

A Happy Thought on the Naga Peace Negotiation!

By Bendangangshi

Recent report in the print media that the Government of India has decided to arrive at a final settlement to the ongoing Naga peace talks in 2015 itself, is a very glad tidings. No news than this can be better or sweeter to the ears of men and women of the generation that started the struggle more than sixty years ago. In the long journey, many precious lives were sacrificed and, as is inevitable in all political arenas, cracks and divisions appeared in the Naga family, the consequence of which again led to the loss of countless lives from infighting. Of the generation that started the movement, many were victims in the struggle and among those that survived, most have passed away, and those that are alive today have entered dotage, yet the flame of freedom still burns within them as it did in their youth, and to them, the news of the settlement is an answer to their everyday prayers.

Such is the work of God that when He ordains the happening of something, He ensures the convergence of everything favourable to its happening. Perhaps, it is God's will that the Nagas shall have their wish fulfilled, for when we look around today at the Naga society, we see possibilities in areas where there were none up to a recent point of time. The State legislature across party lines, despite bickering in the maneuverings for power, is united in support of an amicable political settlement to the vexed Naga issue. Warring among the different factions have more or less ceased and the relations among them have thawed to a great extent, thanks to the patient and tireless striving of the FNR, Naga Hoho and other NGOs to bring about reconciliation, and also to the prevailing of reason among the leaders of the various factions. If only the 'Friends of the Hill People', the Assam Rifles, should refrain from the needless raids of residences and arrests, the environment is such as may favour a smooth and peaceful transition in the event of the anticipated settlement. Most importantly, for the settlement to be possible, a favourable Government is in position in India. The political negotiation that was gaining positive momentum during the Vajpayee Government stalled for two subsequent full terms of Government during the Congress led rule in India, but this deliberate procrastination came to an end when Narendra Modi led BJP juggernaut swept aside the Congress regime, and on which promise we placed our trust, as soon as the Modi Government was installed, the talks resumed with vigour and sincerity and within the span of a few months, the outcomes have been no less than spectacular. All these positive developments must be attributed in no small measure to the broadness of vision and magnanimity of the leaders at the Centre and in particular, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It requires greatness of mind and spirit to bring about changes to the status quo, especially when one is in a comfortable position, and the BJP and its leadership has shown that they possess this virtue in ample proportion.

Now, it is up to the Naga leaders to also show the world that we too possess the attributes of greatness by shedding all differences whatsoever and move forward as on towards the future that beckons.