

# Techie earns thumbs up for legacy data mapping

Abdul Gani | TNN

**Guwahati:** While people in Assam were living in anxiety over the publication of the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC), a back room techie was sweating it out in his digital world to ensure the legacy data mapping had no flaws.

For about a fortnight, the nail-biting suspense continued until the midnight of December 31 when the government announced the names of the legal citizens for the first list.

Engineer Abhijit Bhuyan, who played an exemplary role in linking 27,000 villages—probably the largest exercise of this kind in the country—formed the backbone of the citizenship test.

The data mapping had 27,000 booklets with one booklet for every village and a page for each family. Speaking to TOI, the engineer said, "This is one of the most



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crucial components of the NRC. Here you can have every detail of every family in the villages. We had 115 layers of how the work was progressing in the booklets."

Bhuyan toiled for six months with his team of 70



IT experts and the success of the stupendous exercise has earned him a big thumbs up.

He said there is also a sen-

se of pride in the achievement as his company is based in Assam.

An alumnus of the Assam Engineering College, Bhuyan started working on the project from September 2014. He is now being flooded with offers for data linking from companies across the country.

After the first publication of the NRC in 1951, the government brought out the list again in 2017 declaring 1.9 crore individuals as citizens while the rest 1.39 are still under verification.

"The NRC mapping will be an important document for the state," he said.

Describing his hard work, he said he digitized the applications first before preparing the field verification report and family report with the legacy image booklet. Bhuyan and his team then started working on the family tree in 2016.

A graduate of electro-

ronics and telecommunications, Bhuyan started his company in 1999 and has so far achieved several milestones, including CMMI—level 3, a prestigious grade which no one in the northeast has earned.

State NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela said, "That's how a local company, though they have been doing overseas projects, has become one of our main agencies for NRC. We got tenders from across the country and finally, his company qualified," Hajela told TOI.

He added that he got around two crore names and six lakh images.

"These had to be translated and made searchable in three languages. It was also important to have the data accessible offline for those who can't access the internet. In all the 5,000 computers in all the NRC Seva Kendras, the data had to be loaded," added Hajela.