

State Government recommends Manipur be declared as Hill states by amending Article 371 C - Source

IT Exclusive Imphal, Oct 28

Amidst civil society's angers over the skipping of Manipur's stakeholders while inking a permanent solution to the issue of NSCN-IM, a source with the Imphal Times said that the GoI did sought recommendations from the side of the Manipur government regarding the matter. As per the source, the government of Manipur has recommended the government of India to declare Manipur as Hill state with a bicameral legislation on the line envisaged for

Nagaland state so that Manipur be brought under the Sixth Scheduled format. It however fails to reveal the modus operandi on how the state of Manipur could be declared a hill state without converting the majority Meetei/Meitei community into the status of Scheduled Tribe. The source further said that the government of Manipur strongly opposed any kind of ethnic based administration being set up in the state of Manipur for appeasing NSCN-IM, but recommended to name the existing autonomous district councils to North Autonomous Council, South Autonomous

Council and Central Autonomous Council which will include the entire valley districts. For that, the government of India has been recommended to amend Article 371 C. The recommendations suggested for listing the entire state of Manipur under the 6th Scheduled of the Constitution. The source fails to disclose on whether the recommendation of the state government India or not but concealing the fact about contacting government of Manipur in connection with the talk create apprehension to the

people of the state. When questioned about the concept of converting the existing autonomous district councils into 3 autonomous council across the entire state, the source said that the North Autonomous Council may encompass the existing Autonomous district Council of Ukhrul (which is presently having jurisdiction over Ukhrul district and the newly formed Kamjong district), Tamenglong (which is having jurisdiction over Tamenglong and the newly formed Noney district) and Senapati (presently having jurisdiction over Senapati district) by having separate offices functioning from each of the

respective district head quarters. Under the South Autonomous Council, the state government recommended the encompass the existing ADCs of CCpur, Sardar Hills and Chandel with offices from the respective district head quarters. However, Border town Moreh being an important strategic location as per the Act East Policy of India, the state government recommended to place it under the jurisdiction of Central Autonomous district Council which will comprise of the valley districts.

MPCC submits memorandum to PM over FA between NSCN-IM and the NNPG



IT News Imphal, Oct 28

Representatives of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee led by the newly appointed MPCC president M. Okendro, CLP leader Okram Ibobi and former President of the MPCC today submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India through the governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptulla in connection with the scheduled final agreement to be signed with the NSCN-IM and NNPGs.

The memorandum expressed apprehensions about hurting the people of the state as the Prime Minister still did not accept any appointment with a delegation of the all Political Party including the BJP till today even as the date for signing of the final agreement between the Government of India and NSCN-IM including the NNPGs is stated to be finalized on October 31. Earlier talking to media persons, CLP leader Okram Ibobi had questioned the rationale behind the meeting of the all political party meeting convened by the Chief Minister if the

delegations which is supposed to rely the stand of the political party in connection with finding any solution with the NSCN-IM could not be conveyed before October 31. "Till today when it is only 2 days left for signing of the peace deal, the delegates of the all political party still have not been given appointment", Okram Ibobi said adding that there is no use submitting the stand of the all political party which is also a mandate of the people of the state if the agreement is already signed.

The memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister through the governor strongly opposed any formation of any structures base on ethnic line like the formation of Pan Naga Cultural body or territorial council for the Naga of Manipur as it has the tendency to distort the integrity of the state. The memorandum also expressed apprehension for the alleged deployment of additional poaramilitary force in the state saying that the situation is not a sign of peaceful solution.

Crucial Ravi-Muivah meet on Monday

Courtesy NEN Dimapur, Oct.28

The Centre represented by Naga peace manager and Nagaland Governor R N Ravi will hold a crucial talk with NSCN-IM leaders in New Delhi on Monday. The NSCN-IM will be represented by Ato kilonser and chief negotiator, Th Muivah. Monday's meeting is likely to be the final meeting before the three-month deadline set by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to conclude the negotiation, expires on October 31.

It may be recalled that for nearly two years, government of India and NSCN (I-M) have not been able to amicably settle the latter's demand for separate Naga national Flag and Constitution. Ravi had told prior to being named as the Governor of Nagaland, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi had tasked him to settle the Naga political issue within three months. Ravi also made it clear that the three-month time-frame should not be construed as an 'ultimatum'.

To resolve this contentious issue, Ravi and NSCN (I-M) led by Th Muivah have held series of meetings till October 24 with no positive outcome.

After Monday's meeting with NSCN (I-M), the interlocutor will meet Working Committee (WC) of Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) led by its convenor, N Kitovi Zhimomi on Tuesday in New Delhi.

Depending on the outcome of October 28 and October 29 crucial meetings, Ravi is likely to convene a joint meeting with both the negotiating parties (NSCN and NNPGs) where he is expected to work out modalities for all negotiating parties to jointly sign the final agreement.

