News Nibbles

Big news in little bites

Edition 4
Thiruvananthapuram
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Ages 5 to 8 · Free



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Happy 70th birthday, Keralam!

Tomorrow is Kerala Piravi, and our state turns 70. A big Festival of Kerala begins in our city. Plus: how Keralam has grown, on page 3.

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Stories, art and puzzles

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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.

Happy 70th birthday, Keralam!

Tomorrow, **Sunday 1 November**, is **Kerala Piravi**, our state's birthday. Keralam turns 70, and a big festival begins right here in Thiruvananthapuram!



Dancers, tall brass lamps and happy crowds for Keralam's birthday. An AI illustration.

On **1 November 1956**, Keralam became one state. Tomorrow, it will be **70 years old**! People all over the state will celebrate. In our city, there will be a big party called the **Festival of Kerala**.

Where and when?

The festival opens tomorrow at **4 o'clock** in the afternoon, at **Nishagandhi**, the big open-air stage at **Kanakakkunnu**. Our Chief Minister, **V. D. Satheesan**, will open it.

What will we see?

The festival will show off Keralam's music, dance, art and sport. It will also show how our schools and hospitals have grown.

How to say it

In Malayalam, you can say **"Keralappiravi aashamsakal!"** It means "Happy Kerala Piravi!"

There is more good news for our city: our school children are the state's sports champions!

Our city's sports champions See page 12.

How has Keralam grown? See page 3.

Lamps for good luck

At many big events in Keralam, people light a tall brass lamp called a **nilavilakku** to begin. Can you spot two in the picture?

Make a birthday card

Fold a paper in half. On the front, draw something you love about Keralam: a boat, an elephant, the sea or a coconut tree. Inside, write **"Happy 70th birthday, Keralam!"**

Did you know?

Nishagandhi is named after a flower that opens only at night. Its English name is "queen of the night".

Big word

festival

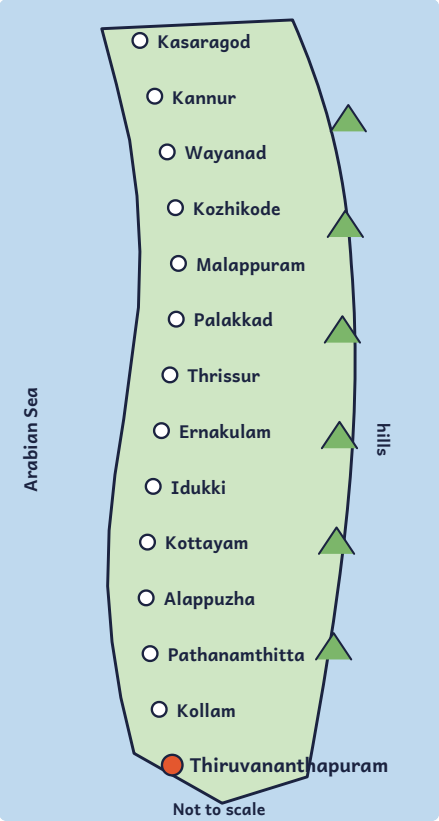
A special time when people celebrate together.

Nibbles asks

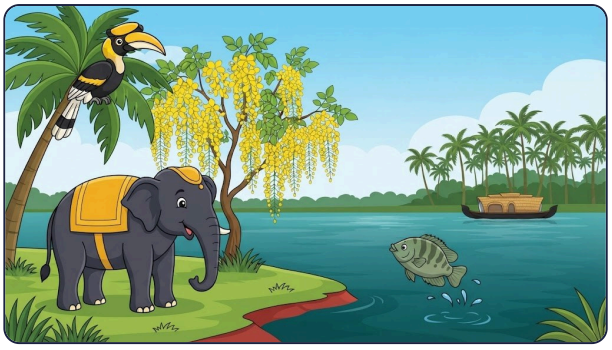
How is your family celebrating Kerala Piravi?

How has Keralam grown?

Seventy years ago, Keralam was made by joining three areas: **Travancore**, **Kochi** and **Malabar**. Look how much it has changed!



Keralam's 14 districts, from north to south.



In 1956, Keralam had **5 districts**. A **district** is a part of a state, with its own main town. Today there are **14**! We live in the one at the very bottom, **Thiruvananthapuram**.

A state of readers

In **1991**, Keralam became the first state in India to be called **fully literate**. That means almost everyone could read and write!

Rivers and rain

Keralam has **44 rivers**! Most of them flow west, from the hills down to the Arabian Sea.

Our language

In **2013**, **Malayalam** was named a **classical language** of India. That means it is very old, with lots of old writing.

Keralam's state symbols

Can you find them all in the picture above?

State animal	State bird	State tree	State flower	State fish
elephant	**great hornbill**	**coconut palm**	**kanikonna**	**karimeen**

Map fun

Circle the district where you live. Which district is at the very top of the map?

Malayalam word hunt

Ask a grown-up what these Malayalam words mean:

1. veedu **2.** poocha **3.** mazha **4.** kadal

Answers are on page 28.

Big word

district

A part of a state, with its own main town.

Nibbles asks

What do you love most about Keralam?

What time is it around the world?

Tomorrow, people in America will set their clocks back by one hour. Why do clocks change, and why is the time different in other countries?



Four clocks, all at the same moment. A drawing.

Earth is always spinning. When our side faces the Sun, it is day. When it turns away, it is night. So when it is morning in India, it can be night in America!

That is why countries use different times, called **time zones**. All of India uses one time. Senegal and Britain are **5 and a half hours** behind us.

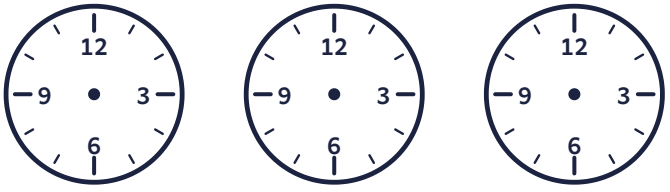
Clocks go back!

In some countries, people move their clocks forward in spring and back in autumn. This gives them more daylight in summer evenings. Britain moved its clocks back last Sunday. America does it tomorrow, **Sunday 1 November**: at 2 o'clock at night, the clocks go back to 1 o'clock. Everyone gets an extra hour of sleep!

India does not change its clocks at all.

Draw the hands

The short hand shows the hour. The long hand shows the minutes.



7 o'clock | half past 3 | 12 o'clock

Time math

The Youth Olympics start in Dakar today (page 13). If an event starts at **2 o'clock** in Dakar, what time is that here? Add 5 and a half hours: _____

Did you know?

A day on Earth is 24 hours. That is how long Earth takes to spin around once.

