



SUBMISSION TO THE HEARING ON  
CITIZENSHIP LAWS AND RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM



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## INTRODUCTION

We are making this submission to the Hearing on Citizenship Laws and Religious Freedom held by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) on March 4, 2020. We appreciate that the USCIRF has taken note of recent events in India, expressed concern over potential harm to religious minorities and freedoms, and is holding a hearing on the subject.

Contrary to the Government of India's insistence that CAA, NPR and NRC are harmless and an internal matter, the proposed moves are driven by motives other than to protect illegal minorities fleeing religious persecution elsewhere. They are disruptive, polarizing and likely to result in large scale trauma. The issue is humanitarian in general and affects religious minorities in particular.

We hope to provide the Commissioners some detail that would help them understand

1. What rules governed Indian citizenship up until December 2019
2. How the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 (CAA) is the first of several actions that will fundamentally alter citizenship in India
3. What the future holds for the marginalized and Muslims if the NPR and NRC are allowed to be implemented the way NRC was conducted in the Indian state of Assam
4. Why protests are taking place against CAA, National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) when the CAA ostensibly provides citizenship to illegal immigrants who fled religious persecution
5. A timeline of events that have occurred since CAA was passed by the Indian parliament

Citizenship is central to a person's existence and has been called the right to have rights. It defines the core relationship between the individual and the state. When it became independent in 1947 and then rooted itself in an inclusive and composite nationhood (Articles 5 to 11 of the Indian Constitution of 1950 outline the basis of Indian citizenship), India accepted people of all faiths, creeds, castes, languages and genders, equally and without discrimination as Indians.

## CITIZENSHIP IN INDIA

Indian citizens are entitled to [a set of fundamental rights](#) - equality, free speech and expression, non-discrimination, freedom of assembly and religion, etc. They can permanently reside in India and only they have right to hold some of the highest offices in the nation. Citizens have a right to vote and most state welfare schemes are only meant for citizens.

The United Nations Refugee Convention, 1951 and Protocol of 1967 grant protection to refugees persecuted in their own countries, but [India is not a signatory](#) to either. Besides, India has [no law](#) that grants political asylum. India made some exceptions such as for Tibetans by giving them [registration certificates](#) under the Foreigners Registration Act.

The Constitution of India covers citizenship in Part II, Articles 5 - 11; Article 11 allows the parliament to enact laws concerning citizenship. Under the [Citizenship Act, 1955](#), there are 5 ways through which a person acquires Indian citizenship:

- a) By birth
- b) By descent (those born outside India to parents who are Indian citizens)
- c) By registration

- d) By naturalisation (being ordinarily resident in India for twelve years)
- e) By acquisition of territory (e.g., Sikkim)

Naturalisation or registration is unavailable to illegal migrants. Under the Citizenship Act, an illegal migrant is defined as any person who entered India without a valid passport or travel document or having entered India with a valid passport or travel document stayed behind after its expiry. For example, a Bangladeshi who crossed over into India without a passport or valid travel document can never acquire Indian citizenship (except under certain circumstances, such as if the entry is into Assam before March 25, 1971).

As far as citizenship by birth is concerned, subsequent amendments [modified](#) the criteria.

Any person born in India on or after January 26, 1950 but before July 1, 1987 is entitled to Indian citizenship irrespective of the citizenship status of their parents.

Any person born in India between July 1, 1987 and December 3, 2004 is entitled to Indian citizenship provided one of the parents was an Indian citizen at the time of the person's birth

Any person born in India after December 3, 2004 is entitled to Indian citizenship provided both parents were citizens of India, or either parent is a citizen of India as long as the other is not an illegal migrant.

Thus, children born in India after December 3, 2004 will be prevented from acquiring citizenship in India if either one of the parents is considered an illegal migrant.

Over the past six years, there have been political moves to fundamentally redefine the Constitutional inclusivity that determines citizenship: First, with the Citizenship Amendment Bill (that was introduced in 2016 but [lapsed](#) subsequently and was [re-introduced](#) in 2019) and second, through the prospect of a hurried and improperly implemented [All India National Register of Citizens](#) (NRC) process.

The [inevitable](#) discrimination, religion and class-based, and the difficulties these impose on India's citizens are best illustrated by explaining the tortuous process that Assam has undergone in validating the citizenship of its residents. What began as a consensual exercise with several engaged stakeholders deteriorated into a politically and bureaucratically manipulative exercise that over several rounds [excluded 1.9 million](#) people.

## ASSAM'S NRC EXERCISE

Numerous sources have bravely and extensively documented the large-scale disruption and upheavals resulting from the Assam NRC exercise. We have chosen to provide our summary of a document "[Who is an Indian?](#)" by a human rights movement called the [Citizens for Justice and Peace](#) (CJP) and an article by Teesta Setalvad of the CJP - [How a Government and Bureaucracy Betrayed Its People](#).

While none of us is affiliated with the CJP, the movement and individuals associated with it have a distinguished [history](#) of grassroots efforts to uphold and defend the constitutional rights of all Indians. The CJP has been involved directly in Assam since early 2018. Its document sources reports and studies by other eminent scholars, journalists and lawyers and its own fact-finding team of nearly one thousand volunteers, mobilized since June 2018, who also aided those excluded, particularly the unlettered and impoverished, from the initial December 2017 draft NRC.

