



## Final National Register of Citizens

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The final National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published on August 31, 2019.

- Recently, **the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** clarified that those not included in the final list of the (NRC) in Assam will get **120 days** to appeal against their exclusion in the **Foreigners' Tribunal**.
  - The MHA will bring about an amendment in the **NRC rules which stipulate only 60 days** for an appeal to be made in the **Foreigners' Tribunal**.
- Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the **appellate authority i.e. Foreigners Tribunals**.
  - Under the provisions of **Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, only Foreigners Tribunals are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.**
  - Thus, **non-inclusion of a person's name in NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared as a foreigner.**
- However, the final publication of the NRC poses a **legal challenge** for the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.
  - ECI in 1997, while revising the state's voter list, introduced a new category of voters for Assam marked as **'D' (Doubtful) voters**.
    - D voters are a category of voters in Assam whose citizenship is doubtful or under dispute.
  - While 'D' voters **continue to remain on Assam's electoral roll**, they **cannot vote in an election** unless their case is decided by a Foreigners' Tribunal. However, those excluded from the draft NRC were allowed to vote, creating an anomaly.
  - So, ECI has to revise the D-voters list in a short span of time.

### Foreigners' Tribunals

- The Foreigners' Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies meant to “furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigners Act, 1946”.

- The MHA constitutes foreigners tribunals whenever required to look into the question of whether a person is or not a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigners Tribunals act, 1946.
- In the backdrop of finalization of NRC, this order was **amended in 2019**, to **empower individuals to approach the Tribunals**. Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

### Countdown to D-day

The final National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam is expected to be published on August 31. The Supreme Court has disallowed the State's plea for "sample re-verification"

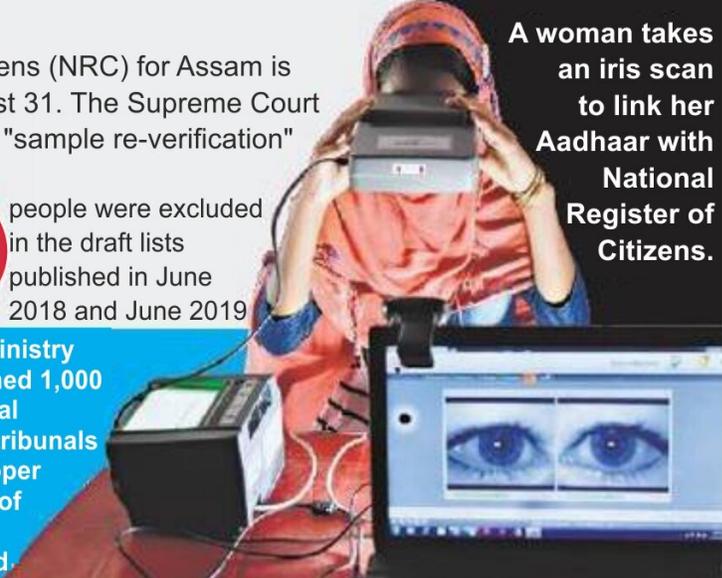
**3.29** crore applicants to be included in the NRC

**41** Lakh people were excluded in the draft lists published in June 2018 and June 2019

**36** Lakh people re-applied for inclusion at various NRC seva kendras, 4 lakh persons did not apply

Home ministry sanctioned 1,000 additional foreign tribunals for a proper hearing of those excluded

A woman takes an iris scan to link her Aadhaar with National Register of Citizens.



**Source: IE**