

INDIA'S 2027 CENSUS: WHAT'S NEW AND HOW IT WORKS

- **Two-Phase Structure**
 - The Census is conducted in two main phases:
 - **House-listing and Housing Census:** Records details about buildings and households.
 - **Population Enumeration:** Captures individual-level demographic and socio-economic data.
- **House-listing Phase (Expected in 2026)**
 - Enumerators collect data on: Household composition and building usage; Construction material, rooms, ownership; Access to water, electricity, sanitation; Cooking fuel and ownership of assets (TV, phone, vehicle, etc.).
 - This phase offers insight into housing quality and amenities across India.
- **Population Enumeration (February 2027)**
 - Covers individual details such as:
 - Name, age, sex, relationship to household head
 - Marital status, education, occupation, religion
 - Caste/tribe status, disability, and migration history
 - Even homeless individuals are included.

How Census 2027 Will Differ from the 2011 Census

- **Digital First Approach**
 - Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital Census, unlike the paper-based 2011 Census.
 - It allows self-enumeration, mobile-based data entry, and real-time supervision.
- **GPS and Geofencing Integration**
 - While 2011 relied on physical maps, the 2027 Census will feature GPS tagging of households and geofencing to ensure complete and accurate coverage.

- **Real-Time Error Detection**
 - Enumerators will receive mobile alerts for data inconsistencies, such as unrealistic household sizes or age errors—features absent in 2011.
- **Standardised Digital Coding System**
 - Unlike 2011, where descriptive handwritten entries often led to inconsistencies and delays, the 2027 Census introduces uniform coding across the country to ensure fast, computerised processing.

Challenges in the 2027 Census and How They're Being Addressed

- **Digital Literacy Among Enumerators**
 - **Challenge:** Many enumerators may lack experience with digital tools.
 - **Solution:** Extensive training modules, simulations, and multilingual interfaces have been introduced.
- **Connectivity Issues in Remote Areas**
 - **Challenge:** Poor internet access in rural or remote locations.
 - **Solution:** The app works offline and auto-syncs data once connectivity returns, ensuring uninterrupted data collection.
- **Technical Glitches and App Updates**
 - **Challenge:** Software bugs or technical failures during fieldwork.
 - **Solution:** Enumerators will be equipped with field support tools and real-time diagnostics to troubleshoot problems quickly.
- **GPS Drift and Location Errors**
 - **Challenge:** Inaccurate GPS tagging of households.
 - **Solution:** Supervisors will verify and manually adjust coordinates when needed to ensure accuracy.
- **Respondent Reluctance or Fear**
 - **Challenge:** Some individuals may resist or fear sharing personal information.
 - **Solution:** Enumerators are trained in soft skills and legal protocols. The system includes mobile alerts to log refusals or delays for supervisory review.

SERVING JUSTICES, BUT NOT JUSTICE

The Justice Varma Controversy: A Symptom of a Deeper Problem

- On March 14, a fire broke out at Justice Yashwant Varma's residence, **leading to the discovery of half-burnt sacks allegedly filled with cash.**
- **Within days, Justice Varma was relieved of his duties** and transferred from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court.
- Eventually, **an impeachment recommendation followed**, reportedly based on a judicial inquiry.
- Though **the Supreme Court made some material public, such as video footage and redacted correspondence, crucial documents**, including reports by the Commissioner of Police and the judicial committee's final findings, were withheld.
- **Most concerning is the disappearance of the alleged sacks of cash**, reportedly removed by Justice Varma's staff, raising serious questions about the integrity of the investigative process.
- **Why was such critical evidence not preserved?** Why were law enforcement agencies seemingly unable or unwilling to secure the scene?
- **These questions remain unanswered**, as they are enveloped in the secrecy of the judiciary's internal disciplinary system.