Big word

time zone

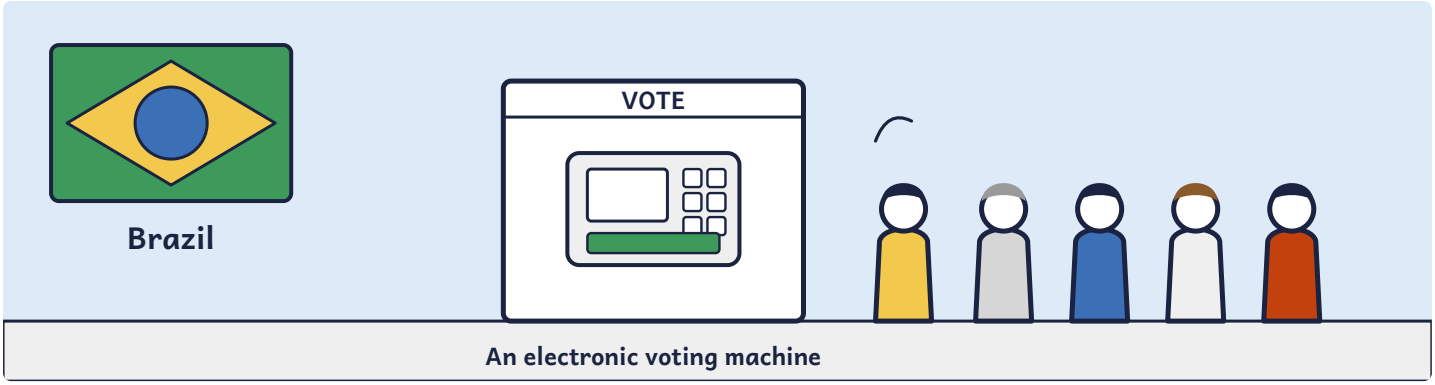
A part of the world where everyone uses the same clock time.

Nibbles asks

Who do you know who lives in another country? What time is it there right now?

Brazil chooses its president

Last Sunday, people in **Brazil** voted for the leader of their country. The winner was **Lula da Silva**.



An electronic voting machine

Waiting to vote in Brazil. People there vote on a machine with buttons. A drawing.

Brazil is the biggest country in **South America**. Most of the giant **Amazon rainforest** is there. People in Brazil speak **Portuguese**, and they love football!

Every four years, people in Brazil choose a **president**, the leader of the country. On **Sunday 25 October**, they voted.

Who won?

Lula da Silva got just over **51 out of every 100** votes. **Flávio Bolsonaro** got about 48. So Lula won! He will be president for the fourth time. Two days later, he turned 81.

Flávio Bolsonaro said he does not agree with the result. When a vote is very close, people sometimes disagree. Countries have rules for checking the count.

Voting with buttons

In Brazil, people vote on **electronic voting machines**. They press a number on the machine and then a green button. India uses voting machines too!

Voting is a must

In Brazil, most grown-ups between 18 and 70 **must** vote. Young people aged 16 and 17 can choose to vote if they want to.

World in brief

The **Youth Olympic Games** start today in **Dakar, Senegal**. It is the first Olympic event ever in Africa (page 13).

Last week's super typhoon **Champi** got weaker as it moved north (page 10).

Today is **Halloween**! Happy trick-or-treating, if you are celebrating.

Did you know?

Brazil is so big that it touches 10 other countries. Only China and Russia touch more!

Nibbles asks

If you were the leader of your school for a day, what is the first thing you would change?

Why do grown-ups vote?

This week, millions of people in Brazil voted. But what is voting, and why does it matter?

Imagine your class has to choose a game for playtime. Some want cricket, some want hide-and-seek. How do you decide? You could let everyone put up their hand. The game with the most hands wins. That is a **vote**!

Countries are much bigger than a class. So people vote for leaders who make decisions for them, like where to build schools, roads and hospitals.

Fair and secret

Each grown-up gets **one vote**. Nobody can see who you vote for. That way, nobody can be forced to choose someone, and everyone's vote counts the same.

Voting in India

India has more voters than any other country in the world! You must be **18** to vote. After voting, people get a mark of ink on a finger, so nobody can vote twice.

This year, people in Keralam voted for a new government. **V. D. Satheesan** became our Chief Minister.

Have a family vote!

What should your family eat for dinner on Sunday? Write three choices. Everyone gets one vote. Color one box for each vote.

Choice 1 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Choice 2 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Choice 3 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Is it fair?

1. What if only tall people could vote?
2. What if someone voted 10 times?
3. What if the person who loses gets cross? What should they do?

Nibbles asks

Should children be allowed to vote? At what age? Why?

For grown-ups: This page explains voting in general and does not take sides in any election. A family vote is a good way to practice listening, taking turns and accepting a result you did not choose.

Feeling disappointed? That's okay

Feeling **disappointed** means feeling sad because something did not happen the way you hoped.



When do we feel it?

When we lose a game. When it rains on the day of a trip. When a friend can't come over to play. Everyone feels disappointed sometimes, even grown-ups and champions!

Even sports stars

This week, Kerala Blasters' fans hoped for a win at home. The game ended **0–0**. Lots of fans felt disappointed! And Manisha (page 13) was losing 0–6. She felt it too. But she kept going.

It doesn't last

Big feelings are like waves. They come, and then they go. Talking about it helps the wave pass faster.

When you feel disappointed

1
Notice it
Your face feels hot, or you want to cry. That is okay.

2
Breathe
Take three slow breaths, in through your nose.

3
Say it
"I feel disappointed because I wanted to win."

4
Be kind
Say "good game" and think: what can I try next time?

Draw it

Draw a time you felt disappointed. Then draw what made you feel better.

Did you know?

Losing a game helps your brain learn. Next time, you will know a little more!

Nibbles asks

What is something kind you could say to a friend who just lost a game?

For grown-ups: Resist the urge to fix disappointment straight away. Naming the feeling ("You really wanted that") helps children feel understood. Letting them lose fairly at board games at home is good practice.

Goodbye, Swift! A space telescope retires

For almost 22 years, a space telescope called **Swift** watched for giant explosions in space. Now its work is done.



Swift turns to look at a bright flash, far away in space. An AI illustration.

Swift was sent into space by **NASA**, America's space agency, on **20 November 2004**. It went round and round Earth, looking far out into space.

Hunting for flashes

Swift looked for **gamma-ray bursts**. These are the biggest explosions in the universe! They can happen when a giant star collapses, or when two dead stars crash together. A burst can be over in a few seconds. So Swift had to be very quick. It could turn and look at a new flash in about a minute!

What did it find?

Swift spotted more than **2,000** of these bursts. It also watched stars explode, and saw black holes pull stars apart.

Why is it stopping?

Swift has slowly sunk lower and lower. Up there, there is still a tiny bit of air. The air slows Swift down, and it can't keep still to look. Its last look was on **20 October**. Soon it will fall and burn up, high in the sky (page 16).

Why "Swift"?

A swift is a bird that flies fast and turns quickly. The telescope was named after it, because it could turn so fast!

Light from long ago

Some bursts Swift saw were so far away that their light took billions of years to reach us. That light set off before Earth was even made!

Did you know?

Telescopes in space can see more clearly than telescopes on the ground, because Earth's air doesn't get in the way.

Big word

telescope

A tool that helps us see things that are very far away.

