

**Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research
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Panel Discussion on
‘Understanding the Naga Peace Talks: The ways forward’

28 September, 2020, from 2 PM onwards

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A Background Note

The Naga movement for independence started around the time India won independence. The first ever peace building effort was made as early as in June 1947 through an agreement between the then Governor of Assam and the Naga National Council. The effort however failed to have any meaningful impact. Thereafter, the Naga National Council declared independence and claimed to have conducted a plebiscite for independence.

The government was willing to give limited autonomy under the constitution of the country. The Nagas rejected the offer and boycotted the first parliamentary elections held in 1951.

In 1959, the Naga People’s Convention adopted a resolution for the formation of a separate state. This led to the Sixteen-Point agreement to elevate Naga Hills-Tuensang Areas into a state known as Nagaland. But, the creation of Nagaland could not bring peace.

Another agreement, popularly known as the Shillong accord, was signed in 1975 between the Government of India and the “Representative of the Underground Organisations”. It created a major rift within the Naga National Council which ultimately led to its split in 1980 with the formation of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

Meanwhile, a ceasefire came into being in 1997 between the Government of India and the NSCN-IM, and separately with the Khaplang-led NSCN faction since 2001. The talks have been going on separately without any major breakthrough.

Underlying this upheaval has been a number of issues such as (a) Claim for an independent homeland; and (b) Integration of the “Naga areas”.

As you are well aware, the Naga issue has been one of the most protracted issue before the country and the Government of India as well as the state governments, civil society organisations and peace activists have been trying to resolve for the last seven decades. Recently, the issue has come into the limelight again as the imminent settlement on issue has been announced by the present dispensation.

The proposed Panel Discussion is of critical importance not only for the country but also for research scholars and students of conflict studies in particular and social sciences at large. The panelists are drawn from different fields (which include scholars, peace and rights