

What's happening in the news this week?



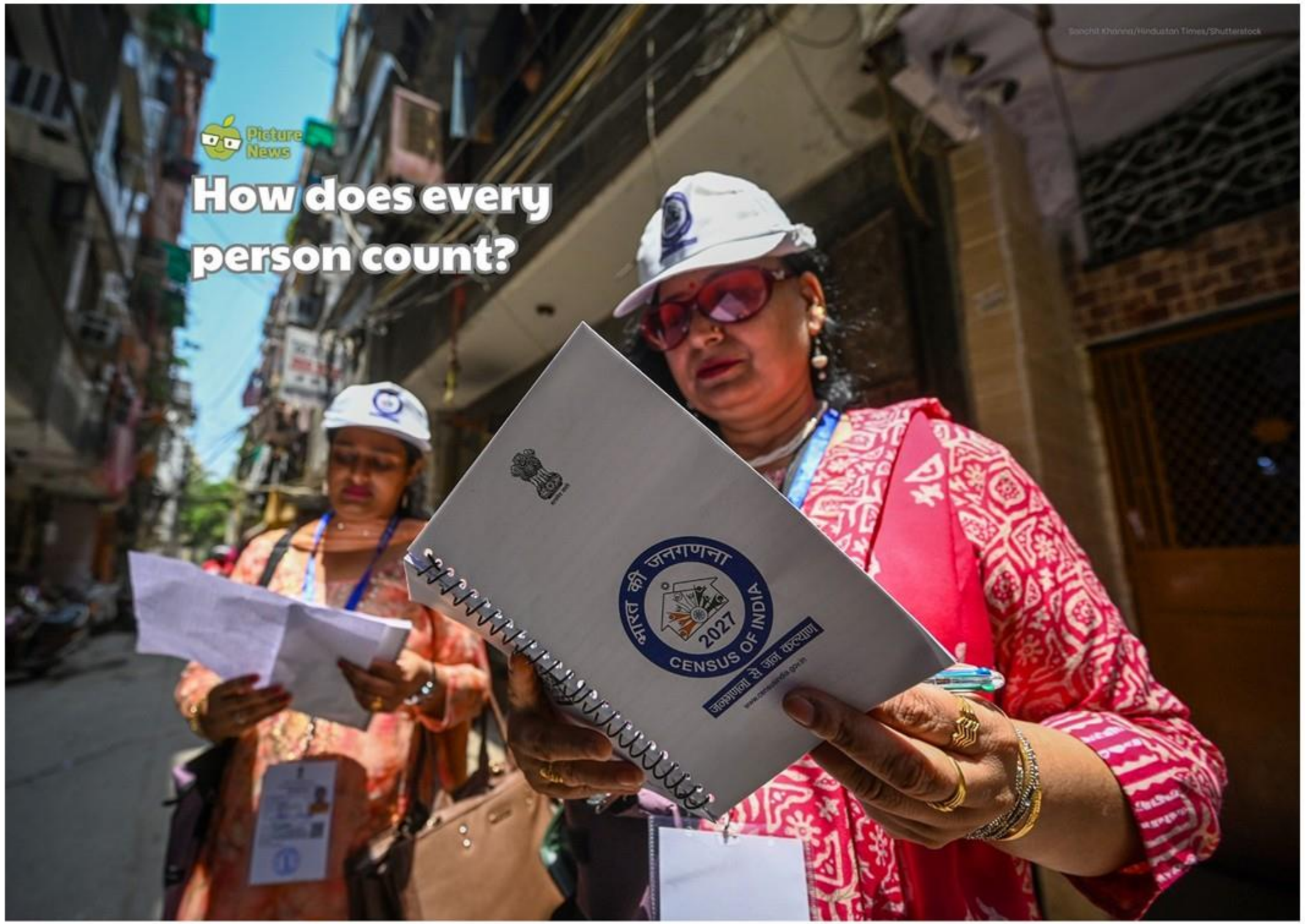
Sanchit Khanna/Hindustan Times/Shutterstock