Nibbles asks

If you had a space telescope, what would you look at first?

Three people who made news

A president chosen *again*, *a* rocket scientist, *and a* young swimmer who is off to the Youth Olympics.



A vote goes into the box.

Lula da Silva

President of Brazil

Lula grew up very poor in Brazil. As a boy, he sold things on the street and polished shoes to help his family. Later, he worked in a factory.

He has been Brazil's president before, three times. Last Sunday, people chose him again (page 5). He turned 81 this week!



Up goes the GSLV-F18 rocket!

V. Narayanan

Head of ISRO, India's space agency

Mr Narayanan grew up in a village in Tamil Nadu. He became an expert in rocket engines. On Thursday night, his team sent up the **NVS-03** satellite (page 10). After the launch, he said NavIC was working properly again. Well done, team!



Swimming for India in Dakar.

Dhinidhi Desinghu

Swimmer, from Bengaluru

Dhinidhi was only **14** when she swam at the Paris Olympics in 2024. She was the youngest person in India's whole team! Now she is going to the **Youth Olympic Games** in Dakar, Senegal, which start today. Go, Dhinidhi!

Big word

president

The leader of some countries, chosen by the people.

Did you know?

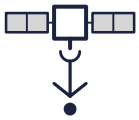
The Youth Olympics are for athletes aged 17 and under. About **2,700** young athletes are there!

Nibbles asks

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

What happened next?

News doesn't stop when the paper is printed! Here is what happened to some stories from last week.



India's new satellite

Last week: we said India planned to send up **NVS-03** on 30 October.

What happened? It worked! The **GSLV-F18** rocket blasted off from **Sriharikota** on Thursday night. Now India's map in the sky, **NavIC**, has **four** working satellites again. NVS-03 also carries a very exact clock, called an **atomic clock**, made in India.



114

The Asian Para Games

Last week: India had won 114 medals, with one day left.

What happened? The Games ended with India on **114 medals**: 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze. That made India **fourth** out of all the countries! China came first and Japan came second.



Super typhoon Champi

Last week: the giant storm was moving towards China and Japan.

What happened? Champi got weaker as it moved north. It brought heavy rain to islands in Japan. In Taiwan, more than 5,000 people had moved to safe places, and helpers fixed the power lines.



Hockey in Punjab

Last week: we said India's men would start the Asian Champions Trophy on 27 October.

What happened? What a start! India beat Bangladesh **13–0**, then beat China **5–2**. The final is on **5 November** (page 13).



0 – 0

The Blasters at home

Last week: Kerala Blasters were about to play their first home game in Kochi.

What happened? Thousands of fans came, in the rain. The game ended **0–0** against Mumbai City. Nobody scored!

Find out next week

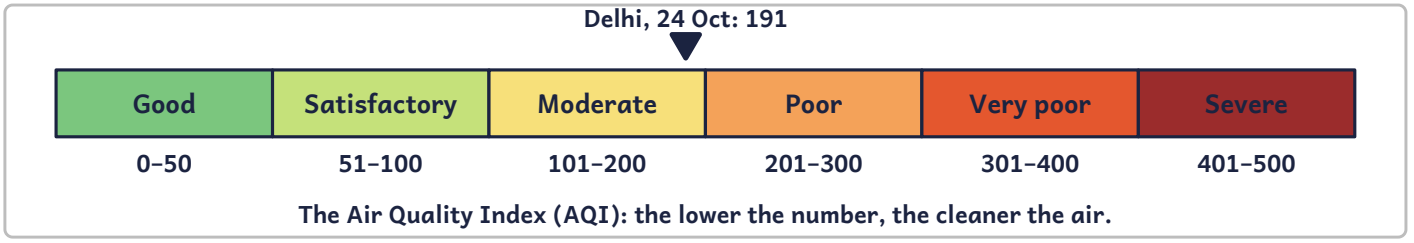
Will India win the hockey trophy? How will India's young athletes do in Dakar? Will Swift fall from the sky yet?

Nibbles asks

Which story do you want to know more about? What do you think will happen next?

Why do our lungs need clean air?

At this time of year, the air in **Delhi** and many other cities in north India often gets smoky. Why, and what can we do?



The Air Quality Index scale. Delhi's reading on 24 October is marked.



Every time you breathe in, air goes into your **lungs**. Your lungs take out **oxygen**, which your body needs to live and grow. Children breathe more than **20,000 times** every day!

What makes air dirty?

Smoke and dust from cars, trucks, factories, building work and burning rubbish all get into the air. Tiny bits, called **pollution**, can float in the air for days.

Why now?

In winter, cool air near the ground stays still, like a lid. So smoke can't float away. Fireworks at festivals add more smoke too.

In the news

On **24 October**, Delhi's air was "moderate", with an AQI of **191**. That was better than the three days before, when it was "poor".

Four ways to help

1

Check the air

Many phones and TV news show the AQI. Ask a grown-up to check.

2

Play smart

On a "poor" day, play inside instead of running outside.

3

Don't burn

Burning leaves or plastic makes smoke. Put them in the right bin.

4

Walk or cycle

Fewer cars and bikes on the road means less smoke.

Balloon breathing

Put your hands on your tummy. Breathe in slowly through your nose, and feel your tummy fill up like a balloon. Count to 4. Then breathe out slowly through your mouth. Do it 5 times. How do you feel?

Nibbles asks

Is there a lot of traffic or smoke near your home or school? What could make the air cleaner there?

For grown-ups: AQI bands shown are India's national (CPCB) scale. On days of "poor" or worse air, children are advised to cut down on long or hard outdoor play.

Our city wins the school sports meet!

Children from all 14 districts ran, jumped, swam and played at the **Kerala State School Sports Meet**. Thiruvananthapuram came top!



Racing for the finish line. An AI illustration.

The sports meet is like a mini Olympics for school children in Keralam. This is the **68th** one! It began on **25 October** in **Kozhikode**, and it ends today.

Champions!

Thiruvananthapuram won the most points of all the districts: more than **2,000**! Our district did best of all in the **games**. **St Joseph's School** in our city was the best school in games.

A new record

Sreehari Karickan studies at the **G. V. Raja Sports School** in our city. He ran **400 meters** in just **47.84 seconds**. That beat a record from 2017!

A torch and a trophy

Before the meet, a flaming torch was carried all the way from **Kasaragod**, at the top of Keralam. The trophy traveled from our city. They met on the beach in Kozhikode.

How fast is that?

A running track is **400 meters** around. Sreehari ran all the way around in less than 48 seconds! Ask a grown-up to time you while you count slowly to 48.

Still to find out

Malappuram and **Palakkad** are racing for the **athletics** trophy, for running, jumping and throwing. Who will win? Find out next week!

Big word

record

The best that anyone has done before.

Nibbles asks

Which sport would you like to try at a sports meet? Why?

Manisha is a world champion!

Manisha Bhanwala is the first Indian woman ever to win gold at the World Wrestling Championships.



A champion celebrates! An AI illustration, not a photo of Manisha.

