

What's happening in the news this week?



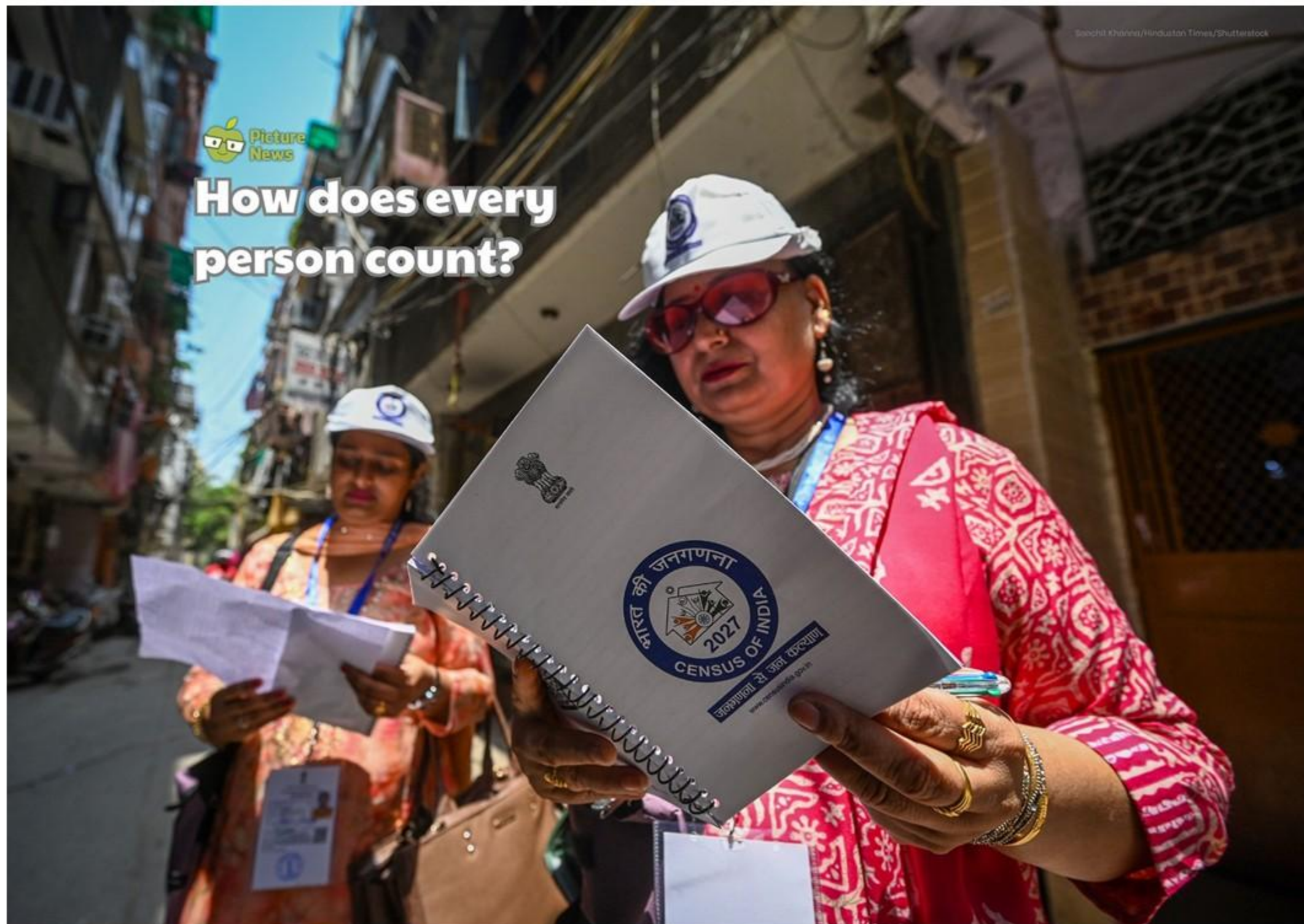
Sanchit Khanna/Hindustan Times/Shutterstock

Let's have a look at this week's poster!

22nd - 28th June 2026



How does every person count?