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

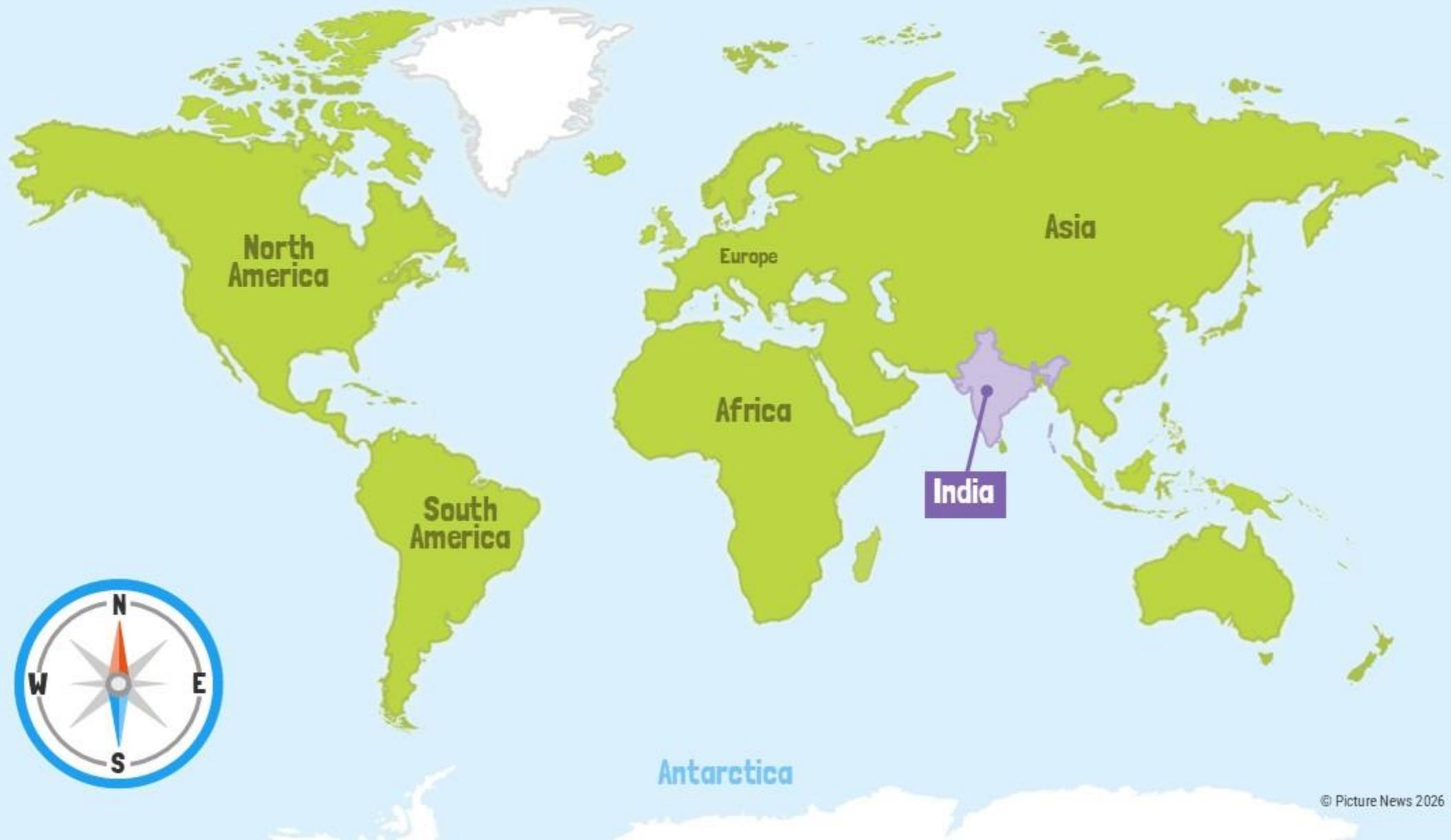
22nd - 28th June 2026



How does every person count?



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



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.

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



Do you have an emotional response you would like to share?



