News Nibbles

Big news in little bites

Edition 3
Thiruvananthapuram
Saturday 24 October 2026
Ages 5 to 8 · Free



114 medals

Top story · Page 2

Para stars win a record haul!

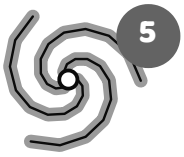
India's para athletes won 114 medals and counting at the Asian Para Games in Japan. Find out how para sport is made fair on page 3.

Inside this week

The number in the circle tells you the page.



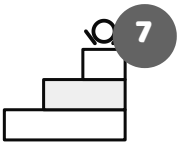
Read with your fingers
Crack a secret code in braille.



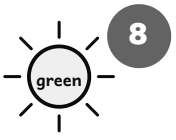
Super typhoon
The strongest storm of the year.



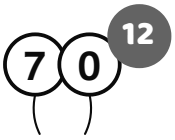
Big Question
Should kids use social media?



Feeling stuck?
The magic word "yet".



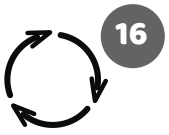
A green star!
A rare space surprise.



Keralam turns 70
Happy Kerala Piravi!

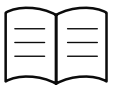


Halloween!
Pumpkins, costumes and treats.



Special report
What happens when we waste things?

Stories, art and puzzles



Pages 18–20
Three picture stories
Birbal, the hare and the tortoise, Tenali Raman



Page 21
Make a pinwheel
A spinning paper craft



Pages 22–27
Puzzles and quiz
Six pages of brain fun

Also inside: How para sport is fair (p.3) · People in the news (p.9) · India's map in the sky (p.10) · Too much sugar? (p.11) · Cricket washout (p.13) · Bossy bees (p.14)



Hi! I'm Nibbles the squirrel.
I nibble big news into little bites, just for you. Look for me on the pages. I'll ask you questions!

A free weekly news magazine for kids aged 5 to 8. **Grown-ups:** reading, printing and editor tips are on the back page.

India's best-ever Asian Para Games!

India's para athletes won more medals than ever before, at a big sports meet in Japan!



Para athletes race in special wheelchairs and on running blades.

30 gold
35 silver
49 bronze

India's medals by Friday: **114** in all!

The **Asian Para Games** are taking place in **Japan**, from **18 to 24 October**. Para athletes are sports stars with a disability. Some cannot see well. Some use a wheelchair. Some have a missing arm or leg.

By Friday, India had won **114 medals**. **30** of them were gold! India has never won so many medals at these Games before.

Golden moments

Sumit Antil won gold for throwing the javelin, a long spear. Two more Indians won silver and bronze, so all three medals were India's! **Sheetal Devi** shoots arrows using her feet. She won two golds (page 9). **Simran Sharma** cannot see well, so she runs with a helper. She won the 200 meters race.

Many ways to win

India won medals in running, jumping, throwing, archery, shooting, badminton, table tennis and swimming.

How is para sport made fair? See page 3.

Did you know?

Para means "beside". The Para Games happen next to the main Games, and they are just as important.

Big word

disability

When a person's body or mind works in a different way, so they do some things differently.

Nibbles asks

These athletes practiced for years. What would you like to practice every day?

How is para sport made fair?

A race should be fair, so that everyone has a chance to win. Here is how para sport does it.

Think about a race between a runner and someone in a wheelchair. That would not be fair! So para athletes are put into groups called **classes**. In each class, the athletes have the same kind of disability. They race each other.

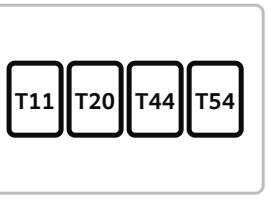
Letters and numbers

Each class has a letter and a number. **T** is for **track**, like running. **F** is for **field**, like throwing and jumping. **T11** is for runners who cannot see. **T20** is for athletes who learn and think in a different way. **T54** is for wheelchair racers.

Clever helpers

A runner who cannot see runs with a **guide**. They hold a short rope between them. The guide helps them stay in their lane, but must not pull! In the T11 class, every runner covers their eyes. Then nobody can see, so it is fair.

Four ways to make it fair



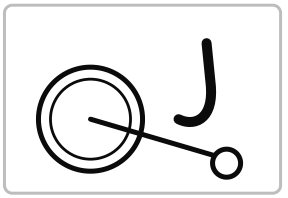
1. Classes

Athletes with the same kind of disability race each other.



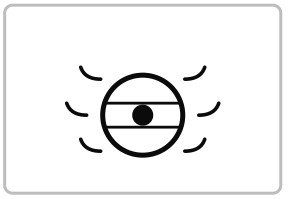
2. Guides

A guide holds a short rope with a runner who cannot see.



3. Special gear

Fast, light wheelchairs and bendy running blades.



4. Listen!

In goalball, the ball has bells inside, so players can hear it.

Para sports to know

Boccia: throw soft balls close to a little white ball.
Sitting volleyball: volleyball played sitting on the floor, with a low net.
Blind football: the ball rattles, so players can hear where it is.
Wheelchair basketball: fast, bumpy and very exciting!

Did you know?

The first Paralympic Games, the world's biggest para sports event, were held in Rome, Italy, in 1960.

Big word

class

A group of athletes who race or play against each other.

Read with your fingers: braille

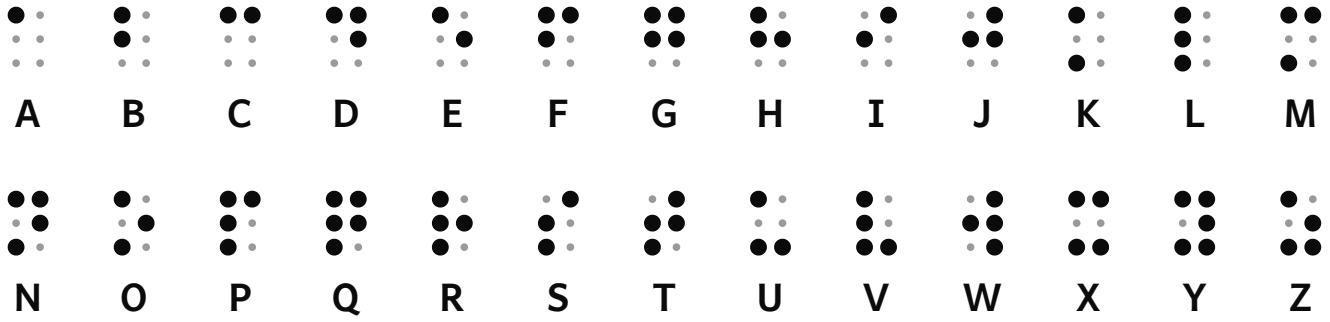
Many people who cannot see read by touching tiny bumps on paper. This is called **braille**.

Braille was made about 200 years ago by **Louis Braille**, a boy from France who could not see. He was only **15 years old** when he made it!

Each letter fits in a little box called a **cell**. It has room for six dots. Some dots stick up, and some are flat. Your fingers feel the bumps and read the letter. People read braille in many languages, even Malayalam and Hindi.

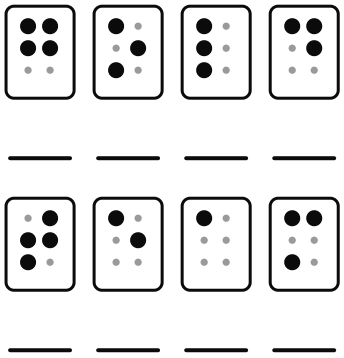
The braille alphabet

Black dots stick up. Small gray dots are flat.



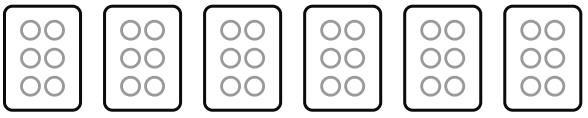
Crack the code

Use the alphabet to read these two words from this week's paper.



Write your name

Color in the dots to write your name in braille. Use one cell for each letter.



Make it touchable: put a small drop of glue on each dot, or stick on grains of dal. When it dries, close your eyes and feel it!

Did you know?

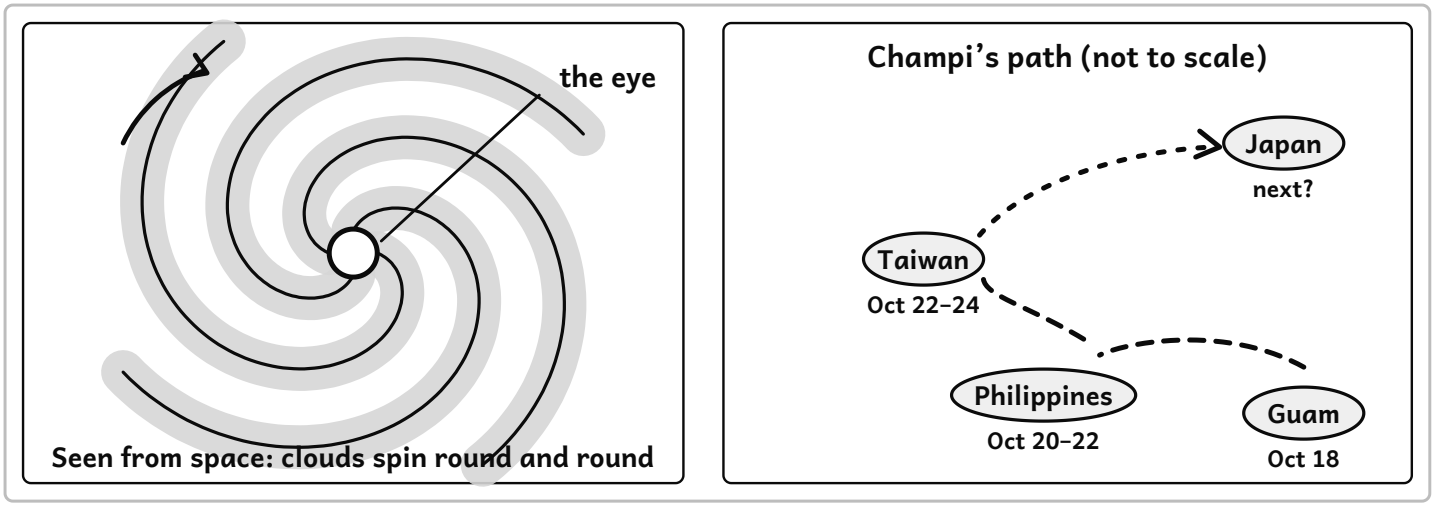
Braille is also on many lift buttons and medicine boxes. Look for little bumps next time you are out!

