

## No date extension for NRC in Assam, says SC

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined pleas to extend the date for the final publication of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam by two months from May 31 to July 31 of this year.

A Bench led by Justice Ranjan Gogoi stressed that the ongoing work should be completed by May 31 without “any interference from any quarter”.

The NRC is being prepared to identify illegal migrants residing in the north-eastern State.

The court took exception to a submission made by the Centre and the State coordinator for the NRC that the process would be completed by July 31, instead of May 31.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal submitted that a status report from the State Coordinator showed that the verification of around one crore persons in the State was yet to be done and this exercise would take till July 31.

State coordinator Prateek Hajela submitted that the verification process involved house visits and a mop-up operation was required. “You push it up. We are not going to push it down. Do it by May 31, not a day later,” Justice Gogoi made the court’s stand clear.

When Mr. Venugopal said the May 31 deadline was an impossible one, Justice Gogoi observed: “Our business is to make the impossible, possible and we will do it.”

The court posted the matter for hearing on March 27.

END

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