Let's look at this week's story

India has started one of the world's biggest counting projects, its national census. People across the country will be asked questions about their homes and communities to help build a picture of life in India today. The information collected will help leaders make decisions about services and support for more than 1.4 billion people.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

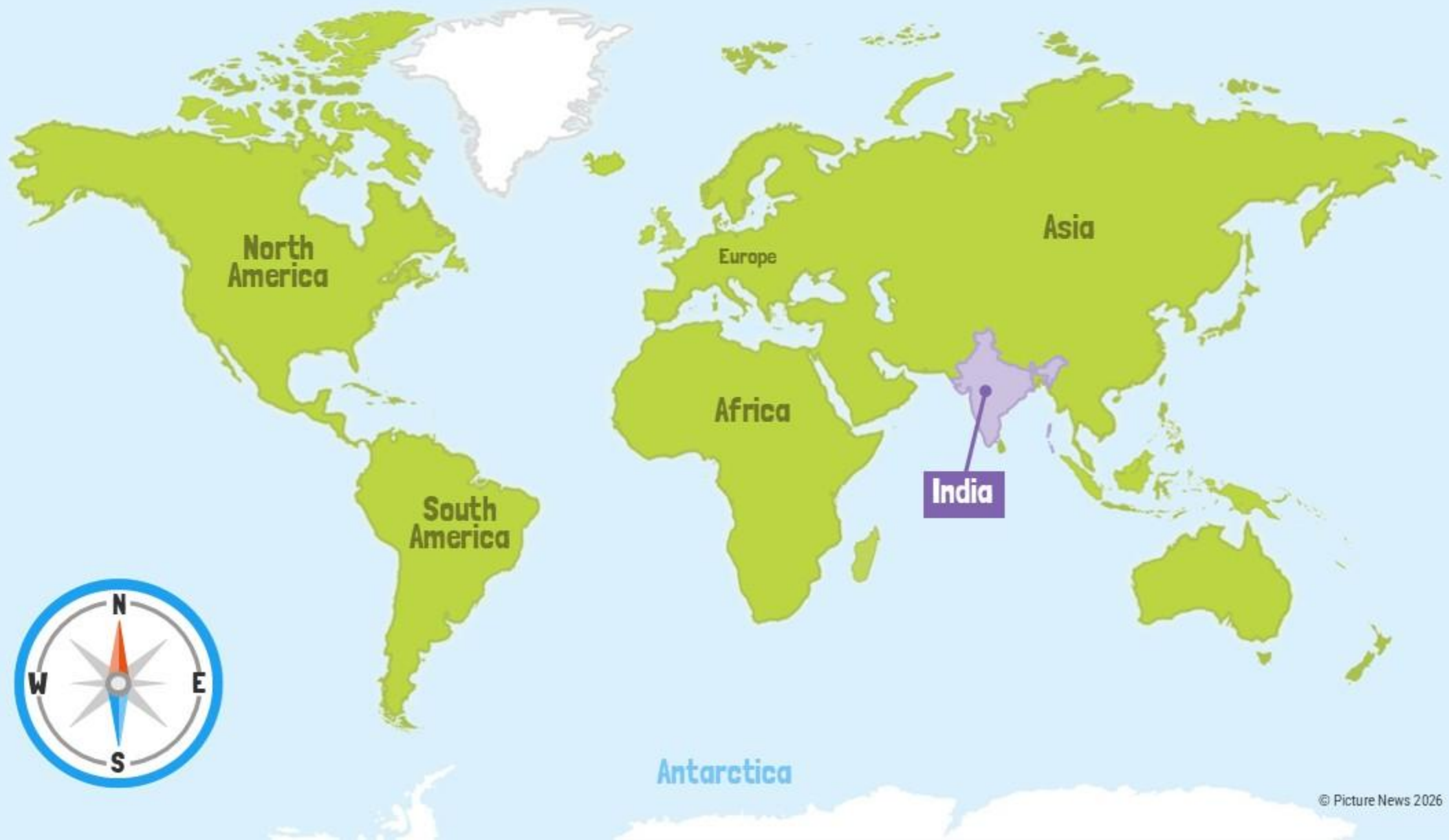
embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposd
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the information below all about the census in India. Which parts do you think will be the hardest to do and which do you find the most interesting?

India's Census

1 Planning the Census

Before any information is collected, the government had to decide on:

- What information to gather
- When the census will take place
- How millions of people will be reached

India's census involves more than 3 million officials!

2 Visiting Homes

Census workers travel to towns, cities, and villages across the country.

They may ask questions about:

- How many people live there
- Ages of household members
- Languages spoken
- Housing and living conditions

A census is a way of counting people and learning more about the communities they live in.

3 Collecting Information

Information from millions of households is gathered and recorded.

Imagine collecting information from more than 1.4 billion people!



