

# Editorial

Imphal, Friday, August 19, 2016

## National & International News

### PM Narendra Modi lays foundation stone of new BJP headquarters in Delhi

**New Delhi, Aug. 18:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with party president Amit Shah, on Thursday laid the foundation stone of a new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office, saying the "sacrifice of generation of party workers inspires us to work". "Sacrifice of generations of karyakartas (workers) inspire us to work," Modi said after laying the foundation stone of the new party office. The new proposed party office building will have 70-rooms on the Deen Dayal Upadhyay

Marg, which is just 5 km from the current office on Ashoka Road. "The new office is not just a building or a structure but a symbol of the sacrifices of the party leaders," Modi said. "Our determination is to take everyone together, work for everyone. Nation building is our main priority," the Prime Minister noted. "I think few party candidates lost so many deposits as we did but still that did not affect the determination of our party workers," he added.

He further said that the leadership of the BJP was such that their "thought was clear - we will be in the opposition but we won't compromise on our ideals". The building will be spread across two acres with 70 per cent of lush greenery. During the 'bhoomi puja' of the new office, veteran BJP leaders LK Advani, Murali Manohar Joshi, Union Minister for Home Affairs Rajnath Singh, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Road

Transport and Shipping Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Harshvardhan were also present on the occasion. It will take about two years to complete the new office building which will be equipped with modern technological facilities to link the party headquarters with the party units in states and districts.

### 3 killed and 40 wounded in car bomb attack in Turkey

**Istanbul, Aug. 18:** Three people were killed and 40 more wounded today in a car bomb attack in Turkey's eastern city of Van carried out by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants, a local official said. The attack targeted a police headquarters in the central Ipekyolu district of Van city, Van deputy governor Mehmet Parlak was quoted as saying by the state-run Anadolu news agency, blaming the "regional terror group", the official phrase for the PKK. He said that the three killed were

all civilians while two of the 40 wounded were police. Anadolu said that after the bombing police were sent to the scene, identifying a militant named MO Suspected of bringing the car bomb in front of the police station. He had been wounded and was detained and taken to the main police headquarters in Van city for questioning, it said. The Turkish security forces have been hit by near daily attacks by the PKK since a two-and-a-half year ceasefire collapsed in 2015, leaving hundreds of police and soldiers dead. But Van, a city with a mixed

Kurdish and Turkish population and a popular tourist destination, has generally been spared the worst of attacks like those seen in the nearby city of Diyarbakir. The PKK has kept up its assaults in the last weeks even after the unsuccessful July 15 coup by rogue elements in the military aimed at unseating President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Eight people - five police and three civilians - were killed on Monday in a PKK car bomb attack on a police traffic control building on a highway leading southeast from Diyarbakir.

The government has vowed to press on with the campaign to eradicate the PKK from eastern Turkey despite a purge in the army for those responsible for carrying out the coup. Over 40,000 people have been killed since the PKK first took up arms in 1984 with the aim of carving out an independent state for Turkey's Kurdish minority, although now it focuses more on rights and demands for greater autonomy. It is proscribed as a terrorist group by Turkey, the European Union and the United States.

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## Kuki Political Stand and The Way Forward

Let us have a look at Article 3 of the Indian constitution in detail. It states that Parliament may by law (a) form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more states or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State; (b) increase the area of any State; (c) diminish the area of any State; (d) alter the boundaries of any State; (e) alter the name of any State;

Provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified in the reference or within such further period as the President may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired.

Explanation I In this article, in clauses (a) to (e), State includes a Union territory, but in the proviso, State does not include a Union territory Explanation II. The power conferred on Parliament by clause (a) includes the power to form a new State or Union territory by uniting a part of any State or Union territory to any other State or Union territory.

States can only give their views on a reference from the President within a specified period. Manipur Government has no moral authority to object to the formation of a separate Kuki State, and the Parliament has power to ignore its views.

In all previous states reorganization exercises, state boundaries have been drawn on linguistic and ethnic lines. Having embraced ethno-linguistic political compartmentalization, the Indian state cannot today deny the same treatment to Kuki people.

Therefore, the Kuki National Organization and the United People's Front, hereby, assert the right of the Kuki people as a distinct ethnic community and equal citizens of India and seek a tribal state to be named Zale' n-gam, Kukiland or Zogam, where they can fully enjoy their Constitutional rights, co-exist in peace and safety with their neighbours and develop in accordance with their own genius and progress in step with the rest of the nation.