We find their publications credible and well-sourced accounts of what Assam has endured. Any unsourced information in this section is a summary of details available in the two publications mentioned above.

## Background

**1979 Assam Agitation:** During the [bye-elections in Mangaldoi Lok Sabha constituency](#), widespread allegations of foreigners having made their way into the voters list arose. This led eventually to the Assam Agitation with the AASU (All Assam Students Union) as the spearhead.

**1983 Nellie Massacre:** In the midst of the agitation, India's first post-Independence genocidal massacre of marginalized Assamese Muslims [took place](#) on February 18, 1983: 2000 Muslims (other accounts put the number at 2500) lost their lives in six hours, incited by the demonization of “illegal migrants”.

The Assam Accord was [signed](#) in 1985 between the Government of India and militant groups in Assam who were agitating against “outsiders” settled in Assam. Consequently in 1987 the Citizenship Act, 1955 was amended to include a [Section 6A](#) for Assam. This Section provided that in Assam

(a) those who entered Assam from erstwhile East Pakistan before Jan 1, 1966 and were ordinary residents of Assam ever since would be treated as citizens of India from Jan 1, 1966.

(b) those who entered Assam from East Pakistan between Jan 1, 1966 and Mar 25, 1971, and residing in Assam since would have to apply to an authority. If the authority found that the person had entered Assam during that period it would register the person. The person would be granted some rights, except for the right to vote, for a period of 10 years from registration, after which they would be granted full citizenship. If the authority decided that the person does not meet the criteria, it would refer them to the Foreigners Tribunal.

Anyone entering illegally from Bangladesh after Mar 25, 1971 would not receive Indian citizenship.

For a long period after the Accord was signed, no actual process got underway to identify illegal immigrants. On July 17, 1997, the Election Commission directed the Government of Assam to remove non-citizens from the voters list. This was followed by a large-scale door-to-door survey across the state to revise electoral rolls.

## The NRC exercise in Assam (the only state that has undergone one)

The National Register of Citizens, a process both complex to understand and unique to Assam, was arrived at after the tumultuous years that preceded the Assam Accord, when aggression, strife and violence marred a politics that was driven by real or imagined fears of the outsider.

The National Register of Citizens, 1951 is a register of socio-economic data for individuals and households, prepared after the Census of 1951. Assam was the only state in the country that had an NRC [prepared in 1951](#) with 80 lakh citizens on the basis of that year's Census. No other state in the country had an NRC in 1951.

However, data for the 1951 NRC is [not available](#) at all for six districts of the state, and in four other districts, data is not available for significant portions of the districts. The 1951 NRC data was not publicly available and no 1951 resident could verify whether they were included. Mysteriously, the State government treats that incomplete, unverified data as the basis for the current NRC.

In his report on the 1961 census, the Registrar General of Census assessed that over two hundred thousand 'infiltrators' had entered Assam. The police launched a large-scale operation to detect and deport these 'infiltrators'. In 1998, a report by Assam Governor S K Sinha [highlighted](#) the 'grave threat' posed by illegal immigration from Bangladesh though many academics and human rights activists [questioned](#) this rhetoric. [Statements](#) from India's former home minister, Inderjit Gupta, in Parliament on illegal immigrants in Assam – also not based on comprehensive data - continued to influence the public discourse. India were told to believe that there are as many as twelve million 'infiltrators'.

Meanwhile the Supreme Court of India in two significant judgements, Sarbananda Sonowal, 2005 and 2007, alluded to national security risks from 'external aggression', buying into [the prevailing hysteria](#) around “illegal migration”.

In 1964, the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order was [passed](#) to weed out suspected 'foreigners' living in Assam. Over hundred thousand people were forcibly deported, without trial. From 1965, identity cards began to be issued to verified inhabitants of select areas to avoid the embarrassment of being mistaken for a Pakistani infiltrator.

### [NRC Modalities in Assam \(2013 until Now\)](#)

Legacy and Linkage: After elaborate discussions, it was decided that the genuineness of one's Indian citizenship [would be determined](#) by two kinds of documentation: legacy and linkage.

“Legacy documents” establish the citizenship of a person or their ancestor prior to March 25, 1971. They were referred to as List A documents.

“Linkage documents” were needed if the person possessed List A documents for an ancestor but not for themselves, to establish the relationship between their ancestor and themselves. These were called List B documents.

As the NRC process was on-going, some documents were inexplicably - and arbitrarily - declared to be [too weak](#) to stand as legitimate proof of citizenship. These included the very (and often only) documents that the poor and marginalized were likely to have.

During Assam's NRC process, large numbers have been rejected [because of minor discrepancies](#) in the names, titles, age differences in the legacy documents and the applicants. The 'Modalities of NRC' [explicitly states](#) that minor discrepancies should not affect a legitimate demand for inclusion in the updated NRC.

