

National Consultation on Dissemination and Awareness of POCSO

Prelims: Social Development | Social Sector Initiatives

Why in News?

Recently, an online National Consultation on Dissemination and Awareness of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) CAL (P&R) Act was organised in India.

- **Organised by** - National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- **Participation** - Around 300 participants from various Central and State Ministries, State Police Departments, SCPCRs and NGOs.
- **Highlights** - It underscored the pressing need for coordinated inter-ministerial action to ensure the effective **implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012, and the CAL (P&R) Act, 1986.**
- Emphasis was laid on the establishment of Fast Track Courts across all States & UTs.
- The importance of standardizing the format of Medico-Legal Reports (MLRs) nationwide in POCSO cases was highlighted.
- The integration of the NCPCR's Child Safety Manual into the school curriculum, capacity-building programmes for teachers and strengthening of School Management Committees (SMCs) was also stressed.
- The need for **accessible legal aid for child victims** and the timely disbursement of compensation in accordance with statutory provisions was reiterated.

Quick Facts

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- **Established in** - 2007, under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
- **Mandate** - To ensure that all laws, policies, programs and administrative systems conform to the vision of the rights of the child as enunciated in the Constitution of India as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)

- **Enacted in** - 2012
- **Aim** - To protect children aged less than 18 from sexual assault.
- It is a gender-neutral law.
- Definition of a child - A person falling in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act

- **Enacted in** - 1986
- **Objectives** - To prohibit the engagement of children in all occupations and to prohibit the engagement of adolescents in hazardous occupations.
- **Definition of a child** - A person who has not completed his 14th year of age or such age as may be specified in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (35 of 2009), whichever is more.

Reference

[PIB| National Consultation on Dissemination and Awareness of POCSO](#)

