

Is Satta King Legal in India? The Honest Answer in 2026

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Quick Reply: Is Satta King legal in India in 2026? Clear answer on illegality, online-gaming law, criminal risk, and what to do if you already lost money.

Direct answer. No. Satta King is illegal everywhere in India. It is a form of unregulated chance-based gambling, prohibited under the **Public Gambling Act 1867**, the corresponding state-level Gambling Acts, and, for online versions, the **Information Technology Act 2000** and the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025** (in force 1 May 2026), whose Section 5 bans all online money games. Playing it, organising it, or operating an app are all criminal offences. The only legal gambling in India is in licensed casinos in Goa, Daman and Sikkim, plus authorised state-government lotteries.

If you searched “*is satta king legal or illegal*”, you have probably seen 50 ad-funded blogs giving you a confused, ad-laced “it depends” answer. It does not depend. This page gives you the clean legal position, the criminal exposure you face, and what to do if you have already lost money.

Start here if you only have 2 minutes

- **Lost money already?** Go straight to the [betting-app complaint guide](#) and file within 72 hours.
- **UPI or bank account frozen?** Read [how mule UPI accounts work](#) before you speak to the bank.
- **Someone in your family is playing?** Open the [family help guide](#) before confronting them.
- **Need an official answer from police/cyber cell?** Use the [AI RTI Drafter](#) to create an RTI in 60 seconds.

📄 **Save this page:** Download this guide as a PDF and forward it before someone deposits again.

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What Satta King actually is

Satta King is a number-based lottery played through unlicensed bookies and now mostly through Telegram channels and websites. A “matka” or “market” — Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gali, Disawar — declares a winning number once or twice daily. You bet ₹10–₹10,000 on a number from 00 to 99. If yours hits, you get 90× back. If not — and 99 times out of 100 you don't — the bookie keeps your money.

It is **pure chance**. There is no skill component. That single fact decides the entire legal question.

What the law says — in one paragraph

For decades, Indian gambling law split games into **games of skill** (then legal in most states) and **games of chance** (illegal everywhere except in licensed casinos and state lotteries). The Supreme Court in *State of Andhra Pradesh v K Satyanarayana* (1968) and *RMD Chamarbaugwala* (1957) settled that distinction. Satta King has no skill component, it is a number guess, so it is a “common gaming house” offence under the **Public Gambling Act 1867 (s.3 and s.4)** and every state's adopted Gambling Act. Since 1 May 2026 the online version is also caught by **Section 5 of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025**, which prohibits all online money games whether of skill or chance, on top of the **IT Act s.67/79**.

A real citizen story

Vipul, 28, electrician from Meerut, started with a ₹100 bet on Telegram in October 2025 after a friend showed him a “guaranteed Disawar tip”. By March 2026 he had lost ₹2.4 lakh — including ₹80,000 borrowed from his father-in-law for his sister's wedding. When he tried to “recover by going bigger” his UPI was frozen by his bank under a cybercrime alert; the bookie blocked him on Telegram; his name appeared in an FIR filed in another state because the same

UPI ID had been flagged for layering proceeds. Vipul filed a complaint at cybercrime.gov.in — the money is unrecoverable, but the FIR was transferred and his bank account was unfrozen after 11 weeks of paperwork. He now mentors others through a recovery group in Meerut.

Vipul's story is the median, not the worst case. The worst cases involve suicide, family violence, and inter-state criminal cases.

What happens if you play

- **Playing** — under §4 of the Public Gambling Act 1867, you face up to **1 month imprisonment or ₹100 fine** at the central level. State laws are stricter — up to **1 year and ₹5,000** for a first offence under the Telangana Gaming (Amendment) Act 2017, rising on repeat, and comparable terms under the Andhra Pradesh Gaming (Amendment) Act 2020.
- **Organising/running a market** — up to **3 years imprisonment + ₹1 lakh fine** under most state laws; and under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, offering an online money game carries up to **3 years imprisonment or a fine up to ₹1 crore**, with advertising it up to 2 years or ₹50 lakh.
- **Bank account freeze** — if your UPI touches a flagged merchant, the suspected amount can be seized under [BNSS 2023 s.106](#) for evidence, but a full freeze or attachment of your funds needs a Magistrate's order under **BNSS s.107** (Delhi HC, *Malabar Gold v Union of India*, Jan 2026; Bombay HC; Allahabad HC). Banks must tell you after freezing so you can seek remedies. Average resolution period is 8–14 weeks.
- **Tax** — your “winnings”, whenever they happen, are taxable at **30% flat under §115BBJ** of the Income Tax Act with no deductions. See our [Gaming tax guide](#).

Why the apps are still visible if it's illegal

Three reasons:

1. **They operate from offshore jurisdictions** (Curaçao, Cyprus, Malta) and route money through layers of mule UPI accounts. Indian law applies to them, but enforcement requires international cooperation.
2. **Search and ad networks are slow** to block them — and when one domain is blocked, ten clones appear.
3. **State enforcement is uneven** — some states have a 100-officer cyber-gambling cell; others have one inspector for the entire commissionerate.

