

The complexities of Naga identity

The Nagaland govt. will face many hurdles in its quest to compile a list of indigenous inhabitants



SUSHANTA TALUKDAR

The Nagaland government's move to compile a Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) opens up possibilities in the context of the decision to link the register to the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system without a consensus on the definition of an 'indigenous inhabitant'.

One such possibility is of RIIN pushing the negotiators engaged in the ongoing Naga peace talks to articulate new and hardened positions on the contentious issue of integration of contiguous Naga-inhabited areas.

Though the official notification on RIIN has not mentioned a cut-off date to compile the proposed register, the authorities in Nagaland have till date issued indigenous inhabitant certificates using December 1, 1963 as the cut-off date. Nagaland was inaugurated as India's 16th State on this date following the '16-point agreement' between the government of India and the Naga People's Convention on July 26, 1960.

Opposition from NSCN (I-M)

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah), which has been engaged in peace talks with the government of India since 1997, has opposed the compilation of RIIN asserting that "all Nagas, wherever they are, are indigenous in their land by virtue of their common history".

A statement issued by the 'Ministry of Information and Publicity' of the self-styled Government of the People's Republic of Nagalim reads: "The present move of the State government to implement [the] Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) is contradictory to the inherent rights of the Nagas. It is politically motivated to suit the interest of the groups advocating for the '16-Point Agreement'. The 'Nagalim State' does not and will not represent the national decision of the Naga people. It was formed purely to divide the Nagas." The self-styled government of the People's Republic of Nagalim is the parallel government run by the NSCN(I-M).



Sumi tribesmen performing a warrior dance during the Tuluni festival in Dimapur, Nagaland, in 2016. •GETTY IMAGES

On June 29, the Nagaland government notified that RIIN "will be the master-list of all indigenous inhabitants" of the State. All those to be included will be issued "barcoded and numbered indigenous inhabitant certificates". It added that all existing indigenous inhabitant certificates would become invalid once the process of compiling RIIN is completed and fresh certificates issued.

RIIN is different from Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) as exclusion or inclusion in RIIN is not going to determine the Indian citizenship of anyone in Nagaland.

Three conditions

Since 1977, a person, in order to be eligible to obtain a certificate of indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland, has to fulfil either of these three conditions: a) the person settled permanently in Nagaland prior to December 1, 1963; b) his or her parents or legitimate guardians were paying house tax prior to this cut-off date; and c) the applicant, or his/her parents or legitimate guardians, acquired property and a patta (land certificate) prior to this cut-off date.

The compilation of RIIN also involves the complexities of deciding claims in respect of children of non-Naga fathers as well as non-Naga children adopted by Naga parents.

If the Nagaland government goes ahead with a compilation of RIIN

with this cut-off date, then all Naga people who have migrated to the State from the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh and elsewhere in India after this day will have to be excluded.

The NSCN(I-M) statement adds, "Nothing is conclusive on the Naga issue, until and unless a mutually agreed honourable political solution is signed between the two entities. Therefore, any attempt to dilute the final political settlement by justifying any past accord of treasons should be seriously viewed by all Nagas."

This clearly indicates the opposition the Nagaland government may have to face if it goes ahead with the move to compile RIIN. The Centre and the NSCN (I-M), which is the largest among all armed Naga rebel groups, signed a Framework Agreement in 2015, the content of which has still not been made public, in turn leaving room for speculation on the contentious issue of integration of all contiguous Naga-inhabited areas of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

Unless otherwise clarified through an official notification, the proposed linking of RIIN with the ILP system may require large numbers of non-indigenous inhabitants of Dimapur district, more particularly the commercial hub (Dimapur town), to obtain an ILP to carry out day-to-day activities. Most of them migrated from oth-

er States and have been carrying out trade, business and other activities for decades. Migration also explains the higher density of population in Dimapur district (409 persons per sq. km) when compared to all the other districts in the State. The ILP is a travel document issued by the government of India to allow a 'domestic tourist' to enter Nagaland, and is valid for 30 days.

