



National Population Register

The **National Population Register (NPR) updation exercise** will be undertaken **alongside [Census 2021](#)**.

- It will be conducted by the Office of the **Registrar General of India (RGI)** under the Home Ministry.
- **Only Assam will not be included**, given the recently completed **[National Register of Citizens \(NRC\)](#)**.

National Population Register

▪ Definition:

- It is a list of **“usual residents of the country”**.
- A “usual resident of the country” is one **who has been residing in a local area for at least the last six months, or intends to stay** in a particular location for the **next six months**.

▪ Legal Provisions:

- The NPR is being prepared under provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955** and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is **mandatory** for every “usual resident of India” **to register in the NPR**.

▪ Background:

- The data for the NPR was **first collected in 2010** along with the house listing phase of Census 2011.
- In 2015, this data was further updated by conducting a door-to-door survey.
- However, **with the use of [Aadhaar](#)** as the key vehicle for transfer of government benefits in the last few years, the **NPR has taken a backseat**.

▪ Scope:

- The NPR exercise is conducted at the local, sub-district, district, state and national levels.
- The NPR will collect both **demographic data and biometric data**. Biometric data will be updated through Aadhar details.

- In the 2010 exercise, the RGI had collected only demographic details.
- In 2015, it updated the data further with the mobile, Aadhaar and ration card numbers of residents.
- **For the 2020 exercise, it has dropped the ration card number** but added other categories.

▪ Advantages:

- It will **streamline data of residents** across various platforms.
 - For instance, it is common to find a different date of birth of a person on different government documents. NPR will help eliminate that.
- It will help the government formulate its **policies better** and also aid national security.

- It will help **to target government beneficiaries in a better way** and also further cut down paperwork and red tape in a similar manner that Aadhaar has done.
- It will help in implementing the idea of **'One Identity Card'** that has been recently floated by the government.
 - 'One Identity Card' seeks to replace duplicate and siloed documentations of Aadhaar card, voter ID card, banking card, passport, and more.

▪ **Privacy Concern:**

- There is no clarity on the mechanism for protection of the vast amount of data that will be collected through NPR.

▪ **NPR and the NRC:**

- Unlike the NRC, the **NPR is not a [citizenship](#) enumeration drive, as it would record even a foreigner staying in a locality for more than six months.**
- With the government insisting that the NRC would be implemented across the country, the NPR has raised anxieties around the idea of citizenship in the country.
 - All this is happening in the backdrop of the NRC in Assam which has excluded 19 lakh among the 3.3 crore who had applied.
 - NRC countrywide would only happen on the basis of the upcoming NPR.
 - After a list of residents is created (i.e. NPR), a nationwide NRC could go about verifying the citizens from that list.

[Source: IE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/national-population-register>