



# Fast Track Special Courts

Source: TH

## Why in News?

The [Fast Track Special Courts \(FTSCs\)](#) in **Delhi**, established under the **FTSCs Scheme 2019** for speedy trial of **rape** and **child sexual abuse** cases, have disposed of only around **43%** of cases as of **June 2025**.

- This is **significant** as the **slow disposal rate undermines public confidence (despite dedicated mechanisms)** in the justice system's ability to swiftly address crimes of such severity.

## What is the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme?

- **About:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Law & Justice** aimed at setting up **FTSCs** through the [Nirbhaya Fund](#).
  - Under the scheme, **each FTSC** is tasked with disposing of **at least 165 cases annually**.
  - The scheme has been **extended twice**, with the latest extension valid **until 31st March 2026**, aiming to establish **790 FTSCs**.
- **Need of FTSCs:**
  - **Case Backlogs:** Alarmed by the **large backlog of rape and POCSO cases**, the **Supreme Court** in **July 2019** directed districts with **over 100 pending POCSO cases** to establish **exclusive special courts**.
  - **Timely Justice:** The [POCSO Act, 2012](#) mandates **Special Courts** to conclude trials within **one year** from the date of taking **cognizance of the offence**.
  - **Deterrence:** Harsh punishment can deter crime, but its effectiveness relies on **timely trials** and **swift justice** for victims.
- **Performance:** As of **June 2025**, **725 FTSCs** (including **392 exclusive POCSO courts**) are operational across **29 States/UTs**, achieving a **96% disposal rate in 2024 alone**.

## What are the Challenges in Fast Track Special Courts?

- **Insufficient FTSCs:** Of the **1,023** sanctioned **FTSCs**, only around **700** are functional, and as per estimates around **1,000 more** are required to clear the backlog.
- **Quality Concerns:** Some **critics** say **FTSCs** are a **“political gimmick”**, as **fast-tracking** one case delays others by reallocating the same **judges**.
- **Lack of Specialized Support:** Many **FTSCs** lack **victim-friendly facilities** such as **Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers** for survivors and **female prosecutors** or **counselors** to guide them through the legal process.

## What Measures Can Strengthen Fast Track Special Courts?

- **Judicial Improvements:** Appoint **Special Judges** for **POCSO** cases, provide **sensitization training**, and ensure **female public prosecutors**.
- **Victim Support Facilities:** Set up **Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDCs)** in all districts for recording victim statements and holding **child-friendly trials** in-camera. Deploy **child**

**psychologists** in **FTSCs** for pre-trial and trial support as per the FTSCs scheme.

- **Technology in Courts:** Upgrade courtrooms with **audio-video recording**, **LCD projectors**, and better **IT systems** for **e-filing** and **digital records**.
- **Forensic Strengthening:** Expand **forensic labs** and train staff to clear pending cases faster and deliver **timely DNA reports** for **speedy justice**.

**Drishti Mains Question:**

Discuss the key challenges faced by FTSCs and suggest measures to enhance their efficiency and victim sensitivity.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Mains**

**Q.** Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. (2016)

**Q.** We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest Some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (2014)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/fast-track-special-courts-3>