Try it

Close your eyes and ask a grown-up to guide you slowly across the room using only words. How did it feel?

The strongest storm of the year

A huge storm called **Champi** spun across the sea this week. It brought very strong winds and lots of rain.



A typhoon from space, and Champi's path this week. A drawing.

A **typhoon** is a giant spinning storm. It grows over warm sea water. Champi's winds blew at nearly **300 kilometers an hour**. That is as fast as a racing car! Scientists say it was the strongest storm in the world this year.

On 18 October, it passed close to **Guam**, an island in the Pacific Ocean. Many homes lost electricity. Then it passed the **Philippines**, where people got ready with food and rescue teams.

Taiwan stays home

From 22 October, Champi brought wind and rain to **Taiwan**. Schools and offices closed for two days, and planes stopped flying. Many families moved to safe places. Sadly, one person died and some people were hurt. Rescue teams worked hard to help everyone.

What next?

The storm was moving north, towards China and Japan. Weather experts expected it to slowly get weaker.

One storm, three names

These storms have different names in different places. Near China and Japan, they are **typhoons**. Near America, they are **hurricanes**. Near India, they are **cyclones**. They are all the same kind of storm!

World in brief

Greece made a new rule: from January, children under 15 cannot use social media apps (page 6).

There is still fighting between some countries, like **America, Israel and Iran**. Many people around the world are hoping for peace.

Did you know?

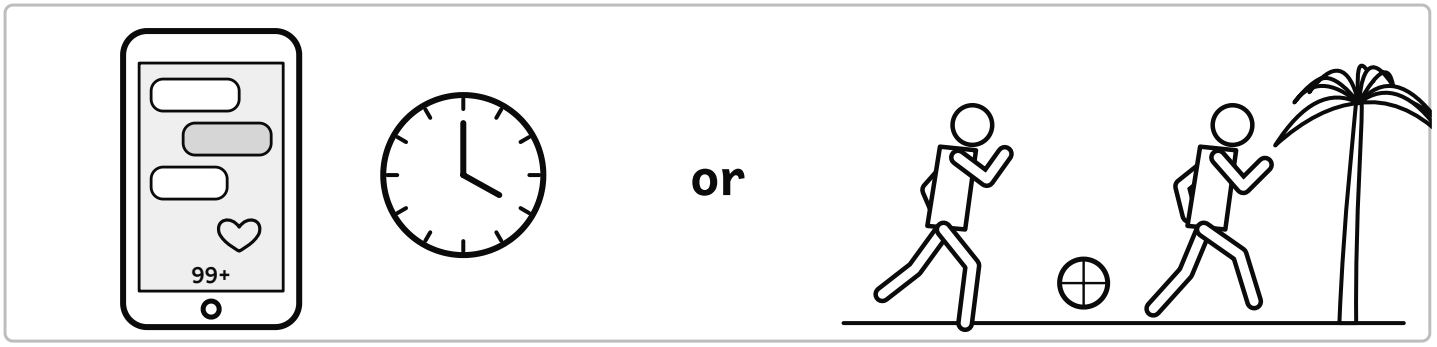
The calm center of a typhoon is called its **eye**. Inside the eye, the sky can be clear and still!

Nibbles asks

What would you put in a bag if a big storm was coming?

Should children use social media?

This week, **Greece** made a new rule. From January, children under 15 will not be allowed to use social media.



Scrolling on a phone, or playing outside? A drawing.

Social media means apps where people share photos, videos and messages with lots of other people. Most of these apps say you must be at least **13** to use them. But many younger children use them anyway.

On 23 October, Greece made a stricter rule. The apps must check how old people are. If they don't, they will have to pay a lot of money. **Australia** has a rule like this too, and **Norway** is planning one.

Why do some people want this rule?

Some apps are made to keep you scrolling for a long, long time. Too much screen time means less sleep, less play and less time with family. Children might also see unkind messages, or things that are not meant for kids.

Why do others disagree?

Some people say the rule is hard to check. They think it is better to teach children how to stay safe online, with grown-ups helping. Video calls also help families who live far apart stay close.

Make a family screen plan

We put screens away at _____

Screen-free places at home: _____

Instead of screens, we like to _____

Did you know?

Children your age need about **9 to 12 hours** of sleep every night. Screens before bed can make it harder to fall asleep.

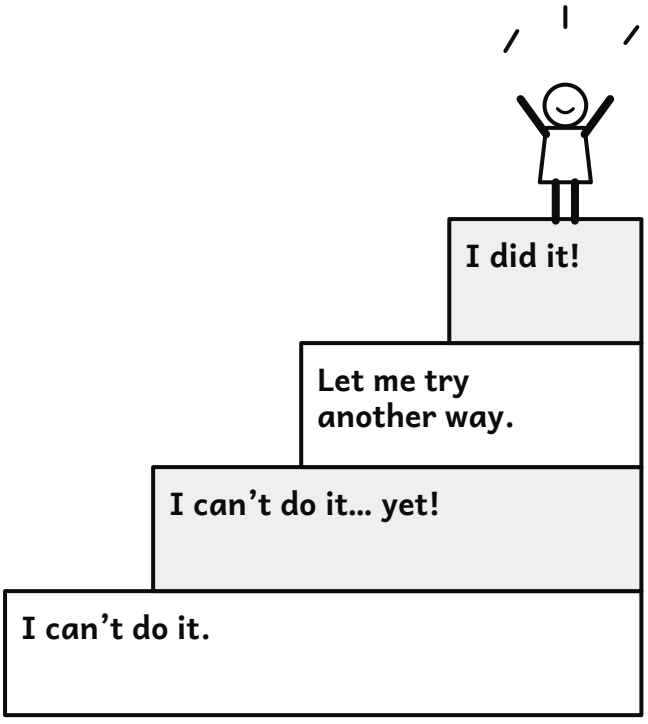
Nibbles asks

Is there a screen rule in your home? Do you think it is a good rule? Why?

For grown-ups: There is no single right answer here, so the page presents both views. Australia's under-16 rule began in December 2025; Greece's takes effect on 1 January 2027. A family plan made together tends to work better than one handed down.

Feeling stuck? Try the word “yet”

Feeling **frustrated** means feeling cross and stuck, when something is hard and won’t go right.



What does it feel like?

You might want to throw your pencil, cry or give up. Your tummy may feel tight. It often comes when you are learning something new, like tying laces, riding a cycle or reading a long word.

The magic word: yet

Don’t say “I can’t do it.” Say “I can’t do it **yet**!” It tells your brain that you are still learning. Every grown-up who is good at something was once a beginner!

Learn from the athletes

The para athletes on page 2 trained for years. Even champions lose many times before they win. Mistakes help us learn.

When you feel stuck

1
Pause
Stop and take three slow breaths.

2
Name it
Say, “I feel frustrated.”

3
Make it small
Try just one small part first.

4
Ask
It is okay to ask for help!

My “yet” list

Something I can’t do yet:

_____

One small step I can try:

_____

Did you know?

When you practice something hard, your brain gets better at it. Feeling stuck means you are learning!

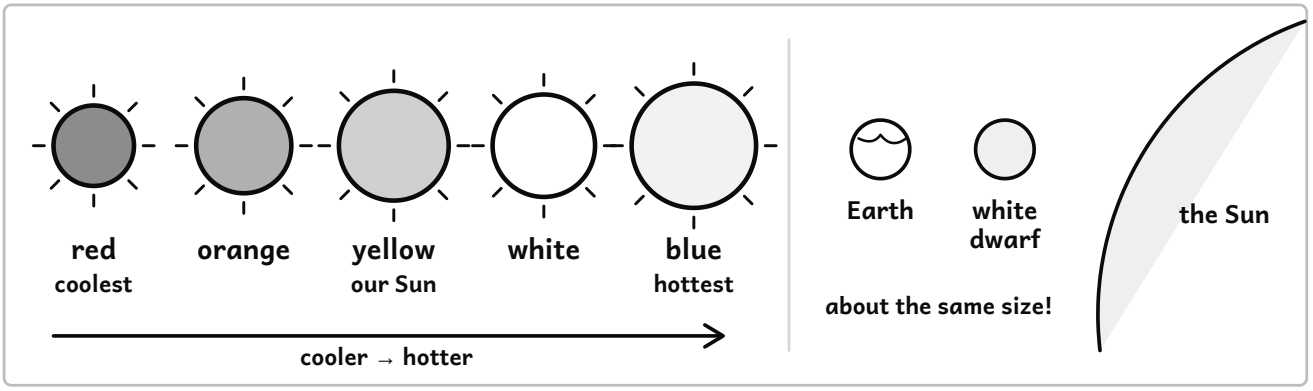
I used to find it hard, but now I can…

Ask a grown-up to help you remember. Maybe walking, buttoning a shirt or writing your name?