On **Thursday 30 October**, Manisha wrestled in the final in **Astana**, a city in **Kazakhstan**. She faced **Abigail Nette** from America.

Down, but not out

Manisha was losing **0–6**! But she did not give up. She scored point after point. When the time was up, she had won **8–6**!

Only one Indian had won wrestling gold at the World Championships before: **Sushil Kumar**, in 2010. **Neelam** and **Kajal** from India won silver.

Please never try wrestling moves at home without a coach!

More sport this week

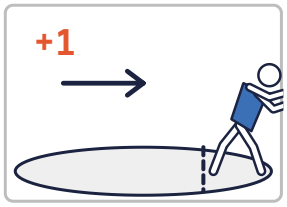
Hockey: India beat Bangladesh **13–0** and China **5–2** at the Asian Champions Trophy. **Youth Olympics:** they start today in **Dakar**, Senegal. India has sent **17** young athletes. **Football:** Kerala Blasters drew **0–0** with Mumbai City in Kochi.

How to score in wrestling



1. Take down: 2

Bring the other wrestler down to the mat from standing.



2. Step out: 1

Push the other wrestler out of the circle.



3. Turn: 2

Roll the other wrestler so their back faces the mat.



4. Pin: WIN!

Hold both their shoulders on the mat. That wins at once!

Did you know?

Wrestlers are put into groups by how heavy they are, so it is fair. Manisha won in the **59-kilogram** group.

Big word

champion

The winner, the very best in a contest.

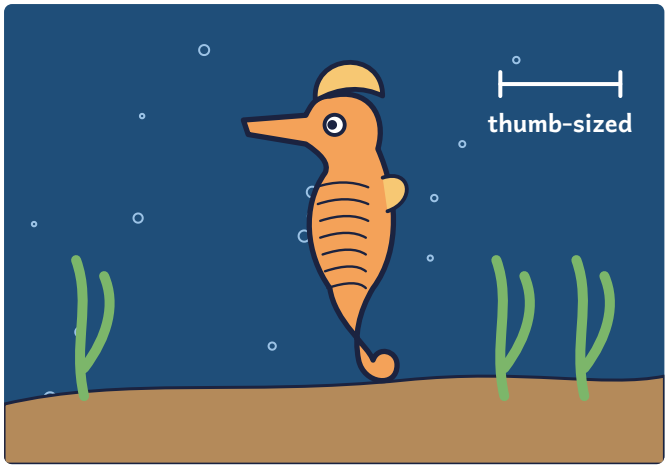
Nibbles asks

Manisha was losing, but she kept going. When did you keep trying and win in the end?

Animals of the week

Meet the sea muppets!

Scientists have named a tiny fish that looks like a seahorse wearing a helmet. Nobody has ever seen one alive!



A helmethead sea muppet on a deep reef. A drawing.

A funny name

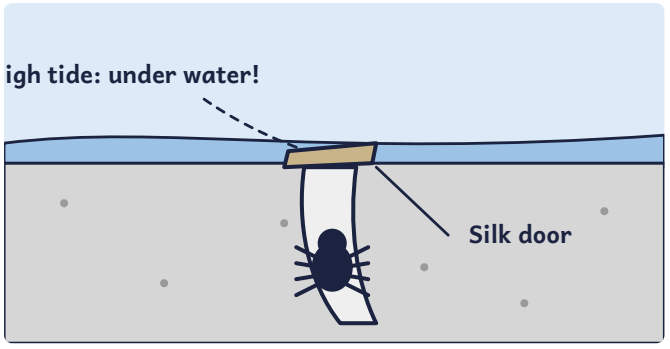
It is called the **helmethead sea muppet**, because of the round "helmet" on top of its head. It is only as long as your thumb.

A mystery fish

Sea muppets live on deep reefs off the south of **Australia**, deeper than divers usually swim. Only a few have ever been found, all caught by accident in fishing nets.

Not a seahorse!

Scientists looked inside its body with special X-ray scans. Its bones are different from a seahorse's. So it is a cousin, not a seahorse at all!



The spider's home in the rock by the sea. A drawing.

A spider that lives by the sea

On tiny islands near **Mauritius**, scientists found a new kind of **trapdoor spider**. It lives in little tubes in the rock at the edge of the sea. Twice a day, the tide comes in and covers its home with water!

It closes its front door with silk, sand and seaweed, so the door looks just like the rock.

Big word

species

One kind of animal or plant. A new species is a kind nobody has named before.

Did you know?

Scientists name thousands of new species every year. Many are tiny, like insects and spiders!

Nibbles asks

If you found a new animal, what would you name it?

Diwali, the festival of lights

Next Sunday, **8 November**, is **Diwali**. Homes all over India will glow with little lamps!



Lighting diyas around a rangoli on Diwali night. An AI illustration.

Diwali is one of India's biggest festivals. Its name comes from **deepavali**, which means "a row of lamps". People light small clay lamps called **diyas**, hang up paper lanterns, and make colorful patterns called **rangoli** at the door.

Many stories, one light

Different people celebrate for different reasons. Many Hindu families remember Lord Rama coming home, or Lord Krishna winning against a demon. Sikhs celebrate **Bandi Chhor Divas**. Jains remember Lord Mahavira. All these stories are about light winning over darkness.

How do people celebrate?

Families clean their homes, wear new clothes, share sweets with neighbors and friends, and give gifts. Many people burst fireworks.

A happy, safe Diwali

1. Only light fireworks with a grown-up, and keep a bucket of water nearby.
2. Loud bangs scare dogs, cats and birds. Try quieter lights and sparklers.
3. Use clay diyas again next year. That's reusing!

Make it bright

Make a paper lantern on page 21! Or draw your own rangoli pattern using circles, dots and petals.

Did you know?

A clay diya burns oil or ghee, with a little wick made of cotton.

Nibbles asks

What is your favorite festival? What do you love about it?

Where do old satellites go?

This week, India sent a new satellite up, and an old American telescope said goodbye. So what happens to things that stop working in space?



Working satellites and space junk going around Earth. Not to scale. A drawing.

The first satellite went into space in **1957**. Since then, people have sent up thousands more. Today, more than **10,000** working satellites go round Earth. They help with phones, maps, TV, weather and more.

What is space junk?

Space junk is anything up there that does not work any more. Scientists keep an eye on about **40,000** pieces as big as an orange or bigger. There are also more than a million smaller bits!

Why is it a problem?

Space junk zooms around Earth very, very fast: about **8 kilometers every second**. That is faster than a bullet! At that speed, even a tiny piece can damage a satellite or a spaceship.

What is up there?

Old rocket parts

Pieces of rockets are left behind in space after a launch.

Dead satellites

Satellites that stopped working, but still go round and round.

Tiny flecks

Even a fleck of paint once made a chip in a window of the space station!

Lost tools

Astronauts have even dropped a glove and a tool bag by mistake!

Cleaning up space

Just like on Earth, we need to tidy up in space. Here is how scientists are trying to do it.



Fall and burn

Low satellites, like Swift, slowly fall. They burn up in the air, like a shooting star.



