



31 May, 2024

Statutory Bail

Context: Delhi High Court granted statutory bail student activist Sharjeel Imam in connection with a 2020 communal riots case that included allegations of sedition.

Concept of Statutory Bail

- **Definition:** Statutory bail is a right to bail that arises when the police fail to complete their investigation within a specified period for a person in judicial custody.
- **Legal Basis:**
 - Enshrined in Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
 - If police cannot complete an investigation within 24 hours, they must produce the suspect in court and seek orders for either police or judicial custody.
- **Custody Duration:**
 - Specifies the total period a person can be remanded in custody before filing of the charge sheet.
 - For most offences, the investigation must be completed and a final report filed within 60 days.
 - For offences attracting death sentence, life imprisonment, or a jail term of not less than 10 years, the period is extended to 90 days.
 - A magistrate cannot authorize judicial remand beyond the 60 or 90-day limit.
 - At the end of this period, if the investigation is incomplete, the court must release the person on bail if they furnish it.

Variation for Special Laws

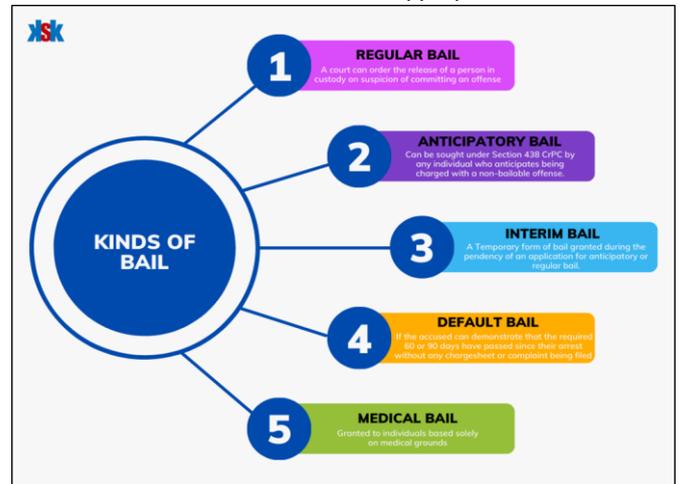
- **General Penal Law:** The 60 or 90-day limit applies to ordinary penal law.
- **Special Enactments:** Certain laws provide more time for police to complete the investigation.
 - **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act:**
 - The period is 180 days.
 - For commercial quantities, the period may extend up to one year.
 - Extension beyond 180 days requires a report by the Public Prosecutor indicating investigation progress and reasons for continued detention.
 - **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act:**
 - The default limit is 90 days.
 - An extension of another 90 days can be granted with a report by the Public Prosecutor showing investigation progress and reasons for further custody.
 - Extensions under these acts are not automatic and require a judicial order.

Principles of Statutory Bail

- **Right to Bail:**
 - Statutory bail is a right, irrespective of the crime's nature.
 - The period for filing the charge sheet starts from the first remand and includes both police and judicial custody days but not house-arrest days.
- **Claiming the Right:**
 - The right to statutory bail must be claimed by the person in custody.
 - No automatic bail is granted if there is no application under Section 167(2), even if the charge sheet is not filed within the stipulated period.

➤ Indefeasible Right:

- The right to bail due to the investigation agency's default is considered an 'indefeasible right'.
- It must be availed of at the appropriate time.



DoT allots separate numbering series

Context: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has introduced a new numbering series, 160xxxxxxx, for making service and transactional calls.

➤ Background

- The 140xxxxxxx series is currently allocated to telemarketers for promotional/service/transactional voice calls.
- Consumers often ignore 140xx series calls, resulting in missed important service/transactional calls.
- Genuine entities have resorted to using regular 10-digit numbers for service/transactional calls.
- Fraudsters exploit 10-digit numbers to deceive consumers.

➤ Need for a New Series

- A separate numbering series is needed to help consumers distinguish between spam calls and genuine service/transactional calls.
- The new series aims to build consumer confidence and improve call management.

➤ Introduction of 160xxxxxxx Series

- **Purpose**
 - The 160xxxxxxx series is exclusively allocated for service/transactional voice calls by genuine Principal Entities.
 - Example: Service/transactional calls from financial entities like RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, and IRDA will start from 1601.
- **Implementation**
 - Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) must verify every entity before assigning a number from the 160 series.