For grown-ups: Praise effort and strategy (“You tried three different ways!”) rather than being “clever”. Let small frustrations run a little before stepping in, then help break the task into one small next step.

Scientists find a star that would look green!

Stars can be red, orange, yellow, white or blue. Now scientists have found a star that would look **green**!



Star colors, and how small a white dwarf is. A drawing.

The green star is a **white dwarf**. That is what is left when a star like our Sun gets very old. It is tiny for a star, about as big as Earth. But it is very, very heavy!

A team of scientists in England found it. The star is too far away to see without giant telescopes. So the scientists studied its light to work out its color.

Why green?

The outside of the star is made of a gas called **helium**. It also has tiny bits of other things, like **calcium**, which is in your bones, and **sodium**, which is in salt. Together, they make its light look green.

Why are green stars so rare?

Stars give out lots of colors of light, all mixed up. When green is mixed with the other colors, our eyes see white. So a green star is a big surprise!

Our Sun's future

One day, our Sun will become a white dwarf too. But not for billions of years. That is a very, very long time away!

Hot blue, cooler yellow

With a grown-up, look at a gas stove flame or a candle. The blue part is hotter than the yellow part. Stars are a bit like that: blue stars are the hottest!

Spot star colors

On a clear night, look for a star pattern called **Orion**, low in the east, late at night. Can you spot the reddish star **Betelgeuse** and the blue-white star **Rigel**?

Did you know?

Sunlight takes about 8 minutes to travel to Earth.

Big word

astronomer

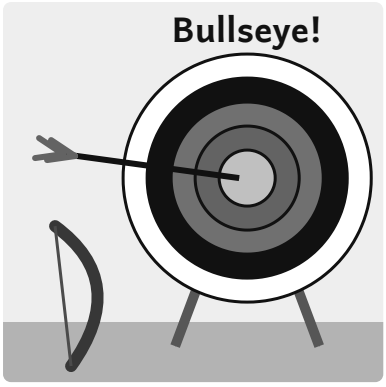
A scientist who studies stars, planets and space.

Nibbles asks

If you discovered a new star, what would you name it?

Three stars who never give up

An archer who uses her feet, a record-breaking runner, and a cricketer who is still scoring big.



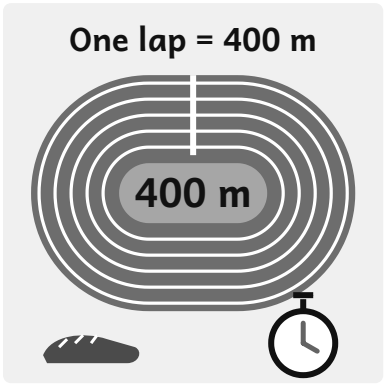
Sheetal aims for the gold ring in the middle.

Sheetal Devi

Para archer, from Jammu and Kashmir

Sheetal was born without arms. She holds her bow with her foot. She pulls the string back with her shoulder and chin. Then she aims very, very carefully!

In Japan, she won **two gold medals**, one by herself and one with a teammate. In 2024, she won a medal at the Paris Paralympics. She was only 17!

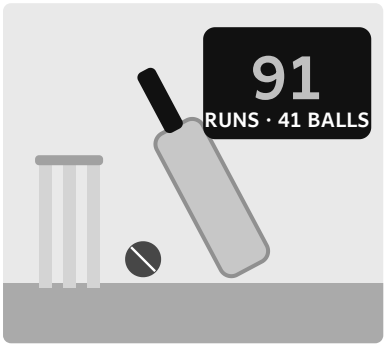


One lap of a running track is 400 meters.

Deepthi Jeevanji

Para runner, from Telangana

Deepthi grew up in a village near Warangal, where her family are farmers. She runs the 400 meters in the **T20** class, for athletes who learn and think in a different way. On 20 October, she won gold, faster than anyone ever at these Games! She also won a medal at the Paris Paralympics.



91 runs from just 41 balls!

Harmanpreet Kaur

Cricketer, from Punjab

Harmanpreet was the captain of India's women's cricket team for many years. This month, Smriti Mandhana became the new captain. But Harmanpreet still loves to bat! On 20 October, she scored **91 runs from just 41 balls**. India beat Zimbabwe and won all three games.

Big word

teammate

Someone who plays on the same team as you.

Did you know?

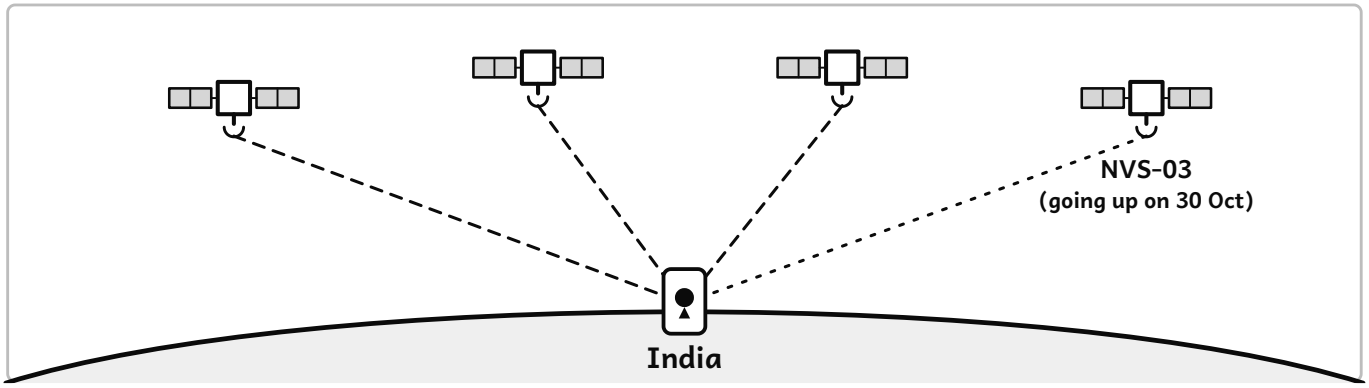
In Sheetal's kind of archery, the target is **50 meters** away. That is about as long as four buses in a row!

Nibbles asks

Which of these three would you most like to meet? What would you ask?

India's own map in the sky

On **30 October**, India plans to send a new satellite into space. It will help phones and ships know where they are.



Satellites send signals that tell a phone where it is. A drawing.

Have you seen a map on a phone show where you are? The phone is listening to **satellites**: machines that go round and round Earth, high up in space. India has its own group of these satellites. It is called **NavIC**.

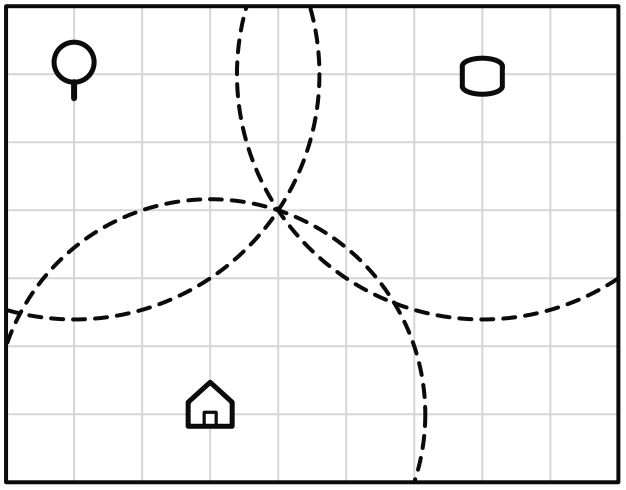
Navik means "sailor" in Hindi. Sailors need to know where they are at sea!

Why a new satellite?

NavIC needs at least **four** working satellites. Right now, only three are working. The new one is called **NVS-03**. A big rocket will carry it up from **Sriharikota**, in Andhra Pradesh.

How does it work?

Each satellite sends a message that says the exact time. The phone checks how long each message took to arrive. That tells it how far away each satellite is. Then it can work out exactly where you are!



Find the treasure like a satellite!

The treasure is **on** all three dashed circles: one round the tree, one round the well and one round the hut. Find the one spot where all three circles cross, and mark it with an X.

Your phone does the same thing! Each satellite gives it a circle, and you are where the circles meet.

> **Did you know?**
>
> Fishing boats use NavIC too. It can send storm warnings to fishermen far out at sea.

Why is too much sugar not good for us?

India's food checkers want less sugar in baby food. So how much sugar is too much for kids like you?

Sugar tastes yummy! Our bodies use it for **energy**, to run, play and think. A little sugar is fine. But too much sugar, every day, is not good for us.

How much is too much?

Doctors say children should have less than about **6 teaspoons** of added sugar in a whole day. One can of fizzy drink can have **8 or 9 teaspoons**. That is more than a whole day's sugar, in one drink!

In the news

This month, **FSSAI**, the group that checks food in India, made a plan. It wants no added sugar in food for babies up to six months old. Babies already get natural sugar from milk.

Sugar likes to hide

Sugar is in lots of packets, even ones that don't taste very sweet, like some breads, biscuits, sauces and drinks.

Four reasons to go easy on sugar

1

Teeth

Germs in your mouth love sugar. They make holes in your teeth.

2

Tummy space

Sweet drinks fill you up, so there is less room for good food.

3

No growing power

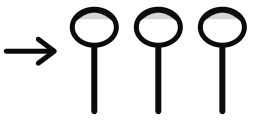
Sugar gives quick energy, but no vitamins to help you grow.

4

Habit

The more sweet things we eat, the more we want!

Nutrition	
Energy	150 kcal
Protein	3 g
Fat	4 g
Sugars	12 g
Salt	0.2 g



about 3 spoons!

