

WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME

Prelims- Polity Governance- Parliament P3

**Mains- GS2E - Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary
Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal
associations and their role in the Polity.**

- ✚ Launched by **Odisha Government**
- ✚ Aims to provide security to witnesses facing threat during the course of a legal battle.

Features:

- ✚ District -level standing committee, chaired by a district and sessions judge, with the district police head as its member and the head of the prosecution in the district as its member secretary, will take a call on the need for protection.
- ✚ The district police chief will submit a report with regard to the seriousness and credibility of the threat to the witness or his/her family members if the person applies in a prescribed form.
- ✚ The report will detail the nature of the threat to the witness or his/her family members, their reputation or property.
- ✚ Besides, the intent and motive of the person issuing the threat and the resources available with him/her to execute it will figure in the analysis.
- ✚ The threat analysis report, prepared with “full confidentiality will reach the competent authority “within five working days of its order for inquiry.
- ✚ The **Witness Protection Cell** will then ensure that the identities of the witness and his/her family members, including names, parentage, occupation, address and digital footprints, are fully protected.