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1. The Supreme Court approved India's first Witness Protection Scheme

- What is the Witness Protection Scheme?
- What are the salient features of Witness Protection Scheme?
- How can it be categorised depending on the perception of the threat?

GS paper 2 (Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Express Web Desk. (2018, December , 06). What is Witness Protection Scheme?. Indian express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/witness-protection-scheme-supreme-court-5480930/>

What is the context about?

- The Supreme Court Wednesday approved India's first Witness Protection Scheme.
- It notes that one of the main reasons for witnesses to turn hostile is that they are not provided appropriate protection by the State.

- ❑ The court said, “it shall be the ‘law’ under Article 141/142 of the Constitution, until the enactment of suitable Parliamentary and/or State Legislations on the subject”.

What is the Witness Protection Scheme?

- ❑ The question of witness protection had come up in a PIL that sought protection for witnesses in cases against self-styled Godman Asaram Bapu.
- ❑ The scheme was drawn up by the central government with inputs from 8 states/Union Territories and legal services authorities of five states.
- ❑ The scheme was finalised in consultation with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

What are the salient features of Witness Protection Scheme?

- ❑ The important features of the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 include identifying categories of threat perceptions, preparation of a ‘Threat Analysis Report’ by the head of the police, protective measures like ensuring that the witness and accused do not come face to face during probe, protection of identity, change of identity, relocation of witness, witnesses to be apprised of the scheme, confidentiality and preservation of records, recovery of expenses etc.

How can it be categorised depending on the perception of the threat?

Draft scheme was prepared by SC in consultation with NALSA and Bureau of police research and development and has been categorised into three part

- ❑ **Category A:** Those cases where threat extends to life of witness or family members during investigation, trial or even thereafter.
- ❑ **Category B:** Those cases where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or family members during the investigation or trial.
- ❑ **Category C:** Cases where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or his family members, reputation or property during the investigation, trial or thereafter.