5 Planning for the Future

The information can help guide decisions about:

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Transport
- Housing
- Local services

4 Understanding Communities

The results help create a picture of life across the country. Leaders can learn:

- Where populations are growing
- Which areas need more schools
- Where healthcare services may be needed
- How communities are changing



Pictured: A census worker collecting data on an app.

Source: Firdous Nazir/NurPhoto/Shutterstock



Look at the resource below, which shows some things countries may need to plan for.



Hospitals and doctors



Schools



Homes



Water and electricity



Parks and places to play



Roads and transport

**Why do you think these places or services are important?
Do you have enough of these in your local area?**



Look at the resource below, which shows how census information can help leaders make decisions about communities.

Census information:

More young children live in this area than before.

What this might show:

More families may need support nearby.

Possible improvement:

Plan more school places, nurseries, playgrounds or family services.



Census information:

Many people travel a long way to work or school.

What this might show:

Transport links may not meet people's needs.

Possible improvement:

Improve buses, roads, train links or safe walking routes.



Census information:

A community has grown quickly since the last census.

What this might show:

Possible improvement:



Census information:

Many homes have lots of people living in them.

What this might show:

Some families may need more space.

Possible improvement:

Plan more homes or improve housing support.



Census information:

Lots of older people live alone.

What this might show:

Some people may need more health, care or community support.

Possible improvement:

Plan local health services, support groups or community activities.



Census information:

People in the community speak many different first languages.

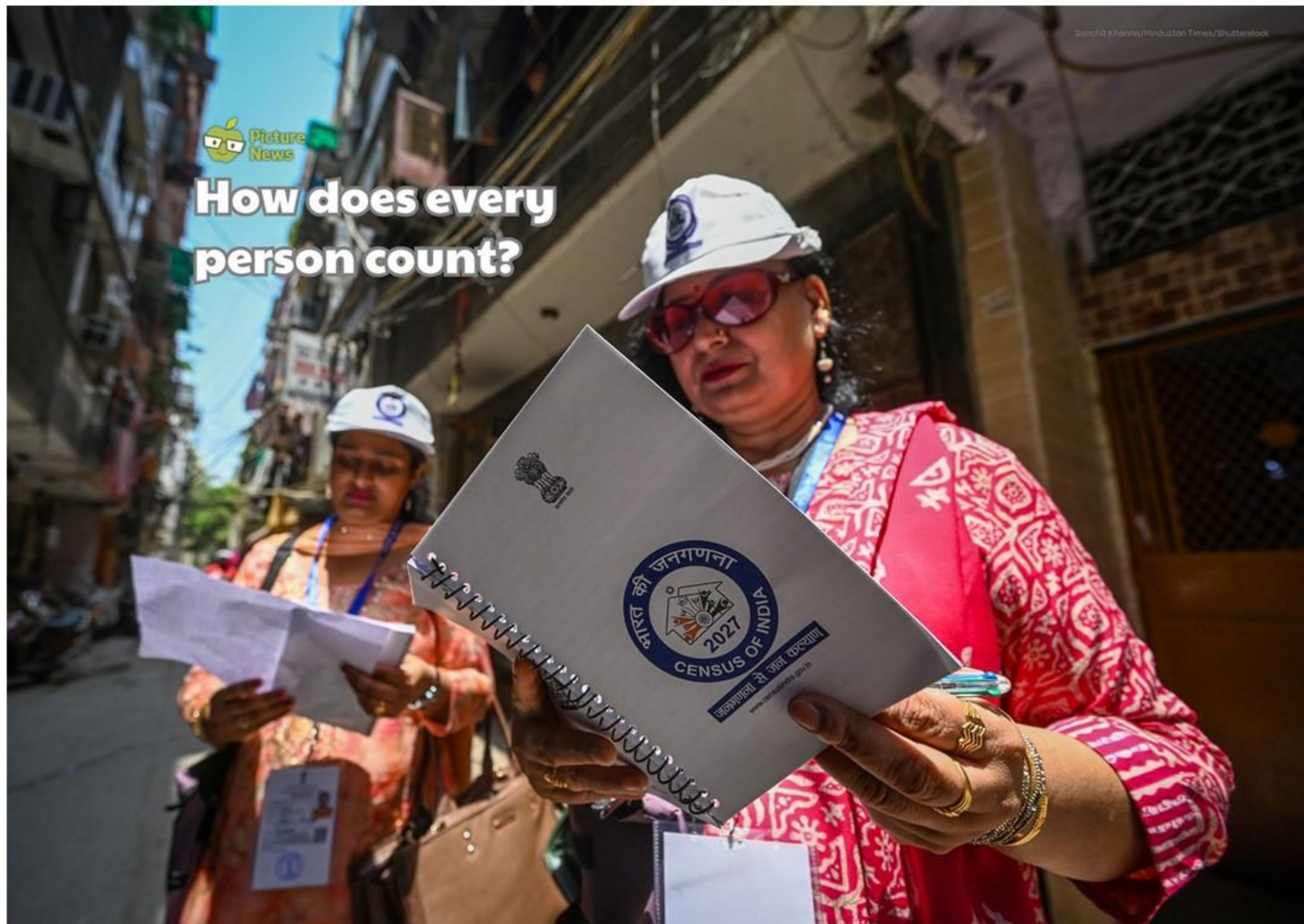
What this might show:

