

## Editorial

### Can the 70 years old Indo-Naga political issue be a secret affair?

*Why RN Ravi always said the "Closed door meetings or closed door Consultative Meetings? Why is the Government of India making a mockery of the Naga political issue in the eyes of the world?"*

Interlocutor to the Naga talks, RN Ravi has already started Consultative Meetings on his arrival at Kohima yesterday. The whole Naga people have been wanting to know the stand of the Government of India towards finding a solution to the Naga political issue.

Why is he refusing to address a "Press Conference"? What is this "Closed door meeting" all the time? Is Naga political issue a secret? Is a settlement to the Naga political issue a secret? Can the 70 years old Indo-Naga political issue be a secret affair? Why is the Government of India making a mockery of the Naga political issue in the eyes of the world? He was reported to have stated during the Consultative Meeting at the de Oriental Hotel, Kohima that the Government of India and the NSCN (IM) were inching towards a final agreement. Is this meant that the solution to the Naga issue can be done with NSCN (IM) alone or for NSCN (IM) only? What is the mind of the Center towards the final settlement of the Naga issue should be made known to the people? Why has the Government of India not attempted to take the advantage of the positive development taking place among the various NNPGs? It was in December last year that six NNPGs - GPRN/NSCN, FGN, NNC Parent Body, NPGN/NNC (NA), NSCN (R) and NNC/GDRN (NA) - came together and formed a "Working Group." They also unanimously adopted a resolution that said, "On our own volition, we have agreed to come together in the interest of the Naga people as a whole and form an interim platform by the name 'Working Group'. Under this interim umbrella, the like-minded NNPGs shall chalk out the roadmap towards a fulfillment of Naga political aspiration."

Time has come for the government of India to sincerely come forward to resolve the issue once and for all. Otherwise, it will be nothing wrong to say that Modi is preparing for walking on the man-made "Elusive Peace" and not for a "Solution."

Writer: Oken Jeet Sandham

## More State News

### NEFIS submits memorandum to Manipur CM against occupation of rmy inside MU campus

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, July 8:** The activists of North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) today submitted a memorandum to the Manipur Chief Minister, seeking his attention on the problem of stationing of army in the Manipur University (MU) campus. It should be known that NEFIS activists along with the representatives of Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU) had yesterday met Indian Army officials, 9 Sector Assam Rifles Brigadier J.S. Bainsla, and 6 Battalion Major Inderjit Singh, regarding shifting of army camp from Manipur University. The officials had expressed their willingness to shift the camp out of Manipur University, if the state government allots it space elsewhere. In continuation with this new development, NEFIS has

asked the CM to immediately take the necessary measure to ensure the removal of the army camp from MU campus.

It should be noted that NEFIS has continuously decried the military presence in Manipur University and in 2015 it had organized an extensive signature campaign against "campus militarization" and submitted it to President of India. Renewing its struggle, NEFIS had also given an All India Protest Call for 29th June to protest against militarization of MU. NEFIS believes that university campuses are spaces for academic purposes and are no place to station army and therefore condemns militarization of Manipur University campus and pledges to continue its struggle until its demands are met and the democratic space of university is restored.

## National and International News

### Centre launches GST Rates Finder app to verify accurate tax rate under GST regime

**AIR**

**New Delhi, July 8:** Centre has launched an app - GST Rates Finder to verify the accurate tax rate on commodity and services under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley yesterday launched the app in New Delhi which will empower not only the taxpayers, but every citizen of the nation, to ascertain the correct GST rate on goods and services.

Through this app, user can determine GST rate by entering the name of the commodity or service. The Ministry said, the search result will list all the Goods and Services containing the name which was typed in the search box. A taxpayer can search for applicable CGST, SGST, UTGST rate and Compensation Cess on a supply. Finance Ministry said, this mobile app can be downloaded on any smart phone and can

work in offline mode, once downloaded. The application has been launched on Android platform, and will soon be available on iOS platform. The Ministry said, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has taken these initiatives for ease of doing business under the GST regime. CBEC has also provided a GST rate finder on its portal - cbec-gst.gov.in to help taxpayers know applicable GST rate on their supplies.

