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## Automated Facial Recognition System

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**National Crime Records Bureau** (NCRB) has released a request proposal for an **Automated Facial Recognition System** (AFRS) to be used by police officers across the country.

Automated Facial Recognition System can play a very vital role in **crime prevention** and **criminal identification** and **verification** (identifying criminals, missing people, and unidentified dead bodies) by facilitating easy **recording, analysis, retrieval** and **sharing of information** between different organizations.

## Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS)

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- AFRS will be a **mobile** and **web application** hosted in NCRB's (which manages data for police) data centre in Delhi but used by all police stations in the country.
- AFRS works by comparing the new image of an unidentified person often taken from CCTV footage with the existing database (AFRS maintains a database with photos and videos of people's faces) to find a match and identify the person.  
The **artificial intelligence technology** used for pattern-finding and matching is called "neural networks".

## Integrating AFRS with Existing Database

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NCRB has proposed integrating automated **facial recognition system** with **multiple existing databases** like:

- **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems** (CCTNS): managed by NCRB
- **Integrated Criminal Justice System** (ICJS)
- State-specific database systems
- **Khoya paya portal**

### Criminal Tracking Network & Systems

- CCTNS is countrywide **integrated database on crime incidents** and suspects, connecting FIR registrations, investigations, and chargesheets of all police stations and higher offices.
- CCTNS also plans to offer **citizen services**, such as passport verification, crime reporting, online tracking of case progress, grievance reporting against police officers.

**Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS):** It is any computer network, system or architecture that allows justice practitioners and agencies to electronically access and share information between systems and/or across jurisdictional lines.

**Khoya Paya Portal:** Khoya Paya portal is a citizen based website to exchange information on missing and found children developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

## Concerns

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- Cyber experts have cautioned against **government abuse** of facial recognition technology, as it can be used as a tool of control and risks citizens privacy and data.
- In the absence of **data protection law**, Indian citizens are more vulnerable to privacy abuses.