

## PRESS RELEASE

August 07, 2015

“Indian National Congress has steadfastly championed and sacrificed for upholding India’s territorial integrity and finding lasting peaceful solutions within our constitutional framework. Peace, prosperity and social harmony in the North- Eastern States have always been an article of faith for the Congress Party.

Indian National Congress has not only tackled insurgency/militancy/naxalism strongly but has engaged with various insurgent groups/outfits with a sense of responsibility to bring them back into the National mainstream by building a National consensus around lasting solutions from one corner of the country to another i.e. Punjab to North-East.

This innate belief in the principles of unquestionable ‘territorial integrity’ of India, ‘cooperative federalism’ and ‘National consensus’ led the Congress Party headed by late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to sign the ‘**Assam Peace Accord**’ on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1985 and ‘**Mizo Peace Accord**’ on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1986.

Considering the unique history of Nagas, successive efforts at building lasting peace were made in shape of – (a) **June, 1947** – ‘Naga-Akbar Hydari Agreement; (b) **July, 1960** – ‘16 Points Peace Agreement’; (c) **01.12.1963** – Constitution of separate State of Nagaland and insertion of Article 371A in the Constitution; (d) **1964** – Ceasefire Agreement; (e) **11.11.1975** - Shillong Agreement; (f) **25.07.1997** – Temporary Ceasefire Agreement with NSCN(IM); (g) **2002** – Temporary Ceasefire Agreement with NSCN(K) and (h) **31.07.2007** – Indefinite continuance of the Temporary Ceasefire Agreement with NSCN(IM). A separate note containing brief description of the peace efforts is attached as **Annexure A-1** to this press release.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015; BJP Government headed by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi announced signing of a Peace Agreement with NSCN(IM) of Shri T. Muivah. A press statement in this regard was also issued by NSCN(IM) of Shri T. Muivah, copy of which is attached as **Annexure A-2** to this press release.

Indian National Congress fully supports finding a lasting peaceful solution to the Naga problem through the process of dialogue within our constitutional framework. Congress Party has, therefore, welcomed the initiative of government to a peace agreement with NSCN(IM). We also deprecate the attempt by certain elements within ruling establishment to view the peace agreement from the point of view of partisan politics.

As a responsible political opposition, Congress Party places the following fundamental issues in public domain on behalf of people of country in general and North-East in particular:-

1. ‘Cooperative Federalism’ runs through the veins of our constitutional scheme. It is, therefore, imperative that the stakeholders i.e. the elected governments of