As Teesta Setalvad, civil rights activist and journalist, [points](#) out “No section of Assam's population has been left unaffected by the overpowering, State-created tragedy of the NRC.” Bengali-speaking Hindus, Muslims, the Gorkhas, Hindi-speaking people of north and west India have all been caught up in this equally. The slowly unfolding trauma has meant that women and men attend hearings scheduled in places far away from home, spending significant amounts of money filing applications. They are summoned repeatedly and asked to bring along the 'legacy persons' through whom they are establishing linkage.

This means that, in some cases, many people have even had to attend hearings as many as 7 to 14 times along with all family members. A batch of 40-80 persons from an extended family might travel up to hundreds of miles from their place of residence. A professor from a prominent university of Delhi had to rush thrice from Delhi to Lakhimpur, about 1875 miles away, along with all his family members.

## Foreigners Tribunals: Assam and All India

Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) are constituted under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964. The Supreme Court has legitimized these Foreigners Tribunals set up under Executive statute. Periodically, since 1948, then again in 1964, Foreigners Tribunals were set up in Assam through a central Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order.

The functioning of FTs has come in for [sharp criticism](#), given the absence of due process in their functioning, the procedures they follow and the inherent lack of transparency. The rushed disposals, the absence of judicial minds to head the Tribunals all render the process open to question.

After talk of an all India NRC gained traction, the MHA has, through an Order of Aug 30, 2019, amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 to apply the FTs on an all India basis.

## Detention Camps

The Detention Camps in Assam have had their share of horror stories. Now, Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra have also [announced](#) Detention Centres. In July 2019, the Central Government said that it has circulated a “Model Detention/Holding Centre Manual” to all states. Copies are not available in the public domain however. We have no way of judging whether they meet the standards prescribed by law, national or international. The Central Government has also issued “advisories” to local state governments to begin the detection of foreigners on a priority basis.

## Material Costs

A survey in four districts by a Human rights organisation has found that those excluded in the draft NRC in Assam [spent](#) a staggering Rs 7,836 crore (over 1 Billion USD) for hearings and many are so economically crippled that they will be unable to challenge exclusion before the FTs.

Take the case of Subrata Dey of Goalpara District in Lower Assam. Dey [died](#) in Goalpara detention camp in May, 2018. According to his mother Anima, “We had to spend about one lakh rupees as lawyer's fees and additional expenses to fight my son's case in the FT. After Subrata was declared foreigner and sent to a detention camp, we sold our domestic cattle and some other property and gathered two lakhs of rupees, which we gave to an advocate to fight the case in the High Court. But the case did not come up even in two years till Subrata's death”

The updation of the Assam NRC continues to throw up individual horror stories. The human and material costs to the most marginalized sections within Assam have been huge. Close to 100 deaths through suicide or trauma (in and out of Detention Camps) have been documented by Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), an Indian human rights organization. The fate of those excluded from citizenship is left to Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) that have a poor and unprofessional record. Once an FT declares a person a foreigner, he or she is most likely to be sent to a Detention Camp. So far there have been 27 deaths in Assam's six Detention Camps where over 2,000 persons are held, without regular prisoners' rights. This video provides more details: [Behind Shadows: Tales of Injustice from Assam's Detention camps.](#)

The World Bank in its report “Assam: Poverty, Growth & Inequality” of June 20, 2017 had [stated](#) that Assam not only lagged behind most Indian states in economic growth but “poverty reduction has been the slowest in Assam after 2005 and the incidence of poverty in Assam remained higher than the national average, with poverty levels being very high in some parts.” Is it a coincidence

that these were the years when the State's population was reeling under this inflicted Citizenship Crisis?

Neighbouring Bengal, replete with accounts of what Assam's population - especially linguistic and religious minorities - has [witnessed](#) 16 deaths, through suicide and trauma, in the past three months alone. On September 6, 2019, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly [passed a resolution](#) opposing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam and ruling out any such exercise in the State. The resolution was supported by members of both the governing party as well as an overwhelming majority of the Opposition. Only a handful of BJP members opposed it.

However governments proceed with modalities elsewhere, like we mentioned earlier: Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra are building or have built Detention Centres for illegal immigrants. Karnataka even [initiated punitive action](#) against “illegal Bangladeshis”, only to discover that the people it targeted were not Bangladeshis and the move was criticized by the High Court. These moves, as well as statements by politicians and administrators, have caused panic around a ['nationwide' NRC](#).

## THE NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER (NPR)

In 2003, the Central Government notified Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) rules through which it could conduct a nationwide house to house enumeration to determine citizenship status. The first stage would be the compilation of the National Population Register (NPR). All those whose citizenship is doubtful would be marked as such in population register for further enquiry. However, there is no clarity on what criteria/documentation would constitute proof of citizenship.

A relatively low-level bureaucrat, the sub-district or Taluk Registrar, finalises inclusion or exclusion within 90 days of compilation. The draft publication of the local register will invite objections or requests for inclusion. Anyone can object to the inclusion of any name in the register. These complaints have to be disposed of in 90 days. A person aggrieved by the outcome can appeal in 30 days to a District Registrar.

