



## 14-day Timeline under UAPA

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Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) ruled that the **14-day timeline** for granting **sanction for prosecution** under the [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Act \(UAPA\), 1967](#) is **mandatory** and not discretionary.

- **Both central and state governments** are required to act within this timeline in matters of **national security**.
- [UAPA Rules 2008](#) use the term “**shall**,” indicating a clear legislative intent to complete the sanctioning process within the **stipulated 14 days**.
  - This includes both the **independent review (7 days)** and **government decision (7 days)**.
- **Non-compliance** with the 14-day timeline could result in severe **legal consequences**, such as the **quashing of criminal proceedings**.
- This ruling would apply **prospectively**, meaning it would not affect previous cases but must be followed strictly in **all future instances**.
- Bombay and Jharkhand High Courts had earlier considered the **14-day timeline as merely discretionary**.
- The UAPA serves as a **critical tool** for the Indian government to **combat terrorism** effectively.

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