

3. Fast Track Special Courts for Speedy disposal of Rape and POCSO Act

Cases

Prelims Level: Judiciary

Mains Level: GS-II Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary Ministries and departments of the Governments: Pressure Groups and formal/Informal Associations and Role in the Polity

Why in News?

- 1023 Fast Track Special Courts will be set up for Speedy disposal of Rape and POCSO Act Cases.

Highlights:

- The offences of rape and gang rape of women and children require effective deterrence through fast and time-bound completion of trials relating to sexual offences.
- To bring out more stringent provisions and expeditious trial and disposal of such cases, the Union of India enacted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- The Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013 was enacted for effective deterrence against sexual offences. This widened the definition of rape and made punishment more stringent.
- Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for the rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. The Act also, among other things, mandates the completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each.
- The government has taken up the work of setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) as a part of the National Mission for Safety of Women (NMSW).
- The government has planned a series of measures to deal with women safety on mission mode and will make a comprehensive programme.
- The NMSW is going to cover all aspects from free medical care to legal aid to the victims of sexual assault by engaging public prosecutors in states and setting up of nearly 1,023 fast track courts for Fast Judgements.