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Important words used in editorial

Preventive Detention : **Detention to prevent future offences**;
preventive custody, precautionary detention,
pre-emptive confinement, protective custody

Misused : **Used wrongly; abused, exploited, misapplied,**
mishandled

Avert

→ Imp

: **Prevent; avoid, forestall, ward off, thwart**

→ STOP
→ Thinder

Apprehensive

: **Fearful or anxious; concerned, uneasy,**
worried, nervous

Substantive : Significant and meaningful; substantial,

considerable, material, meaningful

Incarcerate : Imprison; jail, confine, detain, lock up

Deprivation: Taking away; denial, loss, removal, withdrawal

Liberty : Freedom; independence, autonomy, rights, freedom

Petty : Trivial; minor, insignificant, small, slight

Imp

Commendable : Worthy of praise; laudable, admirable,
praiseworthy, meritorious

Justify : Provide valid reasons; defend, validate,
explain, substantiate

Constitutional : Related to the Constitution; legal, lawful,
statutory, juridical

Unlawful : Illegal; illicit, unauthorized, prohibited,
criminal

- Scrutiny** : Careful examination; inspection, review, investigation, analysis
- Prohibitively** : Excessively; exorbitantly, unreasonably, extremely, overly
- Dissent** : Disagreement with authority; opposition, protest, resistance, objection
- Impinge on** : Affect negatively; encroach upon, infringe upon, interfere with, affect

Reluctant : Unwilling; hesitant, resistant, disinclined,
unenthusiastic

Penalise : Punish; sanction, fine, discipline, punish

Reform : Improve a system; revamp, restructure, overhaul,

amend $\Rightarrow$ correct

Important idioms and phrases used in the editorial

Snap at the heels of : **Closely challenge or pressure**

Valid grounds : **Legitimate reasons**

Maintain peace with peace : **Preserve order through peaceful means**

In the name of order : **Using public order as a justification**

Peace with peace: On preventive detentions Preventive detentions are misused by the state in the name of order. In Chander Pal Singh, a matter involving preventive proceedings, the Allahabad High Court has simultaneously addressed a part of the criminal justice system that often receives less attention than ordinary criminal proceedings and the more overbearing reality of mechanisms designed to avert disturbances having gradually become instruments to deprive people of liberty. The state has the power to intervene before a crime occurs if it is reasonably apprehensive that a person is a threat to public order.

However, it has acquired a habit of exercising that power routinely, resulting in detentions without any substantive criminal charge. The High Court's order was based, the Bench said, on a "highly irresponsible" deprivation of personal liberties in Uttar Pradesh, where police officers and executive magistrates were using preventive powers to incarcerate individuals on the basis of arguably minor apprehensions. In Chander Pal Singh as well, the petitioner, a physically challenged Dalit advocate, had been arrested over a petty dispute with a neighbour.

The Bench said that between May 2025 and April 2026, around 2,500 people were reportedly subjected to preventive detention proceedings in Ghaziabad, despite a 2021 State policy to guide the exercise of such powers. The guidelines in response are commendable; if implemented appropriately, they could reduce the use of preventive incarceration in neighbourhood and property disputes; require executive magistrates to justify their decisions; encourage constitutional challenges to unlawful preventive detention; and generate appellate scrutiny of the compensation framework.

They may also snap at the heels of magistrates who cite unspecified "communal tensions" to jail protesters and who impose prohibitively unaffordable bonds for release. Further, even if the ruling does not directly impinge on the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk under the NSA, it critiques the idea of using the excuse of maintaining peace to silence dissent and reminds the state that it still has a responsibility to maintain peace with peace.

The ruling may also apply to workers and activists recently detained in New Delhi if held under Sections 126 or 170 of the BNSS without valid grounds. That said, implementing the ruling will be difficult. The Bench said that compensation for unlawful detention can be recovered from the salary of the magistrate concerned and/or police officer following a disciplinary hearing. However, the executive has been historically reluctant to penalise its personnel. Second, executive magistrates are part of the State administration and their careers may depend on maintaining 'peace' as the State defines it. Addressing these barriers could reform preventive proceedings in India.

1. What is the central concern of the editorial?

- A. Preventive detention is essential for maintaining national security
- B. Preventive detention is increasingly being misused to curb civil liberties
- C. Courts have no authority over executive magistrates
- D. Police reforms have been successfully implemented in Uttar Pradesh

2. According to the editorial, why is preventive detention considered problematic in practice?

- A. It is only used in terrorism-related cases
- B. It is often applied without substantive criminal charges
- C. It requires approval from the judiciary in every case
- D. It is rarely used by executive magistrates

3. The tone of the editorial can best be described as:

- A. ~~Neutral and descriptive~~
- B. ~~Appreciative of state action~~
- C. **Critical and reform-oriented**
- D. ~~Humorous and sarcastic~~

4. The **High Court's intervention** in the case **primarily indicates that:**

- A. Executive ~~action in~~ preventive detention is ~~completely immune from~~ review
- B. Judiciary is concerned about **arbitrary** use of preventive powers *random*
- C. Police ~~reforms~~ have eliminated misuse of ~~detention powers~~
- D. ~~Preventive~~ detention laws are no longer valid ~~in India~~

5. If the guidelines mentioned in the passage are properly implemented, which outcome is most likely?

- A. Increase in preventive detention cases for serious crimes
- B. Reduction in arbitrary detentions in minor disputes
- C. Complete removal of executive magistrates' powers
- D. Transfer of all detention powers to police officers only

H.W

ENGLISH BY PRESHIKA TONGAR



Study with Preshika Ma'am



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