



# Registration of Births and Deaths in India

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## Why in News?

The [Registrar General of India \(RGI\)](#) has advised government and private hospitals to promptly report births and deaths. RGI noted that despite a 90% registration rate, many institutions fail to report within the **mandatory 21-day period**, undermining the goal of 100% universal registration.

## What are the Provisions Regarding Registration of Births and Deaths?

- **Mandatory Registration:** As per the [Registration of Births and Deaths \(RBD\) Act, 1969 \(amended in 2023\)](#), all births and deaths must be registered. Registration must be done at the **place of occurrence** of the event.
- **Registration Functionaries:** The RGI oversees national registration, with **Chief Registrars and District Registrars** managing state and district-level implementation. **Local Registrars** handle birth and death registrations and certificates.
- **Civil Registration System:** The RBD Act, 1969 mandates that, starting from October 2023, all registrations must be done digitally through the [CRS](#).
- **Time Period for Reporting:** The prescribed time for reporting **birth, death, or stillbirth** (death of a fetus after 28 weeks of pregnancy, but before or during birth) is within 21 days from the date of occurrence. Late fee applicable after 21 days.
- **Births and Deaths Outside India (for Indian Citizens):** A child born outside India must register their birth under the [Citizenship Act 1955](#) and the **Citizens (Registration at Indian consulates) Rules, 1956**.
  - However, under **Section 20 of the RBD Act**, if the parents return to India with the intent to settle, the birth can be registered within **60 days** from the child's arrival in India.
  - Deaths of Indian citizens abroad are registered at the Indian Consulate under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, and are deemed valid under the RBD Act, 1969.
- **Penalty for Non-compliance:** Under RBD Act, negligence by registrars in registering events is punishable with a fine up to Rs 1,000.

## Registrar General of India

- The **RGI**, established in 1949 under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, is responsible for overseeing population data collection, including the decennial [Census of India](#) and the [Linguistic Survey of India](#).
- The RGI ensures the implementation of the **RBD Act, 1969**, and manages the **CRS** for continuous birth and death registration.
  - It also maintains the [National Population Register \(NPR\)](#) to record demographic details of all usual residents.
- RGI is headed by a senior civil servant, typically of **Joint Secretary rank**, the RGI plays a crucial role in demographic planning and policy formulation.

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