Rape Trials

What is the issue?

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Victims of rape and sexual assault are continued to be victimised by systemic insensitivity and slow pace of judicial system.

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What are the problems?

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- Police personnel are still not sensitised to deal with rape victims.
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- It takes several days for victims to get a FIR registered.
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- The trial period of the fast track courts extends far beyond the stipulated two months period as per Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).
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- There is delay in courts due to factors such as delay in getting medical reports, adjournments, increasing case load and vacancies at the judiciary level.
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What should be done?

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- Proper **training and sensitisation** of all the agencies involved in investigation and prosecution of rape cases.
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- The need for a specialised agency such as a **one-stop crisis centre** to provide necessary response to help victims and guide them through the legal procedure.
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- **Day-to-day trial** can quicken the procedure as well as ensure that the victim’s statement is recorded without missing any vital information.

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- It is suggested that lawyer's questions be routed through the judges.
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- This will ensure that questions are not hostile and psychologically pressuring the victim.
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- **Support services** to ensure victims get compensation, pre-trial orientation, counselling and access to rehabilitation.
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\n**Source: The New Indian Express**

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