Streamlining ILP

The Supreme Court, on July 2, dismissed a Public Interest Litigation seeking a directive against the Nagaland government's move to implement the ILP in the entire State including Dimapur district, which had so far been kept out of the purview of the ILP system.

A report prepared by the government, in collaboration with the UNDP in 2009, gave information on migration patterns in Nagaland. Titled 'Rural-Urban Migration: A Thematic Report', it said that in 2001, Assam was the State with the highest number of migrants to Nagaland (19,176 people), followed by Bihar (7,249 people) and Manipur (4,569 people). A large section of people (about 45% of them in the case of Assam, 59% in the case of Bihar and 25% in the case of Manipur) had migrated for better employment and business opportunities.

While the move to streamline the ILP system to curb the influx of "illegal migration" to Nagaland has been welcomed by civil society, public opinion is still divided on compiling RIIN without a consensus on the cut-off date.

As the Nagaland government has begun a consultation process on RIIN, it will be under pressure to delink the work of streamlining the ILP mechanism from the proposed register and put it on hold till the ongoing peace process concludes and the final solution is worked out.

Besides this, the complexities that may arise in streamlining the ILP mechanism due to non-issuance of domicile certificates or permanent residence certificates to a large number of non-Naga, non-indigenous inhabitants could also make the task even more difficult for the Neiphiu Rio-led Nagaland government.

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Making the water-guzzling thermal plants accountable

An improved monitoring mechanism can play a key role



PARUL KUMAR
BHARATH JAIRAJ

The advancing monsoon has brought relief to many parts of India, but its progress has been slower than average and the country is still in the midst of a rainfall deficit, with millions facing an acute water shortage. Water is essential for human survival, and for agriculture and industry. It is important that India – which has only 4% of the world's renewable water resources but about 18% of the world's population – consumes water more sensibly.

In India's pursuit of 100% electrification goal, the country's installed power capacity will need to be doubled. Even with the growth of renewable energy (RE), coal has been projected to be the backbone of the electricity sector till 2030 and beyond. Managing the electricity needs of a country that's already dealing with water scarcity will be a challenge.

Located in water-scarce areas

Thermal power plants (TPPs) consume significant amounts of water during the electricity generation process. Most of India's TPPs are located in water-stressed areas, and water shortages have led to electricity-generation disruptions and significant revenue losses to the economy.

In December 2015, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a notification setting limits for water consumption by TPPs. However, the amended Environment Protection (EP) Rules codified in June 2018 ended up permitting TPPs to use more water than what was initially specified. There are certain mechanisms that need to be strengthened to make these regulations more effective.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) recently released the format for TPPs to report on their annual water consumption. The power plants were asked to specify both metered and un-metered usage, report on the source (like river, canal or sea), and state the percentage of deviation from the water norms, along with the reasons and the corrective measures undertaken.

These guidelines can be strengthened by including other relevant inputs. First, TPPs should disclose the amount of water consumed by them in previous years, so that a baseline for water consumption per TPP can

be established, and subsequent reductions in water consumption can be quantified. Second, these reporting requirements – currently in the form of an Excel sheet on the CEA website – must be added to the EP Rules, to accord the disclosure process greater transparency and enforceability. Third, TPPs should also be required to submit verifiable evidence (for example, water bills) to support and substantiate the disclosures. Without these, the self-reporting guidelines will remain weak.

Finally, the data supplied by TPPs should be placed in the public domain, so that the parameters disclosed can be studied in the context of region-specific water shortages, outages in the plants, and future research and analysis in this field.

Specifying penalties

Section 15 of the EP Act provides for a blanket penalty for contravention of any provisions of the Environment Protection Act or EP Rules: up to five years of imprisonment and/or up to ₹1 lakh fine along with additional daily fines for continuing offences. However, the Act does not stipulate specific penalties for specific offences. Perhaps this is an area for review by the government, so that we have a more nuanced framework for enforcement and penalties.

Further, the relevant officials in charge of enforcement, across the Ministry and the CEA, should be identified, and their roles clearly defined. The implementation of these norms should include milestones and time-based targets, and periodic monitoring of the progress of TPPs in making improvements.

