

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURT



Why in News?

- ✓ The Union Government approved the continuation of more than 1000 Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for two years (April 2021-March 2023).
- ✓ Fast track courts (FTCs) were first recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission in 2000 "to substantially bring down, if not eliminate, pendency in the district and subordinate courts over the next five years".

Background

- ✓ In 2011, the central government stopped funding fast-track courts
- ✓ Three states-Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala-continued running these courts while Delhi, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka had said they would continue till 2013.
- ✓ Following the December 2012 Gangrape and murder, the Union Government set up a 'Nirbhaya Fund', amended the Juvenile Justice Act and set up fast-track Mahila Courts.
- ✓ Some other states such as Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar etc. also set up FTCs for rape cases thereafter.

Reasons for setting up Fast Track Courts

- ✓ In 2019, the government approved a scheme for setting up 1,023 fast-track special courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending rape cases under the Indian penal Code (IPC) and crimes under the POCSO Act.
- ✓ In July 2019, the SC also directed setting up of a centrally funded special court in each district where more than 100 FIRs are registered under the POCSO Act in order to deal exclusively with these cases.
- ✓ FTSCs are dedicated courts expected to ensure swift dispensation of justice. They have a better clearance rate as compared to the regular courts and hold speedy trials.

Benefits of Fast Track Courts

- ✓ Act as a deterrent: speedy justice acts as an effective deterrence in reducing crime in society.
- ✓ Promotes specialization and professionalism: as different types of cases require special knowledge of that particular field which can be assimilated into the justice delivery system through FTCs.
- ✓ Speedy justice results in enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of our judicial system, promoting people's confidence in the justice delivery mechanism in India.