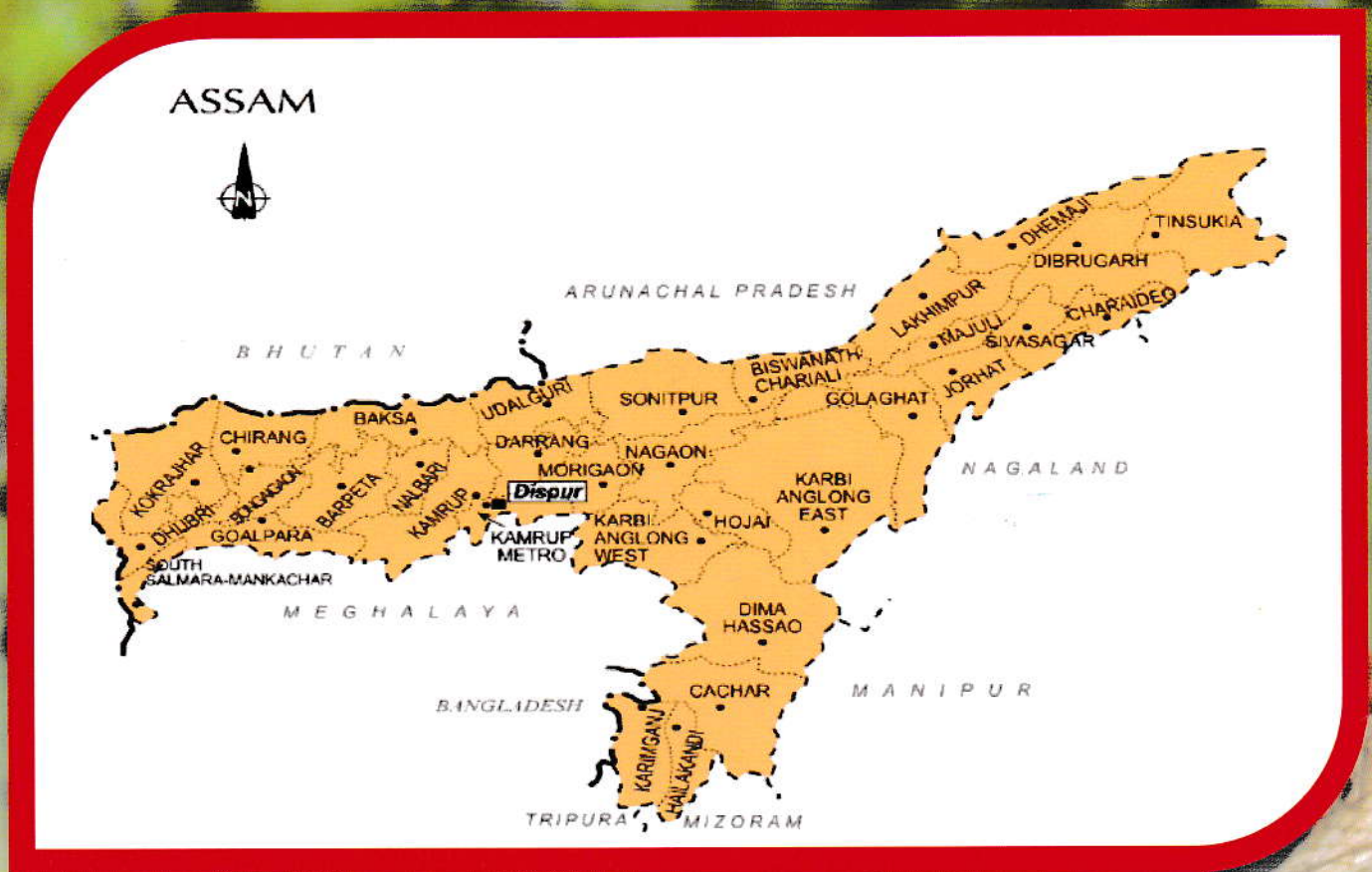


NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS (NRC)

Misconception About Illegal Migration In Assam, India



GENESIS OF NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS(NRC)

- NRC was first prepared in the State of Assam along with the Population Census of 1951.
- The decision to update NRC 1951 was taken in 2005 with an aim to implement the Memorandum of Settlement (Assam Accord) signed in 1985 between the Government of India, Government of Assam and All Assam Students Union to resolve issue of illegal immigrants in the State.
- As Assam Accord contains the cut-off dated March 24, 1971 for determination of illegal immigrants in Assam, the NRC 1951 was to be updated by including the names of persons who came to Assam before and up to March 24, 1971 and their descendants, based on acceptable legacy and linkage documents.
- The current exercise for updating NRC 1951 commenced in February 2015 on directives of the Supreme Court of India/SCI. The exercise commenced only after finalization of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) containing detailed modalities for updating of NRC 1951 based on relevant laws including the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Card) Rules, 2003.

OBJECTIVITY OF NRC EXERCISE

- NRC exercise is not an executive-driven exercise. In fact, the whole exercise has been carried out under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court of India/SCI, the highest and independent judicial body in India.
- SCI has closely monitored the whole exercise and prescribed various dates for completion of each phase of the complex exercise. However, SCI also observed that correctness of NRC is more important than sticking to time-limits and also extended deadlines on some occasions, based on genuine requirements.
- The exercise was completed in seven phases making it foolproof and to ensure that no genuine citizen faced any difficulty. Public were provided copies of legacy data available with the government.
- SCI has given opportunities to all stakeholders to place their grievances before the Court and redressed the same as per law to their satisfaction.
- So far, all stakeholders without exception have expressed their full faith in the SCI.

FINAL LIST OF NRC

- The Final List of NRC was published on August 31, 2019, containing names of more than 30 million persons.
- Only about 1.9 million persons were not included in the Final List.
- There is no official data yet on inclusion/exclusion of minorities and various ethnic communities from Final List of NRC.
- The excluded person has a right to file appeal (within 120 days of receipt of notice of exclusion) before the designated Foreigner's Tribunal (FT) constituted under the Foreigner's (Tribunal) Order, 1964.
- To facilitate appeals by excluded persons, the State Government has set up 200 new FTs in addition to the existing 100 FTs. Moreover, 200 more FTs would be set in due course.
- If an excluded person is not satisfied with the decision of FT, he/she can appeal to the High Court and even to the Supreme Court of India.

GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS CITIZENS AND THEIR INTERESTS:

- Government has made every effort to minimise difficulties faced by the people.
- It conducted rich awareness programmes through all available media and channels, conducted meetings with representative organisations, community leaders to allay apprehensions and dispel rumours circulated on media.
- Even though the exercise encompassed the whole population of Assam, not even a single incident of breaking of law and order has been reported so far in the State. This was made possible by coordinated efforts of all agencies of the Government.
- Steps are in place to check the misuse of social media, fake news, misinformation by vested interest groups.
- Campaigns to malign the Government of India is ill-founded. NRC exercise is neither religiously biased nor aimed at snatching away citizenship of genuine Indian nationals nor making people 'stateless'. It is an exercise to identify Indian citizens out of a motley of illegal immigrants who have settled in the State to the disadvantage of local populace.
- Some of the cases of exclusions of genuine Indian citizens may well be taken as aberrations rather than rule. NRC is subject to correction after judicial pronouncements by FTs and other Courts.



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