

Editorial

Thursday, August 29, 2018

The Game of Frame Work Agreement

Congress MLA, and Spokesperson of MPCC, Khumukcham Joykishan yesterday hits the bull eyes when he told that the present BJP led government is not sincere in solving the decades old issue of NSCN-IM. One point that the Congress MLA put up was that - "When there is an assurance that the Unity of Manipur will not be affected in the solving of the vex issue of NSCN-IM issue, why it is still kept pending". This perhaps need to be analyzed by both the Govt. and the rebel group engaging in peace dead which had finally signed an agreement called Frame Work.

This newspaper has many times asked the same question as everytime when the issue of NSCN-IM peace talk comes up only at the time of elections - may be parliamentary or the state assembly election.

Either it is at Manipur the hot spot of Insurgency Theater, or at Nagaland where Naga insurgency have full power to influence the electoral politics, the aged old unsettled issue of the Naga always comes up in public domain when general election or parliamentary election is knocking at the door.

Everytime when the issue appeared political leaders ruling the government keep on saying that the solution of the NSCN-IM will never change boundary of any neighbouring states of Nagaland particularly for the state of Manipur. It is worth mentioning that some days back the interlocutor to the Government of India had stated that the NSCN -IM had withdrawn the demand of greater Nagaland.

This is not a child's play. A rebel group, which the government of India considered as the mother of all armed rebel group in the region simply agreed to withdraw the demand for a greater Nagaland might have some hidden agenda.

After all the RN Ravi was time and again quoted as saying that something should be done for the NSCN-IM.

The recent report submitted by the Parliamentary committee does suggest something that worried the people of the state. The point which the parliamentary committee questioned the state government to elaborate the local adjustment to the sixth Schedule and also to once more look into the Article 371 (A) type special status suggested that there may be some changes to the administration of the state - had a solution be arrived.

Well this is about the preliminary stage that has been discussing.

A special status for NSCN-IM (or say Naga) is an anti thesis to the argument by a group of Sangh Paribar which is strongly opposing the Article 370 which granted special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Leaving aside the constitutional matter, this writing will focus on the game being played under the shadow of the Frame Work Agreement.

If one recalled final solution of the vex Naga issue was the agenda at a time when the Nagaland state assembly election was scheduled.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind, who visited Nagaland for inauguration of the Nagaland HornBill Festival, had announced that the age old Naga issue will be sorted out soon. Before that, in September 2017 Governor of Nagaland PV Archarya had also assured the people of Nagaland that the issue will be solved in two months.

But, Nagaland state Assembly election was held without completing the final solution.

Every people in the entire North Eastern knows that the main stakeholders which is dealing for the vex Naga issue is the NSCN-IM. It is the way that this main insurgent group who had started peace dialogue with the government of India in August 1997 that has been regarded as most influential when it comes to Naga issue.

In the neighbouring state Manipur, the game was different. A single mistakes committed in the course of solving the issue may result strong uprising. They had seen it in June, 2001. So it was differently tackled in their own way by every political party.

In 2011, a newspaper reported about the formation of a Supra state for the Nagas as demanded by the NSCN-IM. The report was also published based on highly confidential source from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. A flare up following the news report has compelled the authority to clarify saying that no such agreement has been signed or agreed.

After almost 20 years of peace talk and close association, it might not have been difficult for the Indian government to find out the present strength, strategy and every loop holes, weak area of the NSCN-IM. Existence of the various other rebel groups and the present day mindset of the Nagaland people have already been analyzed by experts for over 2 decades. The government now know that people are fed up of the insurgency movement, yet every Naga people still feel that there is an unsettled Naga issue. People like a solution no matter, how it does.

It may be remembered that 1000s of Naga rebel cadres have died fighting for a sovereign Nagaland. After NSCN-IM enters peace deal with the government of India the demand for separate state had been reduced to formation of a separate state by carving out portion of land from Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. If the report appeared is not reacted by the NSCN-IM, it now stands clear that the NSCN-IM have finally surrendered its earlier stands.

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Protective Thinking: Can NRC Update save Assam and Northeast Region?

