MPP warns Modi on Naga solution
- Party reminds Delhi of Manipur interests
Khelen Thokchom
Imphal, April 2: The Manipur People's Party, the state's oldest regional party, today welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to bring a solution to the problem of the NSCN (I-M), but cautioned the Centre against any move that would harm Manipur's interests.
"We welcome the Centre's decision to reach an agreement with the NSCN (I-M). But any settlement between the Centre and the Naga militant group that has the potential to harm the state's interests, will not be acceptable," the president of the regional party, N. Sovakiran, told this correspondent.
Sovakiran was reacting to reports in the local media that said the Narendra Modi government had recently assured the Naga militant group that the Centre would find a solution within 18 months.
The NSCN (I-M) and the Centre are in a ceasefire since 1997 and several rounds of talks have been held between the two sides. However, a settlement remains elusive. While the group has dropped its demand for "sovereignty", it has maintained that it would continue to press for integration of all Naga-inhabited areas.
The militant group's demand for integration of all Naga-inhabited areas in the Northeast under one administrative unit has been strongly opposed by the people of Manipur.
"The Centre should not create a bigger problem while solving one problem," Sovakiran said.
He urged the Okram Ibobi Singh government in Manipur to be on alert to ensure that any peace deal between the Centre and the NSCN (I-M) does not affect Manipur's territorial integrity which is a very sensitive issue in Manipur.
Eighteen people lost their lives in a crackdown by government forces on a rampaging crowd which was protesting the declaration of the NSCN (I-M) ceasefire without any territorial limit in 2001. The Centre had to roll back the decision and limit the ceasefire only to Nagaland.
The Nagas, living in Manipur, have been demanding an "early and honourable solution" to the "Nagas' political issue".
The Tribe Presidential Council, a body which functions under the UNC, at a meeting held in Chandel district on March 26, urged the Centre to expedite talks with the NSCN (I-M) to come to a logical conclusion at the earliest.
"The council also iterated its solid support to collective leaderships (of the NSCN-IM) for bringing lasting and honourable Indo-Naga political settlement based on the uniqueness of Naga history and its situation," the resolution said.
- The Telegraph
http://www.telegraphindia.com/…/j…/northeast/story_12387.jsp

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Mügha'tsü Dzüo-Charümi Manipur Territorial Integrity? okay, heaven and earth may pass away, but.. Meiteis will never get an inch of lands in Naga areas. I don't understand what are they trying to protect? the land which never belongs to them, and the land which will never belong to them. why don't they just remain happy with their 2000 Sq Km of land