Possible improvement:

**Which possible improvement would help the most people?
What else might leaders need to know before making a decision?**



How does every person count?



Reflection



A census can be important in helping countries understand the needs of their people and then plan for the future. Each person also brings something unique to their family, community, and the wider world.



Media Literacy

I know that information can change over time.



Explanation: Let's think about why it is important to consider how old information is.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- Why is it important to look at the 'last updated' date on a website?
- How can a piece of information, which was correct last year, be incorrect today?
- What are some clues that tell us a piece of information has become outdated or old?

Activity

India's last official census was in 2011. Do you think the number of people, schools, and cars in India is the same today as it was in 2011? Why?

Work in small groups to gather three pieces of data about your classroom.

You may wish to consider:

- School dinners vs. packed lunches today.
- Types of shoes being worn (trainers, school shoes, boots).
- Number of people who have a pet.

Imagine that ten years from now, in the year 2036, a news reporter finds your notes and writes a front-page story about your classroom based *only* on the data you collected today.

Think about: Would that story be accurate in 2036? What will have changed? Why is relying on old information a problem?



I Really Do Matter!



Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



The story highlights **Democracy** because a census makes sure everyone is counted and included. This helps leaders know exactly what each community needs to build a fairer future.

The story highlights **Individual Liberty** because the census helps find out what different communities need to live well, giving people choices and opportunities.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

Protected Characteristics



Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?



This story highlights all the protected characteristics. A census is a nationwide survey that collects information about every person in the country, ensuring everyone is fairly represented.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?



Sex



Who People Love



Age



Disability



Being Yourself



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



To make sure every child can enjoy their rights, governments use a census to find out where children live and what they need. This can help governments plan things like schools, doctors and ways to keep children safe.



Useful Vocabulary



Government

The group of people who make the laws, keep the country running safely, and look after public services like schools and hospitals.

Before any information is collected, the **government** had to decide on...

Healthcare

The service that looks after people's health by preventing illnesses, treating people when they are unwell, and providing doctors and nurses to help people stay well.

Where **healthcare** services may be needed.

Household

A group of people who live together in the same home.

Ages of **household** members.

Officials

People chosen to do an important job or make sure rules are followed.

India's census involves more than 3 million **officials**!

Population

The number of people living in a specific area.

Where **populations** are growing.

Services

Organisations that provide essential things people need, like **healthcare**, transport or **education**.

The information can help guide decisions about... local **services**.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



How does every person count?

India has started one of the world's biggest counting projects, its national census. People across the country will be asked questions about their homes and communities to help build a picture of life in India today. The information collected will help leaders make decisions about services and support for more than 1.4 billion people.



- Look at the poster image. Where do you think it could be? This week's story is all about a census taking place in India.
- Share any knowledge you have about what a census is and then read through the information on the **Assembly Resource** all about the census in India. Which parts do you think will be the hardest to do and which do you find the most interesting?
- What other challenges do you think there could be trying to count over a billion people?
- Watch this week's useful video, which explains more about the census. Why do you think India is carrying out such a large census, and what might happen with the information collected?
- If you were carrying out a census in your school, what three questions would you ask and why?
- A census can help leaders learn about communities and the people who live in them. What other information do you think is important to know about a community and why?
- The census counts people using numbers, but people are more than numbers. Discuss some of the different ways people contribute to their family, school, or community.

Reflection

A census can be important in helping countries understand the needs of their people and then plan for the future. Each person also brings something unique to their family, community, and the wider world.

Picture News



KS1 focus

How do countries count their people?



