

# Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, February 21, 2017

## No hidden agenda please; stop playing games

When Imphal Times reported a leaked document of the 'Framework agreement' signed between the government of India and the NSCN-IM on August 3 2015, people hardly took note. Forget about the political parties, even the civil society organizations here in the state did not respond a single word. However, a national base newspaper published at South India carry the story and many in Nagaland were quick enough to response compelling the Indian interlocutor RN Ravi to clarify over it.

At our August 13, 2015 issue, we reported about the leaked document which we reported that the preamble of the framework agreement contents 8 point preamble. On August 15, of the same year, the Imphal Times again reported about the 50 points demands that were put up by the NSCN-IM collective leadership for signing with the Government of India.

Surprisingly, after almost a year, when state assembly election is just knocking at the door, the leaked documents that Imphal Times had reported is now in the public spare for reason best known to those reproducing it with slight change in the layout design.

Before coming into the 50 points demands that were supposedly put up for signing let me recalled on what we had reported on our August 13, 2015 issue. In our report, as per that leaked documents, we had stated that the preamble of the 'framework agreement' contains 8 point. The 8 points we published are -1) a separate constitution for Nagaland, 2) Separate Flag, 3) Separate Naga Passport, 4) Permanent UN Representation, 5) Joint Foreign Affairs, 6) Joint defence Military, 7) Right to use Naga Currency and 8) Pan Naga Government to cover to all the Naga Inhabited area.

The same is again circulated through social media for election campaign purpose, vested interested people a day after Union Home Minister had gave assurance that the framework agreement does not mention even Manipur.

This widely circulated preambles of the framework is even mention by a leader of the BJP who is contesting this election while speaking at election campaign meeting.

Surprising thing is that if this is preamble of the framework agreement how come that we the people of Manipur have reason to be happy about when Mr. Rajnath had stated that the agreement does not mention even Manipur. The last point in the agreement stated "A Pan Naga Government to cover to all the Naga Inhabited area".

The definition of Naga inhabited area in the entire North East region as stated by the NSCN-IM is known to everyone. So when it comes to Naga Inhabited area and when it is being agreed between the two what makes it difference on whether the state of Manipur is mentioned or not.

BJP ideology is nation first, party second and the family last. The same ideology is runs through the blood of every Manipuri people and it is always the ershtwhile nation. It is people conception at Manipur is top priority and all those thing comes later as, if Manipur don't exist what is the use of the so call promises for development.

Points here wanted to note is that almost every people is looking forward for a change and people still have trust to the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

The only thing that will keep away from BJP is the concealing of the framework agreement. Let it be public if the BJP really think that Manipur need a change.

## BSF foils infiltration bid in Kashmir's Rajouri district, militant killed

**Jammu, Feb. 21:** The Border Security Force (BSF) has foiled an infiltration bid along the line of control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir and gunned down a militant.

Officials said the incident occurred around midnight when the BSF troops deployed along the LoC fence in Keri sector of Rajouri detected some suspicious movement.

A heavy exchange of fire ensued for about 30 minutes and the guns then went silent from the other side, they

said. A search was conducted early morning during which the BSF party recovered the body of the militant along with an AK-47 rifle, six loaded magazines and a monocular night vision device from the Pakistan side. A black bag containing another loaded AK magazine, dry fruits and juice was also recovered, they said. "It is understood that the remaining terrorists took advantage of the undulating hilly ground and jungle and retreated to their side. An infiltration bid was foiled by alert troops," they added.

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## Protecting Language Diversity in India

By : Pandurang Hegde

India is one of unique countries in the world that has the legacy of diversity of languages. The Constitution of India has recognised 22 official languages. Multilingualism is the way of life in India as people in different parts of the country speak more than one language from their birth and learns additional languages during their life time.

Though officially there are 122 languages, Peoples Linguistic Survey of India has identified 780 languages, of which 50 are extinct in past five decades.

The twenty two languages that are recognised by the Constitution are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri, Kannada, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu are included in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution.

