



# Commission of Railway Safety

## Why in News?

Investigation into the recent [tragic train accident in Odisha](#) is being **conducted by the Commission of Railway Safety** for the south-eastern circle.

## What is the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS)?

### ▪ About:

- CRS is a government body that acts as the railway safety authority in the country.
- It deals with matters related to **safety of rail travel and operations**, among some other statutory functions – **inspectorial, investigatory, and advisory** – as laid down in **the Railways Act, 1989**.
- It is Headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

### ▪ Ministry:

- It is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) instead of the Ministry of Railways**.
  - The reason behind this is to keep the **CRS insulated from the influence of the country's railway establishment** and prevent conflicts of interest.

## What is the History of CRS?

### ▪ Indian Railway Board Act, 1905:

- As per the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905, and a notification by the then Department of Commerce and Industry, the Railway Board was entrusted with **powers and functions of the government under various sections** of the Railway Act and was also authorised to make rules for railway operations in India.
- This effectively made the **Railway Board the safety controlling authority for railways in India**.

### ▪ Government of India Act of 1935:

- Section 181(3) of the Government of India Act of 1935 stated that **there should be a separate authority responsible** for ensuring the safety of both passengers and railway personnel. This authority would investigate accidents and determine their causes.
- In 1939, a panel headed by the **then chief inspecting officer of the British Railways, A.H.L. Mount**, noted that the Railway Board was appreciative of the separation argument and “would welcome the change”.

### ▪ Separation from Inspectorate:

- In May 1941, the Railway Inspectorate was **separated from the Railway Board and placed under the control of the Department** of Posts and Air at that time.
- **Later in 1961**, the Inspectorate was renamed as **CRS (Commissioner of Railway Safety)**, and it has been under the authority of the central ministry responsible for civil aviation in India ever since.

[Source: IE](#)