### India emerging as front runner in fight against climate change: World Bank

**AIR**

**New Delhi, July 8:** World Bank has said, India is emerging as a front runner in the global fight against climate change. In a news report published yesterday World Bank said with a sweeping commitment to solar power, innovative solutions and energy efficiency initiatives to supply its people with 24x7 electricity by 2030, India is emerging as a front runner in the global fight against climate change.

Noting that Indian government is setting ambitious targets that include 160 gigawatts of wind and solar by 2022, the bank said it is an incentive for international firms to invest in India's solar market.

### Veteran CPI leader passes away

**PTI**

**Coimbatore, July 8:** Veteran CPI leader D Gnaniah died here today after a brief illness, party sources said. He was 97.

The nonagenarian was undergoing treatment for some time and he was discharged from a private hospital two days ago and re-admitted last evening due to breathing problem and died around 4.30 AM, the sources said.

Born at Thirumangalam in Madurai in 1940, he joined the Communist movement at the age of 20. Working in the postal department, he was General Secretary of the National Post and Telecom Employees Union.

Gnaniah has served as member of state and national executive of CPI and was the Chairman of Central Disciplinary Committee of the party. He has authored 30 novels on various topics.

The last rites will be performed on Tuesday.

Gnaniah is survived by his daughter. His wife had predeceased him in 1993.

### Consultations to get the pulse of the civil society: Interlocutor

**NENA**

**Dimapur, July 8:** An apparent shroud of confidentiality continued to prevail on the second day of consultations of the Government of India's interlocutor for the Naga peace process with the Naga civil society. Whatever that transpired in the closed-door consultation on July 7 in Dimapur was limited to press releases issued by a few Naga organisations, which met interlocutor RN Ravi on the day.

Inclusiveness or bringing on board all the Naga political groups in the negotiations for a final solution to the protracted Naga political imbroglio was the general demand of the organisations, while restoring Naga "lands" in control of neighbouring Assam also featured. Initially, 11 organisations were scheduled to meet Ravi. However, the list of 20 organisations swelled to 20 today. Only two organisations - the Central Nagaland Tribes Council and United Naga Tribes Association of Border Areas (UNTABA) went public by issuing press statements, while only the ACAUT responded to queries from the media following the meeting. The UNTABA in its media release reiterated its demand for restoring "traditional and historical Naga lands that are still under Assam (state) administration." According to the release, the UNTBA team explained to Ravi "that the inordinate delay in transferring back these lands to its rightful owner has been the major cause of the Naga

national movement in the late 40s and early 50s." The release added that it was made clear to Ravi all the "Naga lands" should be brought back to Nagaland at the time of political settlement as a solution "without boundary settlement on the historical basis of erstwhile Ahom kingdom and Naga people would be meaningless."

The ACAUT members who met Ravi responding to queries from the media following the meeting said that they brought up the repeal of the AFSPA, taxation by the NPGs and the question of including all the NPGs in the negotiations. According to the ACAUT, Ravi denied media reports that the Government of India (GoI) had approached Myanmar to abrogate ceasefire with NSCN (K).

The CNTC, in a release, asserted that any solution should be inclusive of all groups and all stakeholders taken into account. As per the CNTC, the interlocutor's effort to reach out to the Naga civil society is an indication of the Government of India's willingness to resolve the decades old Naga imbroglio.

The UNC also chose to make any comment on its meeting. The UNC team was led by its president Gaidon Kamei.

One source, who was part of the series of meetings today, speaking on condition of anonymity, disclosed that Ravi made it clear that the intent to the consultations was to get the pulse of the civil society and the possibility of using the

inputs while hammering out a solution.

The source said that Ravi described the Framework Agreement as "a broad roadmap, by which the GoI have recognised the sovereign right of the naga people and based on that recognition they have narrowed down to the possibility of shared sovereignty."