The District Registrar will decide after hearing the aggrieved within 90 days. The final register is then published and those included issued national identity cards. The excluded will be treated as foreigners and consequences include being sent to detention camps, being deported, etc.

On July 31, 2019, the MHA issued an Order for the enumeration to begin in April 2020 and conclude by September 2020.

## THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS (NRC)

As per the methodology prescribed in Citizenship (Registration of Citizen & Issue of NC) Rules 2003, the National Register of Citizens will source data from the Local Register of Indian Citizens after Scrutiny and Verification.

Since the preparation of NPR is the basis for an All India NRC, and given widespread statements by politically influential functionaries, many communities are already in the process of accessing documents and updating existing documents, including birth certificates, so that their record is correctly recorded in NPR. However, given the population size, the process is nevertheless certain to disrupt millions of lives.

## Questions Linger About the NRC Principles and Process

- What is the principle and approach behind the Government's all-India NRC going to be?
- Will the Government, bound as it is by the Indian Constitutional Vision, follow a principled approach of inclusion or exclusion?
  - India does not have 100% voter registration. There have been also serious concerns, of certain marginalised sections of the population being disenfranchised politically.
  - When we as a country have not even managed to register all Indians as voters, can we be expected to have a fair registration process (NPR or NRC)?
  - As the vast majority of residents can be citizens only by birth or descent, birth certificates would be the primary evidence of citizenship. According to UNICEF, the current registration level of births in the country is about 58%.
  - Millions of Indians are migrant labourers who will not of course reside at their permanent addresses. Handling this migrant population and ensuring a fair process for them would be a major challenge.
- If January 27, 1950, is the base date for 'proving' citizenship what will the approach of authorities to documentary proof be, given the statistics mentioned above?
- What are the Modalities and Criteria of proof and documentation to record/exclude names in the NPR which is the basis of the NRC?
- Who will decide these details of the process and who will have power over inclusion/exclusion?

In summary, while we might hope for the best, experience with bigotry and bureaucracy prompts fears that an All India NRC is likely to cause huge upheavals and trauma.

## CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT 2019 (CAA)

The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019, thanks principally to the brute force majority enjoyed by the BJP, with a little help from alliance partners. The Act principally states that Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Parsi or Christian illegal immigrants who entered India before December 31, 2014, fleeing religious persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan will not be subject to the law denying illegal immigrants citizenship.

Testifying in Parliament, the Director of India's Intelligence Bureau stated that this would [benefit](#) 31,313 illegal immigrants, contradicting the figure of [millions](#) repeatedly asserted by government representatives. The natural question this raises is if it is not the illegal immigrants registered officially with authorities, who precisely are the millions the government expects are going to benefit from the indemnity offered by the CAA.

In testimony recorded in 2016, the Intelligence Bureau had also said it is not practically possible to verify claims of religious persecution. A host of questions on the inclusions and exclusions in the CAA have never been satisfactorily answered by the Government, leading to the conclusion that the Act is not really about protecting those persecuted for their religion.

One can only suspect that this government plans, in practice if not in words, to alter the basis of Indian Citizenship. The CAA allows Non-Muslims to obtain Indian Citizenship if they hail from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Since no real proof of their having arrived from elsewhere or of their religious persecution is [likely to be demanded](#), any Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Parsi or Christian individual who cannot provide proof of citizenship during the NRC exercise could

possibly avoid exclusion if they produce an official Indian document from before Dec 31, 2014 that lists their religious affiliation.

In fact, the Central Government had recommended as long back as 2016 that the Assam Government [free all Non-Muslim detainees](#) from the Detention Centres, on the basis of two rules the Centre had notified in 2015. Any Muslim who fails, either through lack of adequate documentation or through bureaucratic action/inaction, to prove their citizenship in the impending NRC exercise will have no such recourse to rules notified in 2015 or the provisions of the CAA.

The summary of Assam's NRC should also make it plain that while a religious minority is going to be disproportionately affected, a nation-wide NRC will also place extra-ordinary burdens on all citizens, particularly the marginalized. The economic burden alone is considerable, given that the NRC in just 1 state cost the government [1600 Crore INR](#) (220 Million USD) and affected residents spent [7836 Crore INR](#) (nearly 1.1 Billion USD) trying to get their names included in the Register. We are unable to estimate the costs of disrupted lives, psychological trauma and social turmoil.

## CALL TO ACTION

Due to the constraint of time and the complex subjects introduced in this submission, we request that the USCIRF consider the testimonies of its distinguished witnesses and any submissions as a prelude to a deeper engagement.

We would urge the USCIRF to

1. Visit Delhi and Assam, if within its purview, to hear directly from all stakeholders of Indian society. Alternately, you could identify internationally credible witnesses from India to testify at a subsequent hearing in the US.
2. Raise the issue of the growing shift in India's official Citizenship policies with the US Congress and work with both Houses to explore a formal engagement with the Government of India and Indian civil society.
3. Ask the US Executive and the State Department to reconsider their concurrence with the Indian Government that the CAA, NPR and NRC, the handling of protests and the violence in Delhi are internal matters of India, and engage with non-governmental stakeholders to obtain a holistic understanding of the laws and events.
4. In light of the upcoming India-European Union Summit and the deferred voting on a EU Parliament motion on the CAA, call upon the EU and the EU Parliament to hear not only the Indian Government's views but engage with credible India-based human rights and civil society representatives as well on the issue.

