

NEWS ANALYSIS THE HINDU + PIB

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Citizenship Bill may have to wait for House nod

- Background - The Bill proposes citizenship to six persecuted minorities — Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists — from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who came to India before 2014.
- There has been strong resistance to the Bill in Assam as it seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh.
- Several political and civil groups have said the Bill would pave the way for giving citizenship to illegal Hindu immigrants from Bangladesh, in violation of the Assam Accord, 1985.

- The Assam Accord (1985) was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in New Delhi on 15 August 1985. A six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants was launched by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) in 1979.
- As per the orders of the Supreme Court, the next draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is to be published on June 30, and this has also created hurdles to the passage of the Bill.
- The NRC is being updated to weed out illegal migrants who came to the State after the 1971 war when Bangladesh liberated itself from Pakistan.
- The cut-off date for NRC is midnight March 24, 1971 and all those who migrated to Assam from Bangladesh before this period would get Indian citizenship as per the Assam Accord.

At loggerheads

The proposed Bill has been met with stiff resistance

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, proposes to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, that prohibits illegal immigrants from acquiring Indian citizenship

- The Bill proposes that six persecuted minorities — Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists — from Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who came to India before December 31, 2014, may not be treated as illegal immigrants

- The Bill faced resistance in Assam as it sought to give citizenship to Hindu immigrants from Bangladesh. The opponents say it is in violation of the Assam Accord, which ended a six-year anti-foreigners agitation

PM affirms India's 'strategic autonomy'

- Context - At the 'Shangri-La Dialogue,' Prime Minister said, India's principle of "strategic autonomy" remains strong, drawing an equivalence in ties with Russia, the U.S. and China and cautioning against a "return to the age of great power rivalries."
- The Shangri La Dialogue : It is the annual conclave in Singapore that brings together the region's defence ministers and senior military officials. The Dialogue is organised by the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) with the support of the Singapore government.

Centre notifies Cauvery authority

- Context - The Union government issued a notification for the Cauvery Water Management Authority. The authority will decide water-sharing among Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- The authority's mandate will be to monitor the storage, apportion shares, supervise operation of reservoirs and regulate water releases with the assistance of the Regulation Committee.
- It will determine the total residual storage in the specified reservoirs on June 1 every year.

- The chairman of the authority will be appointed by the Central government for a tenure of five years. He has to be a senior and eminent engineer with wide experience in water resource management or an IAS officer in the rank of secretary or additional secretary.
- There will be two part-time members — representatives of the Central Government of the rank of Joint Secretary to be nominated by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare respectively and four part time members from party States — administrative secretaries in charge of Water Resource Departments of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Puducherry who shall be nominated by the State governments and Union territory administration respectively.