By: Pakinrichapbo (Advocate)
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The article by renowned writer Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika in Hills Times newspaper has been an eye opener to me and hope to all followers of NRC news of Assam. The acclaimed writer have stated that illegal immigrants emerged through the final draft of NRC cannot be deported as there is no such arrangement between India and Bangladesh. Leaving aside Bangladeshi immigrants, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has accused Assam Government of targeting Bengali communities of Cachar, the drama never ends. Besides the assurance given by Assam State Government and Supreme Court that sufficient time shall be given to those left out from the list of final draft which is 40 Lakh declared illegal immigrants to prove their genuine citizenship yet the high number of people left out involves another highly risky business which may create new social disorder in Assam and surrounding states if the Assam state government, Central government and Supreme Court appears partial, indecisive when deciding the legal status of the immigrants.

Before I embark on the given topic, I like to begin by adding little history lesson to help readers understand how political dynamics in the region of past and present Assam do always leave impact in surrounding north-eastern states starting from pre Independent India where Governor of Assam appointed by British Govt of India governed the almost entire Northeast region and how the establishment of British administrative rule in Assam begins to change the social and political life of different ethnic groups living in Northeast region. Remarkably even in post Independent India, the transformation in social and political outlook of different communities has not stop till today as one witnesses almost all major ethnic groups harbouring their own political interests. Assam is Northeast India and Northeast India is Assam, this is one of the reasons why alarmed people living in surrounding timid

states after observing the Assam government policy has start demanding their respective govt to begin the NRC update in their states.

The indigenous citizens of Assam including whole northeast region need to seriously study if NRC update can really safe Assam and northeast region in the days to come. I also feel observing the living reality of Assam that Indigenous ethnic groups of Assam cannot decide everything from the historical angle of when and how Assam became a refuge for immigrants from Bangladesh and other parts of India without causing human right violations and adding unending miseries into the lives of fellow humans i.e. illegal immigrants, observers agrees that India still fails to recover from India Partition of 1947. It's not that, I don't acknowledge the fear of indigenous citizens regarding the huge change in demography of Assam but the act of banishing 40 lakhs people from their homes requires unimaginable amount of sub-human emotions like the Nazis Germany when dealing with Jew of Germany. The readers should also give effort to understand the logic that, what appears possible in pre 1960s cannot be possible in 2018 or beyond.

The renowned Writer has also pointed out it is difficult to differentiate between Muslims of Bengal and Bangladesh apart from that many has make Assam their true home and run schools and institutions establish by them, these are several factors worth pondering upon. The failure of past Assam government to deport illegal immigrants in the early years of mass migration to Assam has now put Assam in a dilemma about population explosion of immigrants. Assam is not alone in this immigration issues, internationally; Europe and America are now facing the same immigration crisis. To bring out the elephant in the room, the fear of immigration overtaking Assam or in any European countries are the

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fear of Muslims take over along with their radical elements. But now Assam and North-eastern states has put up Bangladeshi immigrants tag touching both Muslims and Hindus as illegal immigrants, in fact Hindu immigrants were given special treatment but now began to target all religious groups a new strategy to pass message that they are not against Indian Muslims or my understanding wrong with the message.

Every identity groups of ethnic communities has every right to worry and fear the huge explosion of illegal immigrants but can the fear factor alone bail us out in the long run. Most immigrants are in labour sector and their workforce are in high demand not only in Assam but neighbouring states like Nagaland and Manipur, so can we just packed them and send them away after they have build most of the infrastructures standing today in Assam and elsewhere.

If Assam state government has no power to deport them quickly, central government in proper coordination with Assam state government and respective state governments in Northeast should seriously focus to invest in educating the immigrants populations especially their children's whom we see most of the immigrants children receives no quality education while many don't even attend schools nor get disciplined in young age due to their parents low income as daily wage labourers this is one of the very reasons when they hit adolescent age most of them turn to crime and anti social activities due to their poor upbringing and lack of discipline. I do not deny there are many wealthy

influential immigrants but majority are in labour sector. They may be illegal immigrants but they are human too and not all Muslim immigrants are terrorist ever ready to create terror in our north-eastern states. If majority of immigrants Muslims including Indian Muslims are terrorists, New Delhi will be losing sleeps every night. And now, can Central Government and respective states government need to explore several options of transforming these illegal immigrants into loyal Indian citizens like their fellow Indian Muslims citizen. Before exploring such options straight away kicking them out like animals would only create multiple crisis, after all as Humans, let's respect human rights of other human being. If Assam no longer wishes to accommodate illegal immigrants', New Delhi ought to arrange settlement for the illegal immigrants elsewhere in mainland India where majority of their fellow Muslims lives. After all it is the ultimate results of India's foreign policy in then East Pakistan which lead to mass exodus into Assam and North eastern states and now washing off their hand is not the right approach to settle decade's long conflict which put Assam burning till today.

