

MORNING NEWS

0730HRS

18TH DEC,2017.

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Nagaland has witnessed a steady increase in the number of Right to Information (RTI) applications received by various public authorities in the State. According to the annual report 2015-16 and 2016-17 of Nagaland Information Commission tabled in the just concluded State Assembly session by Chief Minister TR Zeliang revealed that from 2006-2007 to 2016-17, out of 24,896 odd RTI requests, overall information furnished was public information officers of various public authorities was 22,954 which accounted 92.20%. These reflects the growing awareness of RTI generated among the people, stated the report. However, during the period from 2015-16 to 2016-17, there has been a slight decline in the number of RTI applications received by the various Public Authorities in the state, although there was an increase in the percentage of information furnished by the PIOs of various Public Authorities from 91.71% in 2015-16 to 93.72% in 2016-17. The most sought after information in the state during 2015-16 and 2016-17 were relating to financial matters such as funds sanctioned, funds released, balance amount, departmental charges and deductions etc.

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According to the findings and recommendations of the Impact Analysis for the last 10 years, there is poor awareness about RTI Act in the village than district headquarters. According to the Nagaland Information Commission report for

the last two years, even though over 75% of Nagaland population lives in villages there have been very few applicants from villages. Awareness levels about the RTI also seen very slow in villages. It stated that the applicants especially from village said they wanted to use the RTI Act in order to seek redress of their grievances. Applicants are often intimidated, threatened and even physically attacked when they file an RTI application, or as a consequence of their submitting such an application, the report stated. The report stated that there are certain public authorities or departments such as home, police, health and family welfare, school, education PWD, RD, social welfare, civil supplies etc received a disproportionate share of RTI applications compare to other public authorities.

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Nagaland's lone member of Lok Sabha, Neiphiu Rio said that the Nagas are highly talented and second to none in business, but the full potential cannot be realised because of fear psychosis. Speaking at the closing function of the 5th edition of the week-long Dimapur Night Carnival at Supermarket Complex yesterday, Rio lauded the District Administration, the Dimapur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Association of Nagas, East Dimapur Business Association, the entrepreneurs, donors and all well-wishers for the success of the Carnival which mainly aims to promote young entrepreneurs and talented youngsters and artistes in various fields. Expressing that it is up to the denizens of Dimapur town to build the commercial city, Rio said Nagas need to provide peace and tranquility and ensure that there is no fear psychosis. Rule of law should prevail so that investors from outside can come and do business, he said while also expressing hope that Dimapur will grow as the commercial hub not only for Nagaland but also for the Northeastern region.

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The All Nagaland College Students' Union, ANCSU will hold a 'Peaceful Dharna' outside Chief Minister's Official residence Kohima for non-fulfillment of its four charters of demands. ANCSU had a submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister on 12th of this month seeking his attention to take stock of the situation and deliver justice to the students' community. However, ANCSU lamented that the state government has not shown any concern towards the cause till date. ANCSU said the government on 7th of this month had assured to take positive steps to pay the remaining scholarship amount to the beneficiaries for the year 2016-17, but there is no initiative taken by the government.

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Top Indian shuttler P V Sindhu suffered yet another final loss yesterday. In a pulsating women's singles summit clash of the Dubai World Super Series Final in Dubai, she went down fighting against World No. 2 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan. In the prestigious season-ending tournament finale, Sindhu lost in three games. The 22-year-old came agonisingly close to clinching the title before finishing runner-up once again in her third major tournament, following last year's Rio Olympics and this year's Glasgow World Championship.

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