



Ceasefire With NSCN(K) Niki Group

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Why in News

Recently, the Union Government has entered into a Ceasefire Agreement with the **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K) Niki Group** for a period of one year.

This initiative is a significant boost to the **Naga peace process** and in line with **Prime Minister of India's vision of 'insurgency free, prosperous North East'**.

Key Points

Naga Peace Process:

- After India became independent in 1947, the **Naga territory initially remained a part of Assam.**
- In 1957, after an agreement was reached between Naga leaders and the Indian government, the Naga Hills region of Assam and the Tuensang frontier division to the northeast were brought together under a single unit **directly administered by the Indian government.**
- Nagaland **achieved statehood in 1963**, however, rebel activity continued.

THE NAGA STRUGGLE

1918: Naga Club formed. Seeds of Naga nationalism sown

Agreement interpreted as offer for sovereignty by NNC

1946: Naga National Council (NNC) born under the leadership of A.Z. Phizo

1955: NNC begins armed insurgency. Delhi imposes Assam Disturbed Areas' Act

August 14, 1947: NNC declares independence

1958: AFSPA comes into force

June 1947: Haidari

1963: Nagaland born

1964: Nagaland Peace Mission created, ceasefire signed

1975: Shillong Accord signed, calls for unconditional ceasefire, termed a 'complete sellout'



A.Z. Phizo

1980: National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) formed

1988: NSCN splits into NSCN (K) and NSCN (I-M)

1997: NSCN (I-M) signs ceasefire

2001: NSCN (K) signs ceasefire

March 2015: NSCN (K) breaks ceasefire

August 2015: Naga peace accord signed

Vision of Insurgency Free, Prosperous North East:

- Recognises that the North East is very important for the country from the aspects of security.
- Thus, the aim is to **end all disputes in the Northeast by 2022** and usher in a **new era of peace and development in the Northeast in 2023**.
- Under this, the Government is enriching the dignity, culture, language, literature and music of the Northeast.
- Over the years, the government has also signed several peace agreements with military outfits in northeast India. For example,
 - **Karbi Anglong Agreement, 2021**: It involved a tripartite agreement signed among five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the state government of Assam.
 - **Bru Accord, 2020**: Under the Bru accord, the permanent settlement of 6959 Bru families in Tripura with a financial package has been agreed between the Government of India, Tripura and Mizoram with representatives of Bru migrants.
 - **Bodo Peace Accord, 2020**: In 2020, the Government of India, Government of Assam and representatives of Bodo groups signed an agreement, wherein more autonomy is provided to Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), in Assam.
 - Peace agreement with various military outfits which are involved in Naga Insurgency like **NSCN(NK), NSCN(R), and NSCN(K)-Khango, NSCN(IM)**.

Conflicts in Northeast India



- **Typology of Conflicts:**

- **National Conflicts:** Involving the concept of a distinct 'homeland' as a separate nation.

Nagaland: Naga insurgency originated from the demand of independence. Although the demand for independence has majorly subsided, the lingering issue of a final political settlement including the demand for '**greater Nagaland**' or '**Nagalim**' remains.

- **Ethnic Conflicts:** Involving assertion of numerically smaller and less dominant tribal groups against the political and cultural hold of the dominant tribal group.

Tripura: The State's demographic profile has been altered since 1947 when mass migrations from the newly emerged East Pakistan converted it from a largely tribal area to one with a majority of Bengali speaking people.

- Tribals were deprived of their agricultural lands at throw-away prices and driven to the forests.
- The resultant tensions caused major violence and widespread terror.
- **Sub-regional Conflicts:** Involving movements which ask for recognition of sub-regional aspirations and often come in direct conflict with the State Governments or even the autonomous Councils.

- **Mizoram:** The State with its history of violent insurgency and its subsequent return to peace is an example to all other violence affected States.

Following an 'Mizo Peace accord' between the Union Government and the Mizo National Front in 1986 and conferment of statehood the next year, complete peace and harmony prevails in Mizoram.

- Further, the **boundary issue between Assam and Mizoram** has existed since the formation of Mizoram.
- **Other Reasons:** Sponsored terrorism, conflicts generated as a result of continuous inflow of migrants from across the borders, criminal enterprise aimed at expanding and consolidating control over critical economic resources, have also result into clashes.

Assam: The major ethnic conflict in the State is the grievance against the perceived influx of 'foreigners' i.e. people with a language and culture substantially different from the Assamese from across the border (i.e. Bangladesh).

The recent tension in Assam emanates from the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019** and **National Register of Citizens** debate.

- **Modes of Conflict Resolution:**

- Strengthening security forces/ 'police action'.
- More local autonomy through mechanisms such as conferment of Statehood, the **Sixth Schedule**, Special Provisions under **PART XXI of the Constitution**.
- Negotiations with insurgent outfits.
- Development activities including special economic packages.