Naga peace accord:

- Four years after the government inked the Naga peace accord in 2015, the Union Government has now said that the process had almost concluded, despite the fact that the talks had hit a roadblock in its final stages.

Naga issue:

- The ethnic conflict in Nagaland, is an ongoing conflict fought between the ethnic Nagas and the governments of India and Myanmar.
- Nagaland inhabited by the Nagas is located at the tri-junction border of India on the West and South, north and Myanmar on the East.
- The Nagas are not a single tribe, but an ethnic community that comprises several tribes who live in the state of Nagaland and its neighbourhood.
- Nagas belong to Indo-Mongoloid Family.
- Nagas claimed sovereignty on the basis of prior sovereign existence and differences, which is today expressed in terms of “uniqueness”.
- In 2015, the Centre signed a framework agreement with the NSCN(I-M).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi described this as a “historic agreement” towards settling the “oldest insurgency” in India.
- This set the stage for the ongoing peace talks. In 2017, six other Naga armed outfits under the banned of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) joined the talks.
- Currently, Muivah remains the senior-most Naga rebel leader. Isak died in 2016. In the NSCN(-K), its leader Khaplang died in 2018.

Background of Naga Peace Accord
• The 2015 agreement was signed between the Centre and the Naga groups led by National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) after the latter agreed to give up its long-standing demand for sovereignty.
• There was a broad understanding on a settlement within the Indian constitutional framework, with due regard to the uniqueness of Naga history and tradition.

NSCN and its Demands:
• Maoist guerrilla leaders Isak Chisi Swu, Thuingaleng Muivah and S S Khaplang had created the NSCN in 1980 to oppose the decision of the Naga National Council (NNC) to accept the Indian Constitution — the 1975 Shillong Accord was signed by Angami Zapu Phizo-led NNC.
• After differences between the top leaders, the group split into the NSCN-IM and the NSCN-K, which have been accusing each other of undermining Naga interests.
• After Phizo’s death in 1991, the NSCN-IM came to be recognised as the dominant voice of Naga assertion.
• In 1997, the NSCN-IM agreed to a ceasefire which led to the start of almost two decades of peace talks with the Indian government.
• The process, however, hit a roadblock when the group insisted on a separate flag as well as the inclusion of all Naga-inhabited areas in one administrative apparatus.

Greater Nagalim:
• In the NSCN-IM’s scheme of things, “Greater Nagalim” consists of present Nagaland and all contiguous Naga-inhabited areas, which includes many districts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, and most interestingly, a part of neighbouring Myanmar.
• While the area of Nagaland is approximately 16,500 sq km, the geographical spread of “Greater Nagalim” is sprawled over 1,20,000 sq km, evoking apprehensions and resentment among people of Assam,
Manipur and Arunachal due to threat to the territorial integrity of their states.

NSCN(K):

- Demand for Greater Ngalism as defined above.
- Area of Operation: India (Nagaland, Arunanchal Pradesh) & Myanmar (headquarter).
- Runs a parallel government in exile called the “People’s Republic of Nagaland”.
- Funding: from kidnapping, extortion and other terrorist activities.
- Designated a terrorist organization in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- 2015: NSCN(K) chairman abrogated the ceasefire he had signed in 2001, and is sure to oppose the peace accord driven by the current prime minister, further details of 2015 naga peace accord is not yet in public domain due to strategic reasons.

Timeline of Naga political issue:

Origin:

- 1826: Annexation of Assam by British
- 1881: Further control over Assam and Naga Hills also became part of British India.
- 1918: Formation of NAGA Club, 1st sign of resistance.
- 1929: Naga Club had told Simon Commission that to leave them alone for their self-determination as in ancient times.
• 1946: Naga National Council (NNC) was formed under the leadership of Angami Zapu Phizo.
• 1947: Declared Nagaland an independent state on August 14. The NNC resolved to establish a “sovereign Naga state”
• 1951: NNC conducted a “referendum”, in which “99 per cent” supported an “independent” Nagaland.

Beginning of Armed Movement:

• 1952: Phizo formed the underground Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA) to its response Government of India sent in the Army to crush the insurgency.
• 1958: Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act application in Nagaland (AFSPA)

Beginning of Peace Efforts:

• 1947, Assam Governor signed a 9-point agreement with moderates which was almost immediately rejected by Phizo.
• 1963: The Naga Hills, a district of Assam, was upgraded to a state, by also adding the Tuensang Tract that was then part of NEFA.
• 1964: Assam Chief Minister formed a Peace Mission, and got the government and NNC to sign an agreement to suspend operations that September. But the NNC/NFG/NFA continued to indulge in violence, and after six rounds of talks, the Peace Mission was abandoned in 1967, and a massive counter-insurgency operation launched.

NSCN Formation

• 1975: government got a section of NNC leaders to sign the Shillong Accord, a section of NNC and NFG agreed to give up arms.
• 1980: A group of about 140 members, who were at that time in China, refused to accept the Shillong Accord, and formed the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.
• 1988: NSCN split into NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K) after a violent clash.
• 1991: NNC began to fade away; the NSCN (IM) came to be seen as the “mother of all insurgencies” in the region.

Source: Indian Express