TRACKS HAD BEEN CHECKED A DAY EARLIER



The derailed coaches and engine of the Kolkata-Sairang Express at Digaru near Guwahati on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

Train from Calcutta derails

UMANAND JAISWAL

Guwahati: Five coaches and the engine of the Kolkata-Sairang Express derailed near Digaru station in Guwahati on Wednesday morning but there were no casualties or major injuries.

The Guwahati-New Haflong section, where the train jumped tracks, falls on the route inspected a day earlier by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) general manager. Safety experts have raised questions over the quality of the inspection and operational alertness, saying such exercises should not be conducted merely as routine formalities.

"Vivek Khare, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway, inspected Guwahati Railway Station and conducted a window-trailing inspection from Guwahati to New Haflong on 10th November 2026," the NFR zone said in a media statement on Tuesday.

After the accident, the NFR said in a statement that train number 13125 to Sairang in Mizoram met with the mishap at 6.54am on Wednesday. The station is 30km from Guwahati in the Lumding division of the NFR.

It said the train was being "received at Digaru Railway Station in Assam to give precedence to another train (the Jan Shatabdi Express), the Loco Pilot could not control the speed, resulting in an unfortunate incident of derailment, in which the locomotive along with 5 coaches derailed".

The NFR said: "All passengers are safe and no injuries have been reported. Arrangements have been made to transport passengers to their respective destinations by an alternate train."

A 45-second video purportedly recorded by one of the loco pilots before the mishap surfaced online soon after, suggesting that the train had developed a snag. The person in the video can be heard saying: "Signal red *hai*. Digaru. Emergency *laga hua hain par kaam nahi kar raha hai.... Kuch bhi kaam nahi kar raha hain* (Emergency brakes have been used, but nothing is working)."

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X: "All passengers are safe. 4 sustained minor injuries and are receiving care. We're working closely with @RailMinIndia on this situation. All stranded passengers have been provided with basic necessities and alternative travel train has been arranged for the journey." The injured were treated at a primary health centre in Sonapur.

NFR chief public relations officer Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said the train was moving at a "slow speed" and "fortunately" there were no casualties or major injuries. He said an investigation would be conducted to find the cause of the mishap. The special relief train to Sairang left at 11.30am with around 800 passengers, he added.

Rescue-and-relief operations started immediately. Senior officials reached the site to monitor the situation. Food, drinking water and medical assistance were provided to passengers at Digaru station before they boarded the relief train. Two trains had to be regulated: the Guwahati-Jorhat Town Jan Shatabdi Express (12067) was stopped at Panbari and the Coimbatore-Silchar Express (15627) at Panikhaiti.

Chauri Chaura mishap

Four AC coaches of the Gorakhpur-bound Chauri Chaura Express derailed shortly after the train left Kanpur Central railway station on Wednesday evening.

Around 300 passengers were travelling in the four affected coaches, they said.

"Chauri Chaura train (15003) bound for Gorakhpur from Anwar Ganj departed from platform number 7 at around 5.03pm. As it moved out of the station, coaches B-4, B-5, B-6 and B-7 derailed, triggering panic among passengers," police commissioner Raghubir Lal said.