Be a sugar detective

With a grown-up, find the label on a packet at home. Look for **Sugars**. About **4 grams** is one teaspoon.

Food: _____ Sugars: ____ g

Food: _____ Sugars: ____ g

Food: _____ Sugars: ____ g

Tasty swaps

Instead of a fizzy drink, **try** water or buttermilk.

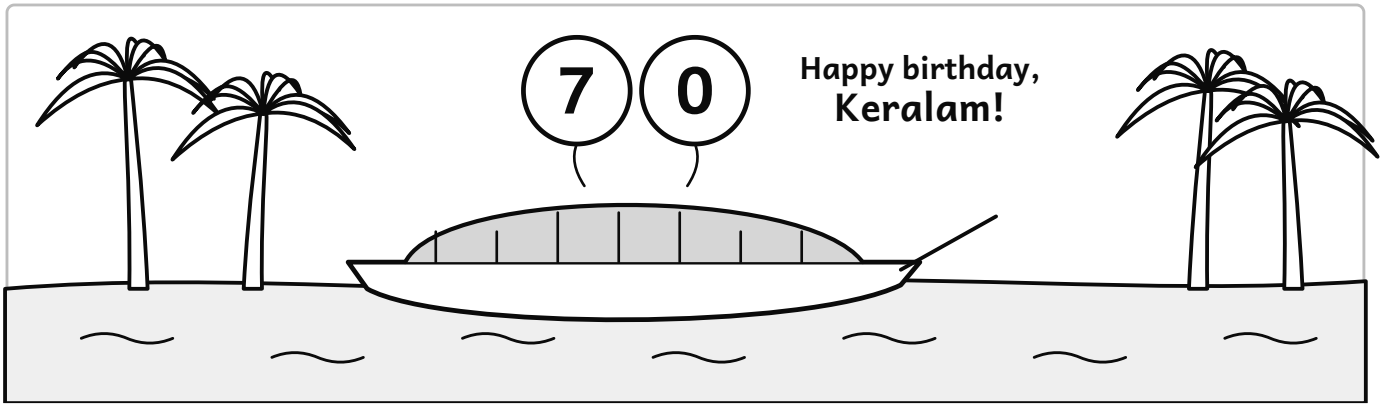
Instead of sweet biscuits, **try** roasted peanuts or chana.

Instead of sweets, **try** a banana or some papaya.

For grown-ups: The 6-teaspoon guide (under 25 g a day for ages 2–18) is from the American Heart Association. A 330 ml cola has about 35 g. The FSSAI baby-food rule is a draft (16 October), open for comment for 60 days.

Happy 70th birthday, Keralam!

Sunday **1 November** is **Kerala Piravi**, our state's birthday. This year, Keralam turns 70!



Backwaters, palms and a houseboat: happy birthday, Keralam! A drawing.

Long ago, the places where people spoke Malayalam were split into different parts. On **1 November 1956**, they joined together to make one new state: **Kerala**! This year, its name officially changed to **Keralam**.

Thiruvananthapuram, our city, became the capital. At first, the state had 5 districts. Now it has 14.

How do people celebrate?

Schools celebrate Malayalam, the language of Keralam, with songs, poems and quizzes. Many people wear the cream-and-gold **kasavu**.

Still raining!

There is lots of rain this week! Most of Keralam, including our city, has an **orange alert** until 26 October. That means very heavy rain may come. Fishermen were asked not to go out to sea.

Space news from our city

Scientists at **VSSC**, right here in our city, tested **Gaganyaan**, India's spaceship for astronauts. They checked that the part where astronauts sit can safely come apart from the rest. It worked!

Keralam quiz

What is Keralam's state...
1. animal? **2.** bird? **3.** tree? **4.** flower?
Answers are on page 28.

Did you know?

Keralam is what we have always called our state in Malayalam. Since August, it is the official name in every language! Many people think it comes from *kera*, the coconut palm.

Big word

capital

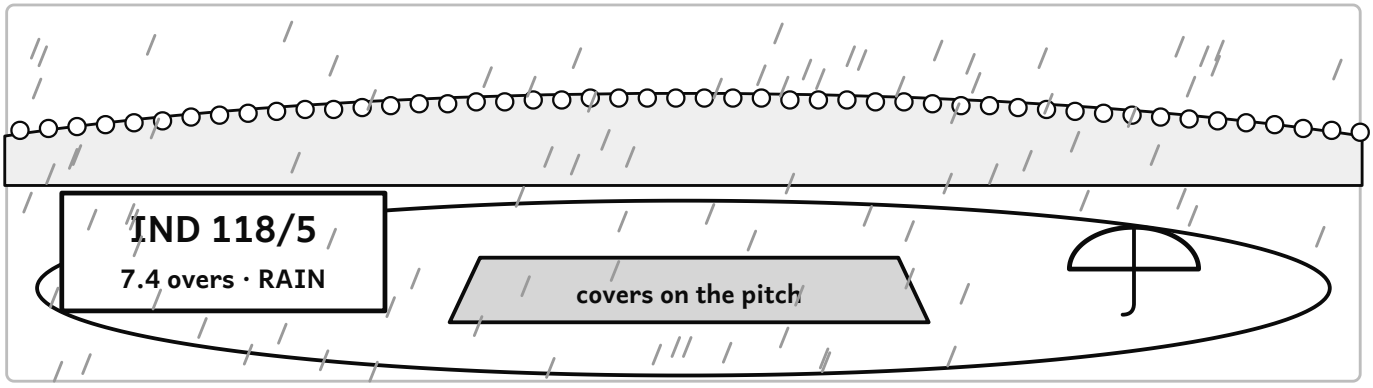
The city where a state's government works.

Nibbles asks

What do you love most about Keralam?

Rain stops play in the cricket decider

Rain spoiled the last cricket game between India and West Indies, so the series ended in a **2–2** tie.



Rain, rain, go away! A drawing.

Last Saturday, it rained in **Bengaluru**. So the game was made shorter: just **9 overs** for each team. **Ishan Kishan** hit 30 runs from only 10 balls! But then the rain came back and did not stop.

Nobody won the last game. Each team had won two games, so it was a tie.

Women win 3–0

India's women played three T20 games against **Zimbabwe**, and won them all!

A tough day for the Blasters

Kerala Blasters lost **4–1** to NorthEast United. Their first home game is **tomorrow, 25 October**, in Kochi.

Why can't they play in the rain?

A wet ball is slippery and hard to grip, and a wet ground is easy to slip on. The ball also skids and bounces in strange ways. So the ground staff cover the pitch to keep it dry.

Coming up: hockey!

India's men's hockey team starts the **Asian Champions Trophy** on **27 October**, in Punjab. Their first game is against Bangladesh.

Read the scoreboard

118/5 means India scored **118 runs** and **5 batters were out**. **7.4 overs** means 7 full overs and 4 more balls were bowled.

Did you know?

An over has **6 balls**. So how many balls are there in 9 overs? (Answer on page 28.)

Practice drill

Bounce a ball and catch it with one hand, 10 times. Then try clapping once before you catch!

Nibbles asks

Would you rather play cricket, hockey or football? Why?

Animal of the week

Are honeybees bossy?

Scientists in England watched bees for two years. They found that honeybees often chase other insects away from flowers!



A honeybee collects pollen from a daisy. Can you see the yellow pollen on its legs?

What did they find?

The scientists watched flowers very closely. They saw honeybees meet other insects, like bumblebees and hoverflies, **300** times. Most of the time, the honeybees won! The other insects flew away.

Hot days, more pushing

On hot days, there was more pushing. Maybe there was less sweet juice, called **nectar**, to share.

Why do bees visit flowers?

Bees drink nectar. They also collect a yellow dust called **pollen**. Pollen sticks to their fuzzy bodies and goes with them to the next flower. This helps plants make fruits and seeds!

Bees of Keralam

Keralam has its own honeybees, and tiny **stingless bees** too. In Malayalam, honey from stingless bees is called **cheruthen**, which means “small honey”.

How bees make honey

1
Collect
Bees drink sweet nectar from flowers.

2
Carry home
They carry it back to the hive.

3
Fan it
They fan it with their wings until it gets thick.

4
Honey!
They seal it in wax cells to eat later.

Big word

pollen

A yellow dust in flowers. Plants need it to make seeds.

Did you know?

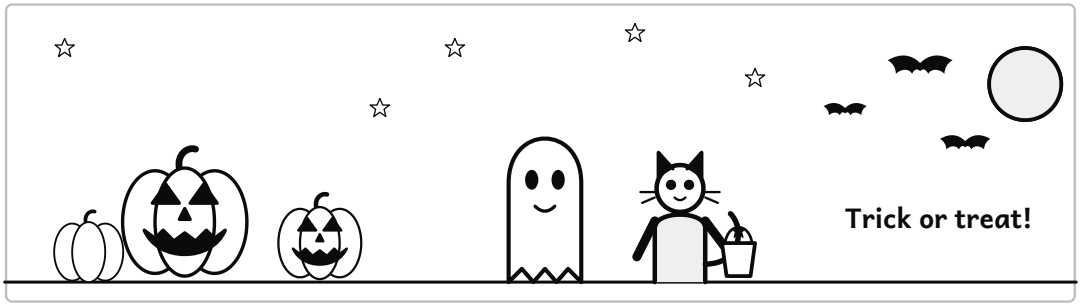
A honeybee flaps its wings about **200 times every second**. That is what makes the buzzing sound!

Think about it

Which of your favorite foods need bees? Think of fruits!

Pumpkins, costumes and treats!

Our school celebrates Halloween on **Friday 30 October**. What is this fun festival about?



A friendly ghost, a cat and some jack-o'-lanterns. A drawing.