Ravi, as per the source, reiterated that while the GoI wants a solution, a solution has to be within the framework of the constitution of India. The source said that Ravi referred to the Constitution of India as providing a certain level of autonomy, at same time there is a limit.

As per the source, Ravi maintained that the dialogue with the NSCN-IM will continue and on the same breath added that it does not mean the other groups will be ignored. On that note, the source said, "He was honest enough that the NSCN-IM should also understand the ground reality."

On the demand for repeal of the AFSPA, the source said that Ravi agreed but made it clear that it was not within his power. As regards the NSCN-K, the source said that Ravi has been sending out "feelers" but "the other side" has so far been not forthcoming.

While all stakeholders, including the GoI, wants a solution, the source said that Ravi hinted towards not expecting too much as the end result would not possibly please all involved.

### Promo Fashion Show of North East India Fashion Week - The Khadi Movement held

*Designers Hibu Ollo, Gloria Oving, Milli Indra Dangngo and Menty Jamir showcased their collection*

**ITNews**

**Guwahati; July 8:** The atmosphere became more colourful at Hong Dree celebration as Affluent Ray of Light (ARL) opened their journey into the 3rd edition of the North East India Fashion Week with its first promo fashion show in the region. Weavers and designers Hibu Ollo and Milli Indra Dangngo from Arunachal Pradesh and Gloria Oving and Menty Jamir from Nagaland showcased their beautiful collection

which was choreographed by Noyomi Riba at the promo fashion show during 28th Hong Dree Festival recently. Organized by Affluent Ray of Light, a non-profit organization dedicated to globalize the social and cultural aspects of the different tribes of north east India, North East India Fashion Week's second promo show will be held in Nagaland.

The 3rd edition of North East India Fashion Week, a three-day fashion extravaganza, has been conceptualized to inspire and encourage the upcoming handicraft artisans and designers

of the region, who are working exclusively towards the promotion of northeastern fabrics and culture. The main event will be held in Itanagar from 27th to 29th October, 2017.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Operating Officer of the festival, Jack Taniya Budh said, "The NEIFW Promo and Weavers meet is to revive and to motivate the weavers and mass, to make them understand the concept of NEIFW-The Khadi movement."

"I am associated with North East India Fashion Week since two years, and because of this event I got a proper understanding of professional shows and designs. This event helped me build a strong customer base, and this second opportunity will definitely be a cherry on the top", said Milli Indra Dangngo.

About her participation in North East India Fashion Week, Gloria Oving says, "North East India Fashion Week is a huge opportunity for a designer to get the required exposure and exhibit his/her creativity. There are so many talented designers and

weavers in the region who are unable to showcase their creations, or follow their passion for lack of a proper opportunity. North East India Fashion Week will help promote these upcoming talents."

Speaking on the occasion, Founder of Affluent Ray of Light, fashion designer Yana Ngoba said, "Northeast has an immense artistic potential. It is said to see that weavers today are giving up their age old tradition in search of jobs which pays them better. With this event we want to promote the weavers of the region who lives in disguise but are so important for the designers across the world. At NEIFW, our focus is to support weavers of Northeast and brilliant emerging designers. I understand the concept, hard work and dedication involved to create designs. We also offer weavers and designers the opportunity to retail through our online boutique connection and to showcase their designs in international platform and in dealing with manufacturers and buyers."

North East India Fashion Week is a concept created and implemented

by Affluent Ray of Light (ARL) to promote weavers, designers and craftsmen of the region in the national as well as international market and to empower talent of northeast by providing them a networking opportunity and by facilitating buyers for their products. This event is a platform provided to all accomplices within northeast Indian industry, with a special focus on weavers and handicrafts, with a motive to build network and alliance with partners & markets across the globe.

ARL believes that it is very important to preserve the northeastern region's rich fabrics, traditional handlooms and handicrafts, and very few of the designers from the region are making an effort to do so. Their mission is to promote and preserve the vast variety of indigenous textiles and crafts that are slowly losing popularity amongst the younger generation, through fashion shows and help create business and branding opportunities for industries directly or indirectly engaged in retailing handloom, textile fashion and life.

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