## APPENDIX: A TIMELINE OF EVENTS SINCE THE CAA WAS INTRODUCED

We believe it to be practically impossible, and possibly too early, to build a comprehensive narrative of events across India (and even overseas) related to the CAA, NPR and NRC. We instead provide a timeline to illustrate the widespread civil, political, academic and state government opposition to these actions, scale of the protests, nature of police and administration response to protests, violence that erupted in Delhi in the last week of February, and police action/inaction during the violence.

<b>Dec 9, 2019</b>	Citizenship Amendment Bill <a href="#">introduced</a> in Lok Sabha
<b>Dec 10, 2019</b>	The CAB is <a href="#">passed</a> with 311 members voting in favour and 80 against
<b>Dec 11, 2019</b>	The <a href="#">CAB is passed</a> in Rajya Sabha with 125 votes in favour & 105 votes against
<b>Dec 12, 2019</b>	CAB accorded the <a href="#">status of an act</a>
<b>Dec 12, 2019</b>	Dipanjal Das and Sam Stafford are <a href="#">killed</a> in police firing during a protest in Guwahati.
<b>Dec 12, 2019</b>	Akhil Gogoi taken in <a href="#">preventive</a> custody
<b>Dec 13, 2019</b>	Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh <a href="#">refuse</a> to implement CAA
<b>Dec 14, 2019</b>	Ishwar Nayak <a href="#">killed</a> in police firing in Assam
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	Abdul Alim <a href="#">succumbs</a> to injuries suffered in police firing in previous day's protest
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Protests turn violent</a> as 3 Delhi Transport Corporation buses are torched
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	Police <a href="#">brutalize students of Jamia Millia Islamia University</a> (JMI) entering their campus
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	Police <a href="#">used tear gas and batons on unarmed students</a> of JMI
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	Police brutality results in <a href="#">protests</a> across the country and abroad
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Protests</a> are held outside Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Police enter AMU campus and attack students</a> , injuring 80 students
<b>Dec 15, 2019</b>	West Bengal witnesses <a href="#">violent protests</a> with burning of 5 trains
<b>Dec 16, 2019</b>	Police <a href="#">prevent</a> 300 students from Nadwa University from staging peaceful protests. 15 to 20 students injured and 30 students were charged by police.
<b>Dec 16, 2019</b>	Priyanka Gandhi leads <a href="#">silent protest</a> at India Gate with 300 Indian National Congress members in solidarity with student victims of JMI police brutality
<b>Dec 16, 2019</b>	All Assam Student's Union conducts <a href="#">satyagraha</a> across Assam that lasts till Dec 18
<b>Dec 17, 2019</b>	Violent <a href="#">clashes</a> in Delhi's Seelampur area; police use tear gas and batons against protesters causing injuries on both sides
<b>Dec 17, 2019</b>	Dawn-to-dusk <a href="#">hartal</a> (shutdown) against the CAA observed in Kerala
<b>Dec 18, 2019</b>	Supreme Court hears 60 petitions challenging CAA, <a href="#">declines to stay implementation of CAA</a>
<b>Dec 18, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Signatories from more than 1,100 academic institutions</a> across the world sign a statement "condemning the recent police action and brutalisation of students at Jamia Millia University and Aligarh Muslim University"
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	3 protesters (2 in Mangalore and 1 in Lucknow) <a href="#">killed</a> in police firing
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Section 144 imposed</a> in several BJP ruled states such as Karnataka, up and parts of Delhi.
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Internet services suspended</a> in Sambhal, Aligarh, Mau, Ghaziabad, and Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh and Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	Protest meetings held defying bans in Delhi's Red Fort and Bengaluru. Tens of thousands of people protest in Hyderabad, Patna, Chandigarh, Mumbai and other cities
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	In Delhi, politicians Yogendra Yadav and Sitaram Yechury and <a href="#">1,200 protesters were detained</a>
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	<a href="#">700 flights delayed</a> and more than 20 cancelled in Delhi
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	Historian Ramchandra Guha along with other professors <a href="#">detained</a> by police
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	Curfew imposed in Mangaluru, police later allegedly <a href="#">forced its way into the hospital</a> where 2 victims were brought
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	In Ahmedabad, during a <a href="#">violent clash</a> in the Shah-e-Alam's Roza area, police use tear gas, while trying to disperse a crowd of around 2000 protesters

