

Supreme Court Directs States on Prisoner Release Policy

The Supreme Court mandated all States and Union Territories to formulate a uniform policy for the premature release of elderly and terminally ill prisoners.

It is a directive from the Supreme Court for States and UTs to establish a common framework for the early release of specific categories of prisoners based on age and health conditions.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** directed all **States and Union Territories** to frame a **uniform policy**.
- The policy is for the **premature release** of **elderly and terminally ill prisoners**.
- States and UTs must implement the policy within **three months** from the order date.
- The directive was issued on Thursday, **July 16, 2026**.
- States are required to coordinate with their respective **State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)**.
- The petition was filed by the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** based on prison inspections.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Supreme Court of India** is the **highest judicial body** and the final court of appeal under the Constitution.

Article 142 of the Indian Constitution grants the Supreme Court power to pass any decree or order necessary for doing **complete justice** in any cause or matter.

Article 161 empowers the **Governor** of a State to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit, or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

The **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** was constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.

NALSA provides **free legal services** to the weaker sections of society and organizes **Lok Adalats** for amicable settlement of disputes.

Prison administration falls under the **State List** (Entry 4 of List II) of the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution, making it primarily a State responsibility.

The concept of **remission** allows for the **reduction of a prisoner's sentence** based on good conduct or other specified criteria.

The **Supreme Court** has often played a crucial role in **prison reforms** and ensuring **human rights** for prisoners through various judgments.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Supreme Court directs States to frame uniform policy for early release of elderly and terminally ill prisoners within three months.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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