#### ON KUKI INDIGNITY WITH SPECIFIC HISTORICAL REFERENCES

In alphabetical order (A-Z), the Kuki people in Manipur includes the genealogically-linked ethnic groups Aimol, Anal, Baite, Chiru, Changsen, Chongloi, Chothe, Doungel, Gangte, Guite, Haokip, Hangshing, Hmar, Kipgen, Khongsai, Khoibu, Koirao, Koireng, Kom, Lamkang, Lungdim, Lunkim, Lupheng, Lupho, Mate, Maring, Mayon, Misao, Monsang, Paite, Purum Ralte, Simte, Sukte, Taroa, Thadou, Thangal, Thangoe, Tuboi, Vaiphei and Zou.

Historians, Majumdar and Bhattasali, [8] refer to the Kukis as the earliest people known to have lived in pre-historic India, preceding "the 'Dravidians' who now live in South India." Comparatively, the Aryans, who drove the Dravidians towards the south, arrived in the Indian sub-continent around BC 1500 [9]. Nearer home, the Pooyas, [10] the original script of the Meitei people of Manipur, which refer to 'two Kuki Chiefs named Kuki Ahongba and Kuki Achouba were allies to Nongba Lairen Pakhangba, the first historically recorded king of the Meithis [Meiteis], in the latter's mobilisation for the throne in 33 AD.' The statement of Prof JN Phukan supports this record: [11]

If we were to accept Ptolemy's 'Tiladae' as the 'Kuki' people, as identified by Gerini, the settlement of the Kuki in North-East India would go back to a very long time in the past. As Professor Gangumei Kabui thinks, 'some Kuki tribes migrated to Manipur hills in the pre-historic times along with or after the Meitei advent in the Manipur valley (History of Manipur, p24).' This hypothesis will take us to the theory that the Kukis, for the matter, the Mizos, at least some of their tribes, had been living in North-East India since the prehistoric time, and therefore, their early home must be sought in the hills of Manipur and the nearby areas rather than in Central China or the Yang-tze valley.

In the second century (AD 90 - 168), Claudius Ptolemy, the geographer, identified the Kukis with Tiladai who are associated with Tilabharas, and places them 'to the north of Maiandros, that is about the Garo Hills and Silhet.' [12] Stevenson's [13] reference to Kuki in relation to Ptolemy's *The Geography* also bears critical significance to its period existence. In the Rajmala or Annals of Tripura, Shiva is quoted to have fallen in love with a Kuki woman around AD 1512. [14]

According to Capt Pemberton (1853), the Kuki territory stretches from the southern borders of Manipur valley to the Northern limit of the province of Arracan. Meerworth (1835) observed that the Kukis occupied the hill ranges south of the Naga Hills, to the east the tribes of upper Chindwin and the Chin Hills, on the south those living on the hill tracts of Chittagong, while on the west they are bounded by the plains of Sylhet and the hills of North Cachar. William Shaw (1929) stated that the Kukis live in a large area of hilly country bounded by the Angami Nagas of the Naga Hills District in the North, the Province of Burma in the East, Lushai Hills in the South and the districts of Cachar in the West. Dalton (1872) had noted that the Kukis are the neighbours of the Nagas in Assam and in contiguity with the Mugs of Arracan. The Hill country occupied by them extends from the valley of the Kolodnye, where they touch on the Khumis to the Northern Cachar and Manipur. DN Majumdar (1944) also observed:

The Kuki Chiefs rule over the country between the Karnapuli river and its main tributary, the Tuilampai, on the west, and the Tyao and Koladnye boundary is roughly a line drawn east and west through the junction of the Mat and Kolodnye rivers and their northerly villages are founded on the borders of the Silchar district.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica [15] records, 'Kuki, a name given to a group of tribes inhabiting both sides of the mountains dividing Assam and Bengal from Burma, south of the Namtaileik River.'

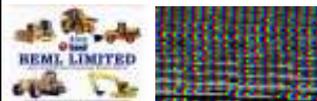
Sir George Abraham Grierson, Superintendent General, Linguistic Survey of India, 1904 [16] marks out Kuki territory as follows: The territory inhabited by the Kuki tribes extends from the Naga Hills in the north down into the Sandoway District of Burma in the south; from Myittha River in the east, almost to the Bay of Bengal in the west. It is almost entirely filled up by hills and mountain ridges, separated by deep valleys.

A great chain of mountains suddenly rises from the plains of Eastern Bengal, about 220 miles north of Calcutta, and stretches eastward in a broadening mass of spurs and ridges, called successively the Garo, Khasia, and Naga Hills. The elevation of the highest point increases towards the east, from about 3,000 feet in the Garo Hills to 8,000 and 9,000 in the region of Manipur.

This chain merges, in the east, into the spurs, which the Himalayas shoot out from the north of Assam towards the south. From here a great mass of mountain ridges starts southwards, enclosing the alluvial valley of Manipur, and thence spreads out westwards to the south of Sylhet. It then runs

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