



National Population Register

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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)**.
- **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