Fast Track Special Courts

Syllabus

Prelims *– Indian Polity & Governance*

Mains *– GS II – Government Policies & Interventions | Judiciary*

Why is in News?

The government has extended the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme until 2026, allocating funds under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)

- FTSCs were launched under the *Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).*
- **Established on -** October 2, 2019.
- **Objective -** To provide *speedy justice in cases of sexual offenses*, particularly under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and rape cases.
- **Other cases dealt by FTSCs**
  - Specific cases of heinous nature,
  - Civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments and
  - Property related cases pending for more than 5 years.
- Currently, *745 courts are operational* across 30 States and UTs.
- These courts are established by *State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts*.
- **Nodal Ministry -** Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Funding**
  - 60:40 between Centre and States.
  - 90:10 for Northeastern, hilly States, and J&K.
  - 100% funding for UTs without a legislature.
- **Role in Speedy Justice -** FTSCs focus on ***rape and POCSO Act cases,*** ensuring swift legal proceedings.

Key Recommendations by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)

- *Scheme Continuation -* Essential for handling sexual offense cases.
- *Specialized Appointments -* Appoint trained Special Judges and female public prosecutors for POCSO cases.
- *Modernization of Courts -*Upgrade courtrooms with audio-video systems, digital records, and e-case filing.

- *Forensic Lab Support -* Increase forensic labs and train manpower for timely DNA report submissions.
- *Child-Friendly Courts -* Establish *Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDCs)* and deploy child psychologists to support victims.

Reference

PIB | Fast Track Courts