<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	90 protesters including 50 students of Hyderabad university <a href="#">detained</a> by Hyderabad police
<b>Dec 19, 2019</b>	Protests involving <a href="#">20,000 protesters concludes peacefully</a> at Mumbai
<b>Dec 20, 2019</b>	6 protesters (one each in Meerut, Sambhal, Kanpur and Firozabad and 2 in Bijnor) <a href="#">killed</a> in separate police firing incidents
<b>Dec 21, 2019</b>	Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar Azad <a href="#">arrested</a> along with 27 people and 3 FIRs were registered for incidents on 20 December at Delhi Gate and Seemapuri
<b>Dec 21, 2019</b>	<a href="#">11 dead and several are injured</a> in clashes at multiple locations in Uttar Pradesh
<b>Dec 21, 2019</b>	18-year-old protester Amir Hanzla <a href="#">beaten to death</a> by Hindu extremists for role in protests
<b>Dec 22, 2019</b>	Karnataka government announces <a href="#">ex-gratia compensation</a> to the families of two men killed in protests against CAA in Mangaluru
<b>Dec 22, 2019</b>	Uttar Pradesh government creates a panel to assess damage to the property and to recover the losses by <a href="#">seizing</a> the property of the alleged protesters
<b>Dec 23, 2019</b>	Dibrugarh <a href="#">police arrest 55 people</a> for involvement in acts of violence in the district during protests against the Amendment
<b>Dec 23, 2019</b>	Unidentified people <a href="#">assault</a> three migrant labourers from West Bengal for allegedly taking part in anti-CAA protests
<b>Dec 23, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Complaint registered</a> against AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan over charges of "sharing an objectionable post" on the social media against the Act
<b>Dec 23, 2019</b>	31 people <a href="#">arrested</a> for violence during an anti-CAA protest in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh
<b>Dec 24, 2019</b>	Despite widespread protests, <a href="#">Central Government approves</a> updating of National Population Register (NPR) & allocates ₹3,941.35 crore for it
<b>Dec 24, 2019</b>	German exchange student at IIT Madras <a href="#">deported</a> for participating in the CAA protests
<b>Dec 24, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Reports</a> of police vandalising homes, shops and cars and accusing and arresting protesters of taking part in vandalism emerged from the state of Uttar Pradesh
<b>Dec 24, 2019</b>	1,000-1,200 <a href="#">protesters were booked</a> for organising a candle march in Aligarh Muslim University for violating Section 144
<b>Dec 25, 2019</b>	The ex-gratia compensation announced for kin of Mangaluru victims is <a href="#">withdrawn</a>
<b>Dec 26, 2019</b>	In Sambhal, UP, the government sent <a href="#">notices to 26 people</a> asking them to compensate for alleged involvement in damaging properties during protests
<b>Dec 27, 2019</b>	357 people including 75 women protesting against CAA and police atrocities <a href="#">detained</a> by the Delhi police
<b>Dec 28, 2019</b>	The Indian National Congress, on its foundation day, undertakes a <a href="#">flag march</a> in Mumbai
<b>Dec 28, 2019</b>	UP government demands ₹25,000 each from more than <a href="#">140 people</a> , a total of ₹40 lakh as penalty for damages caused during protests
<b>Dec 29, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Shaheen Bagh protests led by women</a> which started on 15 December garners media attention
<b>Dec 30, 2019</b>	Delhi <a href="#">Police arrests street vendors</a> , accusing them of violence during Jamia attacks.
<b>Dec 31, 2019</b>	Protests <a href="#">held during New Year's Eve</a> in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Mumbai and Kolkatta
<b>Jan 1, 2020</b>	50,000-170,000 people participate in an <a href="#">anti-CAA rally</a> organised by Muslims in Kochi
<b>Jan 3, 2020</b>	UP Police admits to <a href="#">wrongfully arresting innocent people</a> ; releases four minors from jail due to lack of evidence.
<b>Jan 4, 2020</b>	More than 100,000 protesters attended a <a href="#">protest march</a> named "Million March" against the Citizenship Amendment Bill held in Hyderabad
<b>Jan 5, 2020</b>	To suppress student activism during CAA protests, a masked mob, allegedly from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, <a href="#">attack</a> the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus and injure more than 40 students and teachers
<b>Jan 8, 2020</b>	PM Modi <a href="#">cancelled</a> his visit to Assam, while the CAA protests continue
<b>Jan 9, 2020</b>	<a href="#">Police detained around 100 students</a> during JNU students' protest march towards Rashtrapati Bhavan, when the march was blocking Janpath
<b>Jan 9, 2020</b>	The <a href="#">Chief Justice of India dismissed a petition by a lawyer</a> demanding that the CAA be declared constitutionally valid, stating that "There is a presumption of constitutionality".
<b>Jan 10, 2020</b>	The Citizenship Amendment Act <a href="#">comes into effect</a>
<b>Jan 10, 2020</b>	The Delhi High Court <a href="#">dismissed a plea</a> to remove the protesters occupying Shaheen Bagh
<b>Jan 11, 2020</b>	<a href="#">Hundreds protest against CAA at Kolkata airport during PM Modi's visit</a>
<b>Jan 11, 2020</b>	At very onset of anti-CAA rally, police seen <a href="#">caning peaceful protesters in Hyderabad</a>
<b>Jan 11, 2020</b>	Pradyot Manikya Debbarma, the scion of the Manikya dynasty, led the <a href="#">largest protest</a> in Tripura
<b>Jan 12 2020</b>	In Kolkata, protesters outside the venue of PM Modi's speech were <a href="#">detained</a> by the police.

