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**Ethnic conflict in Nagaland**

[**Nagaland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagaland) falls within the [north eastern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North-East_India) region of [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) mainly occupied by Nagas. The continuing conflict fought between the ethnic [Nagas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naga_people" \o "Naga people) and the government of India and [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar) is what the ethnic conflict in Nagaland.  Nagaland is mainly at the trijunction border of India on the West and South, north and Myanmar on the East.

"National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang)", which wants an independent "greater Nagaland" to incoporate territory now in Myanmar, supported on ethnicity; and the "Naga National Council (Adino)". On 16 May 1951 the question of "Naga Supremacy" was put to vote. The Naga after much thought formed an armed wing of NNC to protect themselves, known as NSG (Naga Safe Guards).

In 1946 the Naga National Council (NNC) was created under Phizo's leadership. They signed a Nine-Point Agreement which granted Nagas rights over their lands and legislative and executive powers. No law from the provincial or central legislatures could affect this agreement as empowered by judicial capacity of naga court. The agreement had included a clause demanding that the people Nagaland to be brought into the identical administrative unit at the earliest. However, one clause stipulate. The Governor of Assam have a special responsibility for a period of ten years to confirm that due observance of this agreement to be extended for an extra period, or a replacement agreement regarding the long term of the Naga people to be fell upon.

The clarification of this clause has been challenged between the Nagas and the Indian Government. To Nagas this clause meant independence from India at the end of the 10 year period but not for the Indian government, it just meant that they have to make new agreement if all this fails. The Nine-Point Agreement was rejected by Phizo, to who the agreement became difficult to address the issue of Naga sovereignty. The NNC under Phizo's leadership declared Naga independence on 14 August 1947 and successfully propagated the concept of Naga sovereignty throughout the Naga tribes. A Naga vote was organised on 16 May 1951. The Naga struggle remained peaceful within the 1940s and early 1950s.

The Naga insurgency was an armed ethnic conflict led by the Naga National Council (NNC) in 1956 which aimed for the secession of Naga territories from India.

In the words of historian Benjamin Zachariah, ″It was within the north-east of India that the Nehruvian vision took on its most brutal and violent forms.″ The actions of execution and rape by the Indian defence forces could’nt endear to the Nagas a way of belonging with the Indian nation. The Indian government coerced the dissenters into accepting their power with the appliance of Kautilya's advice to use internal force. Gandhian advice to have interaction with the aim of reaching a typical ground through negotiations was also utilised. The Indian Govt acknowledged a separate Naga state within the Indian Union in 1960 and also the state was inaugurated in 1963.

The State Nagaland has a special provision Article 371A .In this article of the Constitution it states that no act of Parliament would apply to the state of Nagaland in matter concerning to religious or social practices of Nagas, Naga customary law and procedure, administration of civil or criminal justice involving decisions consistent to Naga customary law and ownership and transfer of land and its resources (The Week).The legislature of Nagaland must pass a resolution for an act to be applicable to the state. The governor is given special responsibilities with reference to law and order within the state.( The Week)

Naga rebels have engaged in a violent insurgency against the govt of India since 1952, fighting for a independent state “Nagalim” or “Great Nagaland”. The August 2015 [announcemen](http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=124222)t offered a ray of hope — not only for bringing peace to Nagaland, but for resolving the last vestiges of a conflict that has limited development in several Indian states and hindered India’s ambitions because it looks to “[Act East](https://www.mea.gov.in/in-focus-article.htm?24216/Act+East+Indias+ASEAN+Journey).” Nearly four years later, the road to a lasting peace remains challenging.

A lack of unity among Naga rebels has repeatedly hampered efforts to barter a long lasting peace over the years. In the early 1960s, the All Tribes Naga People’s Conference approached India with a proposal to form a state of Nagaland within India. The proposal peak within the [16-Point Agreement](https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/IN_600726_The%20sixteen%20point%20Agreement_0.pdf) that created the Nagaland state and gave local bodies significant autonomy over governance. However, the agreement wasn’t accepted by most of the Naga people and they continued fighting.

The Shillong Accord of 1975 made another advance, where the segment of the NNC agreed to accept the Constitution of India. However, this accord, too, was rejected by an oversized swath of rebels. But some rebels, broke and removed and formed the Nazi Council of Nagaland (NSCN). With this NNC became a nonentity. However, the newly formed NSCN, too, faced problems because the three leaders disagreed on whether the group should engage during a dialogue with the Indian government. By 1988, that faction had itself split into two groups, the NSCN-IM, which favored talks with India and was led by Isak and Muivah, and also the NSCN-K, which opposed talks and was led by Khaplang. the govt. began negotiating with the previous, which remains the most important Naga rebel organization, reaching a ceasefire in July 1997. Since, then peace talks are ongoing, largely focused on the key demands put forth by the NSCN-IM:

1. India should recognize the “unique history” of the Nagaland  
2. Repeal of the military (Special Powers) Act in Nagaland  
3. All Naga areas should be territorially integrated  
4. Nagas should have their own constitution that might cover governance within the integrated “Nagalim.”

The August 2015 Framework Agreement was signed between the govt. of India and also the NSCN-IM on these terms. Under the framework agreement, the Indian government has already fulfilled the primary demand, with the prime minister’s office saying, “The Government of India recognized the unique history, culture and position of the Nagas and their sentiments and aspirations.” Nevertheless, they continued application of the military (Special Powers) Act and also the demand for territorial integrity remain the foremost intractable. Today, the NSCN-IM and therefore the government of India remain engaged in talks on a final peace agreement.

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