



National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Cabinet**, chaired by the [Prime Minister](#), has approved the proposal of the **Ministry of Home Affairs** for the [Central Sector Scheme](#) "**National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)**".

What is the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme?

- **About:**
 - This scheme aims to **enhance forensic infrastructure** across the country by establishing **off-campus laboratories** of the [National Forensic Sciences University](#) in 28 States and all Union Territories.
- **Outlay and Duration:**
 - The scheme has a total financial outlay of **Rs. 2,254.43 crore** during the period from **2024-25 to 2028-29**.
- **Components:**
 - Establishment of Campuses of the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** across the country.
 - Establishment of **Central Forensic Science Laboratories** in the country.
 - **Enhancement of existing infrastructure** of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.
- **Key Objectives:**
 - It aims to **address the shortage of trained forensic manpower**, strengthening the capacity and capabilities of the National Forensic Sciences University.
 - The establishment of **new Central Forensic Science Laboratories** across the country is intended to **alleviate the caseload and pendency** in the existing forensic laboratories.
 - With the enactment of the [New Criminal Laws](#), which mandates forensic investigation for offences involving punishment of **7 years** or more, a significant increase in the workload of forensic science laboratories is expected.
 - High-quality, trained forensic professionals are expected to **contribute to an efficient criminal justice process**, leveraging advancements in technology and evolving crime patterns.
 - The **scheme is intended to support** the government's objective of achieving a **high conviction rate of more than 90%**.

New Criminal Laws in India

- The new criminal laws in India are set to take effect on 1st July 2024. These laws will replace the existing colonial-era legislation.
 - The [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\)](#) will be replaced by the [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita \(BNS\)](#).
 - The [Code of Criminal Procedure \(CrPC\)](#) will be replaced by the [Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita \(BNSS\)](#).
 - The [Indian Evidence Act](#) will be replaced by the [Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam \(BSA\)](#).

National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

- It is the **world's first** and only university dedicated to forensic sciences.
- It was established in **2009** as [Gujarat Forensic Sciences University](#) and was later renamed to **NFSU** in **2020**.
- The university was set up to **train professionals in forensic science** and is now an **institution of national importance** under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Its main campus is located in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Forensic Science

- Forensic science is the use of **scientific methods or expertise to investigate crimes** or examine evidence that might be presented in a court of law.
- It comprises a diverse array of disciplines, from [fingerprint](#) and **DNA analysis** to **anthropology** and **wildlife forensics**.
- It is a critical element of the **criminal justice system**.
 - Forensic scientists **examine and analyse evidence from crime scenes** and elsewhere to **develop objective findings** that can assist in the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of crime or absolve an innocent person from suspicion.

Read more: [Criminal Justice System](#), [National Forensic Science University](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. In addition to fingerprint scanning, which of the following can be used in the biometric identification of a person? (2014)

1. Iris scanning
2. Retinal scanning
3. Voice recognition

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a)** 1 only
- (b)** 2 and 3 only
- (c)** 1 and 3 only
- (d)** 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)