

National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)

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Why in news?

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Recently approved the proposal for National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2254.43 crore.

- **Aim** - To bolster forensic capabilities nationally through modern infrastructure and skilled manpower.
- **Nodal Ministry** - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Approved in**-2024.
- **Implementation** - For a period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- **Objectives**
 - Build a sound forensic laboratory infrastructure across India.
 - Prepare world-class trained forensic professionals.
 - Ensure timely and scientific forensic examination of evidence.
- **3 components** -
 - Establishment of new campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) across the country.
 - Setting up new Central Forensic Science Laboratories
 - Enhancing the existing infrastructure of NFSU's Delhi campus
- **Need for NFIES**
 - Enactment of new criminal laws - mandates forensic investigation for offences with punishment of 7 years or more,
 - Significant increase in workload for forensic labs due to expanded legal requirements.
 - Current shortage of trained forensic manpower in Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs).
 - High pendency of cases due to limited infrastructure.
- **Strategic Goal** - To strengthen the criminal justice system by improving

conviction rates and align with the Government's target of achieving a **conviction rate above 90%**.

Measures taken so far

- **Infrastructure expansion** - Establishment of 8 new Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs) approved in 2023-24,
 - Establishment of 9 additional National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) campuses.
- **Manpower & Recruitment** - Vacancy review undertaken by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Capacity Building** -
 - Upgradation of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) Delhi campus, NFSU established in 2020 to provide skilled manpower.
 - Conducts Forensic Aptitude and Calibre Test (FACT) annually to identify suitable candidates for FSLs.

References

1. [PIB | National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme](#)
2. [PIB | National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme](#)
3. [Ministry of Home Affairs | NFIES](#)

