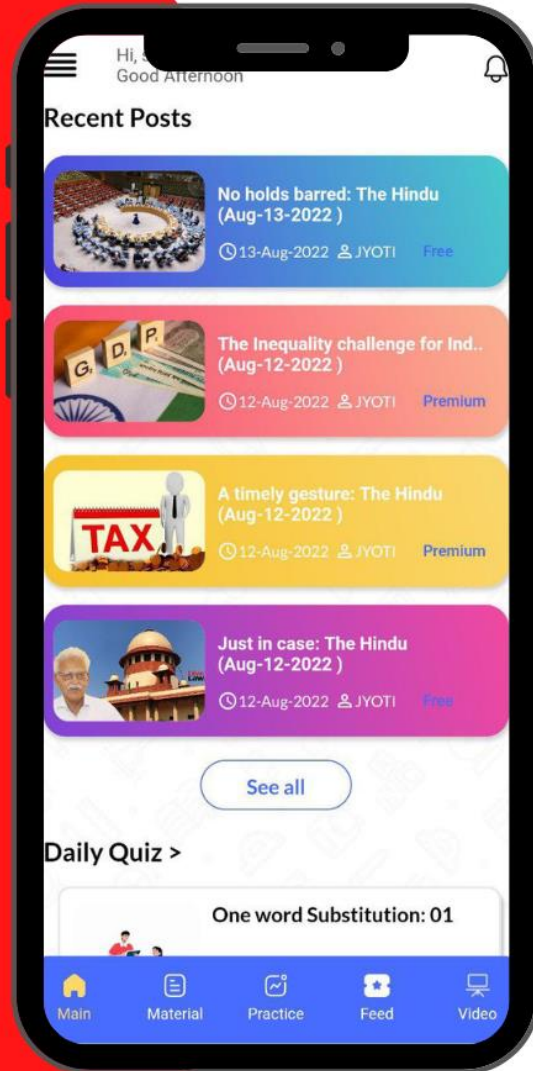
25. (A) 'hundred - rupees' के बदले 'hundred-rupee' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि किसी Numeral Adjective तथा Noun का प्रयोग एक Adjective की तरह हो तो इस Noun का Plural नहीं बनता है; जैसे-

- i. I have bought a three-room flat.

- ii. A five-man committee will look into the matter.
- iii. He gave me some five hundred-rupee notes.

(A) 'hundred-rupee' will be used instead of 'hundred - rupees' because if a Numeral Adjective and Noun is used as an Adjective then Plural of this Noun is not formed; As-

- i. I have bought a three-room flat.
- ii. A five-man committee will look into the matter.
- iii. He gave me some five hundred-rupee notes



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