Among these three languages, Sanskrit, Tamil and Kannada have been recognised as classical language with special status and recognition by Government of India. The classical languages have written and oral history of more than 1000 years. In comparison to these, English is very young as it has the history of only 300 years.

In addition to these scheduled and classical languages, The Constitution of India has included the clause to protect minority languages as a fundamental right. It states "Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or

any part of thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same."

The language policy of India provides guarantee to protect the linguistic minorities. Under the Constitution provision is made for appointment of Special Officer for linguistic minority with the sole responsibilities of safeguarding the interest of language spoken by the minority groups.

During the colonial rule the first linguistic survey was conducted during 1894 to 1928 by George A. Grierson that identified 179 languages and 544 dialects. Due to lack of trained personnel as linguists this survey had many deficiencies.

In the post independence era Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), based in Mysore was assigned to carry out an in-depth survey of languages. However this is still remains incomplete.

In 1991 the Census of India listed 1576 mother tongues' with separate grammatical structures and 1796 speech varieties that is classified as other mother tongues'.

Another unique feature of India is the concept of protecting the interest of children to get basic education in their mother tongue. The Constitution provides" it shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the state to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging

to linguistic minority groups".

Thus, even before the United Nations declared the International Mother Language Day (February 21) the founders of the Indian Constitution gave top priority to teaching in mother tongues', enabling the child to develop its full potential.

This concept is in total agreement with the 2017 theme of United Nations World Mother Language Day "to develop the potential of multilingual education to be acknowledged in education, administrative systems, cultural expression and cyber space". In 1956 reorganisation of states in India was carried out with linguistic boundaries that had its own script, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the then home minister played key role in formation and amalgamation of states based on linguistic attributes.

The language policy of India has been pluralistic, giving priority to the use of mother tongue in administration, education and other fields of mass communication. The Language Bureau of Ministry of Human Resource Development is set up to implement and monitor the language policy.

Supporting the cause of promoting and conserving the language diversity in cyberspace, Union Minister of Electronic and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad cautioned the Internet providers "the language of internet cannot be English and English alone. It must have linkages with the local and local means local

languages. I appeal to make local languages available for more internet users".

He said that the ministry has initiated Technology Development for Indian Languages with the objective of developing information processing tools and techniques to facilitate human machine interaction without language barrier, creating and accessing multilingual knowledge resources.

The Government of India under the vision of digital India has mandated the mobile phones sold from July 2017 should support all Indian languages. This will pave way for bridging the digital divide, empowering one billion people who do not speak English with connectivity in their own languages. This will also enhance the capacity of large number people to be part of e-governance and e-commerce.

Despite these efforts by the central government minority languages are under threat of extinction due to multiple causes. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the death of Boa, the last speaker of Bo language is one of those instances that have lead to extinction of Bo language with the history of 7000 years.

In recent years the language diversity is under threat as speakers of diverse languages are becoming rare and major languages are adopted after abandoning the mother tongues. The problem needs to be addressed at societal level, in which the communities have to take part in conservation of language diversity that is part of cultural wealth.

## National & International News

### 4 US tourists and pilot killed in Australian plane crash

**Melbourne, Feb. 21:** An Australian pilot and four American tourists on a golfing vacation were killed when a light plane crashed in flames into a shopping mall on Tuesday shortly after takeoff in the Australian city of Melbourne, officials said.

The five were on a twin-engine Beechcraft Super King Air that crashed about 45 minutes before the Direct Factory Outlet mall in suburban Essendon was to open, Police Minister Lisa Neville said. The U.S. Embassy in Canberra confirmed that four victims were U.S. citizens. Texans Greg

Reynolds De Haven and Russell Munsch have been identified by their families on social media as two of the victims.

De Haven's sister Denelle Wicht posted on Facebook that her 70-year-old brother had been killed "on a once in a lifetime trip to Australia" with friends.

The pilot was Max Quartermain, owner of the charter company Corporate and Leisure Travel.

The plane had taken off from Melbourne's second-biggest airport at Essendon for a golfing trip to King Island, 255 kilometers (160 miles) to the south, officials

said.

The mall adjoins the airport.

Police Assistant Commissioner Stephen Leane said no one outside the plane was injured.