Lastly the people's constant fear of change in demography of Assam yet relying on the services of illegal immigrants for so long has put Assam in dilemma for so long. The same logic applies to other North-eastern states. If we want their services we ought to like them too, their current situation is no less than African Slaves in then Europe and America.

Manipur Students, JNU narrates sequence of events at JNU on August 28, 2018

(Imphal Times produce the statement in toto without editing)

On hearing that the Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh would be speaking at a public forum, 'Ishan Uday: Bridging the Heart' organized by the ABVP JNU Unit on August 28th, 2018 at the Koyana Hostel Mess, the Manipur students' community in JNU had gone to raise what we felt were pertinent concerns and issues. On our arrival at the hostel gate, we stood silently with placards while the host ABVP members welcomed their guests, including the Chief Ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, with slogans such as 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata ki jai'. We had prepared a written statement explaining why we had decided to hold a silent protest. But, we were not allowed to distribute the written statement.

In a brazen act of violation of student rights never witnessed before in JNU, students from India's northeast were not allowed to enter the mess hall (the venue of the meeting) by the ABVP members. To our utter shock and dismay the ABVP members were in fact aided by university's security guards in this shameful act.

With the JNU Student's Union elections imminent, for the past couple of weeks the university has

witnessed the presence of several members from outside the university. They have been campaigning for ABVP. Several of them were seen in the audience. The institutional support which has been shown to ABVP for the upcoming student union elections is something which JNU has not witnessed before. The same is true for three Chief Ministers campaigning for a student's group affiliated to a political party in the garb of an academic function. We were called 'maxalites' and 'anti-nationals' and we were labeled as a 'security threat'. Several students were manhandled.

We demanded an apology from the ABVP for this shameful act and for the derogatory terms hurled at students from India's northeast. ABVP representatives did not relent. It was consequently decided that the students from India's northeast would boycott the talk and wait for the Chief Ministers to come out. Representatives of ABVP coaxes us into joining the talk on their terms while refusing to apologise for the abuses they had hurled at the students. The abuses continued after the CMs had left.

In a tweet, Rajat Sethi, advisor to N. Biren Singh and a Hindu zealot, said:

Three sitting Chief Ministers from Northeast are not allowed to speak their mind at JNU tonight. Leftist goons exposed their true Taliban colors. These terrorists living safely in refugee inside JNU campus should be identified and arrested! Don't tolerate them, arrest them!

His assertion that the three chief ministers were not allowed to speak is a blatant lie. We denounce, deplore and condemn BJP leader Mr. Sethi's attempt to delegitimize voices of our students by using slurs and epithets. We are left to wonder if this is the expertise and attitude that the Chief Minister of Manipur brings to his personal office and the state government by deploying Mr Sethi as his advisor?

We demand answers from the Chief Minister

In light of the above events where we were not only denied our rights as student-citizens to peacefully engage with the Chief Minister, but were in fact abused for attempting to do so, we ask the following questions of our elected representative and chief executive of the government of Manipur:

- Why did the Chief Minister agree to be in attendance at a 'glorified election' event held by the ABVP in JNU?
 - Why did the same Chief Minister not show as much initiative and pro-activeness when the entire Manipur University was shut down for more than 80 days?
 - Was the Chief Minister forced by his political masters to ignore his duties as the chief executive of the state in order to play a partisan role instead in a party function under the garb of a conference?
 - Were the symptoms of mindless sycophancy he displayed in dragging his feet on the Manipur University issue and by the shielding of AP Pandey also at play when he attended a party function in the garb of an academic function on the command of his political masters?
- The hypocritical *Maree-Longba* attitude of the Chief Minister who brutally suppresses the democratic students' movement in Manipur University while attending a students' event in Delhi titled 'Bridging the Heart' has left us dismayed and disillusioned.