Kerala Nativity Card Bill

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The Cabinet recently cleared the Kerala Nativity Card Bill.

- **Aim** - It seeks to give legal backing to the nativity card initiative for issuing an ***authoritative identity proof to Keralites.***
- **Nativity card -** The State government plans to roll out the nativity cards as a new identification document to establish one's identity as a Keralite.
- The card is modelled on the nativity certificate currently issued by the State's Revenue department.
- However, the conditions for issuing nativity certificates have been stipulated only as per government order.
- The nativity card that incorporates beneficiary photograph is conceived as an authoritative, legally valid, permanent identity proof that fosters a sense of pride in being both an Indian and a Keralite.
- The government intends to issue the nativity cards to ***all people born in the State.***
- **Eligibility** - The Bill defines a 'native' as someone who was born in Kerala but has not accepted foreign citizenship or someone who has a Kerala-born ancestor who had not accepted foreign citizenship.
- Individuals who have relinquished citizenship will not be eligible for the card.
- If a person accepts foreign citizenship after receiving the card, the card will be null and void.
- People born outside Kerala to parents or ancestors who were outside the State for work or livelihood-related reasons and who have not received foreign citizenship will also be considered a 'native.'
- **Benefits -** It will be used to access State government services, assistance, and other "social requirements," and so can be used as a beneficiary identification document.
- The nativity cards are pitched as a consolidated document that will

replace the nativity certificates, which currently have to be obtained time and again whenever a requirement arises.

- The Collector can review, modify, or cancel orders issued by the RDO after giving the applicant a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
- **Timeline for issuing -** The Bill proposes a punishment of up to 3 months or a fine up to Rs.5,000 or both if an applicant furnishes information that is false or believed to be false.
- Once the Kerala Nativity Card Bill is passed by the Assembly, it will have to be signed by the Governor to become an Act.

Reference

The Hindu | Kerala's Nativity Card Bill