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
discomposed
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted



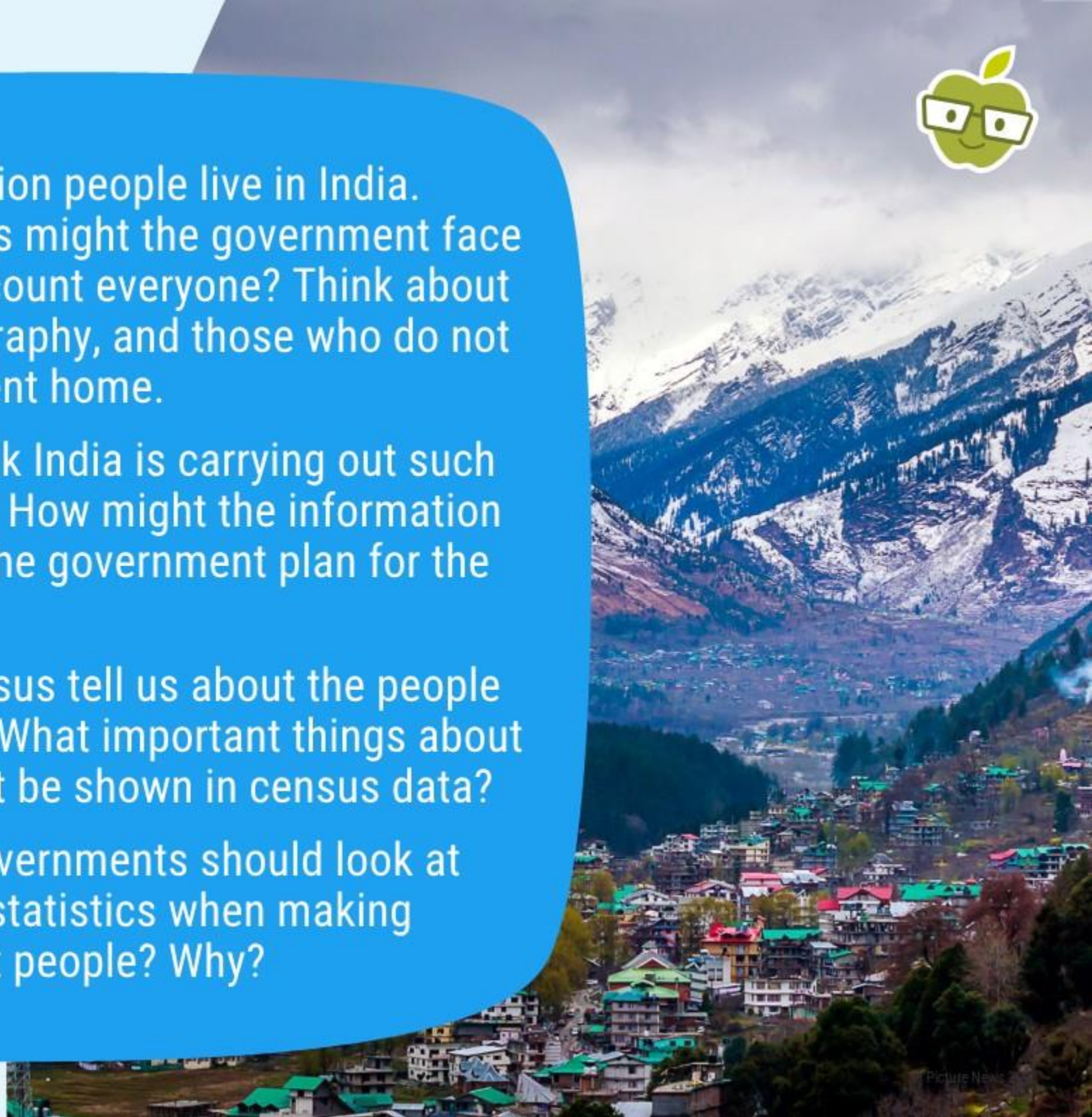
Questions

- Think about this week's story and share any initial thoughts or ideas.
- In your own words, what is a census?
- Why is it important for a government to collect information about the people who live in a country?
- What types of information do you think a census should collect to help governments understand different communities?





- More than a billion people live in India. What challenges might the government face when trying to count everyone? Think about language, geography, and those who do not have a permanent home.
- Why do you think India is carrying out such a large census? How might the information collected help the government plan for the future?
- What can a census tell us about the people who live there? What important things about a person cannot be shown in census data?
- Do you think governments should look at more than just statistics when making decisions about people? Why?