Halloween is on **31 October**. It is a big festival in countries like America, Canada, Ireland and Britain. Children dress up in costumes, carve pumpkins and go from house to house saying "Trick or treat!" to collect sweets.

Where did it begin?

More than 2,000 years ago, people in Ireland and nearby lands had a festival called **Samhain** (say "SOW-in"). It was held when the harvest was over and the cold winter began. Later, the evening before All Hallows' Day was called All Hallows' Eve. Say it fast: **Halloween**!

Why pumpkins?

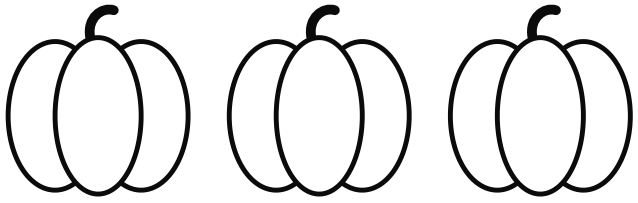
Long ago in Ireland, people carved faces into **turnips** to make lanterns. In America, they used pumpkins instead: bigger and easier to carve! These are called **jack-o'-lanterns**.

Is it scary?

Not really! It is about dressing up and sharing. You can be an astronaut, an animal, or even a pumpkin!

Design a jack-o'-lantern

Draw a happy, a silly and a surprised face.



happy | silly | surprised

Make your own costume

Use old clothes and boxes. That's reusing! (Page 17.)

Around the world

In **Mexico**, the **Day of the Dead** on 1 and 2 November is a colorful time when families remember loved ones, with bright orange **marigolds**, the same flowers we use in garlands!

Did you know?

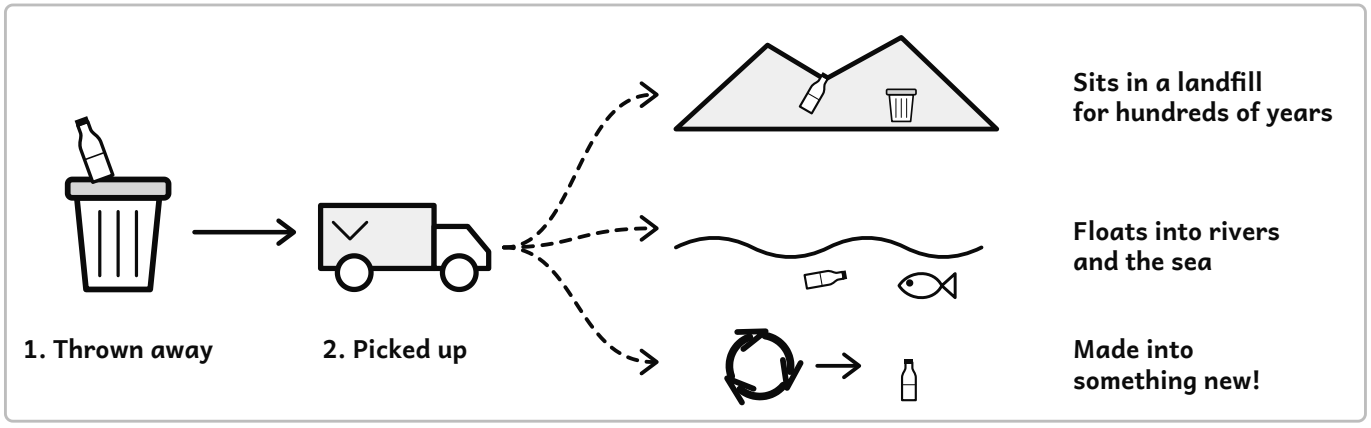
The heaviest pumpkins ever grown weigh as much as a small car!

Nibbles asks

What would you like to dress up as?

What happens when we waste things?

Every day, people all over the world throw away things that could still be used. Where does it all go, and why does it matter?



The journey of a plastic bottle. Where will yours go? A drawing.

Waste is anything we throw away, or use up, when we didn't really need to. A bottle used once, food left on a plate, a tap left running: all of these are waste.

Where does rubbish go?

Most of it goes to huge rubbish dumps. Some is burned, which makes smoke. Some ends up in rivers and the sea. Only some is **recycled**, which means made into new things. Every year, the world's rubbish weighs as much as **400 million elephants**!

Why is it a problem?

To make anything, we use water, power and things from nature, like trees. When we throw it away, all of that is wasted too. Rubbish can hurt animals. Turtles can mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, and cows on our streets sometimes eat plastic. Rotting rubbish also makes our planet warmer.

What do people waste?

Food

About **1 in 5** bowls of food in shops and homes ends up thrown away.

Plastic

Fewer than **1 in 10** plastic things are recycled. Many are used just once.

Old gadgets

Old phones, toys with batteries and TVs: only about **1 in 5** are recycled properly.

Clothes

Around the world, about ***a* truckload** of clothes is thrown away or burned every second.

Water

A dripping tap can waste ***a* whole bucket** of clean water in one day.

Electricity

Lights, fans and TVs left on in empty rooms waste power for nothing.

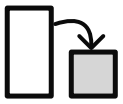
Be a waste warrior!

The good news: every family can waste less. Here are five magic "R" words to remember.



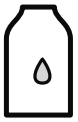
Refuse

Say "no, thank you" to things you don't need, like extra plastic bags or straws.



Reduce

Use less. Take only the food you will eat. Switch off lights when you leave.



Reuse

Use things again: a steel bottle, a cloth bag, both sides of the paper.



Repair

Fix it! Glue a broken toy, sew a button, mend a torn book.



Recycle

Sort paper, glass, metal and plastic so they can be made into new things.

Six waste-saving ideas

1. Carry a steel water bottle
2. Take a cloth bag to the shop
3. Draw on both sides of the paper
4. Swap books and toys with friends
5. Turn off the tap while brushing
6. Pass on clothes you've outgrown

Around the world

Rwanda, in Africa, banned plastic bags in 2008, and its cities are known for being very clean. In **Kamikatsu**, a town in Japan, people sort their rubbish into about 45 groups! **India** banned many single-use plastic things, like plastic straws and cutlery, in 2022.

Here in Keralam

Many homes keep **wet waste** (peels, food scraps) and **dry waste** (paper, plastic, glass) apart. **Haritha Karma Sena** workers collect the dry waste so it can be recycled.

This week's mission: be a waste detective!

Every evening, look in your bin with a grown-up. Make a tally mark (|) for each thing you find. On Sunday, count up: which kind of waste did your family make the most? Choose **one** way to make less of it next week.

What went in the bin?	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Plastic wrappers and bags							
Paper and cardboard							
Food scraps and peels							
Bottles and cans							

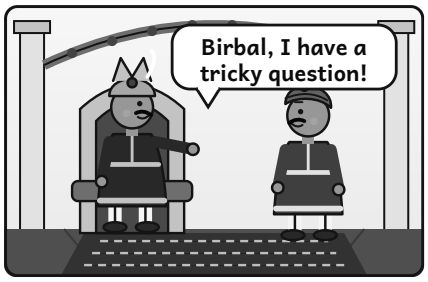
Our family promise: Next week, we will

_____

For grown-ups: Sources for page 16: UNEP (city waste, food waste; about 2.1 billion tonnes a year, compared here to elephants of about 5 tonnes), OECD (plastic), Global E-waste Monitor 2024, Ellen MacArthur Foundation (clothes).

Birbal counts the crows

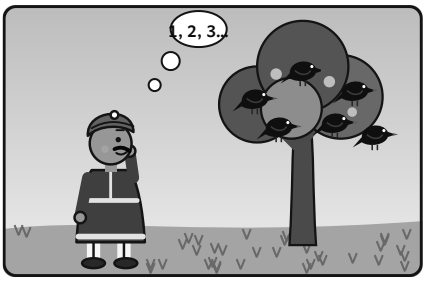
A funny old folk tale about **Akbar**, an emperor of India long ago, and his clever, witty friend **Birbal**.



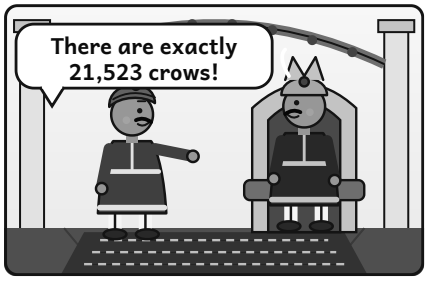
1. Emperor Akbar loved asking his clever friend Birbal tricky questions. One day, he had a new one.



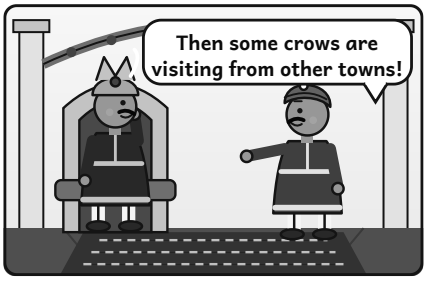
2. "Birbal," said Akbar, pointing at the sky, "how many crows live in our city?"



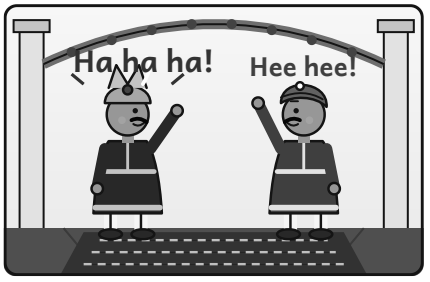
3. Birbal looked up at the crows in the trees. He thought for a moment, and then he smiled.



4. "There are exactly 21,523 crows, Your Majesty," said Birbal. Everyone in the court gasped!



5. "But what if we count them, and there are more?" asked Akbar. "Then some crows are visiting from other towns!" said Birbal.



