

Detention camps

May 4, 2020

Why is it in the news?

- One of the largest detention centres' is being constructed at Mattia in Goalpara, 129 km from Guwahati, and will be able to house 3,000 inmates.
- Legal provisions regarding detention
- The Centre has the power to deport foreign nationals staying illegally in the country under **Section 3(2)(c) of The Foreigners Act, 1946**. These powers have also been entrusted to State governments under **Article 258(1)** of the Constitution and under **Article 239(1)** for administrators of Union Territories. States are required to keep the illegal migrants in detention centre's pending their nationality verification and subsequent deportation.
- On January 9, 2019, a detailed manual on "model detention centres" was circulated to make a distinction between "jails and detention centres."
- MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 which **empowers district magistrates** in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals. Earlier such powers to constitute tribunals vested with the Central government only.

Features of the model detention centre

- It should be ensured that members of the same family are not separated and all family members are housed in the same detention centre.
- Detention centres should be designed for inmates to maintain standards of living in consonance with "human dignity".
- Along with CCTVs and round-the-clock security personnel, the centre's boundary wall should be at least 10 feet

high and ringed with barbed wires with strict access control measures. There should also be a periodic security audit by the appropriate authorities.

- Children lodged in a detention centre may be provided educational facilities by admitting them in local schools.