Move away

High satellites use their last fuel to move to a faraway "graveyard" path.



Catch it

Scientists are testing nets, hooks and robot arms to grab old junk.



Use magnets

Some new satellites have a metal plate, so a cleaner can grab them with a magnet.

India's promise

ISRO, India's space agency, has promised that by **2030**, its space missions will not leave junk behind in space.

Recycling on the Moon!

This month, a team of students in America won a NASA contest. They found a way to turn old packets and wrappers into strong new material. One day, astronauts living on the Moon could use it to make things they need.



Did you know?

When a piece of space junk burns up, it can look like a shooting star. Most of it burns up long before it reaches the ground.

Your mission: design a space junk catcher!

Draw a machine that could catch space junk. What would it use: a net, a magnet, a giant vacuum cleaner, or something new? Give it a name!

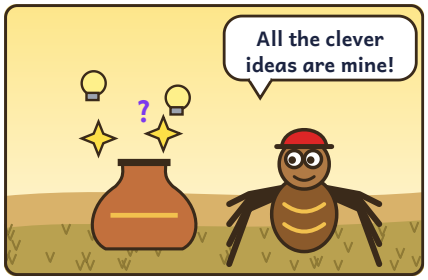
My junk catcher is called: _____

Think about it: Why is it better not to make junk in the first place, in space and at home?

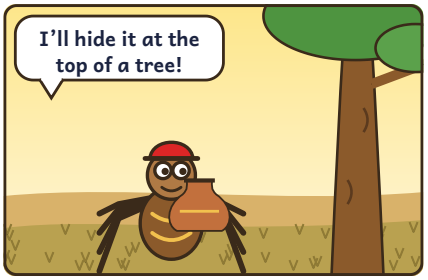
For grown-ups: Figures: about 40,000 tracked objects of 10 cm or more and over a million between 1 and 10 cm (European Space Agency estimates); low-orbit speeds near 7.8 km/s. ISRO's goal is called Debris Free Space Missions (DFSM) by 2030. The student prize was in NASA's LunaRecycle Challenge.

Anansi and the pot of wisdom

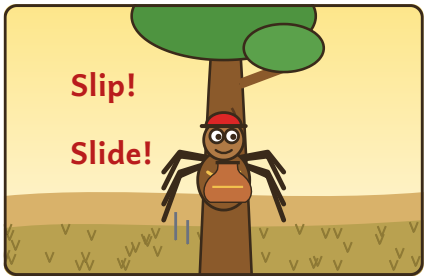
A folk tale from **Ghana**, in West Africa. **Anansi** the spider is a famous trickster in many African stories.



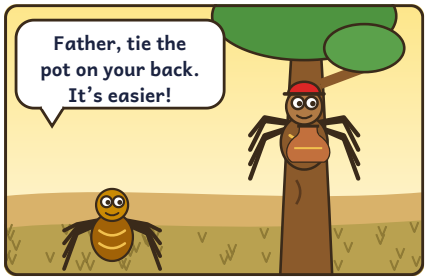
1. Long ago, Anansi the spider found a pot. It was full of all the clever ideas in the whole world!



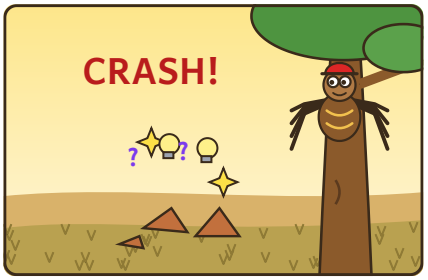
2. "I will keep them all for myself," said Anansi. "I'll hide the pot at the top of the tallest tree."



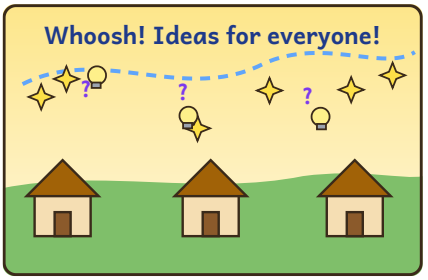
3. He tied the pot to his tummy and began to climb. But the pot got in the way. Slip! Slide! He kept falling down.



4. His little son Ntikuma was watching. "Father," he called, "tie the pot on your back. Then you can climb easily!"



5. Anansi was so cross that a little child had a better idea than him! He let go of the pot. CRASH! It broke.



6. The wind blew the clever ideas all over the world. Now everyone has a little bit, and we can all share!

The lesson: nobody knows everything. Even the smallest person can have a great idea!

Joke Corner

Cover the answer and make your family guess!

Why are spiders so good on computers?
They love the web!

What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?
A dino-snore!

Why did the cookie go to the doctor?
It felt crummy!

Why can't a bicycle stand up on its own?
It's two tired!

What has hands but can't clap?
A clock!

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A fsh!

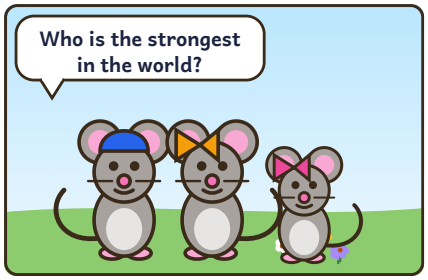
Think about it

1. Why did Anansi want to hide the pot?
2. Was it good that the pot broke? Why?
3. When did a younger child teach you something?



The mouse's wedding

A funny folk tale told in **Japan** and **Korea**. India's **Panchatantra** has a story like it too!



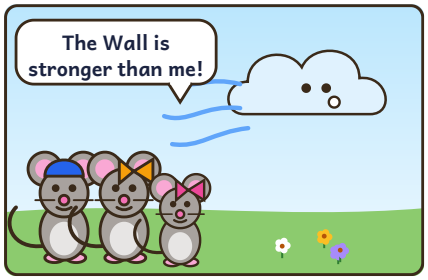
1. Mother and Father Mouse had a lovely daughter. "She must marry the strongest one in the whole world!" they said.



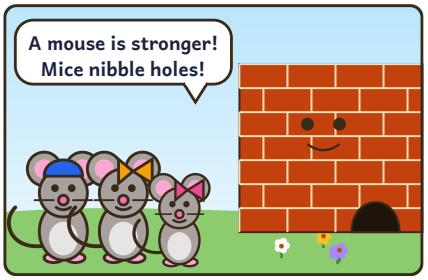
2. First they went to the Sun. "You are the strongest!" they said. "Oh no," said the Sun. "The Cloud is stronger. It can cover me up."



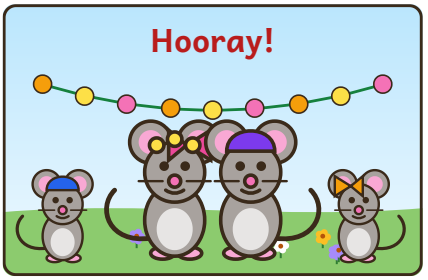
3. So they went to the Cloud. "Oh no," said the Cloud. "The Wind is stronger. It blows me all over the sky."