Vital statistics

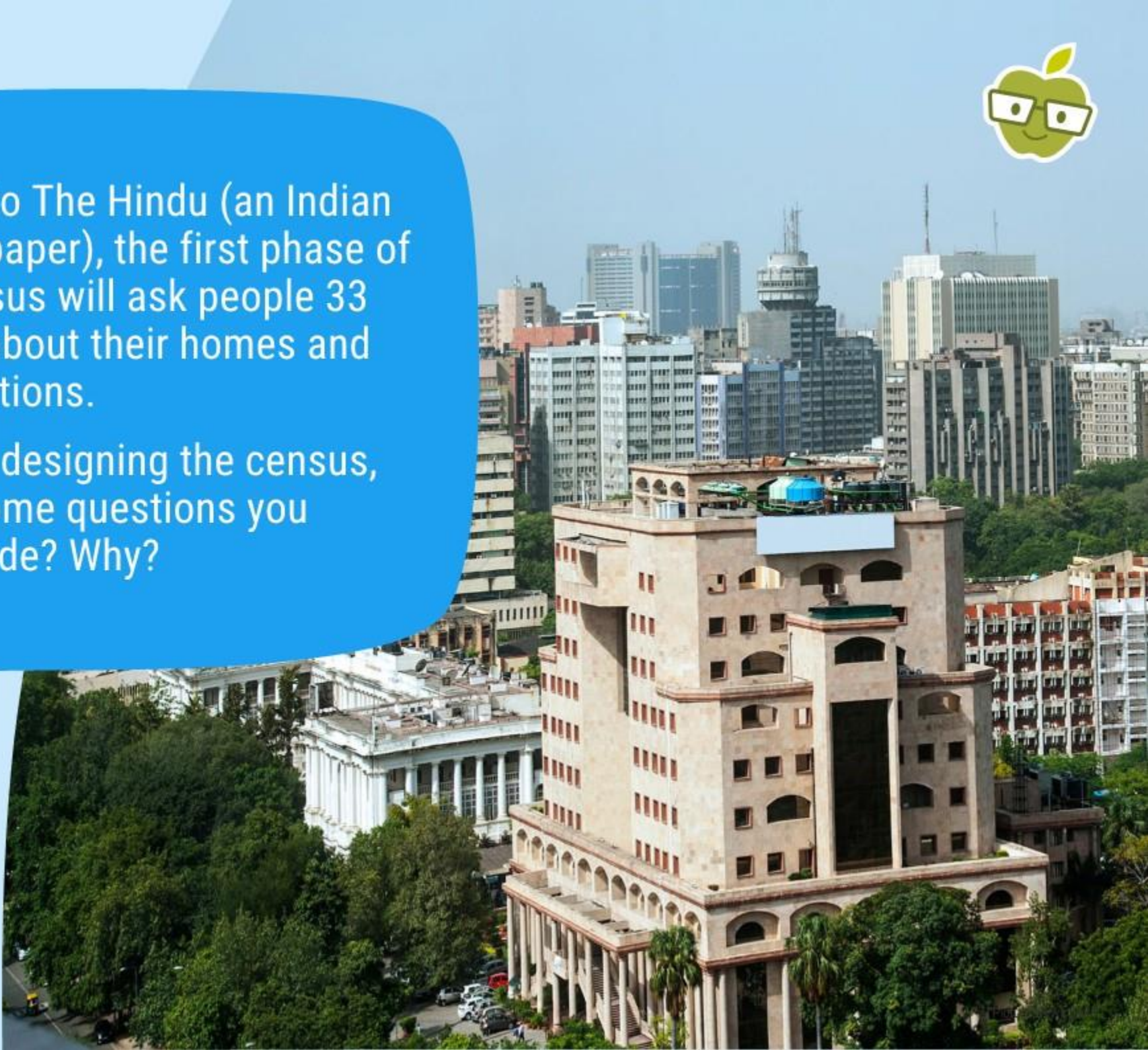
The New York Times has reported that the census in India will cost \$1.2 billion to conduct (equal to approximately £899 million).

Do you think the benefits of a census are worth the cost? Why?



According to The Hindu (an Indian daily newspaper), the first phase of India's census will ask people 33 questions about their homes and living conditions.

If you were designing the census, what are some questions you would include? Why?





What others think

Read through and discuss the meaning of the two quotes below.

"To be counted in the census is to be both seen and supported." Alex Wagner, journalist and television host.

"This census is crucial - it is the definitive snapshot of India, capturing everything from caste and religion to jobs, education and amenities, and offering the most complete picture of how the population lives." Ashwini Deshpande, economist

Do you agree with these quotes? Why?



