



Registration of Birth and Death (RBD) Act, 1969

For Prelims: National Population Register, Registrar General of India

For Mains: Population and Associated Issues, Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Home Ministry proposed **amendment to the Registration of Birth and Death (RBD) Act, 1969**.

- The bill will be introduced in the winter session of parliament.

What are the Proposed Amendments?

- It has been proposed to **make birth certificates a mandatory document for almost every sphere of life** — admission in educational institutions, inclusion in the voter list, appointment in Central and State government jobs, issue of driving licence and passport.
- It shall be **mandatory for hospitals and medical institutions to provide a copy of all death certificates**, stating the cause of death, to the local registrar apart from the relative of the deceased.
 - According to the Civil Registration System (CRS) report, **the registration level of births for the country increased to 92.7% in 2019 from 82.0% in 2010** and that of registered deaths increased from 66.9% in 2010 to 92.0 % in 2019.
 - CRS is an **online system for registration of births and deaths** under the operational control of the RGI.

What is the Need for the Amendments?

- The draft amendments would enable the **Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to “maintain a database of registered birth and deaths at the national level”.
- The birth and death database at the national level that will be available with the RGI may be used to update the **Population Register, the Electoral Register, and the Aadhar, ration card, passport and driving licence databases**.
- If the amendments are implemented, the **Centre could use the data to update the [National Population Register \(NPR\)](#)** that was first prepared in 2010 and revised through door-to-door enumeration in 2015.
 - The NPR already has a database of 119 crore residents and under the Citizenship Rules, 2003, it is the first step towards the creation of a [National Register of Citizens \(NRC\)](#).

What is Registration of Birth and Death (RBD) Act, 1969?

- Registration of Births and Deaths in India is **mandatory with the enactment of RBD, Act 1969** and is done as per the place of occurrence of the event.

- Under the RBD Act, it is the **responsibility of the States to register births and deaths.**
- State governments have **set up facilities for registering births and deaths and keeping records.**
- A Chief Registrar appointed in every State is the executive authority for implementation of the Act.
 - A hierarchy of officials at the district and lower levels do the work.
- The RGI, appointed under this Act, is responsible for coordinating and unifying the implementation of the RBD Act.

Source: TH

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