4. So they went to the Wind. "Oh no," whooshed the Wind. "The Wall is stronger. I blow and blow, but I can't move it."



5. So they went to the Wall. "Oh no," said the Wall. "A mouse is stronger! Mice can nibble holes right through me."



6. So the daughter married a kind young mouse who lived next door. Everyone had a big party. Hooray!

The lesson: everyone is strong in their own way. Sometimes the best thing is right next door!

Who is stronger?

Fill in the gaps. Each one is beaten by the next!

Sun → **Cloud** → _____ → _____ → **Mouse**

Think about it

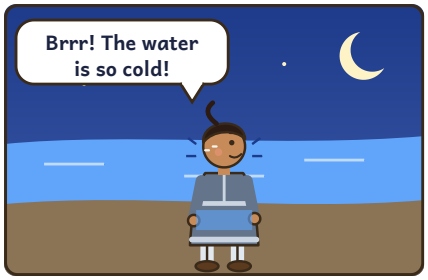
1. Why did the Sun say the Cloud was stronger?
2. What can a little mouse do that a big wall can't?
3. What are **you** strong at?

Nibbles asks

Manisha (page 13) is strong. What other kinds of strong are there? Kind-strong, brave-strong, thinking-strong?

Birbal's khichdi

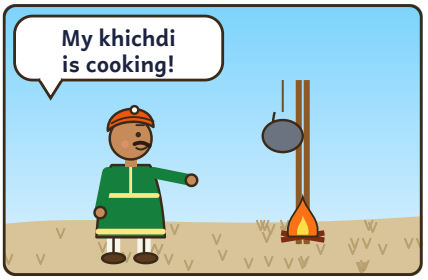
A funny folk tale about **Emperor Akbar** and his clever friend **Birbal**. *Khichdi* is a dish of rice and dal.



1. On a freezing winter night, a poor man stood in a cold lake all night long. Emperor Akbar had promised a prize to anyone who could do it.



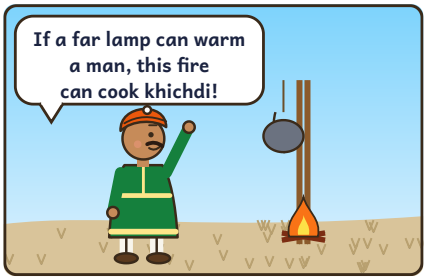
2. In the morning, the man said, "I looked at a lamp far away in the palace." "Then the lamp kept you warm," said Akbar. "No prize!"



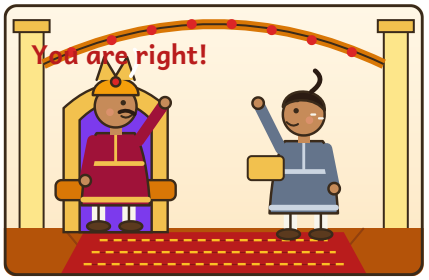
3. The next day, Birbal did not come to court. Akbar went to see him. Birbal had hung a pot very high up, over a tiny fire.



4. "Birbal, what are you doing?" asked Akbar. "I am cooking khichdi," said Birbal. "But the pot is so high up!" said Akbar.



5. Birbal smiled. "If a lamp far away can warm a man in the lake, then this fire can cook my khichdi!"



6. Akbar understood. He laughed and said, "You are right, Birbal!" He gave the poor man his prize after all.

The lesson: be fair. A good joke can help someone see they made a mistake!

Put it in order

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

- ☐ Birbal hung a pot high above a fire.
- ☐ A man stood in a cold lake all night.
- ☐ Akbar gave the man his prize.
- ☐ Akbar said the lamp had kept the man warm.

Nibbles asks

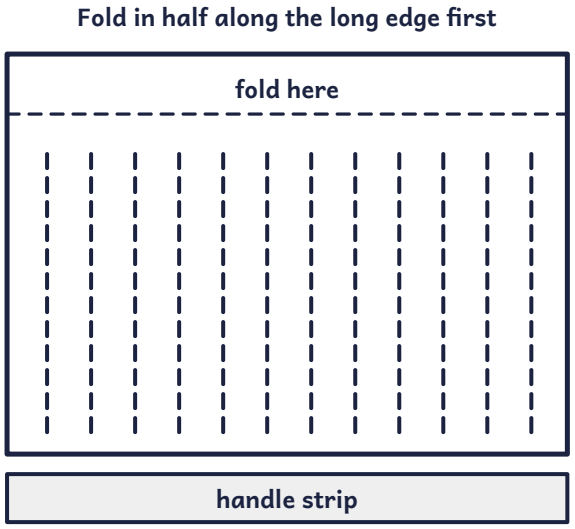
Was Akbar fair to the man at first? How do you think the man felt?

Did you know?

Can a pot really cook when it is far above a fire? No! Heat rises, but it spreads out and cools down. That is why Birbal's khichdi could never cook.

Make a paper lantern

Brighten up your home for Diwali, or any festival, with a simple paper lantern!



Copy this onto colored paper, so you don't cut the newspaper.

You need

A sheet of colored paper (A4 size is good), a strip of paper for the handle, scissors, glue or tape, and crayons or stickers.

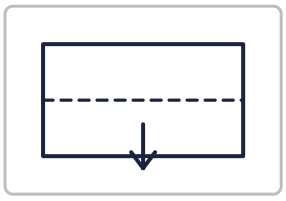
Decorate first!

Before you cut, draw patterns on the paper: dots, stars, diyas or a kolam. Use bright colors so it shines!

Make it glow

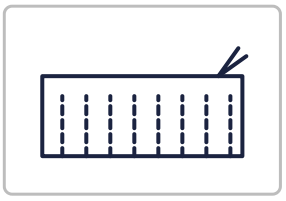
Put a small battery torch or a fairy light inside. **Never** put a real flame inside a paper lantern!

Four easy steps



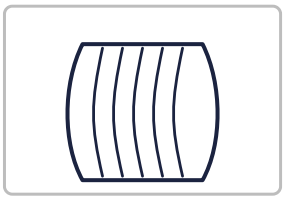
1. Fold

Fold the paper in half the long way.



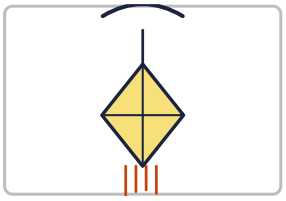
2. Cut

Cut slits from the fold. Stop before the edges!



3. Roll

Open it up. Roll it into a tube and tape the ends.



4. Hang

Tape on the handle strip. Hang it up!

Make a lantern string

Make three or four small lanterns from half sheets of paper. Hang them on a string across your window!

Lanterns around the world

In Maharashtra, star-shaped lanterns called **akash kandils** hang outside homes at Diwali. In China, red paper lanterns are hung for the New Year.

Did you know?

