

US Global entry scheme

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In news- Indian security agencies in the past two years have checked the antecedents of more than 9,000 Indians who wanted to enrol for the paid Global Entry Program.

About the scheme-

- The Global Entry is a facility run by the **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**, an agency that works under the **Department of Homeland Security**.
- The department fast tracks movement of **pre-approved, low-risk travellers** upon arrival after a rigorous background check through designated kiosks.
- At airports, program members proceed to Global Entry kiosks, present their **machine-readable passport or U.S. permanent resident card**, undergo fingerprint verification and complete a customs declaration.
- The kiosk issues the traveler a transaction receipt and directs the traveler to baggage claim and the exit.
- Though the pilot project started in 2008, **India became a member of Global Entry in 2017**.
- All applicants undergo a rigorous background check and in-person interview before enrollment.
- After receiving a request, the U.S. authorities send them to the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- The MEA forwards it to the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, which taps other ministries, State police and other databases to run a background check.
- The CBP **does not process** the application if a person has been *“convicted of any criminal offence or have pending criminal charges, have been found in violation of any customs, immigration or agriculture regulations or laws in any country.”*
- The **other countries** that are part of this programme are *Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Mexico,*

New Zealand, Panama, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

- The **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)** is being used in India for antecedent verification for Global Entry.
- This is **not a public service** open to all the Indian citizens.

CCTNS-

- CCTNS, is a project under Indian government for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-governance.
- The project is implemented by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**.
- The concept of CCTNS was **first conceived in 2008** by the then Home Minister (P.Chidambaram), in the aftermath of 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- This was then **approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** in 2009.
- A **pilot phase of the project was launched on 4 January 2013** by the then Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde.
- It **aims to** integrate all the data and records of crime into a **Core Application Software (CAS)**, which is presently spreading across 28 states and 9 union territories of India.
- CAS was developed by the Bangalore based IT firm, Wipro.
- The Project will **interconnect about 15000 Police Stations and additional 5000 offices** of supervisory police officers across the country.
- It will **digitize data** related to FIR registration, investigation and charge sheets in all police stations.
- It would help in developing a **national database of crime and criminals**.
- The total outlay for the project is 2000 crore rupees, and also includes Operation and Maintenance phase for

additional five years up to March 2022.