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Operation Mukta: Bengaluru Police's Identity-Verification Drive, Explained

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SECURITY & DEFENCE

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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Operation Mukta: Bengaluru Police's Identity-Verification Drive, Explained

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The Bengaluru City Police launched “**Operation Mukta**” on **August 8, 2026**, a large-scale identity-document verification drive across the **Whitefield** and **Electronic City** police divisions, deploying over **500 personnel** in Whitefield alone across **30-plus locations**, and detaining **1,909 people** for verification in the Electronic City division, of whom **15** were confirmed as **Bangladeshi nationals**.*

WHAT HAPPENED

Police teams began early-morning operations from around 5:00 AM on August 8, checking Aadhaar cards, Voter ID cards, and other identity documents at migrant labour settlements and residential clusters. In the **Electronic City division**, covering Electronic City, Begur, Parappana Agrahara, Bandeepalya, Hulimavu, and Hebbagodi, **295 police personnel** searched **29 locations**, detaining **1,909 people** for verification; of these, **15 were confirmed Bangladeshi nationals**, eight traced to Begur and seven to Parappana Agrahara. In the **Whitefield division**, covering Whitefield, Kadugodi, Marathahalli, Bellandur, Varthur, and Mahadevapura, over **500 officers** covered more than **30 locations** across six police station limits, detaining roughly **40 suspicious individuals**, of whom **four were identified as Bangladeshi nationals** staying unlawfully, after foreign documents were recovered from them. Police have described Operation Mukta as a continuing verification exercise rather than a one-time raid, with further rounds of document checks and deportation follow-up expected across the city.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Enforcement action against persons found to be staying in India without valid documents draws on a specific statutory framework, not a single law:

- The **Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920**, which regulates entry into India and requires valid travel documents for foreign nationals.
- The **Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939**, which mandates registration of foreign nationals with the appropriate authority.

- The **Foreigners Act, 1946**, the principal statute governing the entry, presence, and departure of foreigners from India; **Section 3** of the Act empowers the Central Government to regulate, restrict, or prohibit the entry or continued presence of foreigners, and confers the power to order deportation of a foreign national found to be staying illegally.
- The **Citizenship Act, 1955**, which governs the acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship and is used alongside the above statutes to establish whether a detained individual is in fact a foreign national.

Once a person is confirmed as a foreign national without valid documentation, cases are forwarded to the **Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)**, the nodal authority under the Ministry of Home Affairs responsible for visa extension, registration, and deportation proceedings for foreign nationals in India. The FRRO verifies nationality claims, coordinates with the concerned country's diplomatic mission where needed, and initiates the formal deportation process once illegal stay is established.

SCALE AND RECENT TREND

Bengaluru police data places Operation Mukta within a wider, months-long enforcement push. Over the preceding year (August 2025 to August 2026), the Electronic City division alone recorded **64 cases** involving suspected Bangladeshi nationals, of which **47 were deported** and **17 were referred to the FRRO** for further verification. Karnataka police have apprehended nearly **1,000 suspected illegal immigrants statewide over the preceding three months**, indicating that Operation Mukta is a scaled-up continuation of an existing enforcement pattern rather than an isolated one-off drive.

BALANCING ENFORCEMENT WITH DUE PROCESS

Why verification drives matter for internal security. Unregulated or undocumented settlement by foreign nationals in a rapidly growing tech and manufacturing hub like Bengaluru raises legitimate concerns around identity fraud, strain on local civic infrastructure, and the risk that undocumented migration corridors can be exploited for purposes unrelated to labour migration, all of which fall within the internal-security and border-management ambit of India's National Security architecture. Bengaluru's IT-driven economy also draws large numbers of interstate and cross-border migrant workers into informal settlements, which the police have flagged as historically under-verified.

The due-process safeguard that must accompany enforcement. A drive of this scale, detaining nearly 1,950 people across two divisions in a single week to confirm just 19 as foreign nationals, illustrates why identity-verification exercises must be conducted with adequate safeguards against wrongful detention or harassment of genuine Indian citizens and lawfully resident migrant workers who may lack certain documents on hand but are not illegal immigrants. Legitimate migrant workers, including many from West Bengal and Assam whose Bengali-language documents or accents have in the past led to mistaken detention in similar drives elsewhere in India, are especially vulnerable to being swept up in large verification operations. Due process requires that detention for verification remain time-bound, that documentary checks be handled by

trained personnel who can distinguish valid but unfamiliar Indian identity documents from forged or absent ones, and that confirmed Indian citizens be released without procedural delay. Property owners have also been separately warned by police against renting to tenants without verification, extending the compliance burden to landlords as a preventive measure.

A law-enforcement matter, not a boundary dispute. Operation Mukta is a domestic identity-verification and deportation exercise conducted entirely within India's territory under existing immigration law; it does not concern any international boundary or territorial question and should not be conflated with India's boundary positions on its land borders.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3: Internal security challenges, border management, and linkages of organised crime with terrorism; role of state police in identity verification and deportation of illegal immigrants.

Prelims focus: The three-plus-one statute framework (Passport (Entry into India) Act 1920, Registration of Foreigners Act 1939, Foreigners Act 1946, Citizenship Act 1955), Section 3 of the Foreigners Act 1946, and the role of the FRRO under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA **OPERATION MUKTA:**

Launched: August 8, 2026, by Bengaluru City Police

Electronic City division: 295 personnel, 29 locations, 1,909 detained for verification, 15 confirmed Bangladeshi nationals (8 Begur, 7 Parappana Agrahara)

Whitefield division: 500+ personnel, 30+ locations across six police stations (Whitefield, Kadugodi, Marathahalli, Bellandur, Varthur, Mahadevapura), ~40 detained, 4 confirmed Bangladeshi nationals

 RECENT ENFORCEMENT TREND:

Electronic City, Aug 2025-Aug 2026: 64 cases involving suspected Bangladeshi nationals; 47 deported, 17 referred to FRRO

Karnataka statewide: nearly 1,000 suspected illegal immigrants apprehended over the preceding three months

 LEGAL FRAMEWORK:

Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920: entry document requirements

Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939: mandatory registration

Foreigners Act, 1946, Section 3: Central Government's power to regulate presence and order deportation

Citizenship Act, 1955: determination of citizenship status

Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO): nodal authority under the Ministry of Home Affairs for deportation proceedings

Sources: The Hindu, PIB, Deccan Herald

Source: Operation Mukta: Bengaluru Police's Identity-Verification Drive, Explained — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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