

How do we trust the peace talk between Government of India and NSCN(IM)?

By- Sh. Ajit

India's Union Minister of State for Home, G. Kishan Reddy, has expressed in Lok Sabha that since the talk with NSCN(IM) is yet to come to a conclusion, it is not the right time to clearly speak on the matter. What does it mean? Prime Minister has also expressed the signing of the Framework Agreement between the leader of NSCN(IM) and Government of India to be very historic. What does it mean? Does it mean that the talk, which has been in a confused state to continue, is now going to have further steps to proceed? Or is it because of the signing done on a simple, plain piece of paper with the so-called Naga leaders? Earlier, during his visit to Manipur for election campaign for BJP, central government's former Minister of State (Home), Kiren Rijiju, said that the reason for not bringing the agreement to the public is because the Framework Agreement is not ripe yet and an incomplete agreement. On the other hand, on the day of signing, the Prime Minister said that the agreement was "historic". Being a doubtful matter, it gave rise to some serious concerns. Was the agreement signed in a hurry with nothing good to come out of it for naga people, but just to portray that Isak Chishi Swu, who was ill for a long time, did something when he was alive? Since (IM)'s political agenda had failed to make a proper mark in Nagaland, was it done as an initiation of a future agreement following Isak Chishi Swu's Framework Agreement without

any substance? After Isak's demise, was there an attempt to allow the implementation of the final agreement in Nagaland on August 3? Was it an attempt to trick people of Nagaland into celebration for no reason with such an agreement that has no substance in it and put an end to their movement? Is the reason for keeping such an agreement hidden behind closed doors its irrelevance to the toils and troubles of nagas and its agenda being unrelated to bringing a fully democratic life to the people? It is a framework agreement with a lot of questionable matters. Saying that the agreement has nothing harmful, yet keeping it as a secret, makes people of the neighbouring states of Nagaland extremely worried. The worry is also regarding the concern that it might disturb their historical and political structure. Their concern is also that the attempt to settle a movement by a Naga revolutionary group might bring about the disintegration of the relationships amongst various communities in their own states rooted in a historical line, which took thousands of years to build. On top of the confusion and the doubt, what needs to look into is the idea strongly enforced onto the people of Nagaland by (IM) to create an independent Nagalim and form a new Naga community. But there is no word for independence and the idea of Nagalim seems impossible. Thus, (IM) is planning for a new strategy by sending out a message of a united Nagalim in Nagaland and land and

power for nagas in Manipur. Keeping this in mind, since United Naga Council (UNC) is attempting to try to not allow Manipur government administrator to divide the land in the name of communities, is by itself exposing (IM)'s new dream. This politics that does not affect much to the people of Nagaland, is becoming a reason to create chaos amongst the communities in Manipur. Ever since this (IM) disease has started spreading in the hills of Manipur, there has been various communal thoughts coming forth. Not only this, the disease seems to have affected communities other than the Manipuri nagas in the last one decade. As a result, meiteis are starting to worry of losing their land while kukis are demanding for a home land just for themselves. As the disease starts to spread far and wide, there is an attempt to portray Manipur as a mere junction of the nagas, kukis, and the lands of nagas. When the land starts to be divided on the basis of community, the political legitimization of all the movements of Manipur is going to disappear. It is thus going to portray in history that Manipur never had unity of various communities. We need to look into the politics of engineering issues, like never seen in any part of the world, on creating community-based districts and an independent Nagalim only for nagas. Manipuris are saying that the communities were not just mere neighbours. Those who want the land to be divided on community basis

are trying to cover up the fact that these communities collectively lived together under a ruler. In the name of "Unique history," there is an attempt to erase this history. In this matter, India is not paying any heed to this. In India's context, division of land based on communities can also be seen in 1947 when India and Pakistan got separated. It was divided on the basis of religious communities. This politics of dividing land on community basis can be seen in India until 1951. Thus, a time came to create a nation on the basis of language. But even India realised that it does not work to try to divide on community basis, especially after the uprisings in Kashmir and other reasons. However, in this crucial time, it is necessary to understand the motive behind India's recent attempt to bring in the politics to create a community-based Manipur, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh. By painting a picture that the communities that do not agree with this politics are Manipuris and Assamese, nagas' politics of thousand years of struggle to make a better living is turned into a conflict between Manipur and Assam. This can be viewed as India's success in conflict transformation. By creating doubts on both sides, are India and (IM) making a fool of the people, is what various organizations of Manipur are wondering. If we look at it from this point of view, then, it is not a hollow agreement with no purpose. It is performing various political purposes. Creating