Women's body stage rally, submits memorandum to CM and Governor over FA



IT News Imphal, Oct 28

12 major women's organizations of the state, under the aegis of COCOMI, today staged a protest demonstration sending message to the government of India of serious consequences if the final agreement likely to be signed between the GoI, NSCN-IM and the NNPGs hurts the sentiment of the people of the state. The rally kicked start from Checkon area and proceeded

towards the Chief Minister's Bungalow. They were however intervened by a team of state police at Kunung Mamang in Imphal East. Placards that reads warning about serious consequences were displayed by the ladies. A minor confrontation took place between the protestors and the police after the protestors started shouting slogans for protection of the state. Traffic along the route was put to halt for almost hours at all direction coming from Porompat, Sanjenthong

and Wangkhei area. The situation was however brought under control after the police allowed representatives from each of the 12 Women's organizations to meet the governor of Manipur.

The 12 representatives of the women's bodies submitted a memorandum to the Governor and the Chief Minister separately under the banner of the COCOMI. The memorandum categorically stated that any solution to the vexed Naga issue must not be at the cost

of the existing socio-political, economic and cultural setup of the State. COCOMI has been spearheading different modes of civil movement against any possible impact on the integrity of Manipur and its administrative setup as a result of any solution to the Naga peace talk.

On the other hand, at Jiribam Auto Rickshaw also staged a protest rally at Jiribam under the aegis of COCOMI. Meanwhile COCOMI held a pressmeet at Lamyamba Shangle

PM Modi to leave on a day long visit to Saudi Arabia

AIR New Delhi, Oct 28

Prime Minister Modi will reach Saudi Arabia tonight for a day's visit. Prime Minister Modi is visiting the Saudi Kingdom on the invitation of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Azz Al Saud. The visit is expected to further cement the strategic partnership between the two countries.

At least 12 Agreements are likely to be signed during the visit of the Prime Minister covering areas like civil aviation, security related matters, defence, infrastructure & non renewable energy sector.

An agreement to establish a Strategic Partnership Council is also expected to be

signed during the visit. This will be an all encompassing bilateral mechanism which will cover an entire spectrum of relationship between the two countries. The Council will be chaired by the Prime Minister himself from the Indian side and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia from the other side. Just below the apex level, there will be two verticals. One of the vertical will be headed by the Foreign Ministers and the other by the Commerce and Trade Ministers. There will be different joint working groups under these two ministries. Matters related to security & defence issues will be dealt by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and NITI Aayog will be handling aspects relating to economic, trade and

investment relations. India and Saudi Arabia are looking at closer cooperation in the area of defence industries. Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Military Industry visited India a few months ago where they met representatives of Indian defense industry. Indian defense companies also visited Saudi Arabia subsequently. In another significant development, the first India-Saudi Arabia joint naval exercises will be held from December end to January 2020.

Energy security has been the main area of India's engagement with Saudi Arabia. India is on its way to transforming the buyer-seller

relationship in this sector into a much larger strategic partnership. A MoU on a joint venture between Indian Oil Middle East with Al Jeri Company of Saudi Arabia for downstream cooperation & for setting up of retail outlets in Saudi Arabia is expected to be inked during the visit of Prime Minister Modi. During the visit, both the governments also propose to launch the integration of the eMigrate and Saudi eTawtheeq portals for the benefit of the workers. An MoU is likely to be signed during the visit to launch RuPay card in Saudi Arabia which will be very useful for not only the large Indian community but also Hajj and Umrah pilgrims.

Naga talks: Manipur BJP leaders rush to Delhi to meet Modi

Agency Ghy. Oct 28,

Amid tension in Manipur over Naga peace talks, a BJP delegation of the state has rushed to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The team of the ruling party reached the national capital to ensure that "territorial integrity" of the state is not affected.

The NSCN (I-M) has sought Naga-inhabited areas of Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh to be lumped with Nagalim (greater Nagaland), which they want to form by including parts of Myanmar. Manipur has been opposing the NSCN (IM)'s demand of the integration of Naga inhabited areas.

"We are seeking an appointment with the Prime Minister to ensure that the territorial integrity of Manipur remains unscathed," TOI quoted

Manipur BJP general secretary N Nimbus Singh as saying.

The delegation will also seek an appointment for meeting Union home minister Amit Shah on the issue. Singh said the BJP delegation was holding meetings with different party central leaders on the issue of maintaining the state's territorial integrity intact.

The Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) on Sunday said New Delhi has decided to conclude the ongoing negotiations on resolving the Naga issue within October 31. Before that interlocutor Ravi will hold formal meetings with the NSCN (IM) leaders in New Delhi on Monday and the working committee of NNPGs on Tuesday.

The NSCN-IM will be represented by Ato Kilonser and chief negotiator, Th Muivah.