



Supreme Court Notice on Birth Registration

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Why in News?

The [Supreme Court](#) has issued notice to the Union government related to a petition seeking the effective implementation and full realization of the object and purpose of the [Registration of Births and Deaths \(RBD\) Act, 1969](#).

- The petition highlights **birth registration as a fundamental right** that has been recognised in various international conventions as well as in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and its significance in establishing individual legal identities.

What are the Major Provisions Related to Registration of Births in India?

- **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969:**
 - **Registrar Appointments:** Registrars are appointed for local areas under **Section 7 of the RBD Act, 1969** to oversee the registration of births within their jurisdictional area.
 - These registrars can be individuals **affiliated with various entities like municipalities, Panchayats, government health institutions**, or other local authorities designated by the State Government.
 - **Institutional Responsibilities:** Under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, institutions such as **hospitals, health centers, maternity or nursing homes are responsible for reporting births** occurring within their premises to the registrar.
 - **Citizen's Obligations:** In the case of births, citizens are required to inform the **registrar within 21 days of the event occurring in their jurisdiction**.
- **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023:** It paved way for [digital birth certificates](#) which will be a single document to be used for admission to educational institutions, applications for driving license, government jobs, passports or Aadhaar, voter enrolment, and registration of marriage, among others
 - It will be compulsory for States to register births and deaths on the **Centre's Civil Registration System (CRS)** portal and share data with the [Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India \(RGI\)](#) which functions under the Union Home Ministry.

What is the Previous Stance of the Supreme Court over Birth Registration?

- The previous Supreme Court interventions, including a **2011 judgment in the Committee for Legal Aid to Poor v. Union of India case** and the **2016 Voluntary Health Association of Punjab v. Union of India case**, emphasized the **importance of birth registration** and the alarming consequences of sex-selective abortions on sex ratios.
- Despite court directives to create a **centralized database for civil registration records**, the **authorities have allegedly failed to adhere to the orders**, leading to inadequate data availability hindering transparency and research.

