

THE HEADLINES :-

- **World welcoming New Year 2026 with renewed hope and fireworks**
- **As countdown to midnight begins, Nagaland gears up to usher in New Year; Chief Minister calls for purposeful living in 2026**
- **CBSE announces revised dates of board examinations for class 10 and 12**
- **DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia calls for results-driven push to boost sports ecosystem in Northeast**



As the world bids farewell to 2025, cities across the globe are ushering in 2026 with a mix of dazzling spectacles and long-held traditions. The Pacific island nation of Kiribati became the first country in the world to welcome 2026, marking the official start of New Year's celebrations worldwide. Auckland in New Zealand followed with a colourful fireworks display over the Sky Tower, while Australia lit up the skies with traditional fireworks at Sydney Harbour. Later, crowds in New York City, will gather for the iconic ball drop at Times Square. Celebrations are also set to take place in London, Rio de Janeiro, and Denmark, as the world rings in 2026.



In Nagaland, the excitement and anticipation is building as the final hours of 2025 slip away, and citizens prepare to usher in 2026. From village gatherings to celebrations in towns, the state is alive with vibrant energy, ready to welcome the new year with open hearts and renewed hope. Churches are hosting special thanksgiving and prayer services, where people will gather for reflection, singing, and a shared sense of community. Meanwhile, homes and streets are being set up for night-long vigils, bonfires, and fireworks. Across the state, revelers are exchanging warm greetings. As Nagaland gears up to welcome 2026, local residents share their plans and aspirations for the upcoming year.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended his New Year greetings. In a social media post, he wished the people good health, peace, and renewed hope. He expressed hope that the coming year would bring new possibilities, progress and meaningful achievements. The Chief Minister encouraged everyone to live 2026 with purpose and blessings.



President Droupadi Murmu has extended her greetings to citizens of the country and abroad on the eve of New Year 2026. In her message, the President said that the New Year symbolises renewed energy and positive change, and serves as an opportunity for self-reflection and fresh resolutions. She urged everyone to strengthen their commitment to the nation's development, social harmony, and environmental protection. The President expressed hope that 2026 will bring peace, happiness, and prosperity to all, and infuse new energy to build a stronger and more prosperous India.



Akashvani Kohima will broadcast a special year-end programme titled “Retrospect 2025” tonight from 9:30 p.m. to 12 midnight. The programme can be heard on FM Tragopan 103 megahertz.



The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced the revised dates of board examinations for class 10th and 12th. According to the CBSE, the class 10th grade examination, which was earlier scheduled on 3rd March next year, will now be held on the 11th of March next year. While the date for class 12th examination has been moved to 10th April, which was earlier scheduled on 3rd March, 2026. The board said that the dates have been rescheduled due to administrative reasons. CBSE has also asked schools to disseminate this information to all concerned students and parents.



Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia stressed the need for a focused, practical, and outcome-oriented approach to further strengthen the sports ecosystem in the Northeastern states. Yesterday, Mr Scindia along with Nagaland and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla co-chaired the 4th High-Level Task Force meeting on promotion of sports in the region. During the meeting, Union Minister Scindia emphasised proposed the concept of 'one sport one state'. He also called for structured tournaments from village to state levels and the preparation of discipline-specific case studies for each state. The meeting focused on strengthening sports infrastructure, enhancing coaching and talent identification, promoting competitions in village and rural areas, among others. Senior officers from the DoNER Ministry, and state sports departments participated in the meeting.



Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L Murugan said that this year the government undertook a series of landmark reforms, marking important chapters in the country's national journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047. Launching the Government of India Calendar 2026 in New Delhi today, he highlighted that these reforms were guided by a clear objective to ensure inclusive growth, strengthen economic resilience, and lay a sustainable foundation for country's long-term development.

Speaking on the occasion, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju said, the design of the calendar is very carefully curated and it really spells out the priorities of the government and evolved as a communication instrument of the government.



Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today said that employment of workers engaged in MGNREGA is fully secure under the newly enacted Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025. The Minister said this while chairing an online interaction with representatives of MGNREGA functionaries serving across the country. Addressing specific concerns raised about wages and honorarium, He noted that the ceiling for expenditure has been raised from the previous 6 percent to 9 percent. Mr Chouhan

said, this will enable State Governments to facilitate prompt and reliable payments to functionaries and facilitate their overall service conditions.



The government has prohibited the manufacturing, sale and distribution of all oral formulations containing painkiller Nimesulide above 100 mg with immediate effect. In a notification, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said, the move is in consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board. It said that the use of all oral formulations containing Nimesulide is likely to involve risk to human beings, adding that safer alternatives to the drug is available in the market. Nimesulide is a nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug which is widely used in the treatment of acute pain.



In cricket, Nagaland went down to Bihar today in the Vijay Hazare Trophy Plate. After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Nagaland were bowled out for 212 runs. Bihar chased down the target with 73 balls remaining, beating Nagaland by 8 wickets. Bihar's Suraj Kashyap was named Player of the match for his impressive bowling performance, taking 5 wickets for 23 runs. With this, Nagaland moves down to third place in the points table. They will face Arunachal Pradesh on 3rd January, in their last group stage match.

