



Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023

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Why in News?

The Lok Sabha has recently **approved the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, which introduces a significant shift towards **digital birth certificates**.

- These certificates are poised to serve as a comprehensive document for a multitude of purposes, ranging from educational admissions to government applications.

What is the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023?

▪ About:

- The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the [Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969](#).
 - The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 provides for the **regulation and registration of births and deaths**. The registration of births and deaths **falls under the Concurrent List**, giving powers to **both Parliament and state legislatures** to make laws on the subject.

▪ Key Features:

- **Digital Birth Certificates:** The bill introduces the concept of digital birth certificates, intended to serve as a comprehensive document for multiple purposes, **reducing the need for multiple documents to prove birth details**.
- **Aadhaar Details:** The Bill proposes linking [Aadhaar](#) details of parents and informants to birth certificates.
 - Expands the scope of Aadhaar inclusion to **various reporting authorities, including medical officers, jailors, and managers of institutions**.
- **Centralized Database:** A centralized database will be established to **manage birth and death records**, facilitating efficient service delivery and maintaining accurate and up-to-date information.
 - Apart from birth certificates, the centralized database will also update the [National Population Register \(NPR\)](#), **ration cards, and property registrations**.
 - The Bill proposes to make it obligatory for **States to register births and deaths on the Centre's Civil Registration System (CRS) portal**, and to share the data with the [Registrar General of India](#) which functions under the Union Home Ministry.

▪ Benefits:

- The centralized database is expected to **enhance administrative efficiency** by providing a reliable and unified source of information.
- Citizens will experience **streamlined access to various services such as educational admissions, government jobs, passports, and more, using a single digital birth certificate**.
- The bill aligns with [India's digital transformation](#) efforts, reflecting a commitment to modernize administrative processes for improved citizen services.

▪ Concerns:

- The Bill's provisions may potentially conflict with **constitutional rights**, such as the [right](#)

[to education and the right to privacy.](#)

- Denying admission to schools **based on the absence of birth certificates** could infringe upon the **fundamental right to education**.
- The bill has sparked a debate about striking a balance between leveraging technology for administrative efficiency and safeguarding citizen's **right to privacy**.
- The bill has faced opposition on grounds of transparency, with critics questioning the **government's approach to data collection and usage**.
- Critics also argue that digital birth certificates may inadvertently exclude individuals who lack access to digital platforms, creating potential disparities in accessing services.
- The Bill's requirements may not **align with provisions of the [Juvenile Justice Act, 2015](#)**, and other relevant legislations.

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