

Citizens, Governance and Democratic Politics

(Abstract)

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The new initiative of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam – only the latest in the series of many such initiatives in recent years – marks the arrival of a new regime citizenship in India. While the first part dwells on an understanding of the complex nature of this regime, the second part reflects on how labour – particularly cheap and unskilled labour – is sought to be disenfranchised within the template of this new citizenship regime. The third part develops the argument that democratic politics today reaches a point in which it is no longer subsumed under the politics of citizenship and seeks to find out with the help of our recently conducted ethnographic studies how such *excesses* are enacted at the very site of citizenship.