The fact that you can find an app does not make it legal. The fact that it is easy to deposit money does not make recovering it possible.

Do the practical step now: if you are checking legality because you already used a satta app, open [Where to complain](#) in a new tab. If money moved through UPI, keep the [UPI fraud guide](#) open beside it.

□ Tools you can use right now

These free, no-login tools help you understand your exposure, complain effectively, and find recovery paths.

- **AI RTI Drafter** — file an RTI to your state cyber cell asking what enforcement action they have taken against gambling apps in your district.
- **AwaazRTI** — speak in Hindi/English; transcribes + drafts.
- **RTI Fee Calculator** — exact fee for your state.
- **Timeline Calculator** — track your cybercrime complaint deadlines.
- **First Appeal Builder** — escalate a slow cybercrime/police response via RTI appeal.
- **PIO Reply Checker** — grade the official reply to your complaint.
- **Explain Legal Reply** — converts legal jargon to plain English.
- **Outcome Predictor** — scores your odds of recovering money.
- **Exemption Analyzer** — challenges any §8 refusal of enforcement records.

Tip: open the full tools index to see all 25+ helpers.

Read more — the deep legal view

- Illegal casino app guide — spot, report, recover

Statutory framework

- **Public Gambling Act 1867** — sections 3 (common gaming house), 4 (penalty for visiting), 13 (proof). Central law; adopted with amendments by most states.
- **Information Technology Act 2000** — sections 67 (publishing material likely to corrupt), 69A (blocking power), 79 (intermediary liability — limits the safe harbour for platforms hosting illegal content).
- **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025** (assent 22 Aug 2025; Act and Rules in force 1 May 2026) — section 2(1)(g) defines an “online money game” as one played for a fee or stake to win money “irrespective of whether such game is based on skill, chance, or both”; section 5 prohibits all online money games; offering one is punishable with up to 3 years or ₹1 crore, advertising with up to 2 years or ₹50 lakh. Regulated by the Online Gaming Authority of India under MeitY.
- **State Gambling Acts** — Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling Act 2022, Andhra Pradesh Gaming Act 1974, Telangana Gaming (Amendment) Act 2017, Maharashtra Prevention of Gambling Act 1887, etc.
- **Income Tax Act 1961** — §115BBJ (30% flat tax on net winnings from online games), §194BA (TDS at 30%).
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023** — §318 (cheating; §318(4), cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), §111 (organised crime — applies to large betting syndicates).

Landmark rulings

- **RMD Chamarbaugwala v Union of India (1957) AIR 628** — distinction between game of skill and game of chance is constitutional; chance-based gambling is *res extra commercium*.
- **State of Andhra Pradesh v K Satyanarayana (1968) AIR 825** — rummy is a game of skill; pure-chance games are not.
- **Junglee Games India v State of Tamil Nadu (Madras HC 2021)** — struck down TN ban on *skill* games; explicitly preserved chance-based ban. **The Supreme Court reversed this on 27 May 2026** (*State of TN v. Junglee Games*, 2026 INSC 594), restoring the ban.
- **All India Gaming Federation v State of Karnataka (Karnataka HC 2022)** — protected skill games — **also reversed by the Supreme Court on 27 May 2026** (2026 INSC 594).

Satta and other pure-chance games were never protected and remain squarely illegal.

- **K R Lakshmanan v State of Tamil Nadu (1996) AIR 1153** — horse racing held a game of skill; lotteries and pure-chance games remain prohibited.

Online Gaming Act 2025 — what it adds

- A blanket ban on **all online money games**, whether of skill or chance. There is **no registration or licensing route** to make a real-money game legal online.
- Criminal penalties for offering (up to 3 years or ₹1 crore) and advertising (up to 2 years or ₹50 lakh) online money games.
- Enforcement against payment providers that facilitate transactions for banned games, and blocking of non-compliant apps and sites under the IT Act 2000.
- A new regulator, the Online Gaming Authority of India under MeitY, with investigation and sanction powers.
- Carve-outs only for recognised e-sports and free-to-play social games with no monetary wagering.

Cross-references

- State-by-state position: [Is gambling legal in your state?](#)
- Online gaming law plain-English: [India's New Online Gaming Law 2026](#)
- If you've been cheated: [How satta apps steal your money](#)
- Recovery & complaints: [Where to complain](#)

Related guides to open next

If money is already gone

- [Cheated by a betting app? Where to complain](#)
- [How illegal betting apps use UPI](#)
- [Tax on online gaming winnings](#)

If you are still deciding what is legal

- [India's Online Gaming Law 2026](#)
- [Which money game is legal in India?](#)
- [Is online gambling legal in India?](#)
- [Complete citizen guide to gambling law](#)
- [Punishment for online gaming in India](#)

Turn reading into action: [Draft an RTI now](#) or [download this guide as a PDF for WhatsApp](#).

