



Delay in Aadhaar Enrolment due to Incomplete NRC: Assam

Why in News

The **Aadhaar** enrolment of more than 27 lakh people in Assam has become uncertain/delayed because of the delay in completing the process of the [National Register of Citizens \(NRC\)](#).

- The **biometrics of these people were frozen after the publication of the NRC in August 2019.**
- The **Centre had earlier been asked to unfreeze the biometrics** since the NRC was yet to be recognised as a document for citizenship.

Aadhaar

- It is a **12 digit individual identification number** issued by [UIDAI \(Unique identification authority of India\)](#) on behalf of Government of India.
 - UIDAI is a **statutory authority established in July 2016** by the Government of India under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, following the provisions of the **Aadhaar Act 2016.**
- It **serves as identity and address proof** anywhere in India. It is **available in 2 forms, physical and electronic form i.e. (e-Aadhaar).**
- **Any resident** (a person who has resided in India for 182 days, in the one year preceding the date of application for enrollment for Aadhaar) **of India irrespective of age, sex, class can avail it.**

Key Points

- **National Register of Citizens:**
 - NRC is a **register prepared in respect of each village**, showing the houses or holdings in a serial order and indicating against each house or holding the number and names of persons staying therein.
 - The **register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India** and since then it has not been updated until recently.
 - It **has been updated in Assam only** for now and the **government plans to update it nationally** as well.
 - Its **purpose** is to **separate “illegal” immigrants from “legitimate” residents.**
 - Registrar General and Census Commissioner India is the Nodal Agency for NRC.
- **NRC Issue in Assam (Background):**
 - The issue of its update assumed importance as **Assam witnessed large-scale illegal migration from erstwhile East Pakistan and, after 1971, from present-day Bangladesh.**
 - This led to the **six-year-long Assam movement from 1979 to 1985**, for deporting illegal migrants.

- The movement culminated in the signing of the **Assam Accord in 1985**. It set **25th March, 1971**, as the cut-off date for the deportation of illegal migrants.
 - Since the **cut-off date prescribed under articles 5 and 6 of the Constitution was 19th July, 1949** - to give force to the new date, an amendment was made to the [Citizenship Act, 1955](#), and a new section was introduced. It was made **applicable only to Assam**.
 - The **Assam Accord** was signed between the **All Assam Students Union (AASU)**, the **All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad** and the **Central Government**.
- A petition was filed in the [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) in **2009** by an [Non-governmental Organization \(NGO\)](#) called Assam Public Works demanding the identification and deportation of illegal Bangladeshis in Assam.
- In December **2014**, a division bench of the **SC** ordered that the NRC be updated in a time-bound manner.
- In **2018**, the **SC** mentioned the prospect of sample re-verification in an order, saying that it could **consider re-verifying 10% of the names included in the NRC**.
- In July **2019**, the **state government gave an affidavit in the SC** seeking a **re-verification of 20% included names** in the districts bordering Bangladesh and 10% in the rest of the districts.
 - However, **it was dismissed** after the erstwhile coordinator of the NRC submitted that re-verification was already done.
- The Assam government is [firm on its demand of 10-20% re-verification](#) of the nationality claims made by some of the people included in the final NRC, published in 2019.
- **Current Scenario:**
 - The **state government of Assam has provided the latest data regarding 'foreigner' detection** in the state.
 - There is a **need for re-verification because people of Assam want a correct NRC**.
 - Also, there has been a **delay in issuing the rejection slips** to the over 19 lakh excluded people so that they can move court to claim nationality.
 - Officials have cited the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) and the [floods](#) in the state as reasons for the delay.
 - The **rejection slips would carry the reason of rejection, which would differ from person to person** and based on the reason they would be able to challenge their exclusion in the Foreigners' Tribunals.
 - Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the **Foreigners Tribunals**.

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