- What does the word 'count' make you think of? What kinds of things do you count at school or at home?
- How many children are in your class? Can you count how many are here today? Does it matter if you miss anyone? Why? Why is it useful for your teacher to know how many children are in school each day?
- Countries sometimes count people to learn more about who lives in different places. Why might it be important to know how many children, adults and families live in an area?
- Knowing more about who lives in an area can help the people in charge plan for the things these people might need. Look at **Resource 1**, which shows some things countries may need to plan for. Which pictures show things you have in your own community or local area?
- If lots of children live in one area, what might that area need more of? Think about schools, playgrounds, doctors or safe places to play.
- If lots of people live far away from important services, such as hospitals, shops or transport, what problems might this cause?
- Why do you think it is important that everyone is included when a country counts its people?
- Which picture on **Resource 1** do you think shows something every community needs? Explain your thinking.

Reflection

Countries count people so they can learn what they need. Everyone is important and when everyone is counted, leaders can plan ways to help communities.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How can census information be used to improve communities?



- What does it mean to improve a community? Can you think of something that has improved in your school, home or local area? What? How did the change come about?
- Why might leaders need information before they make decisions about schools, homes, transport or healthcare?
- Look at **Resource 2**, which shows examples of census information and how it could be used. Which completed example do you think could make the biggest difference to people's lives? Explain your thinking.
- Choose one of the unfinished cards. What might the census information show about the community? What possible improvement could leaders make using this information?
- Could the same piece of census information be useful in more than one way? For example, how might knowing that lots of children live in an area help with planning schools, parks, roads or healthcare?
- Census information uses numbers, but people's experiences matter too. Why might both be important?
- What information would you want leaders to know about your community? Can you think of any improvements you would like to see in your local area?

Reflection

A census can help leaders understand communities and plan improvements. Behind every number is a person, family or community whose needs and experiences matter.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Give four groups a printed map of India and assign them one of the following specific regions: Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, The Thar Desert, or The Sundarbans.

Using the maps and the internet, children can research the unique landscape of their assigned region to create a census action plan that addresses the following three areas:

- **Transport:** How will the census workers physically travel through this specific landscape?
- **Technology:** How will they collect and record the data? E.g., paper forms, mobile apps, or face-to-face interviews.
- **Hazard Warning:** Are there any specific geographical dangers or extreme weather conditions they need to prepare for?

Think about: Which landscape do you think is hardest for a census worker to navigate? Why? Can you think of any other challenges you might encounter when trying to do a census with so many people?

Option 2

Display an image of the Taj Mahal on the board.

Think about: What do you think this building was used for? What does the architecture tell us about the person who built it? What do you notice about its shape?

Create a mini fact file about the Taj Mahal. You may wish to consider researching:

- Where is it located?
- When was it built?
- Who ordered it to be built?
- What was it built for?

Think about: Why do you think people still visit the Taj Mahal nearly 400 years after it was built?

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Think about: What are some questions you could ask your classmates to find out more information about their daily lives?

In pairs, ask the children to choose one question and create a tally chart with multiple choice answers. Then collect the data.

e.g., How do you get to school? [a] walk [b] car [c] bike/scooter.

Think about: Looking back at the tally chart, what did you find out about your question? Was there anything that surprised you? After finding out this information, do you think any changes need to be made to your local area?

Option 2

Show the class some images of Rangoli patterns. Explain that Rangoli originates in India. It is a bright, traditional art form, which features symmetrical or circular patterns inspired by nature and geometric shapes. It is traditionally created near doors to welcome guests and bring good luck to the home.

Take the class to the playground or an outside space. In small groups, use chalk to draw one large, central shape (such as a flower, a star, a circle, or a diamond).

Instruct the groups to then take turns adding layers around the centre shape, using repeating lines, rings of shapes, and different bright colours to build the design outward while keeping the pattern symmetrical.

Think about: How do these bright patterns make our playground feel, compared to how it looked before?

Which repeating shapes or symmetrical designs catch your eye the most? How did your group decide what shapes to add next?

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.reuters.com/world/india/what-does-it-take-count-14-billion-people-india-has-answer-2026-04-16/

This week's useful video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRYkCHWz4Ko

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

22nd -
28th June



How does every person count?