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- Entities must use the 160 series only for service/transactional calls as per Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation (TCCCPR), 2018.
 - **Benefits to Consumers**
 - Confidence and Security
 - The 160xxxxxx series helps consumers identify legitimate service/transactional calls.
 - Reduces the risk of falling victim to scams.
 - **Reporting and Protection**
 - Consumers can report suspected fraud communications on the Chakshu facility at Sanchar Saathi (www.sancharsaathi.gov.in).
 - DoT encourages activation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Do Not Disturb (DND) feature to block unwanted promotional calls.
- **Definitions**
- **Service Call**
 - A call made with the recipient's consent or using a registered template.
 - Aimed at facilitating, completing, or confirming a commercial transaction.
 - Provides warranty, product recall, safety, or security information.
 - **Transactional Call**
 - Non-promotional in nature.
 - Alerts or information communicated to the recipient are time-critical.
 - **Promotional Call:** Commercial communication without explicit consent from the recipient.

Global Food Policy Report 2024

Context: The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has released the Global Food Policy Report 2024, focusing on "Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Nutrition."

Key Findings on Indian Diets and Nutrition

- **Poor Diet and Malnutrition**
- **Malnutrition Prevalence:** 16.6% of India's population suffers from malnutrition due to poor diet.
 - **Consumption Patterns (2021–2022):**
 - At least 38% of the Indian population consumed unhealthy foods.
 - Only 28% consumed all five recommended food groups: starchy staples, vegetables, fruits, pulses/nuts/seeds, and animal-source foods.
- **Emerging Trends in Indian Diets**
- **Calorie-Dense, Nutrient-Poor Foods:** Increasing consumption of such foods; low intake of vegetables and micronutrient-rich foods.
 - **Processed Foods:** Rise in consumption of chocolates, sugar confectioneries, salty snacks, beverages, ready-made foods, and breakfast cereals.

- **Food Budgets:**
 - After cereals and milk, snacks and prepared foods dominate spending.
 - Annual household expenditure on paid meals increased from Rs 619 billion (\$8.8 billion) in 2015 to Rs 820 billion (\$11.6 billion) in 2019.
 - Share of household food budgets on packaged foods nearly doubled from 6.5% to 12%.

➤ **Malnutrition Trends**

- **Increase in Malnutrition:** From 15.4% in 2011 to 16.6% in 2021.
- **Overweight Prevalence:** Increased from 12.9% in 2006 to 16.4% in 2016.

➤ **Double Burden of Malnutrition**

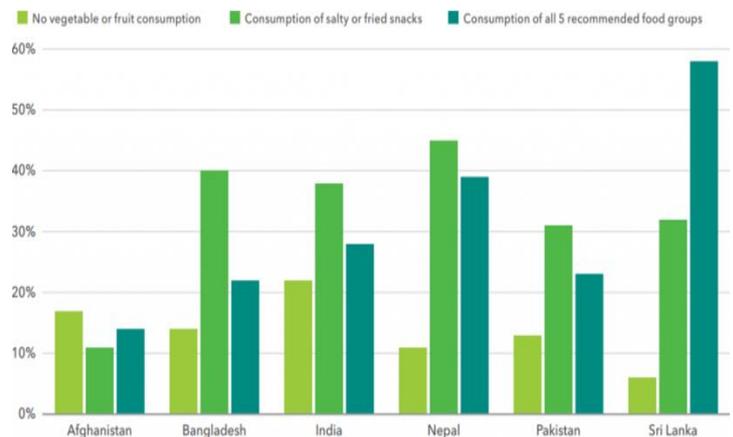
- **Coexistence of Malnutrition and NCDs:** Undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies alongside overweight, obesity, and diet-related noncommunicable diseases.
- **Affordability of Healthy Diets:** Over two billion people, especially in Africa and South Asia, cannot afford a healthy diet.
- **Micronutrient Deficiencies:** More than half of children under five and two-thirds of adult women are affected.

➤ **Dietary Guidelines and Consumer Awareness**

- **ICMR Guidelines:** Warned against misleading information on packaged foods.
- **Consumer Advice:** Read food labels and minimize high-fat, sugar, salt, and ultra-processed foods.

➤ **Agricultural and Food Policies**

- **Cereal-Centric Bias:** Policies prioritize starchy staples over diverse diets.
- **Subsidies and Price Guarantees:** Rice, wheat, and sugarcane growers receive support, neglecting coarse grains and pulses.
- **Public Investment:** Focus on rice and wheat productivity rather than diverse crops.



