

## NEDF urges authority to take up measures for ensuring safety of civilians in the aftermath of Signing Indo-Naga peace deal

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 29

Fearing unprecedented violence in the aftermath of the final settlement if the Indo-Naga peace deal, the North East Dialogue Forum (NEDF) has urged the authority to immediately form a Committee with representatives from Government and Civilians to monitor the indicators of

anticipated violence and/ human rights violations by both negotiating parties during the negotiation process and during the signing period of the Agreement.

A statement of the NEDF also appealed all concerns engaging in the peace deal to respect provisions of Article 19, 21, 22, 14 and others of the Constitution of India and allow the civilian population to exercise their freedom of speech, movement, association, peaceful assembly and not turn to invoking various sections of the I.P.C. and Cr.P.C. and AFSPA to silence the majority who totally are out of sync with the whole process of peace negotiations.

The forum also appealed the Government of India to respect the UN Declaration on Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007) and to ensure Free, Prior

and Informed Consent of the people for deploying so much security forces with frequent frisking by State and central security forces thereby driving a fear psychosis in the minds of the public who have to move here and there for means of livelihood, studies, etc. The NEDF also appealed the authority to invite CSOs from various ethnic communities of the region that may affect to make the official peace negotiations very inclusive besides, providing space to a substantial number of women to participate in the negotiating process.

The forum also urged to seek opinions of victims of extrajudicial execution, involuntary disappearances, of rape, child soldiers, land mine survivors, and victims of undeclared war between the NSCN and Govt. forces for the last so many decades and that they be included in the Framework

Negotiations. The NEDF also urged to make it mandatory for para-military forces deployed in Manipur and Nagaland to be under the supervision of the respective State Police including Women Police, while appealing to put the negotiated Framework to be put in public domain with the inevitability of public referendum within a given time frame before it is signed, declared and implemented.

The above points were urged in view of the disagreements among the different negotiating groups as to what would be the final outcome of this process and the series of protest in Manipur fearing disintegration of Manipur. NEDF expressed apprehension that violence may occur between the negotiating parties or parties not part of the negotiating process and even parties not agreeing to this process.

## Twenty two more cadres including important leaders leave Muivah led NSCN

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 29

At a time when differences between the NSCN-IM and the GoI creates apprehensions on whether the NSCN-IM will sign the final agreement with the GoI on October 31<sup>st</sup>, a date stated to have been fixed by interlocutor R.N. Ravi, Kohima based web portal reported about the defection of 22 more senior members of the NSCN-IM leaving the outfit and reported to have joined the NSCN-Unionification yesterday. The report appeared in 'East

Mojo' said that of the 22 members, 15 belonged to the 'political' section while the remaining are army cadres. Last week, former 'kilo kilonser' (home minister) and current member of negotiating team of the Naga insurgent group NSCN-IM with the Centre, Hukavi Yephomi, had joined the working committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Unionification (NSCN-U) was formed on November 23, 2007 with an inter-factional 'truce agreement' signed between

the few cadres and leaders of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and the rival National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) at Hovishe under Niulapur sub-division in the Dimapur district. The meeting was initiated and chaired by Hokiye, president of the Western Sumi Hoho, an influential body of the Sumi (Sema) tribe. The NSCN-IM was led by 'kilo-kilonser' (home minister) Azheto Chophy and the NSCN-K by 'kilonser' (cabinet minister) C Singson.

## Justice S A Bobde appointed as Chief Justice of SC

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct. 29

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde has been appointed the next Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind. Justice Bobde, who succeeds Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, will take oath on November 18.

Justice Bobde is a former Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. He is due to retire on 23 April 2021. Born on 24 April 1956 at Nagpur, Maharashtra, Justice Bobde studied in the Nagpur University. He joined the Bombay High Court in 2000 as additional judge. In 2012, he became Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

He was elevated to the Supreme Court in April, 2013. He has been involved in top cases before the Supreme Court, including the Ayodhya temple-mosque dispute, the BCCI case and petitions against firecrackers.

Justice Gogoi, sworn in as Chief Justice on 3 October 2018, will retire on November 17.

The Chief Justice had gone by the convention to recommend the name of the next senior judge as his successor a month before his retirement, said official sources.

Justice Bobde, who will be sworn in as Chief Justice on November 18, will have a tenure of about 18 months.

According to the Memorandum of Procedure, which governs the appointment of members of the higher judiciary, the "appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office". After receiving the Chief Justice's recommendation, the Law Minister puts it before the Prime Minister, who then communicates this to the President.

## We will participate in every movement for protection of Manipur - THAMOI

IT News  
Thoubal, Oct.29

Thajabasinggi Apunba Meitei Singgi Ithoudang (THAMOI), an organisation in Thoubal district, said that they welcome the peace talk between Government of India and NSCN-IM, which is expected to come to a conclusion on October 31. However, if the peace talk affects the integrity of Manipur, they are fully prepared to stand against it

and participate in any movement by the people.

