MORNING NEWS

22ND AUGUST,2017

0730HRS

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Nagaland State VDB Association has said that Nagaland has received a total amount of 494.51 crore rupees under MGNREGA scheme from 2016 to 2017. In a joint press release VDB Association officials said that it has been actively involved in taking up necessary issues with the Centre and the state government on making centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) funds available and its timely release by the state government and the finance department. The Association said it ensures that regular flow of funds were made since MGNREGA funds were demand driven and any delay in release of CSS funds by the state government attracts deduction and penalties by the Centre. It said the pressure impressed on the department and the state government has thus ensured that Nagaland has been receiving CSS grants on a regular basis. Explaining the procedure of fund release, the Association said MGNREGA funds once released by the state finance department were then released to the respective districts, which were then directly credited into the VDBs account. It stated that no MGNREGA funds could be released from the VDB account without the approval and information of the VDB secretary since the accounts were jointly operated between the BDO, village council chairman and the VDB secretary of each village. The Association also stated that 100 days' wage employment was not mandatory but purely depended upon the individual persons to voluntarily work for wages.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP Chief Amit Shah held a meeting with Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of party-ruled states in New Delhi yesterday. The meeting reviewed the progress of welfare works being done by the NDA government as well as good schemes of states. The meeting was attended by all the 13 Chief Ministers and six Deputy Chief Ministers of bjp ruled states. Senior Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Sushma Swaraj were also present. It was Mr Modi's third meeting with the Chief Ministers after the BJP swept to power in 2014.

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Nine students of LLB final year of Kohima Law College are back home after attending the Asian conference for law students held at Bangkok, Thailand recently. The conference organized by Alliance Defending Freedom International & Handong International Law School, Bangkok was held under the theme "Redeeming Law: Christian calling and the legal profession". A release issued by the College Professor in-charge, Kezhokhoto Savi stated that speakers from South Korea, Germany, India, America and Singapore covered various topics from Christian perspective and devotional services on the calling of a Christian lawyer.

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The ACAUT Nagaland has invited the Chief Minister of Nagaland and his council of Ministers to speak at the August 25 rally at 3:30 PM in Super Market, Dimapur. Extending the invitation, ACAUT asked them to inform the Nagas gathered from all parts of Nagaland, and lay down a road map for combating corruption including promise to stop the now ongoing

exercise of withdrawal of funds from the Finance Department for vague projects running into thousands of Crores of rupees. ACAUT Media Cell in a release said that the response of the people from the districts to speak on their experiences dealing with corruption has been overwhelming as there would be speakers from different parts of the sate to dwell on issues during the rally. Therefore, ACAUT has once again appealed to the Naga people to attend the rally in their thousands and lakhs preferably traditional attire.

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Around 2500 students from schools in the Darjeeling Hills may be allowed to attend classes in ICSE-affiliated schools in southern part of West Bengal. Secretary of the Association of ICSE Schools in West Bengal Nabarun De yesterday said, around 150 ICSE-affiliated schools in the plains are ready to allow students of class 9 from over 30 schools in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. The move is beneficial to students appearing for their board examinations have to finish the syllabus and Class 9 students have to complete their board registration by the 10th of September. The indefinite shutdown in the hills entered its 68th day. Nabarun De also said, students will be allowed to choose their respective institutions. Students of the boarding schools came down to Siliguri on June 23 when the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha gave them a 12-hour travel window.

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