"Looking at the fireball, it is incredibly lucky that no one was at the back of those stores or in the car park of the stores, that no one was even hurt," Leane said. The pilot reported a "catastrophic engine failure"

moments before the plane crashed into a storage area at the rear of the mall, police said.

Police and paramedics rushed to the crash site, where firefighters

doused the flames.

A witness who gave his name as Jason told Australian Broadcasting Corp. he was passing the mall in a taxi when the plane crashed.

"I saw this plane coming in really low and fast. I couldn't see the impact but when it hit the building there was a massive fireball," he said.

"I could feel the heat through the window of the taxi, and then a wheel — it looked like a plane wheel — bounced on the road and hit the front of the taxi as we were driving along," he said.

### RBI to introduce new Rs 1,000 notes, printing already underway: report

**Mumbai, Feb. 21:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may introduce a new series of Rs 1,000 notes, to replace the earlier notes of similar denomination that were demonetised on November 8.

According to a report in the *Indian Express*, RBI has already started production of new Rs 1,000 notes.

Quoting an official, the report says that the note was supposed

to be introduced in January, but "it has been delayed due to the pressing need to supply Rs 500 notes".

However, it is not clear when the new Rs 1,000 note will be introduced, added the report.

The logic behind introducing the new Rs 1,000 note is that it will make transactions in Rs 2,000 notes easier, said the report.

As on January 27, notes in

circulation, comprising all denominations including Rs 2,000 and Rs 500, were Rs 9.92 lakh crore, RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi said on February 8. But the RBI has not released data on the total value of Rs 500 and Rs 2000 notes in circulation. RBI Governor Urjit Patel however has said that specific data on the value of new notes released into the economy will be disclosed soon.

A number of steps have been taken to ease the cash crunch

following demonetisation. February 20 onward, the limit on cash withdrawals from savings bank accounts are being raised to Rs 50,000 per week from the earlier limit of Rs 24,000 per week. From March 13, all limits on cash withdrawal from savings bank accounts will be removed.

The *Indian Express* report adds that an email sent to the RBI and finance ministry for comments on the re-introduction of Rs 1,000 notes "did not elicit any response".

### 4 killed, several injured in multiple blasts outside court in Charsadda

**New Delhi, Feb. 21:** At least four people have been killed and several injured in multiple blasts outside a local court in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Charsadda district. Charsadda is approximately 30km away from Peshawar.

The bombers opened fire inside the court premises and threw hand grenades, the Dawn reported.

At least one of the explosions was a suicide blast. One attacker exploded when police fired at him, it added.

A similar attack in March, 2016, killed at least 16 and injured more than 20 when a suicide bomber hit the gates of a local court building in Shabqadar district, Charsadda. Pakistan has been hit by a string of militant bombings and suicide attacks over the past 10 days,

killing more than 100 people and wounding hundreds.

On February 13, suicide bombers targeted Lahore killing 13 people. The attack came just days after over 90 people were killed in suicide bombing at Lal Shahbaz Qalandar Sufi shrine in Sindh province.

Pakistani media reported that security forces launched a massive crackdown on terrorist organisations following the sufi shrine blast killing and arresting many militants.

However, it was unclear whether the new crackdown targeted terror groups like the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Critics have accused Pakistan in past crackdowns of sparing militant groups that do not attack on Pakistani soil.

### CBI arrests IAS officer from Chhatisgarh in corruption case

**New Delhi, Feb 21:** The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested a senior IAS officer of Chhattisgarh B L Agrawal. Agrawal is presently posted as a Principal Secretary in Department of Higher Education.

CBI arrested two more persons including his Brother-in-law. Earlier, CBI registered a case against Agrawal on the allegations related to payment of about 1.5 Crore rupees by the officer to private persons as gratification for help in a case against him being investigated by CBI.

CBI raided different premises at Raipur, Hyderabad, New Delhi



and Greater Noida, including the residence of B.L.Agrawal on Saturday evening.

During searches, CBI recovered 2 Kg of gold and about 20 Lakh rupees cash.

CBI officers taken both of them to Delhi for further interrogation.