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## Article For Reading –

### Permissive no more: on places of worship and the Supreme Court's interim order

The Supreme Court's interim order halting the registration of fresh suits across the country regarding disputes of places of worship is a **welcome departure** from the **permissive** approach of the judiciary in recent times towards such motivated **litigation**. A Division Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, has done well to stop the flow of litigation and interim orders, including those that allow 'surveys' of such sites and structures, while it deals with the challenges to the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The order signifies a deep understanding that this is not about a set of civil disputes but the future of the country's secular character. It is **amply** clear to right-thinking citizens that the law, which freezes the religious character of all places of worship in the country as they were on the day of Independence, would want this legislation to remain on the **statute** book as a **bulwark** against elements that want to **perpetuate** the religious divide caused by such disputes. It is unfortunate, and even condemnable, that courts of law have failed to block these suits at a **nascent** stage by invoking the bar under this law.

Instead, they have been allowing applications for surveys, either disregarding the Act and the Court's **endorsement** of its necessity in past judgments or ruling that the statutory bar does not apply to them.

In the name of reclaiming religious sites lost to invaders, several groups and purported devotees have been moving civil courts and obtaining questionable orders for surveying mosques for evidence that they may have been built on the ruins of destroyed temples. The success of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement was largely due to the political patronage enjoyed by its spearheads, and a final verdict from the Court, which handed over the disputed land to the Hindu litigants while condemning the demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque in December 1992. That the vandals involved in the demolition were **acquitted**, without any further appeal, added to the triumphalism that marks this movement for altering the status of mosques. This has given rise to further claims in Varanasi, Mathura, and, more recently, Sambhal, among other places that house mosques dating back to the 16th century. A notable feature of this permissive judicial attitude is the complete absence of any understanding of the history of the temple movement that was largely political in character. That judges could entertain obviously **baleful and ill-motivated cases** is a great cause of concern for those rightfully invested in the secular nature of the country.

The criminal imprint on the nation's fabric left by political movements in a religious **garb** should not be forgotten.

### Summary-

The Supreme Court has halted new suits regarding disputes over places of worship, emphasizing the importance of preserving the secular fabric of the country. This order, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, seeks to prevent misuse of the judiciary for politically and religiously motivated litigation. The Places of Worship Act, 1991, which preserves the status of religious sites as of Independence, has often been disregarded by courts allowing questionable surveys and suits, especially targeting mosques. The rise in such disputes, fueled by the success of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and judicial permissiveness, threatens to deepen religious divides and undermine secularism.

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# Vocabulary –

## 1. Permissive (adj) अनुमतिप्रद

Meaning= allowing or characterized by great or excessive freedom of behaviour.

Synonym: Lenient, liberal

Antonym: Restrictive, strict

Example: The permissive parenting style often results in children who are self-reliant but sometimes lack discipline.

## 2. Statute (noun) कानून

Meaning - a written law passed by a legislative body ()

Synonym: Legislation, act

Antonym: Repeal, annulment

Example: The new statute made it illegal to use mobile phones while driving.

## 3. Perpetuate (verb) बनाए रखना

Meaning = make (something, typically an undesirable situation or an unfounded belief) continue indefinitely (

Synonym: Sustain, maintain

Antonym: End, abolish

Example: The film helped to perpetuate the myth of the happy, suburban family.

#### 4. Nascent (adj) उदीयमान

Meaning= just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential .

Synonym: Emerging, budding

Antonym: Dying, waning

Sentence: The country's nascent economy shows promise of significant growth.

#### 5. Acquitted (verb) दोषमुक्त करना

free (someone) from a criminal charge by a<sup>4.</sup> verdict of not guilty

Synonym: Exonerate, absolve

Antonym: Convict, condemn

Example: She was acquitted of all charges at the trial.

#### 6. Baleful (adj) हानिकर

Meaning = threatening harm; menacing ()

Synonym: Malevolent, sinister

Antonym: Benevolent, benign

Example: He gave a baleful look that made everyone step back.

