

The Civil Registration System (CRS)

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In news– As per 2020-21 the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Central government is planning to revamp the Civil Registration System (CRS) to enable the registration of birth and death in real-time with minimum human interface that will be independent of location.

Key updates-

- According to the report, the **CRS, run by the Registrar General of India (RGI)**, is linked to the National Population Register (NPR), which already has a database of 119 crore residents.
- The **report said that there was a need to update the NPR again, first collated in 2010 and updated in 2015** with Aadhaar, mobile and ration card numbers “to incorporate the changes due to birth, death and migration.
- The NPR is to be updated with the decennial Census exercise that has been postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It also stated that the **CRS system is facing challenges in terms of timelines, efficiency and uniformity**, leading to delayed and under-coverage of birth and death.
- Hence the **changes would be in terms of automating the process delivery points** so that the service delivery was time-bound, uniform and free from discretion.
- **“Level of Registration” is defined as** the number of events (birth, death, still birth) registered in a given area per hundred of the events available for registration in that area during the year. It describes the extent to which registration of such an event in that area is complete.

- The **registration level of births has increased to 89.3% in 2018 from 81.3% in 2009.** On the other hand, the registration level of deaths has increased from 66.9% in 2009 to 86.0% in 2018.

What is the Civil Registration System (CRS)?

- CRS may be **defined as a unified process of continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the vital events (births, deaths, stillbirths) and characteristics thereof, as per legal requirements in the country.**
- **In 1886 a Central Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act was promulgated** to provide for voluntary registration throughout British India.
- Currently, the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 provides for the compulsory registration of births and deaths.**
- The **Registrar General, India (RGI) at the Central Government level coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country.**
- However, **implementation of the statute is vested with the State Governments.**
- The **registration of births and deaths in the country is done by the functionaries appointed by the State Governments.**
- **Directorate of Census Operations are the subordinate offices of the Office of the Registrar General, India** and these offices are responsible for monitoring the working of the Act in their concerned State/UT.
- The Act mandates the use of uniform birth and death reporting forms and certificates throughout the country.
- The RGI that functions under the MHA has proposed **amendments to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 that will enable it to “maintain the database of registered birth and deaths at the national level.”**
- **According to the proposed amendments, the database may**

be used to update the Population Register, Electoral Register, Aadhar, Ration Card, Passport and Driving License databases.

- **The registration of birth and death is mandatory under the RBD Act** and the Chief Registrar is mandated to publish a statistical report on the registered births and deaths during the year.
- **Presently, the online software available on www.crsorgi.gov.in is operational in 22 States and Union Territories.**

Activities of Joint Registrar Generals/ Assistant Registrar Generals-

- The RGI has notified the Directors of Census Operations as Joint Registrar Generals and Joint/Deputy Directors of the Directorates as Assistant Registrar Generals under the RBD act, 1969 **to discharge the functions in carrying out the following activities under supervision of the RGI:**
- Coordination with the State Government on behalf of the RGI.
- Monitoring of implementation of various provisions of the RBD Act, 1969.
- Publicity on importance of birth and death registration at the local level.
- Providing assistance to the Chief Registrars for conduct of training to the registration functionaries working under the system of Civil Registration and for preservation and maintenance of legal CR records.
- Modernization of the registration system in the State by way of computerization.
- Monthly meeting with the Chief Registrars.
- To ensure monthly meetings at district level.
- Regular inspections of Registration Units under the system of Civil Registration, at least once in a month.

Further

reading-

<https://journalsofindia.com/registrar-general-and-census-commissioner-of-india/>