**Jan 12, 2020** Indian National Congress [demands the withdrawal of CAA](#), and a halt to the update of NPR

**Jan 13, 2020** Parliamentary Panel on Home Affairs [criticized](#) Delhi Police for violent crackdown on JMI & JNU

**Jan 13, 2020** A [meeting of 20 opposition parties](#) in Delhi demands revocation of the CAA and asked all state Chief Ministers who refused to implement the NRC to stop updating the NPR

**Jan 13, 2020** Several [student groups protested outside the office of Vice-Chancellor](#) of JMI asking to reschedule exam dates & to file a case against Delhi Police to ensure the safety of students.

**Jan 14, 2020** The Kerala government approaches Supreme Court to [challenge the CAA](#) under Section 131 of the Constitution and became the first state to do so.

**Jan 14, 2020** Mani Shankar Aiyar of Indian National Congress [joins](#) anti CAA protesters at Shaheen Bagh

**Jan 14, 2020** 5000 women staged [a sit-in protest](#) at Mansoor Ali park in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

**Jan 15, 2020** More than 200,000 people join the [Anti-CAA protests in Mangalore](#), where hundreds of people came in boats carrying Indian flags

**Jan 15, 2020** Petition filed in [Gujarat High court asking its intervention to let citizens hold Anti-CAA protests](#) in Ahmedabad

**Jan 15, 2020** Delhi [court granted bail](#) and released Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad aka "Raavan", arrested for his protest in December against CAA at Jama Masjid, Delhi

**Jan 15, 2020** Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) [postpones all exams](#) due to the ongoing CAA protests

**Jan 16, 2020** Police in Chennai [banned all protests](#) in the city for a period of 15 days

**Jan 17, 2020** Inspired by the Shaheen Bagh protest, a massive [protest started in Mumbai](#). Around 10,000 women gathered at the YMCA ground in Mumbai in the evening.

**Jan 17, 2020** Around 500 women began a sit-in protest at the Clock tower grounds in Lucknow, UP

**Jan 18, 2020** Uttar Pradesh [police cracked down on the CAA protesters](#) demonstrating near the Clock Tower in Lucknow and snatched their personal belongings

**Jan 19, 2020** In Delhi, hundreds of protesters joined a [protest march](#) holding lighted candles from Jamia University to Shaheen Bagh

**Jan 19, 2020** In Berlin, Germany more than 200 [people join the protest march](#) against CAA, NRC and the JNU attack

**Jan 19, 2020** An all [women protest](#) started on 11 January, outside Konark Mall in Pune, organized by Kul Jamaat-e-Tanzeem, an umbrella body of several organisations, reached its ninth day

**Jan 20, 2020** Several UK Labour Party MPs [discussed](#) concerns regarding the CAA in London

**Jan 21, 2020** More than 300,000 people join an [anti-CAA protest rally](#) at Kalaburagi in Karnataka

**Jan 21, 2020** In UP's Etawah, a [video emerged showing Police chasing and attacking women protesters](#) with batons in their attempts to break the protest

**Jan 21, 2020** Police register [cases against 160 women](#) for violation of the ban on assembly and protesting against CAA in Lucknow

**Jan 21, 2020** Despite ban on assembly, [Amit Shah allowed to address pro-CAA rally at Lucknow](#).

**Jan 21, 2020** Various college students' associations called a [complete shutdown of colleges](#) and universities in the north-east, asking the Supreme Court to declare CAA as unconstitutional.

**Jan 22, 2020** A 5 kilometre long [procession against CAA](#) led by CM Mamata Banerjee in Darjeeling, West Bengal

**Jan 22, 2020** Women continued [sit-in protests](#) for the third day at the Haj House near Kadru Over Bridge in Ranchi, Jharkhand

**Jan 22, 2020** [144 CAA related petitions scheduled for hearing](#) in the Supreme Court of India were brought up

**Jan 22, 2020** [Supreme Court also segregated the case of Assam and Tripura](#) considering the fact of cross-border infiltration and assured of looking into the matter separately

**Jan 22, 2020** [A fact-finding team consisting of students of various prominent universities](#) like Banaras Hindu University, JMI and JNU released a report accusing the UP police of brutality in dealing with protesters and attacking Muslims

**Jan 22, 2020** While addressing a Pro-CAA public meeting, Chief Minister of UP threatens to charge the protesters with [sedition](#) if they raise slogans demanding *Azadi* (Freedom)

**Jan 24, 2020** A [state-wide shutdown](#), "Maharashtra Bandh" by Vanchit BahuJan Aghadi (VBA) to protest against the CAA and the economic policies of the BJP-led central government

**Jan 24, 2020** [Curfew](#) was imposed in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district after a clash and violence between pro and anti CAA protesters

**Jan 25, 2020** In London, around 2000 people from the Indian diaspora and Human Rights organisations conducted a [protest march against CAA](#) from Downing Street to the Indian High Commission.

