



POCSO Fast Track Courts in Haryana

Why in News?

The Punjab and Haryana [High Court](#) has directed Haryana to notify **four Fast Track Special Courts** in **Faridabad, Panchkula, and Gurugram** within two months for effective [POCSO Act](#) implementation.

Key Points

- **Creation of Additional Courts:**
 - The directive came during the hearing of a **petition seeking the creation of additional courts** to deal with offences under the POCSO Act.
 - The petition also sought implementation of **the Supreme Court's** guidelines issued in the **suo motu case** "Re: Alarming Rise in the Number of Reported Child Rape Incidents – Suo Motu Writ Petition (Criminal) No.1 of 2019."
 - **According to the Solicitor-General of India**, the Union Government had **allocated Rs 200 crore** for setting up and running Fast Track and POCSO courts across the country.
- **About the POCSO Act:**
 - **About:** The law aims to address **offences of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse** of children. The Act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.
 - It was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of **the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.**
 - **Features:**
 - **Gender-Neutral Nature:** The Act recognises that **both girls and boys** can be victims of **sexual abuse** and that such abuse is a crime regardless of the gender of the victim.
 - **Confidentiality of Victim's Identity:** **Section 23** of the POCSO Act, 2012 mandates that the identity of child victims **must be kept confidential**. Media reports cannot disclose any details that could reveal the victim's identity, including their name, address, and family information.
 - **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Cases:** **Sections 19 to 22** compel individuals who have knowledge or reasonable suspicion of such offenses to **report them** to concerned authorities.

Solicitor General of India (SGI)

- **Second highest law officer** after the Attorney General of India.
- **Not a constitutional post;** governed by statutory rules.
- Headquarters in **New Delhi**, as per **Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987.**
- Appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, headed by the PM.
- **Tenure is three years;** reappointment possible for up to three more years.
- Duties include advising the government, appearing in courts, and handling **Article 143** references.
- **Cannot appear against the government or defend criminal** accused without permission.
- **Cannot advise PSUs or ministries directly;** must go through the Department of Legal Affairs.
- **Barred from private practice** except for specified public or government-controlled entities.

- May not hold corporate positions without prior government approval.

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