

Details of 2015 Naga agreement emerge

By **Vaijata Singh**
(Courtesy: The Hindu)

The government has informed a Parliamentary panel that it signed a framework agreement with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) after it agreed on a settlement within the Indian federation with a "special status."

R. N. Ravi, interlocutor for the Naga talks, told the committee that it was a departure from their earlier position of "with India, not within India," and that the government called it a framework agreement and signed it. This is the first time that details of the agreement signed at the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 3, 2015, have emerged.

The details are part of the 213th report on the security situation in the Northeastern states tabled by the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Home Affairs in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The committee was also informed that the "contours" had not been spelt out in the framework agreement that was "just about the recognition of the uniqueness of the Naga history by the Government of India", and some special arrangements will have to be made for the Nagas.

"On being asked what the special arrangement will be, the Committee was told that with respect to Nagaland...Article 371A of the Constitution makes it clear that they are special and a special status has been accorded to them. A similar kind of status, with some local variation, and some change to the Nagas in the neighbouring States can be explored," the report said. According to the report, Mr. Ravi also informed the committee that the Nagas had now reached a common understanding with the

government that "boundaries of the States will not be touched" and "some special arrangements would be made for the Nagas, wherever they are."

"The Interlocutor apprised the committee about the broad status of the negotiations that boundaries of any State will neither be changed nor altered. Initially, the Nagas had stuck to the idea of unification of Naga inhabited areas, resolutely maintaining their stand of 'no integration, no solution.' However, they have now reached a common understanding with the Government that boundaries of States will not be touched," the report said. The NSCN-IM has been fighting for 'Greater Nagaland' or Nagalim — it wants to extend Nagaland's borders by including Naga-dominated areas in neighbouring Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, to unite 1.2 million

Framework agreement recognises uniqueness of Naga history - R.N. Ravi



Nagas. The Chief Ministers of the three States have warned against any tinkering with its boundaries.

"While briefing the committee, R. N. Ravi, interlocutor for Nagas, stated that the Government has been talking with the NSCN-IM for the last 20 years and their position from the very beginning has been that Nagas were exceptional, Nagas were not

Indians, Nagas were sovereign and any settlement could be reached only on the basis of the fact that this is a settlement between two sovereigns." During the course of the last several years, the Government started opening out and reaching out to civil society organisations, Naga tribal bodies and other stakeholders other than the NSCN-IM," the report said.

AIFUCTO urges the Central Government to bring immediate solution of the present crisis of Manipur University

IT News
Imphal, July 20,

Reviewing the present situation in the state, Manipur, AIFUCTO urges the Government of India to bring immediate solution of the imbroglio at Manipur University, Canchipur due to the ongoing democratic movement launched by the communities of students, teachers and non-teaching staff of the University demanding the removal of the present V.C., Prof.A.P. Pandey. "AIFUCTO strongly feels the need of immediate solution as the present situation has seriously affected the academic atmosphere both at

M.U. and colleges affiliated to it for more than 50 (fifty) days and also affected in the normal lives in the whole Manipur", a statement by Prof. Arun Kumar, General Secretary, AIFUCTO said adding that the results of the Examinations have been much delayed due to ongoing crisis which has seriously affected the students who are desirous of higher studies at institutions other than M.U.

The GoI & MHRD, being the concerned authorities of the university should bring immediate solution (without further delay) in the larger interest of the students and higher education of the state as well.

Naga Accord: Prepare rehab scheme for cadres who surrender, House panel tells MHA

(Courtesy: Indian Express)

A parliamentary standing committee asked the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to prepare a detailed and generous rehabilitation-cum-settlement scheme for the NSCN-IM cadres who will surrender as per of the Naga Accord. The committee also recommended that the "government should, nevertheless, proactively, stay prepared for any kind of scenario that may emerge in the aftermath of the agreement, and keep the security forces and intelligence agencies on the alert," the report noted. The MHA, the report said, had informed the panel headed by senior Congress leader P Chidambaram that issues related to territorial integrity have been resolved. "...they had now reached a common understanding with the Government that boundaries of the States will not be touched. Instead, some special arrangements would be made for the Nagas, wherever they are. The negotiations were going on over some symbolic issues, which are sensitive to both the government and the Nagas as well, and attempts are being made to reach a common understanding," it said. The panel also expressed deep concern over the large number of kidnappings in Assam, mostly of women, and surge in insurgency in Arunachal Pradesh, which it termed as "alarming". The

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committee in its report said it was deeply worried that a large number of victims kidnapped or abducted in Assam before and during 2016 were yet to be found.

"Even more worrisome is the fact that a large majority, at more than 81 per cent, of victims are women. The committee is of the view that this may also point towards a connection between such abductions and human trafficking," the panel said



it report submitted to Rajya Sabha.

The panel recommended that an inter-state investigation may be carried out to find out reasons for this high rate of kidnappings of women. "The committee desires that the ministry submit a detailed status note about the action taken to recover such victims," it said.

Referring to Arunachal Pradesh, the panel said unlike the

overall Northeast, which shows a declining trend of insurgency-related incidents and casualties suffered by civilians, the state has seen a rise in number of such incidents.

Today is an important Day in Indian history July 20th 1905: First Partition of Bengal is approved in London by the Secretary of State of India

On July 20th 1905, the first partition of Bengal along religious lines was approved in London by the Secretary of State of India.

