

National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)?

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About National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS):

- The NAFIS is a **pan-India searchable database of crime and criminal-related fingerprints**.
- It is **managed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** at the **Central fingerprint bureau, based in New Delhi**.
- The main objective of the web-based application is to **collect fingerprint data of all the criminals from all the states and the Union Territories**.
- It will **enable law enforcement agencies to upload, trace and retrieve information** from the database **24x7 in real-time**.
- **The Working Process of NAFIS:**
 - NCRB enables law enforcement agencies to **upload, trace, and retrieve data from the database**.
 - **Within 24 hours, NAFIS provides a unique 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to each criminal** who is arrested for the crime.

- The **unique ID will be used for a lifetime of an offender. Different crimes registered under different FIRs will be logged as incidents belonging to the same NFN.**
- The **first two digits of the ID will be the state code** of the state where the criminal is registered, **followed by a sequence number.** The state partition will have IDs belonging to a state.
- Apart from this, a **digital record will be added as storage to match the fingerprints in the future.**
- With NAFIS, **it is possible to locate a person of interest in a matter of minutes and connect that individual's name to any active warrants,** warnings, or information about related criminal conduct stored in other police information reference systems.

Q1) Why are fingerprints unique?

Each person's fingerprints are unique, which is why they have long been used as a way to identify individuals. A person's fingerprints are based on the patterns of skin ridges (called dermatoglyphs) on the pads of the fingers. The basic size, shape, and spacing of dermatoglyphs appear to be influenced by genetic factors. The finer details of the patterns of skin ridges are influenced by other factors during fetal development, including substances taken during pregnancy and the environment inside the womb. These developmental factors cause each person's dermatoglyphs to be different from everyone else's.

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