6. "And if there are fewer?" "Then some of our crows have gone to visit their relatives!" Akbar laughed and laughed.

> **The lesson: some questions have no easy answer. A clever, cheerful reply can save the day!**

Joke Corner Cover the answer and make your family guess!

Why are fish so clever?
They live in schools!

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear!

What did one wall say to the other wall?
I'll meet you at the corner!

Why did the bee go to the doctor?
It had hives!

What has keys but can't open a door?
A piano!

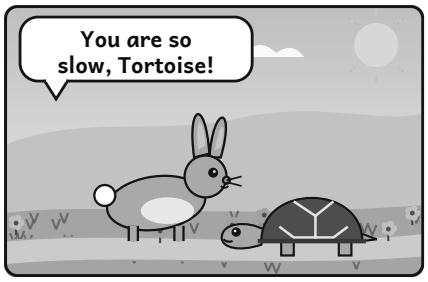
What goes up but never comes down?
Your age!

What do you call a sleeping bull?
A bulldozer!

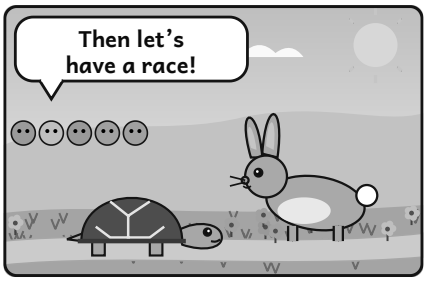
What runs but never gets tired?
A river!

The hare and the tortoise

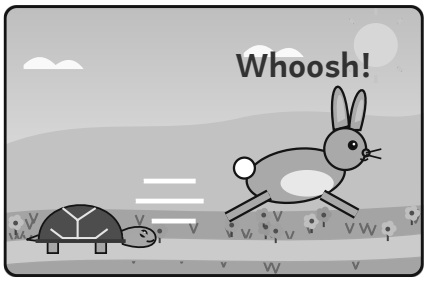
A very old fable from **Greece**, told by a storyteller called **Aesop** about 2,500 years ago.



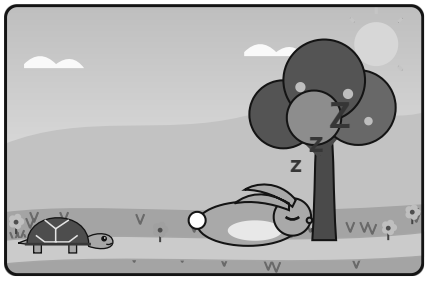
1. Hare could run very fast, and he loved to show off. "You are so slow, Tortoise!" he laughed.



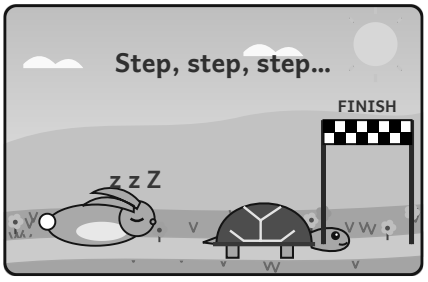
2. Tortoise just smiled. "Then let's have a race," she said. All the animals came to watch.



3. "Ready, steady, go!" Whoosh! Hare zoomed far ahead. Tortoise walked slowly, step by step.



4. Hare looked back. Tortoise was far, far behind. "I have lots of time," he yawned, and lay down for a nap.



5. Tortoise did not stop. Step, step, step... She walked right past the sleeping hare.



6. Hare woke up and ran as fast as he could. Too late! Tortoise crossed the finish line first.

> **The lesson: slow and steady wins the race. Keep going, even when it is hard!**

Think about it

1. Why did Hare lose the race?

2. Was it kind of Hare to laugh at Tortoise? How do you think Tortoise felt?

3. Tortoise never gave up. Who else in this paper kept trying? (Look at pages 2 and 9.)

Act it out!

One person is Hare and one is Tortoise. Race across the room: Hare must stop for a "nap" and count to 20 before running again. Who wins?

Draw a new ending: what if Hare did not fall asleep?

Tenali Raman and the thieves

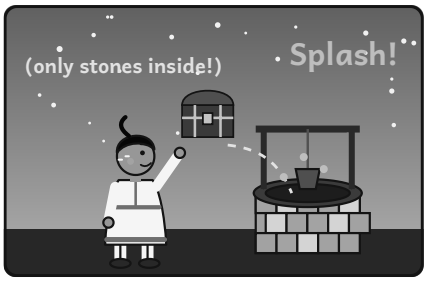
A funny folk tale from South India about **Tenali Raman**, a clever poet at the court of King Krishnadevaraya, about 500 years ago.



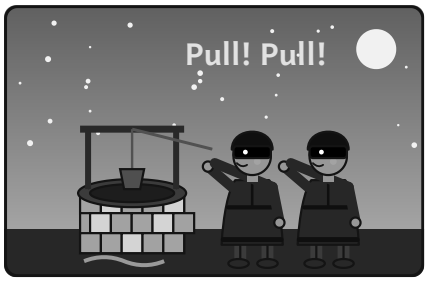
1. One hot summer, there was no rain. Tenali Raman's garden was dry, and he was too tired to carry water from the well.



2. One night, he saw thieves hiding near his house. He had an idea! He said loudly, "Thieves are near! Let's hide our jewels!"



3. He filled a big box with stones and dropped it into the well. Splash! The thieves heard it all.



4. When the house was dark, the thieves crept to the well. They pulled up bucket after bucket of water to find the box.



5. All night long they poured the water out, and it ran straight into Tenali's garden. They never found any jewels!



6. In the morning, Tenali called out, "Thank you for watering my garden!" The thieves ran away and never came back.

> **The lesson: use your brain! A clever idea can turn a problem into a help.**

Put it in order

Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the boxes.

- ☐ The thieves pulled up water all night.
- ☐ Tenali saw the thieves hiding.
- ☐ The garden got watered.
- ☐ Tenali dropped a box of stones into the well.

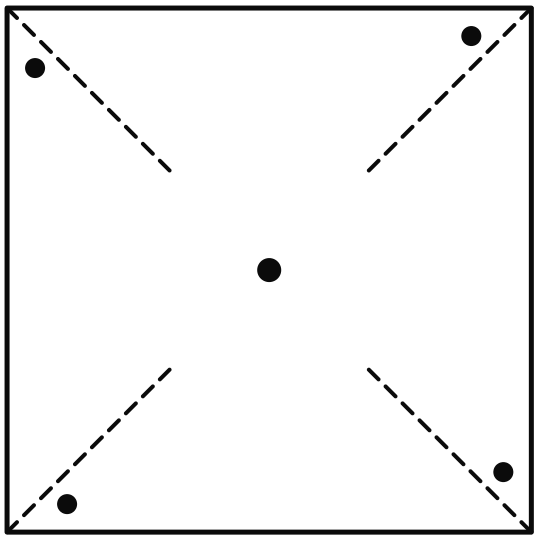
Nibbles asks

Long ago, many families got water from a well. Where does the water in your home come from?

> **Did you know?**
>
> Tenali Raman stories have been told for hundreds of years, in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and many other languages.

Make a paper pinwheel

Typhoons are giant spinning winds. Make your own little spinning wind-catcher!



Trace this square onto another paper, so you don't cut the newspaper.

You need

A square of paper (about 15 cm on each side), crayons, scissors, a pencil with an eraser on top, and a push pin, used by a grown-up.

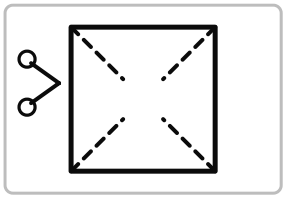
Decorate first!

Before you cut, color the square on both sides. Try stripes, dots or a kolam pattern. Each of the four blades can be different.

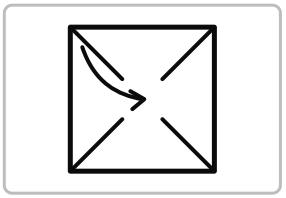
How does it spin?

Wind pushes on the curved blades and makes them turn. Big wind turbines work the same way, and they make electricity from the wind!

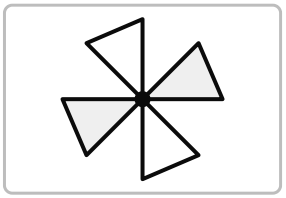
Four easy steps



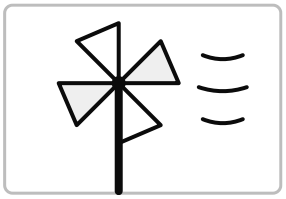
1. Cut
Cut along the four dashed lines. Stop before the middle!



2. Bend
Bend each corner with a dot into the center. Don't press it flat.



3. Pin
A grown-up pushes a pin through the dots and the middle, into a pencil's eraser.



4. Blow!
Blow on it, or hold it up in the breeze. Whee!

Pinwheel experiment

A gentle blow
Fast, slow or not at all?

A big, strong blow
Fast, slow or not at all?

In front of a fan
Fast, slow or not at all?

Did you know?

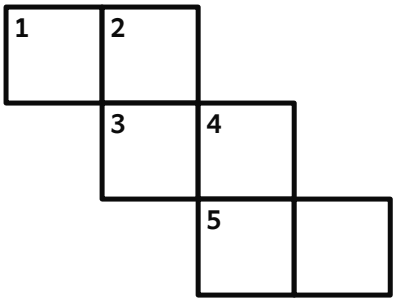
Keralam has wind turbines too, at **Ramakkalmedu** in Idukki, high in the hills where it is very windy.

Try it

Where is the windiest place near your home? Test your pinwheel there!

