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Credit - Drishti Ias

NATGRID-NPR Integration



Source: TH

Why in News?

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has been linked to the **National Population Register (NPR)**, allowing authorised agencies real-time access to **family-level demographic data** of **nearly 119 crore residents**, significantly expanding India's intelligence and investigation architecture.

What are the Key Facts About National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)?

- **NATGRID:** It is a **secure, integrated intelligence-sharing platform** designed to help law enforcement and security agencies **access multiple databases in real time** for counter-terrorism and criminal investigations.
 - NATGRID was conceived in **2009**, in the aftermath of the **26/11 Mumbai terror attacks (2008)**, to overcome information silos among security agencies and enable faster, intelligence-led responses.
 - It became operational in **2023** and currently processes **around 45,000 data access requests per month** from authorised agencies.
 - Initially limited to **10 central agencies (IB, RAW, NIA, ED, FIU, NCB, DRI, etc.)** had access. It has now been **expanded to SP-rank officers** of State police, strengthening Centre-State coordination.
- **Key Tools:** Advanced analytics tools like **Gandiva** support **facial recognition, entity resolution, and multi-source data analysis**, allowing investigators to identify suspects using images and family-linked NPR data.
 - An **Organised Crime Network Database** is being developed on NATGRID to enable secure data-sharing between the NIA and State Anti-Terror Squads.
- **Nature of Data Access:** NATGRID allows access to **Aadhaar, banking, tax, FASTag, passport, travel, Financial Intelligence Unit and social media data**. The information is categorised as **non-sensitive, sensitive, and highly sensitive** (bank statements, financial and tax data, export-import details).
- **Privacy and Safeguards:** Each query is **logged, purpose-based, and subject to senior officer oversight**, but **data access without a First Information Report (FIR)** raises concerns over **privacy, proportionality, and due process**.

- **Federal Dimension:** States have been encouraged to **actively use NATGRID**, strengthening **Centre-State intelligence coordination**.
 - NATGRID's architecture is designed to integrate databases connected to nearly 14,000 police stations across the country.

National Population Register (NPR)

- The NPR is a **nationwide database containing demographic and family-wise details of residents in India**, including name, age, gender, address, and family relationships.
- NPR is the first step for the creation of a countrywide **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**.
- The NPR is prepared under the provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955** and the **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003**. It is mandatory for **every "usual resident of India"** to register in the NPR.
- A **usual resident** is a person who has lived in a local area for **six months or more**, or **intends to reside there for the next six months or more**.
- NPR data was collected during the **2010-11 Census** and last updated in 2015. no decision has been taken to update it during the **upcoming Census 2027**.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is NATGRID and why was it created?

NATGRID is a secure intelligence-sharing platform conceived after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks to break information silos and enable real-time data access for counter-terrorism and criminal investigations.

2. What new capability does linking NATGRID with NPR provide?

It allows authorised agencies real-time access to family-level demographic data of residents, improving suspect identification and network analysis.

3. Which law governs the National Population Register?

NPR is prepared under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements: (2009)

1. Between Census 1951 and Census 2001, the density of the population of India has increased more than three times.
2. Between Census 1951 and Census 2001, the annual growth rate (exponential) of the population of India has doubled.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue



Source:TH

Ambassadors of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** countries- **the US, India, Australia, and Japan** , held a rare publicised meeting in **Beijing** , describing their ties as “**stable and strong.**”

- **About:** The QUAD began as a humanitarian coordination mechanism after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.
 - Originally proposed in 2007 by Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe , the framework remained inactive after Australia stepped back in 2008 before being revived in 2017 against the backdrop of China’s growing Indo-Pacific assertiveness.
 - It focuses on **regional security, economic cooperation, maritime safety, infrastructure, and supply chain resilience** , while **not being a formal military alliance** .
- **Vision of the Quad:** The **2021 QUAD Leaders’ Summit** adopted the “**Spirit of the Quad**” , reaffirming a **free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific** anchored in **democratic values, rule of law, and freedom from coercion** .
- **Key QUAD Initiatives:**
 - **QUAD At Sea Ship Observer Mission:** Launched under the [Wilmington Declaration \(2024\)](#) of the QUAD , it is an initiative to boost interoperability, maritime domain awareness, and operational coordination in the Indo-Pacific.
 - [Malabar Exercise](#) : It is a major annual multilateral naval drill involving the Quad nations, focused on enhancing maritime coordination, interoperability, and readiness in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Expansion Potential:** The “**Quad Plus**” engagements have involved countries such as South Korea, New Zealand, and Vietnam, reflecting the grouping’s potential for future expansion.
- **China’s Opposition:** It has repeatedly opposed the Quad, describing it as “**bloc politics like NATO**” and warning against cooperation that targets third countries, reinforcing China’s discomfort with Indo-Pacific coalitions.
 - Despite China’s claims, the Quad **has no mutual defence treaty** . It focuses on **strategic coordination, maritime security, economic cooperation, and rules-based order** , not collective military defence.

Read more: [Quad Marks 20 Years of Cooperation](#)