The decision to partition the state of Bengal was announced by Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of India in July 1905. This partition came into effect in October 1905 and divided the Muslim majority of eastern Bengal from the Hindu majority of the western part of the state. Indians were livid at this decision and referred to it as "divide and rule" by the British, who were trying to turn Indians against each other. Curzon denied this saying that this was being done for ease of administration.

Bengali Hindus, who held a strong foothold in business and in the rural areas, complained that the partition of Bengal would make them a minority in their state, which would ultimately be incorporated with Bihar and Orissa. With the partition, Muslims founded their own national organizations, though Bengali Hindus were unhappy with this arrangement. In 1911, Bengal was reunited keeping in mind the Bengali sentiment, but this caused unhappiness among Bengali Muslims who benefited from the partition of the state. This resentment among Muslims lasted till 1947, when the state of Bengal was partitioned again.

The state of Bengal during that period stretched across 189,000 square miles, which included regions of Bihar, Odisha and Assam making it an extremely large area to govern. The capital of Bengal, Calcutta (now Kolkata) was then the capital of British India as well. By this time, the Indian National Congress had begun to fight for Independence. Lord Curzon thought it would be wise to partition Bengal, by separating the Hindus and Muslims. By this, he hoped to reduce religious tension and quell the Indian Independence movement.

The first idea of the partition was announced in January 1904, but was opposed by Henry John Stedman Cotton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam (1896- 1902). The Partition of Bengal came into force on October 16th 1905 headed by Viceroy Lord Curzon. The province of Bengal was divided to the Hindu majority "Bengal" (comprising of Western Bengal, Bihar and Odisha) and the Muslim majority "East Bengal and Assam" with its capital as Dacca (now Dhaka). Curzon maintained that it was the large size of the state which was the reason why Bengal was partitioned. Curzon believed that East Bengal was neglected and as a result underdeveloped which was the reason why partition would be a good idea.

The Partition of Bengal was supported greatly by the East Bengal Muslims, who found that partition gave them better opportunities. Bengali Muslims believed that their poor financial condition was because of the fact that most businesses were

dominated by Hindu businessmen and landlords, due to which Muslims were not given equal opportunities. Before the partition, most businesses, factories and universities were situated in Kolkata which did not suit people living in other parts of the state, particularly eastern Bengal. After the partition, East Bengal began developing rapidly and many important buildings were set up, such as Curzon Hall. Apart from that, many educational institutes were set up in East Bengal as well which improved educational and employment opportunities for people living in the area.

Bengali Hindus began to look at the partition as an ulterior motive. Since Hindus were dominant in the business front and in political agitation, they began to feel insecure at Muslims gaining strength across the border in East Bengal. The partition set off religious protests. Hindus supported the Swadeshi movement headed by the Indian National Congress, by boycotting all foreign-made goods. Muslims in East Bengal who had finally achieved a better standard of living, by gaining access to better education and employment, stayed away from the movement. Due to this political uprising, Bengal was finally reunited in 1911. This was followed by a partition based on linguistic grounds, with the separation of the Hindi, Oriya and Assamese areas under separate administrative units. The same year, the capital of British India was moved from Kolkata to New Delhi.

In 1909, separate elections were held for both Hindus and Muslims. Members of the Bengali community, both Hindu and Muslim, had all along wanted a stronger Bengali solidarity. Moreover, with different elections, political communities developed with their own, unique political agendas. Muslims dominated the legislature because of their large numbers and nationally Hindu and Muslims began to demand the creation of two separate countries: one with a Hindu majority and the other with a Muslim majority.

The partition of Bengal had a significant impact on the political climate of India and East Bengal was left dissatisfied after the union of the state, which led to a strong political foresight among Bengali Muslims. To pacify East Bengalis, Lord Curzon opened what is known today as the University of Dhaka, a move which was severely criticized by Hindus of West Bengal, leading to the onset of communal tension between the Hindu and Muslims of Bengal.

Bengal was finally partitioned in 1947 along religious lines, as part of the Partition of India. East Bengal came to be known as East Pakistan, which later became the independent state of Bangladesh after the war of independence with West Pakistan.

Whatsapp told to find more effective solutions

PIB
New Delhi, July 20,

On 3rd July 2018 MeitY had written to Whatsapp exhorting them to take immediate steps to tackle the menace of misuse of their platform wherein inflammatory messages were circulated that led to unfortunate incidents. On the same day Whatsapp responded indicating their initiative to mark forwarded messages and to step up efforts to detect fake news. Subsequently, an

unfortunate incident has occurred in Bidar where a 32 year old software engineer Mohammed Azam was killed and this was preceded by viral circulation of rumours on Whatsapp about child litters. It is regretted that the enormity of the challenge and the rampant abuse happening in the country leading to repeated commissioning of crimes pursuant to rampant circulation of irresponsible messages in large volumes on their platform have not been addressed adequately by Whatsapp.

Reports in the media resonate the general sentiment that there is much more that needs to be done by Whatsapp. There is a need for bringing in traceability and accountability when a provocative / inflammatory message is detected and a request is made by law enforcement agencies. When rumours and fake news get propagated by mischief mongers, the medium used for such propagation cannot evade responsibility and accountability. If they remain mute spectators they are liable

to be treated as abettors and thereafter face consequent legal action. In light of the above, Whatsapp has been requested today to come out with more effective solutions that can bring in accountability and facilitate enforcement of law in addition to their efforts towards labeling forwards and identifying fake news. It has been conveyed to them in unmistakable terms that it is a very serious issue which deserves a more sensitive response.