specific doubts on both sides itself is the purpose of this politics. To strengthen the politics, NSCN(IM) is saying something while Indian government is saying something else. Providing different narratives itself can be considered as the fruition of the politics of this framework. Knowing that the idea of Nagalim cannot be successful for now, NSCN(IM) wants to mark certain areas within Manipur to be of nagas. India does not see any problem in this. Because it does not go against India's constitution like how an independent Nagalim does. Thus, India supports (IM)'s attempt to mark certain areas in Manipur as only for nagas. (IM) is trying to snatch land, only for nagas, from Manipur by creating an organisation to take the role of a negotiator, making it all look like a civil movement. On top of that, in order to create a separate government only for nagas, there is a great attempt, ranging from demanding for an alternative arrangement to trying to make Manipur look like a communal group. To this, India is not bothered for it does not majorly affect its image and integrity. (IM) is also trying to politicise and create a communal narrative out of the tradition around purity of meitei Hindus. It is usual for any religion to have such tradition. However, there is no attempt to provide a narrative of the secular events, with no relation to religion, that Manipuri kings, deeply religious for Hinduism, and

hill leaders collectively performed. Instead, there have been attempts to put the blame on meiteis by turning the pages from history on how other communities are not allowed to enter Hindu places. Since such politics could not last for long, a new tactic has been implemented to fabricate various events just to show that meiteis are torturing the nagas. Not just this, it has also been constantly claimed that the history of Manipur is limited only to the valley. There is an attempt to construct a historiography with its foundation on shallow viewpoints. All of this is just a dream of (IM), constructed beyond the historical details, but could not successfully establish in Nagaland. The very fact that there is a huge conflict on whether Romgei and Kabui are socially accepted communities or not in Nagaland, clearly proves that (IM)'s dream of a new Nagalim is not a means to bring welfare to all of naga communities. Nagas have a lot of hardships, there are more disappointing matters even after Shillong Accord. All of this is not related to the religion of meiteis. It is brought by the current political economy. Therefore, in order to overcome these hardships, whether it is of nagas, meiteis, kukis, or all the other communities that meiteis call Manipuris, it is necessary to bring a change in this political economy. This is what we call the historical ethos. When (IM) asks for a means unrelated to this ethos, India

is going to easily agree to it because there is a difference between the ethos of India and that of the people of north-east. This being the reason, even if it is said that the Framework Agreement does not have any harmful elements, the people of this region cannot trust it. Even if it is concerning only the nagas, the attempt to compensate and overcome the historical hardships of nagas by signing an agreement with no substance, is nothing but (IM) deceiving the historical process. Even the nagas of Nagaland are asking to bring forth the Framework Agreement for the same reason. On the other hand, the reason behind people asking for the agreement to bring forth in public eye is because of the doubt that are Assam and Manipur trying to fool (IM) or is India trying to break Manipur, who usually keeps quiet in (IM) asking for its demands that are not problematic. In today's time, it is hard to agree to believe on something that is not visible. In a time when even the existence of unseen god is questionable, people of Manipur and Nagaland cannot blindly trust either (IM) or Narendra Modi, since they are not even god. Therefore, what people of Manipur now want is to bring forth the Framework Agreement, analyse it, and take people's opinion. If not, it will be forced to bring to public, analyse every bits and pieces in detail, and make a strong decision. It is then that the people of Manipur will show their duty.

National News

'Not important if coalition survives, but...' Karnataka CM at trust debate

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The Karnataka assembly on Thursday began debate on the trust motion moved by HD Kumaraswamy who alleged there was a 'conspiracy to weaken' his government. The vote is unlikely to happen today as the JD(S)-Congress combine alone has 26 speakers to back the motion. "It is not important if the coalition survives, but we must discuss this conspiracy to weaken democracy, the embattled chief minister said. The state has been simmering since July 7 when 16 MLAs — 13 from the Congress and three from JD(S) — resigned, pushing the Congress-JD(S) coalition government to the brink of collapse. This was followed by several twists and turns with rebel MLAs holed up in Mumbai and Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar