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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Agnibaan SOrTeD



Recently, Agnikul Cosmos, a startup from IIT Madras, achieved a remarkable feat by launching the world's first rocket engine, Agnibaan SOrTeD.

About Agnibaan SOrTeD:

- Agnibaan SOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator) is the **world's first rocket** with a **single-piece three-dimensional (3D)** printed engine.
- It is **India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket** launch that was completely designed and manufactured indigenously.
- It was launched from India's first privately developed launchpad called 'Dhanush' established by Agnikul at **Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh**
- It is structured in **two stages** and can **carry payloads weighing up to 300 kg**.
- Its operational range extends to altitudes of **up to 700 km**.
- The rocket utilizes a combination of **liquid oxygen** and **kerosene** as its **propellants**.
- It can access **both low- and high-inclination orbits** and is **completely mobile**, designed for accessing more than **10 launch ports**.
- The IIT-Madras incubated start-up had originally planned the launch for **April 7** but had to postpone it **129 seconds before the lift-off** due to some technical glitches.

National Highways Authority of India



Recently, the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has launched an initiative to monetize its infrastructure, seeking investments from the UAE to sustain and enhance India's expanding national highway network.

About the National Highways Authority of India:

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) was **established in 1988** as an **autonomous agency** under the Government of India.
- It is **responsible for the development, maintenance and management** of national highways in India.
- It plans, constructs and **upgrades national highways** across India.
- It **manages toll collections, monitors** traffic flow and implements safety measures on national highways.
- It comprises a **full-time Chairman**, along with **no more than five full-time Members** and **four part-time Members appointed by the Central Government**.
- Golden Quadrilateral project connects the major industrial, agricultural and cultural centers of **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata**.
- It has increased the length of national highways from **70,000 km to 140,000 km within a decade**.
- Advanced digitization of toll collection systems has resulted in **98-99%** of toll collections being electronic.
- Toll revenue growth is aligned with India's projected **GDP growth of 6-7%** annually.

Sharavathi River



Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Karnataka government to stop any unlawful/illegal sand mining in Sharavathi river coastal zone.

About the Sharavathi River:

- Sharavathi river originates and flows entirely within the state of **Karnataka** in India.
- It originates at **Ambuthirtha in the Western Ghats** and flows towards the west before joining the **Arabian Sea**.
- This river is famous for creating the Jog Falls, one of India's highest waterfalls.
- It is fed by tributaries including the **Haridravati, Savitri, Varahi, Yagachi** and Kundapur rivers.
- The **Mahatma Gandhi Hydroelectric Power Station** and the Sharavathi Valley Project, which are located downstream from the falls, generate much of the electricity for Karnataka state.
- The Sharavathi River's basin has a variety of land uses, including evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, scrub, thorny, and un-wooded forests.

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Place in News

Spain

Recently, Spain approved a significant Catalan amnesty bill, poised to redefine the Prime Minister's term.

Spain (Capital: Madrid)

Location: Spain is located in **southwestern Europe** on the **Iberian Peninsula**.

Political Boundaries:

- Spain shares its borders with **Portugal** to the west and **France** to the **northeast**.
- It has extensive coastlines along the **Mediterranean Sea** to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the northwest.
- Spain includes the **Canary Islands** in the **Atlantic Ocean** and the **Balearic Islands** in the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- Spain is divided into **17** autonomous communities, including **Catalonia**, **Andalusia**, **Madrid** and more.
- Spain has two enclaves in North Africa – **Ceuta** and **Melilla**.

Geographical Features:

- Teide Peak** is the highest point of Spain.
- Major mountain ranges in Spain include the **Pyrenees**, **Sierra Morena**, **Central Sierra** and the **Cantabrian Mountains**.
- The **Ebro River** is one of the significant rivers in Spain.

International Relations: Spain is a member of various international organizations, including the **United Nations**, **NATO** and the **World Trade Organization**.



POINTS TO PONDER

- What is the name of the world's first wooden satellite built by researchers in Japan? – **Lignosat**
- What environmental phenomenon is causing rivers in Alaska to turn orange, due to climate change? – **Thawing of permafrost**
- According to recent studies, which gene may be implicated in causing microcephaly? – **SASS6 (SAS-6 Centriolar Assembly Protein)**
- What is the K-9 Vajra primarily known as? – **A self-propelled artillery system**
- Which organization launched "PRAGATI-2024", an initiative aimed at promoting Ayurvedic research and development?
– **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**

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