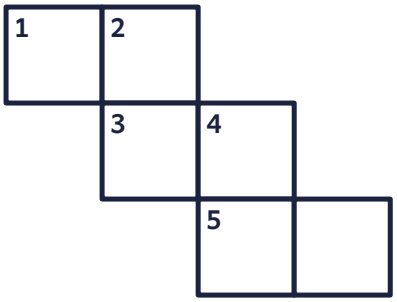
Paper lanterns have been made for more than 1,000 years!

Try it

What colors will you use for your lantern?

Puzzle Party

Number crossword



Across

1. 12 + 12 3. 50 + 6 5. 30 + 8

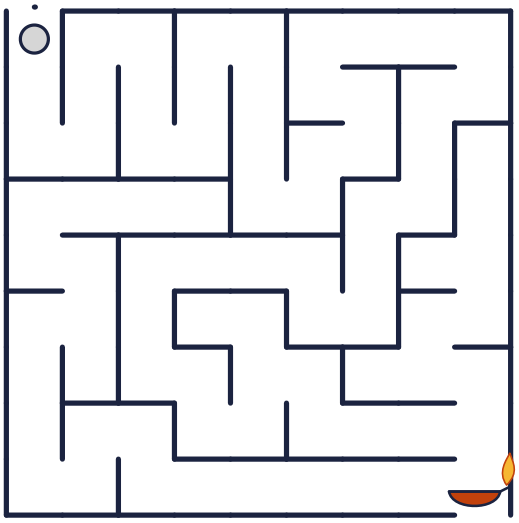
Down

2. 40 + 5 4. 60 + 3

Write one digit in each box.
Some boxes are shared!

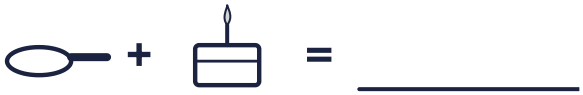
Light the diya!

Help the little spark find its way through the maze to the diya.

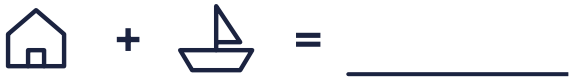


Picture words

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.

C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S

Score

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

My score: _____

Secret code

In this code, A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, and so on.
Crack the word!

4 9 23 1 12 9

The word is: _____

Answers are on page 28.

Write your own

Write your name in the code. Can a grown-up crack it?

Brain games for super thinkers

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

Whose lantern is whose?

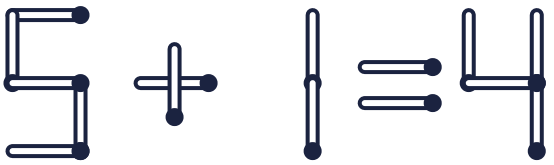
Asha, Ravi and Meera each made one lantern: a star, a round one and a square one. Use the clues. Put a ✓ or × in each box.

Clue 1: Ravi's lantern has no corners.
Clue 2: Meera did not make the star.

	Star	Round	Square
Asha			
Ravi			
Meera			

Matchstick challenge

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



Hint: look at the plus sign.

Riddles

1. I have two hands and a face, but no arms or legs. What am I?

2. I go round and round Earth. I help your phone find the way. What am I?

3. I am full of holes, but I can still hold a lion. What am I?

4. The more you take away from me, the bigger I get. What am I?

Sudoku 1 to 6

Write **1, 2, 3, 4, 5** or **6** in each empty box. Every **row**, every **column** and every **thick box** must have 1 to 6, with no repeats.

		2			3
1	3	6	2	5	
	1	3	4	2	6
6		4	3		5
2	4		6		1
3	6		5		2

Number detective

I am a number between 20 and 30. I am an odd number. My two digits add up to 7. Who am I? _____

India scored me against Bangladesh in hockey. I am more than 10 and less than 15. Who am I? _____

Odd one out

Circle the one that does not belong, and say why.

1. lion · mouse · crow · rose
2. diya · lantern · candle · spoon
3. hockey · cricket · wrestling · painting
4. Brazil · India · Senegal · Kochi

What comes next?

5, 10, 15, 20, _____

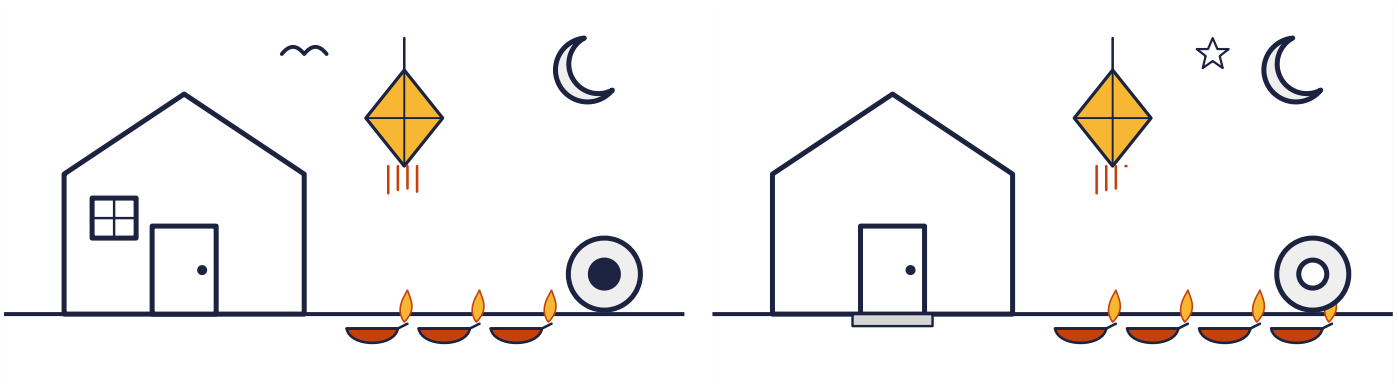
A, C, E, G, _____

1, 2, 4, 8, _____

Look carefully!

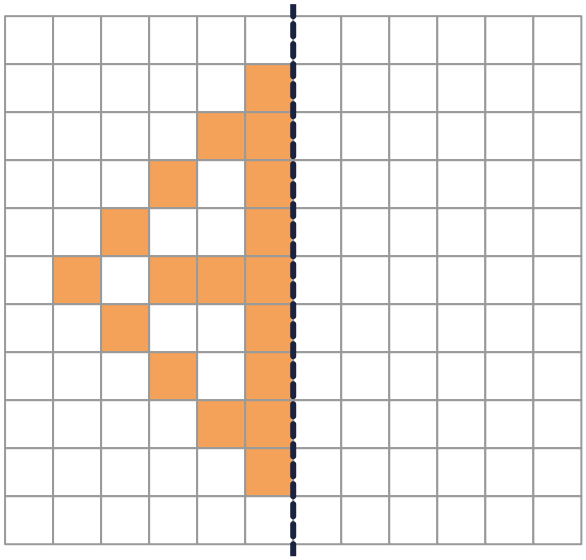
Spot the difference

These two Diwali pictures look the same, but **7 things** are different. Circle them in the second picture!



Finish the rangoli

A rangoli is often the same on both sides. Copy the left half onto the right half, like a mirror.



Count the lamps

Ammu put **3 rows** of diyas on her steps. Each row has **5 diyas**. How many diyas is that altogether?