## 7. Litigation (Noun) मुकदमा or विवाद का न्यायालय में निपटारा.

**Meaning** - The process of taking a dispute or case to a court of law for resolution

**Synonyms** – Prosecution, Lawsuit, Judicial proceeding.

**Antonyms** – Agreement, Arbitration, Reconciliation.

**Example** – The company decided to avoid litigation by settling the dispute out of court.

## 8. Endorsement (Noun) समर्थन, अनुमोदन, or स्वीकृति.

**Meaning** - an act of giving public approval or support to someone or something. It can also refer to a statement or action that shows you approve or recommend a person, product, or idea.

**Synonyms**- Approval, Support, Advocacy, Validation.

**Antonyms** – Disapproval, Condemnation, Refutation

**Example** – The teacher's endorsement of his project gave him the confidence to present it to the class.

## 9. Garb (Noun ) वस्त्र" or "परिधान

**Meaning**- "Garb" refers to clothing, attire, or a particular style of dress, especially one that is distinctive or characteristic of a certain group, profession, or period.

**Synonyms** – Attire, Clothing, Apparel.

**Antonyms** – Nakedness, Bareness, Undress.

**Example** – She wore her finest garb for the wedding, a beautiful silk gown.

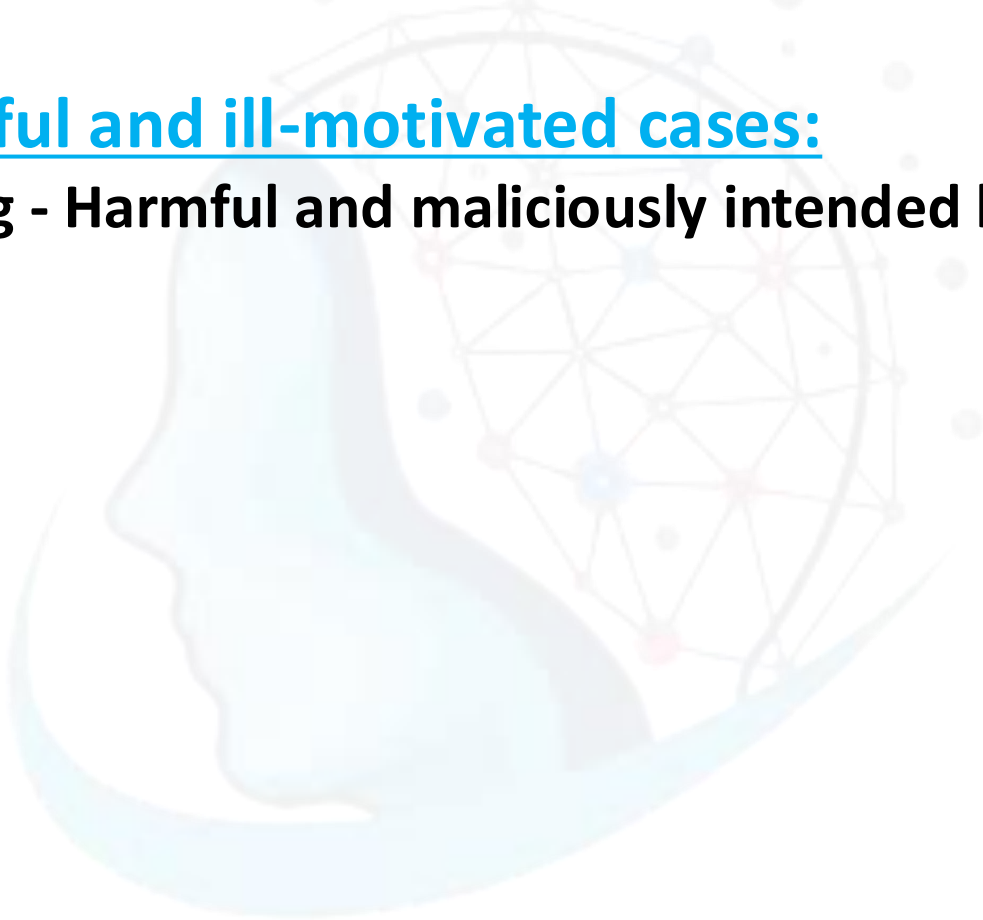
# Idioms & Phrases

## 1. A welcome departure:

**Meaning - A positive change or shift from a previously established pattern or behavior.**

## 2. Baleful and ill-motivated cases:

**Meaning - Harmful and maliciously intended legal actions.**



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