Further questions for discussion

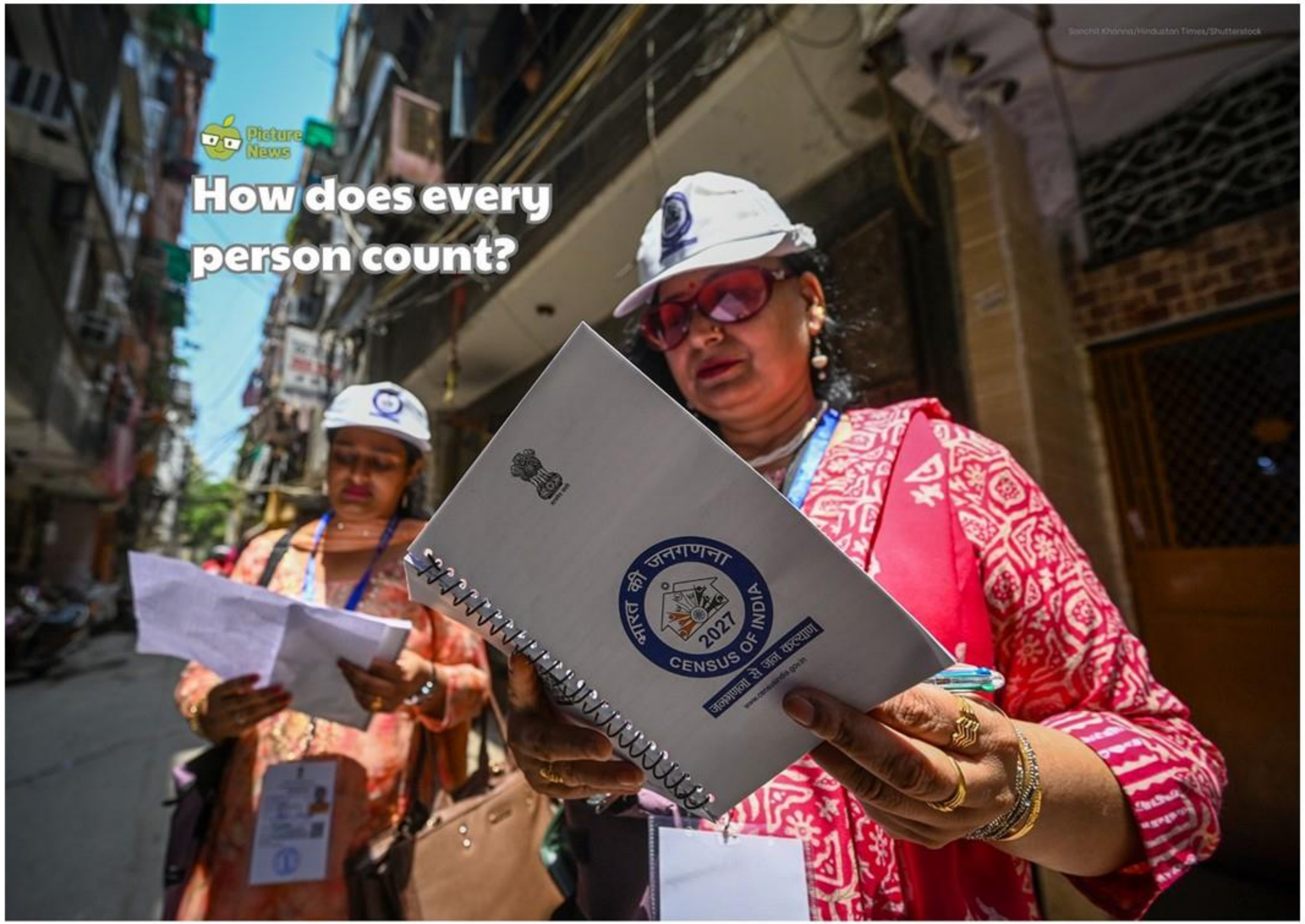


- What signs might show the people in a community are healthy and happy, and the area is a good place to live?
- If you were asked to measure how healthy or happy people are, rather than simply counting them, what information would you collect?





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 the clues that tell us a piece of information has become outdated or old?

Activity

India's last official census was in 2011.