In a press meet organised at the office of THAMOI, an organisation of Meitei Christian of Wangjing Tentha AC, its secretary, A. Robindro Meitei, said that the in case the verdict creates conflict among the communities that have been living together for years as brothers, then they will not stay quiet. He further said that if the final verdict contains anything that can

affect the territorial integrity of Manipur and its unity, then the Meitei Christians of the churches under Wangjing Tentha AC will stand firmly for Manipur and participate actively in every movement. In today's press meet, Phijam Babu, President of THAMOI, and various members of churches in Wangjing Tentha AC also participated.

## Governor greets Ningols on Ningol Chakkouba festival

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 29

Manipur Governor Dr.Najma Heptulla conveyed her heartiest greetings on the occasion of Ningol Chakkouba 2019 to the people of Manipur and especially, to

the married womenfolk of the State.

In her message stated that Ningol Chakkouba is a unique festival of the Meitei community observed every year on the second day of the New Moon of the Manipuri month of Hiyangei (October-

November). On the day of the festival, the married sisters are invited over by the brothers to a feast an given 'dakshina' thereafter, at their parental homes and these intimate and nostalgic moments strengthen the bond of love and affection between the

brothers and sisters. It is very heartening that this social event is catching on rapidly among other communities also.

Her best wishes to the people of the State and hope that the festival will be celebrated by all in its true form and spirit.

## Alert rally continues; cautions of serious consequences if hurt the sentiment of Manipur people by FA

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 29

All Manipur Muslim Students Organisation (AMMSO), COCOMI,

AMMOCOC, AMMDC, ALADA, ANJUMAN, Lilong, AMMDO, RAUCO, PLYDO, ASPO, LBADC, UMWDA, UMYE, AMMUCCO, LIPUL, PFI, Manipur State, along with Panggal Community and members of CSO's students of Madrassa today staged alert mass rally at Lilong Keithel in Thoubal district today. The alert rally is a warning to the government of India of unwanted consequences if anything that may hurt the sentiment of the people of Manipur has been included in the agreement which is proposed

to be signed between the government of India and the NSCN-IM along with other NNPGs. A memorandum was also submitted to the Chief Minister of Manipur in connection with the demand of the people.

On the other hand a sit-in protest was also staged today under the aegis of the COCMI at Khurai Keithel. Various placards that demands protection of the unity of the state had been displayed during the protest. Mention may be made that COCOMI has called 20 hours cease work on Oct. 31.

## A Response to Government Recommendations for Muivah Solution

By: Sh.Ajit

The recommendations made by Government of Manipur for Naga Solution are nothing but farce or sign of insensibility of people's admire and aspirations. What the people of Manipur like is nothing but unity and oneness of Manipur. The unity of Manipur has passed different historical tests over times. The oneness of Manipur has been evolved through constant interaction of ethnic groups since time immemorial. Though the State faces difficulties in harmonizing ethnic aspirations due to colonial intervention and misadministration, the State still has a common pulse

of the people. The Government Recommendations have three basic things: declaration of Manipur as Hill State, division of Manipur into three regions on the ethnic lines, extension of controversial 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule to entire State of Manipur. The most farcical thing is that the Government Recommendation dictates there should not be any more demand from the people of Manipur. Will the Naga Agreement be the end point of history? In search of Naga Solution, the Government likes to give full autonomy to those tribes who are identified as Naga in Manipur. The Government of Manipur, without considering

history and social reality, thinks that such autonomy can be given only when the same autonomy is given to Kuki and Meitei. So it likes to divide Manipur with formation of three Autonomous Councils: Northern mainly for Nagas, Southern for Kukis and Central for Meiteis. Extension of 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule to entire State of Manipur is also recommended. Reading the lines together, Government of Manipur thinks Naga can be given full autonomy only when Meiteis are made happy with Schedule Tribe Status and Kuki with the same autonomy. In short, the Manipur will be divided into three tribal groups: Naga, Kuki and Meitei in search of Naga

Solution. The historical legitimacy of the State of Manipur will be destroyed in such a quixotic search. Here one should remember, even during the British colonial period, Manipur was not part of undivided Assam and had its own status as Princely State. The Government recommendations also assume that the strong protest against any administrative change in Manipur in the name of Naga Solution can be subsided using the ST Status of the Meitei. There will be rift among the Meitei over the demand of ST status. A large number of CSOs do not subscribe the demand of ST Status of the Meitei, rather

oppose the demand. Some CSOs have strong commitment to the demand. Moreover, almost all the tribal groups are opposing this demand strongly. Using this ST Demand Card, Government is playing with CSOs, expecting that there will be in-fight among the CSOs and ethnic-based groups; hence, the Naga Solution will have smooth sailing. Why should the Meitei become Scheduled Tribe to appease one ambitious Naga leader? The Government of Manipur, without considering the age-old sentiments of oneness of Manipur and any consultation with the stakeholders, took the

recommendation. The Government is not fair to recommend such a divisive move only for appeasing one warring Naga party. The principle of dividing Manipur into three Autonomous Councils and bringing contentious 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule (the amendment of which is in the offing) to Manipur is suspicious. The only question that is raised is: is Government of Manipur acting under pressure from outside? How could Government take such a decision which is anti-history, anti-Manipuri? The recommendation is itself a time-bomb.

(Contd.on page 2)