'deliberating' on their resignations. The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that neither the Speaker can be forced to take early decision nor the rebel MLAs be forced to attend the session. Moving the motion, CM Kumaraswamy said: "I have self respect and so do my ministers. How can I live with this and not discuss this? I have to make clarifications. Who is responsible for destabilising this government?" The discussion on the vote of confidence started around 11 am and apart from the MLAs in Mumbai hotel, BSP MLA N Mahesh, an ally of the coalition, was missing from the House. Another Congress MLA Shrimant Patil who was staying with other legislators at Windflower Prakruthi Resort in Bengaluru, reached Mumbai last night.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders engaged in number crunching believe that only two of the rebel MLAs need to vote for them for the government to stay afloat. Congress's rebel MLA Ramalinga Reddy has already announced his decision to vote for the coalition and the party is expecting Roshan Baig, Anand Singh and Sudhakar to also vote for the ruling coalition. This would bring the numbers at par to 105 each side in the House of 224 (one member is nominated). The ruling coalition would then need only two of the rebels to vote for them or two BJP MLAs to cross vote, according to the source. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday issued a whip to all 37 MLAs of JD(S) including three rebel legislators Narayana Gowda, Gopaliah and H Vishwanath to be present in

the Assembly at the time of trust vote. Kumaraswamy has warned that if MLAs do not attend the House and of if they vote against the party whip even after attending the session on the day of trust voting, action will be initiated under the rule of Anti-Defection Law and that MLA will be disqualified from his post. Kumaraswamy had on sought permission from Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar to face a floor test during the ongoing session of the Assembly. The state Assembly has 225 members, including one nominated MLA. The halfway mark in the 225-member Assembly is 113. Also, after many failed attempts JD(S) leader Syed Shahid on Thursday managed to enter the Mumbai hotel where the rebel MLAs are holed up and held talks with them.

Ayodhya case: SC allows mediation to continue till July 31

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The Supreme Court has today allowed mediation process in Ayodhya land dispute case to continue till July 31 and sought a report on its outcome on August 1. A five-judge Constitution

bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, said that after perusing the report filed by the mediation panel, it will take a call on 2nd August, on whether a hearing is required in the case. Justice Kalifulla, chairman of mediation committee

submitted the interim report in Supreme court today. The bench, which perused the interim report about the progress of the mediation process till July 18, said its contents will remain confidential as per its earlier order.

The court had passed the order while hearing an application filed by a legal heir of one of the original litigants, Gopal Singh Visharad, seeking a judicial decision on the dispute and conclusion of the mediation process, alleging that not much was happening there.

Sport News

Virat Kohli will have 'absolutely no say' in new India head coach selection - Reports



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India captain Virat Kohli will have 'absolutely no say' in the selection process of the next Indian cricket team head coach. The entire selection process will be overseen by a three-member steering committee headed by former India World Cup winning captain Kapil Dev, according to a senior BCCI official. According to reports, the decision was taken keeping Anil Kumble's tenure in mind, where he and captain Kohli had a fall out before the former decided to step down and Kohli voted for Ravi Shastri's appointment. BCCI invited applications for the post of India's head coach after Ravi Shastri's tenure ended after the ICC World Cup 2019, where India were knocked out from the semi-final after losing to

New Zealand by 18 runs. Shastri along with Sanjay Bangar and Bharat have been given an extension till the West Indies tour, which is slated to begin from August 3, it is unlikely that all three of them will continue hold their positions after the tour. All three however, automatically enter the selection process but will still have to apply. "Last time, the captain (Kohli) had expressed his difficulty, or the team's difficulty, with former coach Anil Kumble. In the new selection process, he will have absolutely no say with regards to who becomes the coach. This time, we have Kapil Dev in the coach selection committee, and he will not listen to him (Kohli)," a BCCI official told the Indian Express. The trio of Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy will go ahead with the coach selection process and the Supreme

Court-appointed Committee of Administrators will give its approval for the same, no member of the current India squad will be consulted, assured the official in the report. In another noteworthy change, the BCCI has this time around decided to select the support staff along with the head coach, unlike previous occasions where the coach had the freedom of picking his own support staff. "Support staff will be picked by the selection committee. Normally, we allow the head coach to do that (pick the support staff) for team building. This time, if the head coach is selected (before the selection of the support staff), he might join the process," the official said. The BCCI in all probability will announce the next India head coach before the home series against South Africa, starting on September 15.