Fingerprint, Face Recognition data in CCTNS

Why in news?

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Home Affairs Ministry is planning to link fingerprint, face recognition data to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).

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What is CCTNS?

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- **Aim** - CCTNS aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance.
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- It is envisaged as a countrywide integrated database on crime incidents and criminals.
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- It aims to connect all police stations, with their crime and criminal data, with a central database.
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- It was conceived as a response to the Mumbai attacks of 2008 and approved in 2009.
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- **Implementation** - The system is already in operation in many states but with a limited coverage.
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- The first phase of CCTNS is nearing completion.
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- 14,500 of 15,500 police stations across the country have been connected.
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- Only Bihar, for various administrative reasons, is lagging behind.
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What is the current proposal?

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- As part of Phase II of CCTNS, MHA is planning to scale up fingerprint collection from all police stations and link it to CCTNS.
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- It also plans to connect the Railway Protection Force’s stations and their data, apart from the *revenue police stations of Uttarakhand*.
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- The proposal has provisions for integrating face recognition system and iris scans as well with the CCTNS.
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- Integration of these data will boost police department’s crime investigation capabilities.
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- It will also help civilian verification when needed.
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- Also, lakhs of motor vehicle offences, registered by the transport department, has no central database.
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- Now, this too would be connected to the CCTNS.
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- This would help in ascertaining the history of criminal offences that a vehicle is involved in.
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What is the need?

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- The Central Finger Print Bureau (CFPB) now stores the fingerprint database.
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- It currently uses Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), also called FACTS, for matching fingerprints.
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- However, this technology is an outdated one when compared to Federal Bureau of Investigation's technology (FBI of the US).
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- Also, while FBI has over 4 crore fingerprints in its database, the CFPB currently has a database of just over 10 lakh fingerprints.
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- Hence, scaling up data collection is an essential prerequisite for better criminal investigations.
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Source: Indian Express

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Quick Fact

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Revenue police stations of Uttarakhand

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- Uttarakhand is known for a unique police system.
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- Although regular police is established, in some hill areas, jurisdiction of the police is yet to be extended.
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- So the civil officials of the Revenue Department have powers and functions of Police.
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- They perform functions of police like arrest of offenders and investigation.
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