

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

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The first phase of Census-2027, world's largest population census exercise will begin from today. The census will be conducted in two phases, House Listing (HLO) and Population Enumeration (PE), with March 1, 2027, fixed as the reference date. For the first time, the Census will be conducted digitally with the option of Self-Enumeration, which will be held from today till 15th of this month. House Listing and Housing Census will begin from 16th April and will be carried until 15th May. The HLO will involve listing all buildings and structures and collecting information on housing conditions, amenities, and assets. It will also include geo-tagging of buildings and assigning a unique identification number to each structure. Eleven states and Union Territories including Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim and NDMC area and Delhi Cantonment Board of National Capital will undertake the HLO process. Nine States and UTs will conduct it in May, three in June, two in July, and two in August. The second phase, which is Population Enumeration will be conducted during February next year. It will focus on collecting individual-level data, including age, gender, occupation, literacy and caste details. The Centre has approved an outlay of over 11 thousand 718 crore rupees for Census 2027.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that even amid the West Asia conflict, India has kept the situation under control. Mr. Modi said this after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of development projects worth over 19,800 crore rupees at Nani in Vav-Tharad district of Gujarat yesterday . He added that the Central Government has not allowed the impact of the West Asia conflict to affect the citizens of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Modi said, projects, which were launched today, will improve connectivity and support socio-economic development of the region. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the OSAT plant of Kaynes Semiconductor in Sanand.

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With the start of the new financial year today, a set of reforms including key financial rules changes will come into force. Over six decade old Income tax Act will be replaced by the new Income Tax Act, 2025 from today . It is designed to simplify the tax system by removing outdated provisions, streamlining complex rules and making compliance more straightforward for taxpayers. All digital payment transactions in the country will be required to meet the norms of two-factor authentication from today as directed by the Reserve Bank of India. The revised FASTag annual pass fee for financial year 2026-27 will also be in force from today . The revised rules for applying for or updating a Permanent Account Number PAN card will also come into effect from today.

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Nagaland has made its debut at the national stage of the IndiaSkills Competition 2025–26, currently underway at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh . This marks a significant milestone in the state’s journey towards skill excellence and broader national participation. Representing Nagaland are one state official, a team leader, and a lone participant, Imtisangla Kangshou, who previously secured a silver medal at the zonal level. She is competing in the Restaurant Service job role among participants from across the country. The competition features over 60 job roles spanning multiple sectors, bringing together top talent from across India. Winners at the national level will go on to represent the country at the International Skills Competition scheduled to be held in Shanghai in September 2026.

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Speaker Sharingain Longkumer has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of G. Kughavi, former Member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, who passed away

on March 30, in Dimapur. Remembering his journey, the Speaker highlighted Kughavi's early days in student leadership and his dedicated service as the representative of Satakha constituency in the Eighth Nagaland Legislative Assembly. He noted that the late leader was guided by a strong sense of duty and remained committed to the welfare of his people. Mr Longkumer also acknowledged his integrity, service, and lasting contributions both within and beyond the Assembly. On behalf of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly, the Speaker extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for strength in this time of grief.

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