The 'In-House Procedure': Institutionalised Opacity

- The Justice Varma episode illustrates the inherent opacity of the judiciary's '**in-house procedure**', an informal mechanism designed by the higher judiciary to deal with allegations of judicial misconduct.
- **Under this system, inquiries are conducted exclusively by fellow judges**, and nearly all aspects of the process, from the complaint's existence to the findings of the inquiry, are shrouded in secrecy.
- The problems with this system are numerous:

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- **Lack of transparency:** The public is not entitled to know whether an inquiry was conducted or what its outcome was.
- **Absence of procedural safeguards:** Unlike regular inquiries, these proceedings are not bound by legal norms or due process requirements.
- **No public accountability:** There is no external oversight or appeal, and even findings of guilt are not published.
- The judiciary, while demanding **accountability** from other institutions, **exempts itself from the same standards**, thus undermining its own legitimacy.

Conclusion

- The Justice Varma case, and others like it, should serve as a wake-up call and the judiciary cannot continue to operate in a parallel universe, where norms of due process and transparency do not apply.
- While it rightly demands autonomy and respect, **it must also embrace scrutiny and openness.**
- A **reformed, transparent mechanism** for dealing with judicial misconduct, possibly involving a mix of judicial and independent oversight, **is not just desirable; it is essential for the continued legitimacy of the Indian judiciary.**
- Until then, the in-house procedure will continue to resemble a papal conclave, leaving the public to interpret shadows and smoke instead of facts and findings.

GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MAKARIOS III



Makarios III.

- It is the highest civilian honour of
- It was named after the country's first President, **Archbishop Makarios III.**
- It recognises outstanding **contributions and achievements.**

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- **History:** The Order of Makarios III, **established in 1991**, acknowledges exceptional service and contributions to Cyprus or the international community.
- The honour symbolises Cyprus's appreciation for **exceptional service, leadership**, or contributions that have positively impacted the country or the world.
- The Order of Makarios III **comprises multiple grades**, with the Grand Cross being one of the highest honours, possibly second only to the Grand Collar.
- The President of Cyprus typically bestows this award, highlighting the recipient's achievements and contributions.

Key Facts about Cyprus

- It is a **Eurasian island** country located in the extreme **northeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea**, south of **the Anatolian peninsula** (Asia Minor) or modern-day Turkey.
- It is the third largest Mediterranean island after Sicily and Sardinia.
- **Major Cities:** Limassol, Larnaca, Famagusta, and Paphos.
- **Highest Point:** Mount Olympus (1,952 m)
- **Capital:** Nicosia.

ACHAL FAST PATROL VESSEL



- It is the **fifth Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)** in a series of eight being constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Designed and constructed under stringent **dual-class certification** from the American Bureau of Shipping and Indian Register of Shipping,
- **Features of Fast Patrol Vessel:**
 - The FPV features over **60% indigenous content**.
 - The vessel measures 52 meters in length and 8 meters in breadth, with a **displacement of 320 tons**.
 - It is powered by a **CPP-based propulsion system**, the vessel can reach a **top speed of 27 knots**.

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- With its primary roles of protection, monitoring, control, and surveillance, 'Achal' is equipped to safeguard offshore assets and island territories.
- Its launch marks another milestone in the long-standing partnership between the Indian Coast Guard and GSL, further reinforcing the collective march towards Aatmanirbharta in defence manufacturing.
- It is built at a total cost of Rs 473 crore, the project has also provided a **significant boost to local industry** by generating substantial employment and supporting MSMEs engaged in production activities at various factories and within GSL.

SAMARTH INCUBATION PROGRAM



• It is a cutting edge **Incubation Program** for startups in **Telecom & ICT Sector**.

- It is an initiative of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), an autonomous telecom R&D institution.
- This initiative is aimed at nurturing **sustainable and scalable business models** by providing startups with **financial grants, advanced resources and guidance for transition** from ideation to commercialization.
- In the first phase **18 startups** have been selected in cohort 1 through a competitive process.

Features of Samarth Incubation Program

- Each selected startup receives a **grant of up to ₹5 lakh**, fully furnished office space for six months at C-DOT campuses in **Delhi and Bengaluru**.
- It also provides **access to C-DOT's lab facilities**, and mentorship from C-DOT technologists and external experts.
- It offers holistic support to startups and innovators working in telecom applications, cybersecurity, 5G/6G technologies, artificial intelligence, IoT, and quantum technologies.

