

## Foreigners Identification Portal (FIP)

*Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance*

### Why is news?

*The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has revised the method of collecting and uploading biometric data of illegal migrants due to technical challenges in the earlier process.*

- **Foreigners Identification Portal (FIP)** - It was the portal to **collect biometric and biographic details** of **illegally** staying foreigners.
- **Launch** - 2018
- **Nodal authority for FIP implementation** - Bureau of Immigration through FRROs

*FRROs (Foreigners Regional Registration Offices) are the field offices of the Bureau of Immigration under Ministry of Home Affairs and are responsible for registration, visa services, monitoring, and immigration-related matters of foreign nationals residing in India.*

### Recent updation

- **Data collection and management** - Scanners, computers, and webcams will be installed in police stations, detention centres, and border outposts to record and upload migrant biometrics directly to FIP.
- Manual scanning caused data mismatches as states/UTs faced difficulties digitizing fingerprints taken on paper, creating gaps between manual records and digital data on the FIP.
- **Shift from NAFIS to IVFRT's district modules** - Instead of using NAFIS devices, fingerprint scanners under the District Police Module (DPM) of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) system will now be used.
- Earlier, FIP planned to use NAFIS machines for inter-operable biometric data across agencies.

*NAFIS (National Automated Fingerprint Identification System) a centralized biometric database launched by the National Crime Records Bureau to modernize criminal identification in India.*

- The Bureau of Immigration will oversee data migration from FIP to IVFRT, ensuring no transfer of migrant data to the NAFIS criminal repository.
- **Nationality verification post biometric capture** - Once data is uploaded to the FIP, the Ministry of External Affairs will process cases for nationality verification to enable

deportation.

- **Significance** - To streamline and fast-track deportation by digitizing and standardizing data collection,
- It also aims to effectively identify, document, and deport illegal migrants with minimal errors and delays.

## Reference

[The Indian Express| Centre's revised procedure for foreigners ID portal](#)

