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Assam Firm on NRC Re-verification

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Why in News

The Assam government remains firm on its demand of **10-20% re-verification of the nationality claims** made by some of the people included in the **final National Register of Citizens** (NRC), published in 2019.

- The state government's plea for the re-verification is **lying pending in Supreme Court** (SC) for more than a year and the apex court is yet to stamp its approval on it.
- The NRC 2019 is yet to be approved by the **Registrar General of India**.

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.

- **Purpose:** To separate “illegal” immigrants from “legitimate” residents.
- **Nodal Agency:** Registrar General and Census Commissioner India.

Key Points

- **Background:**

- 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.**

- **Current Scenario:**

- The state government of Assam has **provided the latest data regarding ‘foreigner’ detection** in the state.
 - 1,36,149 people have been declared ‘foreigners’ by the state’s 100 functioning **Foreigners’ Tribunals**, whereas only 227 ‘foreigners’ have been deported from 13th March 2013 to 31st July 2020.
 - A total of 425 people are currently lodged in the six detention centres 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.

Source: IE