Think about: 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



Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



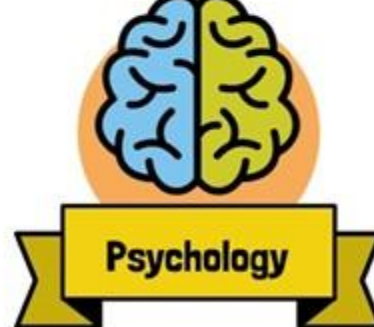
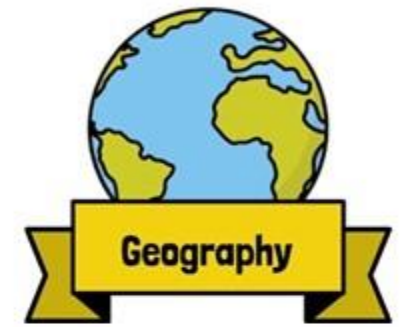
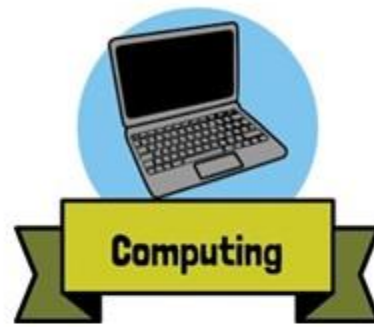
UN Rights of the Child



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.



Cross Curricular Links



This week's story explores how governments gather information on a whole population.



Who Does This Work?



Job of the Week

Economist

Economists are experts who help governments, businesses, and banks make decisions about money. They give advice on things like how to spend money wisely, how to set prices, and how to plan for the future.

Did you know?

According to Prospects, economists' typical starting salaries range between £25,000 and £35,000. Senior economists can earn between £65,000 and over £100,000, depending on experience, location, and sector.



Pathways Into This Career

- A degree or postgraduate degree in economics or a related subject, such as statistics, maths, finance and accounting.
- Professional Economist Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship, or a Senior Professional Economist Level 7 Degree Apprenticeship.



Skills Needed

- Deep understanding of maths, economics and accounting.
- Computer skills.
- Analytical, logic and reasoning skills.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- A thorough approach and close attention to detail.



Discussion Prompt

Can a government make everyone wealthy simply by issuing more banknotes? Why?

LET'S DISCUSS

22nd - 28th
June



This week's news story

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

This week's useful video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRYkCHWz4Ko>



Sanchit Khanna/Hindustan Times/Shutterstock

In the news this week

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www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Vital statistics

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Cross Curricular Link Activity

- Present the question: 'Do you agree that school dinners are terrible? Yes / No',

Think about: What is wrong with asking a question like this if you want to collect accurate data? Why?

- Explain that when collecting data to make decisions, leading questions or vague options can ruin the data.
- Display the following questions on the board. Ask pupils to determine why these might be unhelpful.
 1. How old are you? [] 11–12 [] 12–13 [] 13–14
 2. Do you play video games a lot? [] Yes [] No
- Give the scenario - The headteacher wants to know how pupils spend their time outside of school.
- In pairs write one helpful multiple-choice question about free-time activities (e.g., screen time, sleep, exercise) that can be used to collect accurate data.

Think about: What is more valuable - getting answers from lots of people, or getting detailed answers from just a few? Why? Who else uses surveys and data in the real world, besides schools and governments? What are some reasons for using them?



Careers Connection Activity

- Discuss that economics is about choices and because we can't have everything (scarcity), choosing one option often means sacrificing another.
- Divide the room into Side A and Side B. Pupils should stand on the side they choose.
 1. **Side A:** Unlimited pizza for a year vs **Side B:** Unlimited video games for a year.
 2. **Side A:** 8 hours of sleep (wake at 5 AM) vs **Side B:** 5 hours of sleep (sleep until 10 AM).
- Explain that whatever you sacrifice to make a choice is called your opportunity cost.
- Find a partner who chose the opposite side for one of the dilemmas and discuss:
 - What did you gain from your choice (benefit)?
 - What did you sacrifice (opportunity cost)?
 - Would your choice change if resources became limited? e.g., a cheese shortage limits pizza, or a power cut limits gaming. Why?
- Explain that when resources or rules change, what people want and how they act changes too. Economists study these reactions to help businesses price products, advise government spending, and predict how society responds to global changes.