5 + 5 + 5 = _____

2 diyas blew out in the wind. How many are still lit?

_____

Did you know?

Clay diyas are made from mud and baked hard. They can be used again and again!

W	I	N	D	X	M	A	P
Q	C	L	O	C	K	V	B
M	L	O	W	T	Z	O	E
O	O	L	A	M	P	T	S
U	U	K	N	E	D	E	K
S	D	H	B	O	K	E	Y
E	Z	G	R	A	I	N	J
T	D	I	Y	A	H	U	K

Word search

Find these 8 words from this week's paper. They go across → or down ↓.

- ☐ **wind**
- ☐ **lamp**
- ☐ **diya**
- ☐ **mouse**
- ☐ **clock**
- ☐ **vote**
- ☐ **cloud**
- ☐ **rain**

Number fun

What time is it?

Write the time under each clock. Remember: the short hand shows the hour!



A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____

An hour later

America's clocks go back one hour tomorrow. Practice moving time! What time is it **one hour later**?

4 o'clock → _____
8 o'clock → _____
12 o'clock → _____

And **one hour earlier**?
6 o'clock → _____

Medal math

India won **30 gold**, **35 silver** and **49 bronze** medals at the Asian Para Games.

1. Were there more silver or gold medals?
_____

2. How many more silver than gold? _____
3. Is 49 closer to 40 or to 50? _____

Up the tree

Anansi (page 18) climbed up **2 branches** at a time. Count in 2s and fill in the missing numbers:

2, 4, ___, 8, ___, 12, ___, ___

Bigger or smaller?

Write >, < or = in each box.

13 ☐ 5 51 ☐ 48
70 ☐ 70 2 ☐ 22

Diwali sweet shop

A laddoo costs **₹5**. A jalebi costs **₹3**.

1. How much for 2 laddoos? ₹ _____

2. How much for 1 laddoo and 1 jalebi? ₹_____

3. You have ₹10 and buy 3 jalebis. How much is left? ₹ _____

Word fun

ABC order

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

wrestle **lantern** **spider**

Brazil **diya** **Keralam**

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

Perfect pairs

Finish each one.

1. Lion is to roar as mouse is to _____

2. Day is to sun as night is to _____

3. Hockey is to stick as cricket is to _____

4. Hot is to summer as cold is to _____

Rhyme time

Circle the word that rhymes.

light rhymes with: kite / bat

pot rhymes with: dog / hot

crow rhymes with: snow / cat

net rhymes with: pet / pin

vote rhymes with: boat / bell

Clap the beats

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

spider	claps: _____
mouse	claps: _____
lantern	claps: _____
champion	claps: _____
Diwali	claps: _____
telescope	claps: _____

Feelings words

Match each feeling to a time you might feel it. Draw a line!

disappointed	Your friend gives you a hug.
proud	It rains on your picnic day.
happy	You finish a hard puzzle.

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 did Manisha win her world title?

(a) Astana (b) Delhi (c) Paris

2. What was the score in Manisha's final?

(a) 8–6 (b) 6–0 (c) 10–2

3. How do people vote in Brazil?

(a) by shouting (b) on electronic machines (c) by post only

4. What did the Swift telescope look for?

(a) rain clouds (b) giant explosions in space (c) lost satellites

5. How many districts does Keralam have now?

(a) 5 (b) 14 (c) 44

6. What does AQI tell us?

(a) how clean the air is (b) how hot it is (c) what time it is

7. How long is a helmethead sea muppet?

(a) as long as a bus (b) as long as your thumb (c) as long as a lion

8. When is Diwali this year?

(a) 1 November (b) 8 November (c) 25 December

True or false?

1. Manisha is the first Indian woman to win wrestling gold at the World Championships. **True / False**
2. India changes its clocks every autumn. **True / False**
3. Most grown-ups in Brazil must vote. **True / False**
4. Kerala Blasters won their home game 2–0. **True / False**
5. In the story, Anansi's little son had a clever idea. **True / False**

Think harder

1. Why do you think voting is secret?

2. Space junk and rubbish on Earth: how are they the same? How can we make less of both?

Build your vocabulary

festival	a time when people celebrate together	p.2
record	the best anyone has done before	p.12
president	a leader chosen by the people	p.9
telescope	helps us see far away	p.8
district	a part of a state	p.3
champion	the very best in a contest	p.13
disappointed	sad that something went wrong	p.7
species	one kind of animal or plant	p.14

Bye for now!

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



Junior Artists

From this week, we print drawings by our readers! Draw anything you liked in this paper, like Keralam's birthday, Anansi the spider or your Diwali lantern. Ask a grown-up to send a photo to the editor.

Your drawing could be here next week!

Junior Reporter

How did your family celebrate Kerala Piravi? Did you make a lantern for Diwali? Write or draw your news. It could be in the next paper!

Find out next week

Who will win the hockey trophy and the athletics trophy at the sports meet? How will India do at the Youth Olympics?

Answers (no peeking until you try!)

News quiz (p.27): 1a · 2a · 3b · 4b · 5b · 6a · 7b · 8b · **True or false:** 1 T · 2 F · 3 T · 4 F (it was 0–0) · 5 T · **Sudoku (p.23):** 452163 / 136254 / 513426 / 624315 / 245631 / 361542 · **Who is stronger (p.19):** wind, wall · **Time math (p.4):** half past 7 · **Map fun (p.3):** Kasaragod · **Malayalam (p.3):** house, cat, rain, sea · **Story order (p.20):** 3, 1, 4, 2
Puzzles · p.22: crossword 24, 56, 38 / 45, 63 · picture words: pancake, raincoat, houseboat, keyring · CHAMPIONS words e.g. ham, map, pin, man, nap, chop, camp, shop, chain, champ, piano · secret code: DIWALI · **p.23:** lanterns: Ravi round, Meera square, Asha star · matchsticks: move the upright stick of the + to make 5 − 1 = 4 · riddles: a clock, a satellite, a net, a hole · 25 · 13 · next: 25, I, 16 · odd ones: rose (not an animal), spoon (not a light), painting (not a sport), Kochi (a city, not a country)
p.24: differences: window, bird, star, extra diya, one lantern tassel, rangoli center, door mat · 15 diyas; 13 still lit · word search: wind, clock, lamp, diya, rain go across; vote, cloud, mouse go down · **p.25:** clocks 3 o'clock, half past 7, 11 o'clock, half past 6, 12 o'clock, 9 o'clock · 5, 9, 1 · 5 · silver · 5 · 50 · 6, 10, 14, 16 · >, >, =, < · sweet shop: ₹10, ₹8, ₹1
p.26: Brazil, diya, Keralam, lantern, spider, wrestle · squeak, moon, bat, winter · kite, hot, snow, pet, boat · spider 2, mouse 1, lantern 2, champion 3, Diwali 3, telescope 3 · disappointed: rain on picnic; proud: finish a hard puzzle; happy: a hug

Parent tips

Reading together

Edition 4 explains news from about 24–31 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!