Puzzle Party

Number crossword



Across

1. 10 + 5 3. 12 + 12 5. 50 + 30

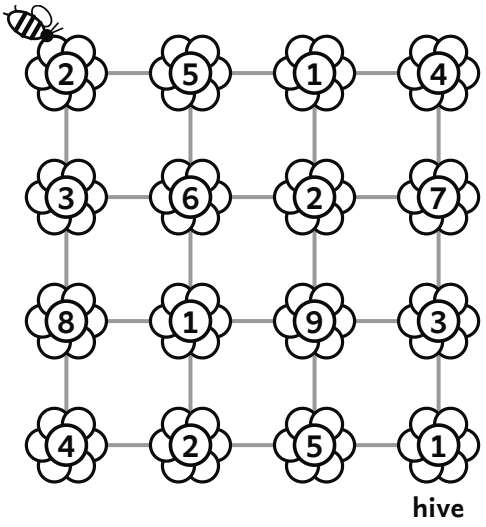
Down

2. 50 + 2 4. 40 + 8

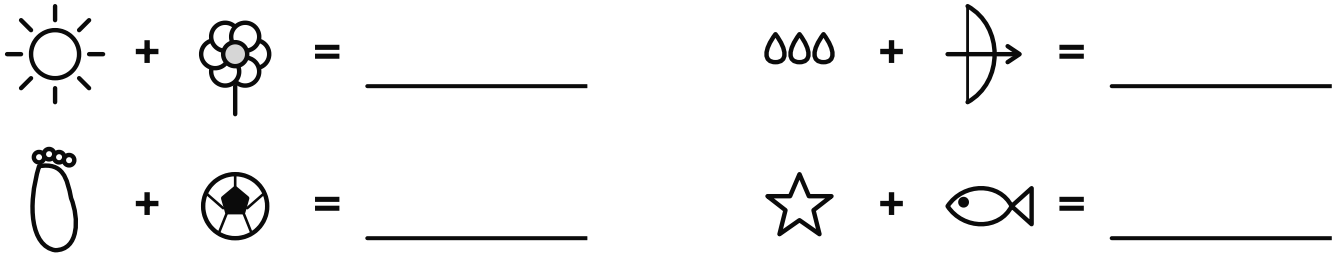
Write one digit in each box.

Help the bee home

The bee starts at the top-left flower and flies to the hive. It can only move **right** → or **down** ↓. Add up all the flowers it visits, including the first and last. Find the path that adds up to exactly **20**!



Picture words Put the two pictures together to make one new word.



Word builder

How many words can you make using the letters in this word? Use each letter only as many times as it appears.

S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E

_____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____

Score

3-letter words: 1 point
4-letter words: 2 points
5 or more: 3 points!

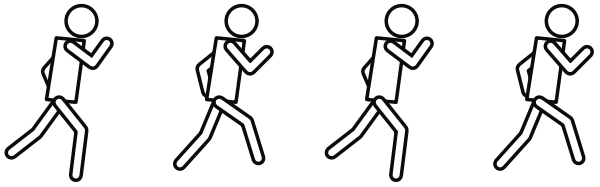
My score: _____

Answers are on page 28.

Brain games for super thinkers

Take your time. If you get stuck, try a different puzzle and come back!

Who won the race?

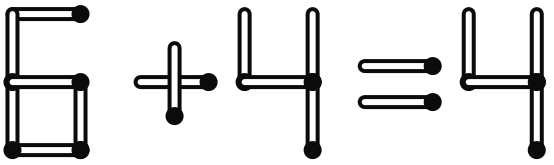


Clue 1: Dev came last.
Clue 2: Ben did not come first.
Clue 3: Cia finished before Anu.
Clue 4: Anu crossed the line just after Ben.

1st _____ 2nd _____
3rd _____ 4th _____

Matchstick challenge

This sum is wrong! Move just **one** matchstick to make it right. (Try it with real sticks or toothpicks.)



Hint: change one of the numbers.

Riddles

1. I have a calm eye, but I am a wild, windy storm. What am I?

2. I have six dots but I am not a dice. You read me with your fingers. What am I?

3. I ride up on a rocket, then help your phone find its way. What am I?

4. The more of me you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?

Paper tower challenge

Use just **10 sheets** of old paper and some tape. How tall a tower can you build? Can it hold a small toy on top? Try rolling, folding and making triangles.

> **Did you know?**
> Triangles are very strong shapes. That is why you see them in bridges, towers and roofs.

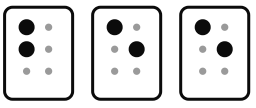
Number detective

I am a number between 10 and 20. I am an even number. If you add my two digits, you get 7. Who am I? _____

I am a number less than 30. Count in 5s and you will say me. My digits add up to 7. Who am I? _____

Braille bonus

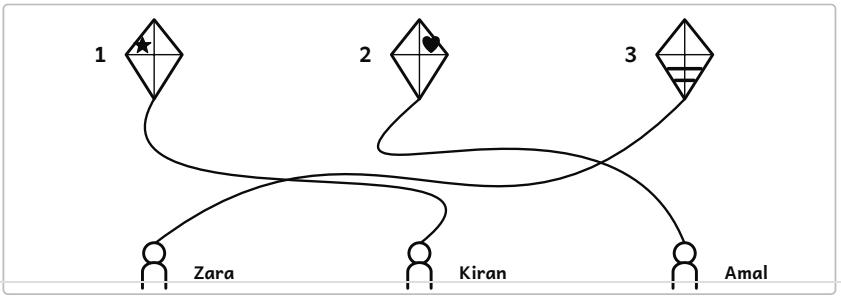
Use the braille alphabet on page 4. What does this say?



___ ___ ___

Tangled kites

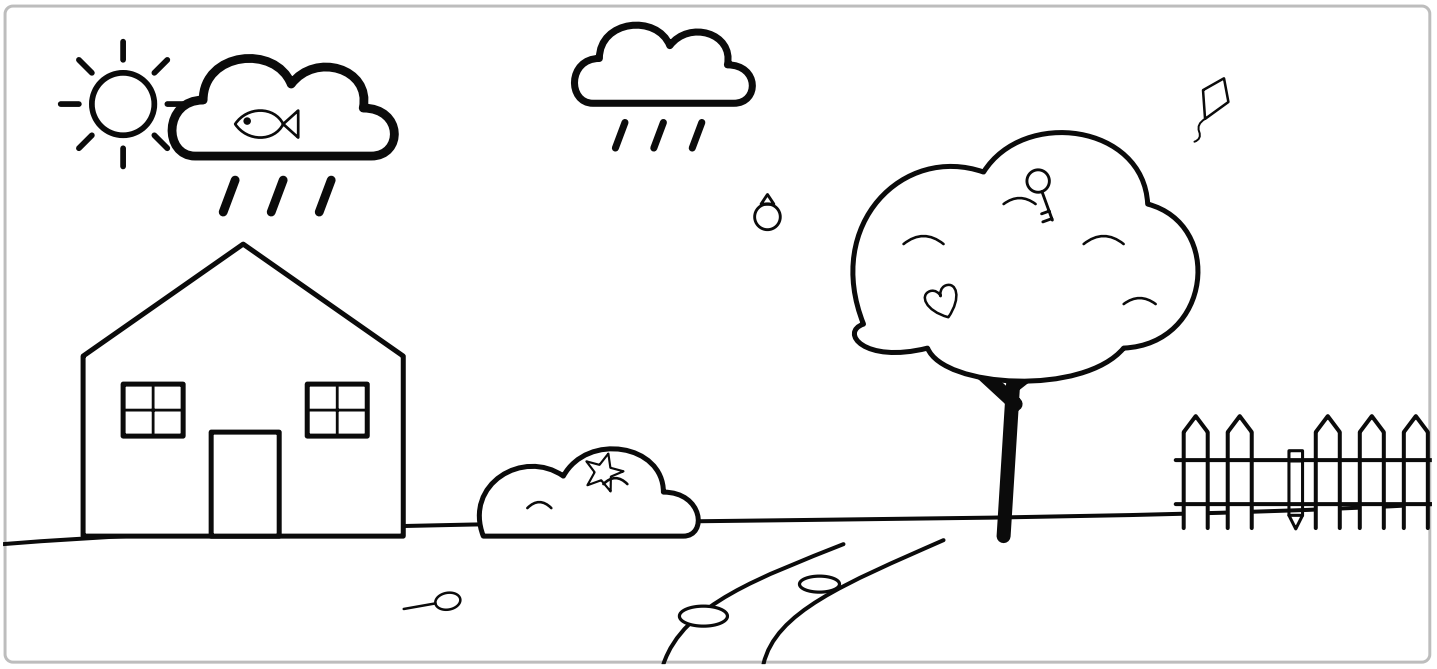
Follow each string with your finger. Whose kite is whose?



Look carefully!

Hidden pictures

Eight things are hiding in this garden. Can you find them all? Tick each one when you find it.

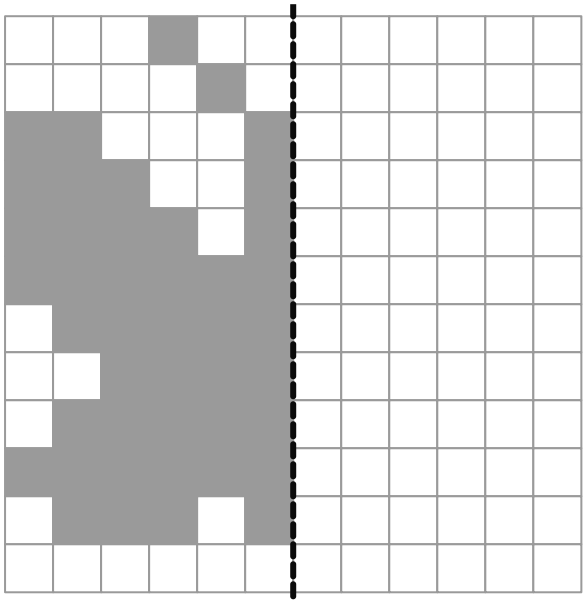




key fish pencil star heart spoon ring kite

Finish the butterfly

A butterfly is the same on both sides. Color squares on the right so it matches the left, like a mirror.



