



Current Affairs of the Day

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Naga peace talks hit a road bump

In news:

- The Naga peace talks have hit rough weather even as the leadership of NSCN-IM held a detailed meeting with two Intelligence Bureau (IB) officials in New Delhi on Monday.

Details:

- The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM), one of the largest Naga groups with which the Government of India signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015, is reportedly peeved with interlocutor R.N. Ravi, and has demanded that he be removed from the position.
- The agreement was signed by Mr. Ravi on behalf of the Centre in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

How old is the Naga political issue?

Pre- independence:

- The British annexed Assam in 1826, and in 1881, the Naga Hills too became part of British India. The first sign of Naga resistance was seen in the formation of the Naga Club in 1918, which told the Simon Commission in 1929 “to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as in ancient times”.
- In 1946 came the Naga National Council (NNC), which declared Nagaland an independent state on August 14, 1947.
- The NNC resolved to establish a “sovereign Naga state” and conducted a “referendum” in 1951, in which “99 per cent” supported an “independent” Nagaland.

Post- independence:

- On March 22, 1952, underground Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA) were formed. The Government of India sent in the Army to crush the insurgency and, in 1958, enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

When did the NSCN come into being?



- A group of about 140 members led by Thuingaleng Muivah, who were at that time in China, refused to accept the Shillong Accord, and formed the National Socialist Council of Nagaland in 1980.
- As per the accord, NNC and NFG agreed to give up arms.
- In 1988, the NSCN split into NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K) after a violent clash.

What did the NSCN (IM) want?

- A “Greater Nagalim” comprising “all contiguous Naga-inhabited areas”, along with Nagaland. That included several districts of Assam, Arunachal and Manipur, as also a large tract of Myanmar.
- The Nagaland Assembly has endorsed the ‘Greater Nagalim’ demand — “Integration of all Naga-inhabited contiguous areas under one administrative umbrella” — as many as five times: in December 1964, August 1970, September 1994, December 2003 and as recently as on July 27, 2015.

The ceasefire:

The Government of India signed a ceasefire agreement with NSCN (IM) on July 25, 1997, which came into effect on August 1, 1997.

What's in peace accord?

- NSCN – IM has been derecognized as a militant organization and talks have been initiated with the government.
- GOI is open to discuss the Naga territorial issue within the existing boundaries of the neighboring states of Manipur, Assam etc which are being claimed as part of Greater Nagalism.
- Key issues that have been put under consideration includes AFSPA, demographic changes due to cross border migrations and other tribals like Meitei who are diluting the local populations in the Naga areas.

Rajnath reiterates self-reliance goal

Key Points:

- Several military platforms like the Light Combat Aircraft, Pinaka rocket launchers and Akash missile systems, which have been indigenously



developed, were included in the negative list of imports to ensure that the Services do not go in for procurement of similar systems by imports.

- It is also highlighted that for a product to be considered as an indigenous system, the percentage of indigenous content has to meet minimum laid down specifications. Hence, manufacturers are also required to ensure indigenisation and decrease import content to the permissible limits.
- The reason for specifying systems presently made in India with part-import content is to ban procurement of such equipment or items which carry similar qualitative requirements but are often contracted under differing nomenclatures.

Atmanirbharta Saptah

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the “Atmanirbharta Saptah” and said it was to focus on modernisation of defence infrastructure, creation of new manufacturing capability and investments.

3 facilities inaugurated:

- Mr. Singh inaugurated three facilities of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and BEML's (Bharat Earth Movers Limited) Industrial Design Centre at its Bangalore Complex.
- The three facilities include manufacturing facility for sighting devices for T-90 Tanks at the Opto Electronics Factory, Dehradun, automated assembly line for the production of Pinaka Rockets at the Ordnance Factory, Chandrapur and assembly and testing facility of Stabilised Remote Controlled Gun (SRCG) at the Ordnance Factory, Tiruchirappalli.

The automated Pinaka assembly will not only enhance the production capacity but would also be more efficient as it seeks to do away with most of the manual operations.



India's imports from China rise in June and July

Relative rise

While imports from China to India have risen since May 2020, they were still short of levels reached in 2019



In news:

- India's imports from China have risen to \$5.6 billion in July, climbing for the second straight month, although imports are still down by 24% from 2019. India's imports from China had fallen to a record low of \$3.2 billion both in April and May, coinciding with India's lockdown on account of the pandemic.
- Imports rose to \$4.8 billion in June and further to \$5.6 billion in July, almost back to the pre-lockdown level of \$5.8 billion reported in March, in part, economists said, driven by Chinese exports of medical supplies.
- After seven months of this year, India's imports from China reached \$32.2 billion, down 24.7% year-on-year, largely because of the slump in April and May, according to figures from China's General Administration of Customs released on August 7.
- Two-way trade, at \$43.37 billion, continues to be heavily tilted in China's favour, with India's exports, up 6.7% year-on-year, accounting for \$11 billion.



The slump in China's exports to India contrasts with its recovery overall. The GAC's figures showed China's exports overall rose 7.2% in July while imports fell 1.4% year-on-year. China posted a trade surplus of \$62.33 billion, surpassing the \$42 billion estimate given by economists to Reuters. A jump in export of medical supplies was seen by economists as one reason.