

:: THE HEADLINES ::

- As countdown to midnight begins, people across globe bids farewell to 2024 and welcome 2025
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio extends New Year greetings as Nagaland set to embrace 2025 with renewed hopes
- Nagaland sets up Departmental Inquiry Committee to probe allegations tied to Jal Jeevan Mission
- Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh apologises for violence; hopes for normalcy in New Year

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People across the globe are bidding farewell to 2024 and welcoming 2025, as cities around the world prepare for New Year celebrations that highlight local cultures and traditions. The clock has just struck midnight in New Zealand, and Auckland is celebrating the arrival of 2025 with its traditional fireworks display at the city's iconic Sky Tower. Two hours later, Australia will usher in 2025. More than a million people are expected at Sydney Harbour for the traditional fireworks, with pop star Robbie Williams leading a singalong. London, Rio de Janeiro, and New York will also mark the beginning of 2025 with city-wide celebrations.

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As the countdown to midnight begins, Nagaland is set to embrace 2025 with open hearts, unity, and renewed hopes for a prosperous year ahead. The state is filled with vibrant energy, with people of all ages coming together to celebrate the arrival of the new year. Various churches are holding prayer services, seeking blessings for the year to come. People are busy setting up for gatherings, night-long vigils, and celebrations with bonfire and fireworks. Despite the chilly weather, the streets are filled with warmth as people come together to welcome New Year 2025. Revelers are seen extending greetings to each other. Local residents are enthusiastic about the new year, with many sharing their plans and aspirations.

Akashvani News Kohima wishes all our listeners a Happy and prosperous New Year 2025.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended greetings on the eve of New Year 2025. In a social media post, he said, as we celebrate the end of a year and the beginning of another, we look forward to it with renewed hope. Mr Rio hoped that the New Year may bring peace, good health, and new opportunities to grow. The Chief Minister wished everyone a meaningful and purposeful 2025.

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Akashvani Kohima will broadcast a special two-hour year-end programme on "The Year in Retrospect 2024" from 10 PM tonight. The programme will be heard in FM channel 103 megahertz and primary channel at 639 kilohertz.

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Nagaland Government has constituted a Departmental Inquiry Committee to probe allegations surrounding the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the state. A notification issued on December 19 by the Public Health Engineering Department said the committee will be chaired by Commissioner and Secretary of Cooperation, Zarenthung Ezung, and three other members from various departments. The panel will verify the status of the works against the Detailed Project Reports and JJM guidelines, cross-check data in the Integrated Management Information System with actual implementation, address grievances, and identify lapses. The committee will submit its findings and recommendations within 45 days from the date of notification. The move follows reports in local media raising concerns about the Mission's adherence to guidelines and its execution.

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Doordarshan Kohima bid a warm farewell to its outgoing Head of Programme, H K Chishi, on his superannuation from service today. Mr. Chishi, who joined Prasar Bharati in 1987 as a clerk in Akashvani Kohima, had a distinguished career spanning over three decades. He later joined Doordarshan as a Programme Assistant in 1991 and rose through the ranks to retire as Programme Executive. During a heartfelt farewell ceremony held at the office premises, Mr. Chishi reminisced about his fond memories associated with the organization. He expressed gratitude to his colleagues and associates for their unwavering support throughout his illustrious career.

Colleagues and well-wishers gathered to honour Mr. Chishi's dedication and commitment to public service broadcasting.

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Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has expressed "sorry and regret" for the unfortunate developments in the state due to the ethnic violence that started in May last year. Addressing the media today, he apologised to all the victims and their kins. The Chief Minister, however, said the year ends on an optimistic note

and that he hoped that peace and normalcy would return to the state in the New Year 2025. Stating that Manipur has 34 to 35 different communities, Mr Singh appealed to all to live together to make the state prosperous with a united effort.

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Union Minister of State for PMO, Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh has said that year 2024 has been an important year for Indian Space sector. Briefing media in New Delhi this afternoon, Mr Singh said, the first day of the year began with launch of XPoSat then Aditya L1 Mission was inserted in its targeted halo orbit, the country celebrated its maiden National Space Day in August and yesterday SpaDeX Mission was launched by ISRO. He said, in between so many trials have happened for the Gaganyaan which is in the pipeline. Dr Singh said, the trials are almost now through and the dress rehearsal with a female robot will happen sometime next year. He said, the launch of the SpaDeX mission is one of the first experiments undertaken by India as far as the docking technology is concerned.

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The Central Board of Direct Taxes has extended the last date to 15th January for furnishing belated and revised return of income for the Assessment Year 2024-25 in the case of resident individuals. Earlier, today was the last date for the taxpayers to file belated and revised Income Tax Returns. The move will provide two additional weeks to the taxpayers to revise and complete their IT return filings.

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India Meteorological Department has forecast ground frost conditions very likely in isolated pockets across the North eastern States tomorrow. It said dense fog conditions are very likely to prevail during late night and early morning hours in Nagaland and the rest of the regions till January 5. Tomorrow, the state capital Kohima is likely to witness minimum temperature of 6 degree Celsius and maximum temperature of 17. Dimapur can expect minimum temperature of 12 degree Celsius and maximum temperature of 24 degree Celsius.

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