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- The program is **structured in two cohorts of six months** each, accommodating up to 18 startups per cohort—thus supporting a maximum of 36 startups under the initiative.
- Delivered in a hybrid format, “Samarth” leverages state-of-the-art infrastructure, expert mentorship, and access to a **strong network of investors** and industry leaders to empower emerging entrepreneurs.
- Progressing startups will also be eligible for potential collaboration and further financial grants under the C-DOT Collaborative Research Program (CCRP).
- **Implementing Partners:** Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) have been selected as the implementation partner for the program.

RISE OF AI AND INFLUENCERS IN INDIA’S NEWS LANDSCAPE: INSIGHTS FROM 2025 DIGITAL NEWS REPORT

- Generative AI platforms such as **ChatGPT** and **Perplexity** AI have emerged as prominent tools for news consumption in India.
- These tools are increasingly being used to simplify complex topics and generate personalised summaries for users.
- AI-driven news consumption offers several advantages: it condenses lengthy reports, avoids ideological bias (to an extent), and allows users to seek specific clarifications interactively.
- However, this also raises concerns about the authenticity and editorial integrity of AI-generated content, especially when used as a primary source.

Social Media Influencers as Emerging News Voices

- Parallel to AI adoption is the rise of news influencers, personalities who use platforms like YouTube and Instagram to deliver commentary, satire, and educational content.
- These influencers often command follower counts in the millions and wield considerable sway over public opinion.
- These creators blur the lines between journalism, commentary, and entertainment, often connecting with audiences more deeply than traditional media can.

Video Emerges as the Preferred Medium

- Across countries like India, Thailand, the Philippines, and Kenya, more people now prefer watching the news rather than reading it.
- This has further pushed both influencers and news organisations to adopt video-first strategies.
- In India, YouTube has become a dominant hub for political talk shows, explainer content, and ideological debates.
- This shift toward video content reflects broader generational changes, particularly among Indians aged 18-34, who overwhelmingly turn to social media and platforms like YouTube over news websites for daily information.

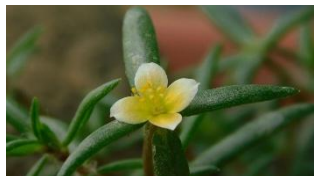
Traditional Media Faces Sharp Decline

- The report confirms that legacy formats such as television broadcasts, newspapers, and even standalone news websites are witnessing waning user engagement.
- Only 24% of respondents aged 18-34 consider news websites as their main news source, compared to 41% who prefer social media and video platforms.
- This trend has profound implications for journalistic sustainability, credibility, and the economics of news production in India.
- Legacy organisations are now being forced to diversify digitally and engage audiences through short-form video, social media interactions, and even AI-generated news formats.

The Future of News Consumption in India

- The blending of AI tools and influencer-led journalism reflects an ongoing democratisation of news access, personalised, on-demand, and vernacular in spirit.
- However, it also necessitates critical thinking, digital literacy, and regulatory oversight to ensure that the public discourse remains constructive and accurate.
- Traditional media outlets, while still relevant, are being challenged to adapt faster than ever. The onus now lies on institutions to harness these new technologies responsibly and find synergies with emerging voices without compromising journalistic ethics.

PORTULACA BHARAT



A new flowering plant species with unusual morphological characteristics has been discovered in the rocky and semi-arid landscape of Aravali hills near Jaipur.

- It is a new **flowering plant species**.
- It is classified as Portulaca bharat, the plant adds to the list of Indian endemics.
- It is currently only known from a single location in the Galtaji hills. Only 10 individuals of this species were found in the wild.
- The plant's narrow endemism and specific habitat requirements make it highly vulnerable to habitat degradation and climate change.

Features

- It has **opposite and slightly conclave leaves** and pale-yellow flowers becoming creamish-white towards apex, with the presence of glandular hairs on **stamen filaments and thick roots**.
- The genus Portulaca currently comprises about **153 species worldwide**, primarily found in **tropical and subtropical regions**.
- These succulent plants are known for their **toughness, water-storing tissues**, and adaptation to extreme environments.
- In India, 11 species are currently known, including four endemics, mostly distributed in **dry and semi-arid habitats**.