

**Morning News Script**

**0730 hrs**

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

<><><><><><>

Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey has reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to focused and inclusive development of the North East. The Minister is on a two-day visit to Kohima as part of the fortnightly Union Ministers' visit programme to the region. During a review meeting with Kohima district officials last evening, Mr. Dubey emphasized the need to closely monitor the implementation of Central welfare schemes and ensuring efficient use of public funds. He said that delays and gaps in coverage or misuse of schemes would be identified and addressed through discussions with local authorities.

The Minister highlighted the importance of traditional and organic farming practices in the region, stating they align with national and global health goals. Referring to infrastructure development, he said improved road, highway and railway connectivity is strengthening integration between the North East and the rest of the country, and will boost economic growth. Reiterating Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, he expressed hope that development efforts in Kohima and the region would gain further momentum in 2026. Earlier, upon arriving in the state capital, the Minister visited Rüsoma Village, inspected development projects and toured an orange orchard.

<><><><><><>

The Business Association of Nagas (BAN) has urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to intervene urgently and vacate the Assam Rifles Training Centre (ARTC) from Dimapur Airport land, calling it a vital economic engine for Nagaland. In a representation to the ministry, BAN said, the ARTC's continued temporary occupation has become the single-most critical infrastructural bottleneck, severely restricting growth and investment for Nagaland. It noted that the state government has already allotted an alternative site at Shokhuvi in Chumoukedima for ARTC's permanent relocation. BAN cautioned that if the issue is not resolved within a reasonable timeframe, the business community would be compelled to reconsider its engagement in a region.

<><><><><><>

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia has announced two new India Post services, Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48, which will ensure delivery within 24 and 48 hours. Making the announcement at a programme in Madhya Pradesh, Mr Scindia said the new services will set a new standard of punctual, reliable and fast delivery.

<><><><><><>

Prime Minister's flagship platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, PRAGATI, has marked a significant milestone with the successful conduct of its 50th meeting. Today, in this special series, we take a look at Housing and Infrastructure Initiatives being taken to transform country's urban landscape. A report:

*“India’s urban transition is emerging as a major driver of economic growth and social transformation. Urban areas are currently home to over 48 crore people and projected to cross 60 crore by 2030. Over the past decade, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has adopted a mission-mode approach to urban development. Seven key urban schemes have been reviewed across twelve PRAGATI meetings by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, underlining their strategic importance and the need for close monitoring at the highest level. Fourteen key projects worth more than two lakh 37 thousand crore rupees have also been reviewed under the PRAGATI mechanism. Four of these projects have already been commissioned, while ten are under implementation. The directions issued during PRAGATI reviews have strengthened accountability, improved coordination between ministries and states, resolved implementation bottlenecks, and accelerated project execution. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban, more than one crore 18 lakh housing units have been sanctioned nationwide, with over 88 lakh houses already completed. The Smart Cities Mission has reached an advanced stage, covering 100 cities. Urban livelihoods continue to receive focused support through PM SVANidhi, with over 96 lakh loans amounting to nearly 13 thousand 800 crore rupees disbursed to more than 80 lakh street vendors. The Prime Minister’s vision for the housing and urban affairs sector emphasises inclusive, sustainable, and technology-enabled cities that ensure dignified living and economic opportunity for all.*

<><><><><><>

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a chaired a pre-budget consultation meeting with States and Union Territories in New Delhi yesterday. In a statement, the Ministry said, participants gave several suggestions for consideration in the Union Budget of 2026-27, including continuing the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment with higher allocations. The Budget Session of Parliament is scheduled to begin on 28th of this month.

<><><><><><>