Jan 25, 2020	More than a thousand women staged a <a href="#">sit-in protest</a> at Frazer Town in Bangalore for 48 hours
Jan 26, 2020	More than <a href="#">300 eminent personalities</a> in India including Naseeruddin Shah, Javed Jaffrey, Mira Nair sign a statement against the CAA
Jan 26, 2020	On Republic Day, protests held in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chicago and London
Jan 30, 2020	A Hindu fundamentalist <a href="#">opened fire</a> at a protest at JMI, injuring one student.
Jan 30, 2020	Bihar Police <a href="#">detained</a> CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar before he could start his month-long "Jan-Gana-Man Yatra" at Champaran on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary
Jan 31, 2020	14 opposition parties, led by <a href="#">Indian National Congress wore black armbands and vacated front row seats to protest against the new law</a> , the NRC and the NPR during President's address to the Joint Session of the Parliament
Feb 1, 2020	<a href="#">Another Hindu fundamentalist fired bullets in the air during the Shaheen Bagh protests</a>
Feb 1, 2020	Amnesty International informed US lawmakers that the <a href="#">CAA clearly violates the Constitution of India and International human rights law</a> and "legitimises discrimination" on the basis of religion
Feb 6, 2020	In Bidar, a <a href="#">mother and a school principal were arrested for sedition</a> after the mother's daughter participated in a play against the CAA
Feb 7, 2020	The Bidar <a href="#">police interrogated 85 school-children</a> studying in classes 4-6 for participating in an anti-CAA play
Feb 7, 2020	<a href="#">Two bike-borne men opened fired in the air near an anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protest site</a> in Northeast Delhi's Jafrabad.
Feb 8, 2020	Muslim Councillor in Indore <a href="#">resigns</a> from BJP, accusing it of spreading "politics of hatred".
Feb 11, 2020	JMI students staged a march to the Parliament against the CAA and NRC. The march was stopped by the Delhi <a href="#">police who detained protesters</a> .
Feb 11, 2020	Female protesters at JMI accuse police of <a href="#">sexual assault</a>
Feb 16, 2020	Imran Pratapgarhi, <a href="#">INC politician fined ₹1.04 crore</a> for violating Section 144 at the Idgah ground
Feb 17, 2020	Magsaysay Award recipient <a href="#">Sandeep Pandey arrested</a> by police for attempting to protest. He was released on bail after being produced in court
Feb 18, 2020	UP government informed Allahabad High Court that <a href="#">22 people had been killed in the protests and a total of 883 people had been arrested</a> in connection with violence during the protests
Feb 19, 2020	UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed concerns over the <a href="#">possibility of millions being rendered stateless</a> due to the CAA and NRC
Feb 19, 2020	In Chennai, a confederation of Muslim groups led a <a href="#">massive rally</a> towards the Secretariat of Tamil Nadu in a demonstration against the CAA
Feb 20, 2020	All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Waris Pathan <a href="#">stokes controversy</a> at rally in Karnataka's <a href="#">Gulbarga</a> district
Feb 22, 2020	About <a href="#">200 Women gathered</a> for protest near Jaffrabad Metro Station, Delhi
Feb 22, 2020	Maharashtra Chief Minister decides <a href="#">not to pass a resolution against the CAA</a>
Feb 23, 2020	Jaffrabad Metro Station protest <a href="#">continued</a> for second day. 500, mostly women, gather.
Feb 23, 2020	BJP politician Kapil Mishra makes a <a href="#">provocative speech</a> , <a href="#">threatening</a> protesters to vacate site
Feb 24, 2020	Hindu <a href="#">mob unleashes violence</a> in North East Delhi. Arson attacks and mob lynching with apparent police complicity recorded on camera
Feb 24, 2020	<a href="#">40 killed</a> in the <a href="#">North East Delhi pogrom</a>
Feb 25, 2020	A <a href="#">shoot-at-sight order</a> was issued in the evening by Delhi Police
Feb 26, 2020	Delhi High Court in <a href="#">midnight hearing ensures safe passage of injured victims</a> to hospitals
Feb 26, 2020	Delhi High Court asks the police to decide on filing FIR against inflammatory speeches
Feb 26, 2020	INC interim president <a href="#">blames Amit Shah for riots</a> and demands that he resign
Feb 26, 2020	Body of Intelligence Bureau staff, Ankit Sharma <a href="#">found</a> in a drain in North East Delhi
Feb 26, 2020	Mosque <a href="#">desecrated</a> at Delhi's Ashok Nagar.
Feb 27, 2020	Day after Delhi High Court Judge asks cops to decide on FIRs, <a href="#">orders of transfer</a> cleared by Government and President
Feb 28, 2020	An Indian policeman <a href="#">hailed as a hero</a> after he braved rioting mobs to save families during violence in Delhi.
Feb 29, 2020	Muslim women displaced in Delhi violence <a href="#">recall horror</a> of Molotov cocktails and arson
Mar 1, 2020	Hundreds of families <a href="#">forced to flee</a> burning homes have moved to nearby area of Indira Vihar.
Mar 1, 2020	Indian Americans <a href="#">organise protests</a> after violence in the Indian capital, worst since 1984.
Mar 2, 2020	<a href="#">Rumours of mob attacks</a> across Delhi made for tense night in Delhi
Mar 2, 2020	Delhi shaken; Humans, mosques and madrassas <a href="#">set ablaze</a> in front of the police.