Mirror letters

Some capital letters look exactly the same in a mirror, if you fold them down the middle. Circle them!

A	B	C	D	H	K	M
O	P	R	T	U	W	X

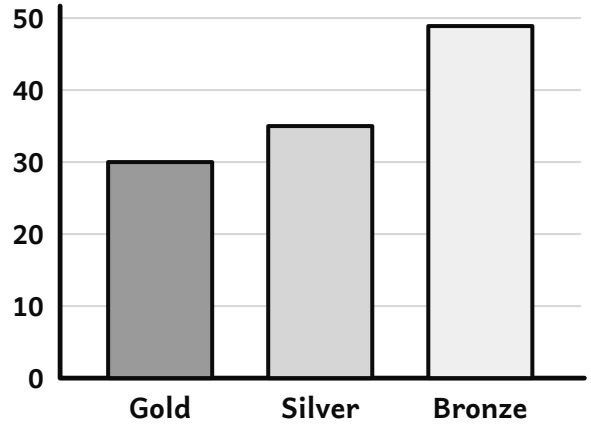
Try it: stand a small mirror on the middle line of a letter. Does the letter look whole?

> **Did you know?**
>
> When both halves of something match, it has **symmetry**. Look for it in leaves, faces and flowers!

Number fun

Read the medal chart

India's medals at the Asian Para Games, by Friday.



1. Which color did India win the most of?

_____

2. How many more silver medals than gold?

_____

3. How many gold and silver medals altogether? _____

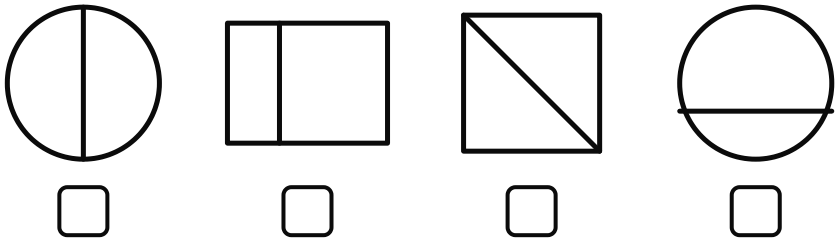
4. Bronze has about how many more than silver? Tick one: 5 14 40

Fraction fun: halves and quarters

A **half** (½) is one of **2 equal** parts. A **quarter** (¼) is one of **4 equal** parts. The parts must be the same size!

Equal halves?

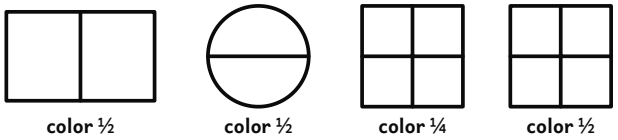
Tick ✓ the shapes cut into 2 **equal** halves. Cross × the others.



☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Color the part

Color the part shown under each shape.



color ½ color ½ color ¼ color ½

Share fairly

Ammu and Kabir share 8 laddoos equally. Draw a line from each laddoo to a child.



Ammu Kabir

Half of 8 is _____

Half of... half of 4 = ___ half of 10 = ___ half of 6 = ___ a quarter of 8 = ___

Word fun

ABC order

Write these words from this week's paper in alphabetical order.

typhoon **braille** **medal**

satellite **honey** **Keralam**

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

Perfect pairs

Finish each one.

1. Bird is to nest as bee is to _____

2. Fish is to swim as bird is to _____

3. Hot is to cold as up is to _____

4. Foot is to shoe as hand is to _____

Hidden animals

An animal is hiding in each sentence, across two words. Find it and underline it!
Example: "Is the cub at home?" hides **bat**.

1. Please stop igloo building.

2. The horse ate a big oat cake.

3. The doctor at the clinic was kind.

4. Sit on the bench, Ena.

Clap the beats

Say each word slowly and clap for every beat (syllable).

bee	claps: _____
medal	claps: _____
typhoon	claps: _____
satellite	claps: _____
Keralam	claps: _____
pollination	claps: _____

Opposites

Write the opposite of each word.

hot _____ **fast** _____ **wet** _____

up _____ **happy** _____ **full** _____

Answers to all the puzzles are on page 28.

How well did you read this week?

Every answer is somewhere in this paper. Try it on your own first, then hunt for the page!

1. Where were the Asian Para Games held?

(a) India (b) Japan (c) China

2. Why do some blind runners run with a guide?

(a) to stay in their lane (b) to carry water (c) to be pulled faster

3. What is braille?

(a) a sport (b) a way to read with fingers (c) a star

4. What was Champi?

(a) a typhoon (b) a satellite (c) a bee

5. What color would the new white dwarf star look?

(a) red (b) green (c) purple

6. How old is Keralam turning on 1 November?

(a) 50 (b) 70 (c) 100

7. What is NVS-03?

(a) a cricket bat (b) a navigation satellite (c) a boat

8. Who usually won when insects met on flowers?

(a) honeybees (b) bumblebees (c) hoverflies

True or false?

1. Sheetal Devi shoots arrows using her feet. **True / False**
2. India won the last T20 against West Indies. **True / False**
3. Greece's new social media rule starts in January. **True / False**
4. Too much sugar can hurt your teeth. **True / False**
5. In the story, Birbal really counted every crow. **True / False**

Think harder

1. Why do you think every runner in the T11 class covers their eyes?

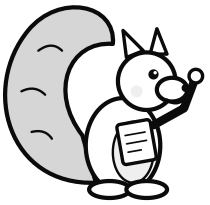
2. Should there be a "no social media" rule for children? Why or why not?

Build your vocabulary

class	a group of similar athletes	p.3
typhoon	a giant spinning storm	p.5
astronomer	a scientist of space	p.8
energy	the power your body uses	p.11
braille	reading with your fingers	p.4
frustrated	stuck and cross	p.7
satellite	a machine that circles Earth	p.10
pollen	yellow dust in flowers	p.14

Bye for now!

Nibbles says: "See you next Saturday, with more news, stories and puzzles!"



What happened next?

Last week: the India–West Indies cricket decider. **What happened?** Rain! Nobody won, so the series ended 2–2 (page 13).

Last week: Gaganyaan was getting ready. **What happened?** A safety test at VSSC worked (page 12).

Last week: the monsoon reached Keralam. **What happened?** More heavy rain is on the way (page 12).

Find out next week: Did the NVS-03 satellite go up on 30 October? How did India's hockey team do?

Your drawing could be in the paper!

Draw anything you liked this week. Ask a grown-up to send a photo of it to the editor. From next week, we will print some of your drawings!

Junior Reporter

How will your family celebrate Kerala Piravi? Write or draw your news. It could be in the next paper!

Answers (no peeking until you try!)

News quiz (p.27): 1b · 2a · 3b · 4a · 5b · 6b · 7b · 8a · **True or false:** 1 T · 2 F (rain, no result) · 3 T · 4 T · 5 F · **Braille (p.4):** GOLD, TEAM · **Treasure (p.10):** 4 squares across, 3 down · **Keralam quiz (p.12):** elephant, great hornbill, coconut palm, kanikonna · **Overs (p.13):** 54 balls · **Story order (p.20):** 3, 1, 4, 2
Puzzles · p.22: crossword 15, 24, 80 / 52, 48 · bee path 2→3→6→1→2→5→1 · sunflower, rainbow, football, starfish · SATELLITE words e.g. sat, tea, tell, tile, seat, steel, settle
p.23: race Cia, Ben, Anu, Dev · matchsticks 0 + 4 = 4 (move the middle stick of the 6 to its top right) · riddles: typhoon, braille cell, satellite, footsteps · 16 and 25 · BEE · kites: Zara 3, Kiran 1, Amal 2
p.24: Hidden pictures: key and heart in the tree, fish in the big cloud, pencil in the fence, star in the bush, spoon on the grass, ring in the sky, kite above the fence
Mirror letters: A, H, M, O, T, U, W, X · **p.25: Medal chart:** bronze · 5 · 65 · 14 · **Equal halves:** ✓ circle, × rectangle, ✓ square, × last circle · **Laddoos:** 4 each · **Half of:** 2, 5, 3 · a quarter of 8 = 2
p.26: ABC order: braille, honey, Keralam, medal, satellite, typhoon · **Pairs:** hive, fly, down, glove
Hidden animals: stoP IGloo = pig · biG OAT = goat · doctoR AT = rat · benCH ENa = hen · **Claps:** bee 1, medal 2, typhoon 2, satellite 3, Keralam 3, pollination 4 · **Opposites:** cold, slow, dry, down, sad, empty

Parent tips

Reading together

Edition 3 explains news from about 17–24 October 2026 for ages 5–8. Most of it is written for children to read; the small "For grown-ups" notes add facts for you. Try two or three pages a day, and use the "Nibbles asks" questions to start a chat.

How to print

Easiest: print all 28 pages on A4 in black and white, one side, with scale set to "Fit to page". Staple along the left edge.

Booklet: choose Print › "Booklet", double-sided. You get an A5 booklet from 7 A4 sheets.

Reach the editor

Send your child's drawing, news for "Junior Reporter", ideas or feedback to:

desai.bhavna@gmail.com

A photo of the page is perfect!