Common mistakes

- **Assuming “legal in some states” applies to satta.** It does not. Satta is chance-based and has always been illegal in every state — and since 1 May 2026 every online real-money game is banned nationwide as well.
- **Trusting an app's “Government of India approved” badge.** No such approval exists. The badge is fake.
- **Believing you can recover money “with one more bet”.** This is the addiction loop. Stop and read [the family help guide](#).
- **Using your real KYC on an offshore app.** Your PAN, Aadhaar, and bank details now sit on a server in Curaçao with no recourse.
- **Ignoring a bank-freeze notice.** Reply in writing with your source-of-funds documents as soon as you get it, and ask which order the freeze was made under — a continuing freeze

needs a Magistrate's order under BNSS §107. There is no 7-day rule that makes a freeze permanent.

FAQs

Is online satta legal anywhere in India?

No. Online or offline, satta is chance-based gambling and illegal in every Indian state.

Can I play satta in Goa or Sikkim?

Casinos in Goa and Sikkim are licensed for in-person play of specified games. Online satta, even on a Goa-based site, is not licensed and is now also banned under the 2025 online-gaming law.

Is Dream11 the same as satta?

No, they are different in nature: satta is pure chance and Dream11-style fantasy sport was earlier treated as a game of skill (*Varun Gumber v UT Chandigarh* (2017)). However, since the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 came into force on 1 May 2026, paid online fantasy sport is also prohibited as an online money game. Only free contests with no money staked remain allowed. See our [IPL betting apps guide](#).

I won ₹50,000 on satta. Do I have to pay tax?

Yes, 30% flat under §115BBJ of the Income Tax Act. The tax obligation exists even if the underlying activity is illegal, and non-disclosure compounds the offence.

My UPI is blocked. What do I do?

Visit your bank with the cyber-cell notice, respond within 7 days, file a separate complaint at cybercrime.gov.in disclosing the source of funds, and consult a lawyer if amounts exceed ₹50,000. Full guide: [complaint guide](#).

Can I get my money back from a satta app?

Almost never directly. But filing a cyber-cell complaint quickly can sometimes recover funds still in the merchant's Indian bank account before they are layered offshore. Speed matters, so act within 72 hours or call 1930.

Conclusion

Satta King is illegal everywhere in India, in every form, online and offline. The apps that look glossy and the Telegram channels that promise sure-shot tips are operating in violation of central, state, and now the 2026 gaming law. Playing exposes you to criminal charges, bank freezes, tax demands, and — most often — quiet, escalating financial loss.

If you have already lost money, the next step is the [complaint guide](#). If someone you love is playing, read the [family help guide](#). If you are a journalist, lawyer, or RTI activist, file an RTI to your state cyber cell — the [AI RTI Drafter](#) will produce one in 60 seconds.

□ One-page summary — forward on WhatsApp

This is how citizen content actually spreads in India — not on X, not on LinkedIn, on **family WhatsApp groups**. The PDF below is this full guide, plain language, share-ready.

□ Download this guide as a PDF

Forward to: anyone in your family, hostel, or workplace who you've heard talking about Satta. One forward can save someone ₹2 lakh.

PDF source content (publishing team — convert to single-page A4 PDF via pandoc):

Is Satta King legal in India? NO.

The one-line answer: Satta King is illegal in every Indian state, online and offline. No “licence” makes it legal.

3 things you must know:

- **Playing** = up to 3 years jail + ₹1 lakh fine in some states.
- **Winnings** = 30% flat tax under §115BBJ of Income Tax Act — even if the activity is illegal.
- **Bank account freeze** is automatic if your UPI is linked to a flagged merchant ID.

If you've lost money — file at:

- National Cybercrime Portal — **cybercrime.gov.in** — within 72 hours
- 1930 — National Cyber Helpline (24×7, all states)

Common mistake to avoid: “One more bet to recover” — this is the addiction loop. Stop. Talk to family.

Help for addiction: Vandrevala Foundation — **9999 666 555** (24×7, free, confidential).

Read full guide: righttoinformation.wiki/satta-king-legal-india

\[QR code to article]

RTI Wiki — citizen-first legal content. Updated July 2026. Forward freely.

Official sources

- Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 — full text (MeitY)
- PRS Legislative Research — Online Gaming Act 2025 tracker
- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (helpline 1930)
- The Right to Information Act, 2005 — full text (India Code)

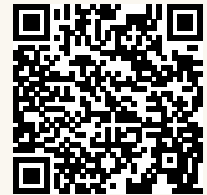
Written by the RTI Wiki editorial team. Statutory position updated and reviewed on 1 July 2026 to reflect the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (in force 1 May 2026). This article is for citizen awareness and does not constitute legal advice. For specific cases, consult a qualified lawyer.

satta-king, satta-legal, gambling-law, india-2026, online-gaming-act, citizen-story, consumer-protection



Right to Information Wiki

The working reference for India's Right to Information Act, 2005.



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