In addition to reducing the stress caused by TPPs, shifting to a more aggressive RE pathway will help India achieve its global climate targets. However, this will need further work – particularly to regulate water consumption by specific RE technologies. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has taken a first step by issuing a notice to State governments on reducing water use for cleaning solar panels and to explore alternative mechanisms to ensure that solar panels remain efficient.

India will need to balance the needs of its growing economy with its heightening water stress. Stringent implementation of standards for judicious water use by TPPs, combined with the promotion of RE and energy efficiency, will offer pathways for achieving these goals.

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Giving ties with Seoul a facelift

India-South Korea relations are yet to reach their full potential despite making significant strides

LAKHVINDER SINGH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met South Korean President Moon Jae-in on the sidelines of the G20 summit last month in Osaka. Both agreed to find common ground between Seoul's 'New Southern Policy' and New Delhi's 'Act East Policy'.

Today, India and South Korea have the shared values of open society, democracy and liberal international economic order and their mutual engagement is at a historically unprecedented level. Significant strides have been made in several areas of science and technology.

The Indo-Korea Science and Technology Centre, established in Bengaluru in 2010 as a collaboration between the Indian Institute of Science and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, is a shining example in this regard.

The emerging balance of power in the region has also started influencing the trajectory of defence ties. Co-production of the K9 Thunder howitzer is a prime example of the ongoing defence collaboration. With technology transfer from South Korea, India's Larsen and Toubro plans to achieve over 50% localisation by manufacturing the key components of these weapon systems domestically as part of 'Make in India'. Further, both countries have regularised education exchanges. Additionally, there is regular security dialogue between India's National Security Adviser and the intelligence agencies of Korea.

domestic market, its cheap labour costs and a stable legal system.

At the Osaka meeting, both leaders emphasised the need to create a new "synergy" to meet new challenges. Since India opened up its economy in the early 1990s, India-South Korea trade ties have grown from few hundred million dollars to \$22 billion at the end of 2018. Today the major items that India exports to South Korea include mineral fuels, oil distillates (mainly naphtha), cereals and iron and steel. South Korea's main exports to India include automobile parts and telecommunication equipment, among others.

Trade target likely to be missed

However, despite the robust ties, not everything is going as planned. The trade target of \$50 billion by 2030 is most likely to be missed due to lack of adequate efforts. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, originally the core mechanism for economic ties, requires immediate upgrading. An early harvest agreed to last year, under which India agreed to reduce tariff on 11 commodities and South Korea on 17, failed to see completion.

More than eight years into its existence, the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ICCK), is struggling to find its due space in promoting economic and business ties and spends most of its time organising social and cultural events. A new, empowered commerce body is the urgent need of the hour. The Indian Cultural Centre, established more than ten years ago, has failed to reach out to common South Koreans, who still fail to differentiate between India and Indonesia. While it teaches regional dance forms to children, the bigger picture of introducing India to the general South Korean population has been lost. Further, social and economic discrimination against Indians working and living in South Korea is still a regular occurrence.

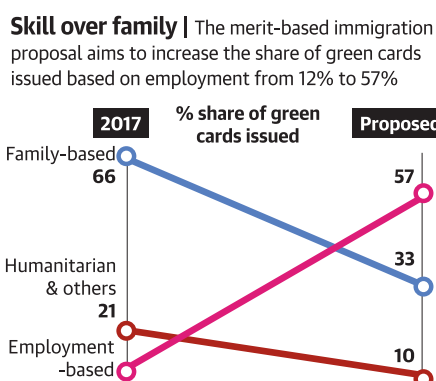
The writer is a Seoul-based geo-strategist



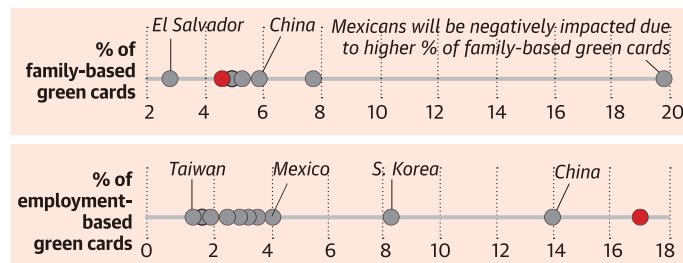
DATA POINT

Advantage Indians?