In the news this week

India has started one of the world's biggest counting projects, its national census. People across the country will be asked questions about their homes and communities to help build a picture of life in India today. The information collected will help leaders make decisions about services and support for more than 1.4 billion people.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Why do you think governments count people?
- > What information might be important to know about a town or place? Why?
- > A census counts people using numbers. What are some ways people count that cannot be measured by numbers?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



A Wave of Awards

"¡Bandera azul!" That's Spanish for "blue flag" – and Spain is flying more of them than anyone else! Blue Flags are special awards for beaches. It shows that a beach is clean, safe and well cared for. This year, Spain received more Blue Flag awards than any other country in the world! Spain received a record 794 Blue Flags. As well as beaches, the award can also be given to marinas (places where boats are kept), and tourist boats that take visitors out on the water, if they are looked after carefully. Some beaches in Spain have done an amazing job of keeping their Blue Flag. Sant Joan Beach in Alicante and La Fossa Beach in Calpe have had the award since 1987. For

nearly 40 years, the people who look after these beaches have worked hard to earn the Blue Flag. To keep a Blue Flag, beaches must be checked every year. Dr José Palacios Aguilar, from Spain's Blue Flag programme, said the country's success was the result of lots of people working together. Now that's a *shore* thing to celebrate!

Did you know? Every grain of sand on a beach is unique, just like a fingerprint!



Pictured: Sant Joan beach in Alicante has held a blue flag for almost 40 years! **Source:** Canva.

Plum-believable!

We often hear about eating our five a day, but did you know that fruit and vegetables have different benefits? Tucked inside some plants are extra high amounts of nutrients called flavanols. They are found in foods with deep, bright colours such as dark plums and blackberries, crimson cranberries, bright red cherries, and deep blue blueberries. Green tea and green broad beans contain lots of flavanols too! A recent study of 30,000 people looked at exactly what they ate and drank. The study showed that even those who regularly had their five a day



Pictured: Plums, blackberries, cherries and blueberries contain a high number of flavanols. **Source:** Canva.

could still miss out on flavanols. This is because some fruits and vegetables contain a lot of these nutrients, while others have less. Professor Gunter Kuhnle, from the University of Reading said, 'Five-a-day is the right message, but we may need to think more carefully about which five'. How *berry* interesting! **Do you enjoy any of the foods on the flavanol list?**

How can we protect the oceans?



Don't throw rubbish around.
Put it in the bin.

Skye

Nature News Reporter

We're very excited to let you know about the Guardian's Young Country Diary competition! It's free to enter, open to children aged 8-14, and you could see your piece published in The Guardian newspaper and online. The Young Country Diary is a monthly column in which young people write about their encounters with nature. To be involved, all you need to do is submit a 200-250-word article about a recent experience of nature. Entries must be submitted before noon on 1st July. So, if you would like to see your



Pictured: Children exploring in a forest.
Source: Canva.

work in the famous newspaper, it's time to start thinking of what nature experiences you could write about! The Guardian has tips and suggestions on its website. It suggests going out to local woods or beach, your garden, a farm, or the nearest park. You could report on a thriving rock pool, a field of flowers, a nest-building bird, a pond full of frogspawn, a day fruit-picking, or a compost heap full of bugs. There are so many options! The Guardian website says, 'Crucially, it doesn't matter if the child is a nature expert or not – we are especially keen to reach teachers who might like to get their class outside and noticing nature. Note that any child who has their article published will be paid!' **Do you enjoy being in nature?**
What would you do a news report on?



Pictured: Child looking through binoculars.
Source: Canva.

Miles Without Stiles

The Lake District National Park Authority has unveiled five new accessible walking routes. The new routes, called Miles Without Stiles, are designed as walking routes for everyone to enjoy. Lake District National Park posted, 'Need a new route? Good news, we have five new ones 🌟 Five new Miles Without Stiles routes have opened in the Lake District. They're accessible walks for people with limited mobility such as wheelchair users, families with pushchairs, the visually impaired, and anyone who wants an easier walk with no scrambling, climbing or steep hills.' The authority in Cumbria has worked with partners to improve surfacing, install bridges, remove stiles, and upgrade gates. 'The Lake District, like



Pictured: Part of the new Miles Without Stiles routes. **Source:** Lake District National Park on Facebook.

all national parks, should be accessible to all,' said Will Clark, from Westmorland and Furness council. He continued, 'Throughout my own life I have found spending time outdoors enjoyable and beneficial to my own mental health, and this is still the case since my spinal injury. These new routes provide more opportunities to experience time in the outdoors.' **Do you think your family would like to try one of these new routes?**

How can we protect the oceans?



I think we can help by putting lids on all bins, so rubbish doesn't fly away, and having more bins for people to use. I also have a water bottle that I reuse so I don't use as many plastic bottles. **Daisy**

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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