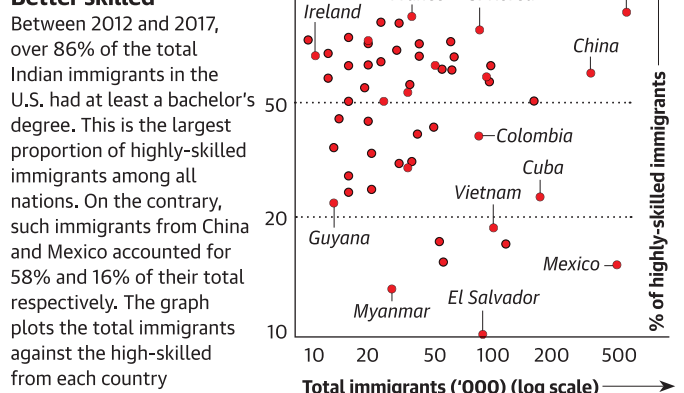
The U.S. is mulling a reduction in the number of green cards issued based on family ties and an increase in the share of skills-based immigrants. As the total number of green cards issued is proposed to remain the same, the idea may benefit highly-skilled Indians who wish to settle in the U.S. By **Sumant Sen & Niharika Pandya**



Where India stands | Graphs show the share of employment-based & family-based green card beneficiaries across select countries in 2017. Indians (●) received 17% of all employment-based green cards in 2017 – highest among all nations – while receiving only 5% of the family-based ones



Better skilled



Longer queues

The table shows avg. years waited, until green card became available under quota, across select nationalities as of 2018. The wait time was longest for Indians

Country	Wait time
India	8.5 years
Mexico	8.4 years
Philippines	8 years
China	5.4 years

Last word

The proposal to shift from family-based immigration to employment-based may help the highly-skilled Indian green card hopefuls to get the permanent resident status in higher numbers and may also reduce their wait period

Source: DHS, U.S., Cato Institute, Migration policy, org, USCIS, White House

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 24, 1969

Space workshop to be put in orbit

The United States plans to put a space workshop into orbit in 1972, the Space Agency announced here (Houston) yesterday [July 22]. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said the third stage of the giant Saturn 5 rocket used to send Apollo spaceships to the moon would be used to house the orbiting laboratory and observatory. The project will study man's physiological and psychological responses in the space environment, and provide more detailed information on his capabilities for extended manned flight. The workshop is to be fitted out on the ground and will be launched into a 220 nautical mile circular earth orbit. It will be occupied by a crew of three astronauts who will follow in a smaller rocket about a day later. At first, the astronaut-scientists will spend about 28 days in the orbiting workshop, but later visits lasting up to 56 days are planned. The laboratory will be built into a modified S-IVB third stage of the Saturn 5 rocket. The S-IVB is used as the Saturn 1B's second stage.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 24, 1919.
Castor-oil prices.

Indian castor-oil has now been proved to be an excellent lubricant and the scarcity of mineral oils here has made people to resort to the vegetable lubricant so much so that its prices have soared very high in the past some months. In February 1918 the export of castor-oil was restricted to the United Kingdom but the restriction was removed on 22nd February 1919. Owing to the failure of the south-west monsoon in June and July, the 1918-1919 crop of castor-seed was about 25 per cent, smaller than the large crop of 1917-1918. There was a strong local demand for the oil which was extensively used as a lubricant in the absence of the usual mineral lubricating oil. Local prices helped by speculation, it is stated, rose considerably varying from Rs. 125 to Rs. 225 per candy of 500 lb. and reached figures at which the Ministry of Food was unwilling to buy and increase its large stocks in England. The total shipments amounted to 559,881 gallons in 1918-19 against 920,758 gallons during the previous year, practically the whole of which went to the United Kingdom. The scope for the increased production of castor as a lubricant thus promises to be wide; and it would be well if the Agricultural Department would devote some attention to this raising of castor seeds.