



## A new planet is in neighbourhood!

The University of Rochester has discovered a 'Sun-like star' called the J1407, having rings around it... [Read more](#)

# WORLD IN FOCUS

Macmillan Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.

## RIDDLES

What always has one eye open but can see nothing?

06

## WORD OF THE MONTH:

Make as many words (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7-letter)

08

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Moon's phases are created by the changing ....

09

Feb - July 2015 | [gk.macmillaneducation.in](http://gk.macmillaneducation.in)

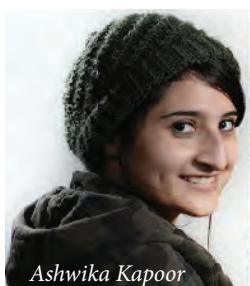
## A SPOKESBIRD FOR CONSERVATION!

Ever heard of an entire species of birds having individual names? Kakapos, or owl parrots as they are also called, are one such interesting group of birds. Their name was derived from Maori terms, *kaka* meaning parrot and *po* meaning night, defining their nocturnal nature. Found in the remote islands in New Zealand, only 126 of these flightless birds remain. Kakapos are large and round, and weigh around four kg at maturity. They are green in colour and have small wings, which cannot bear their weight, and hence they cannot fly.

One among them called Sirocco is a government employee too! A 'spokesbird' for conservation, Sirocco gained popularity when a video featuring it



A Kakapo



Ashwika Kapoor



went viral. It was recently in news again when Ashwika Kapoor (25), the first and the youngest Indian woman, won the Green Oscar award for her documentary, *Sirocco—How a Dude Became a Stud* on 24 October 2014. Her documentary won the coveted wildlife photography award in the best newcomer category.

## MUZZAFARPUR DISEASE OUTBREAK UNCODED!



### 'Methylenecyclopropylglycine' (MCPG), causes many deaths in town, which peaks in June

Summers are incomplete without everyone's favourite, litchis! But ever wondered that litchis could be life-threatening also? Muzaffarpur, a major producer of the fruit in India, sees an annual outbreak of an unknown disease, which targets the undernourished children of farmers and labourers. The reason behind the same has now been discovered. Researchers believe that the outbreak is caused due to 'Methylenecyclopropylglycine' (MCPG), a compound present in litchi seeds. These children consume litchis on a regular basis in the summer. In view of some researchers this causes many deaths, which peaks in the month of June. Children could be hale and hearty in the evening but may start having convulsions early morning. Those who have survived continue to suffer from mental retardation.

## Reflections

### Composed During a Storm

William Wordsworth, the poet, always found life's philosophy in nature. In this poem, he has tried to emphasise on the importance of...[Read more on page 4](#)



## Candy Floss

### Film Review of *The Sound of Music*

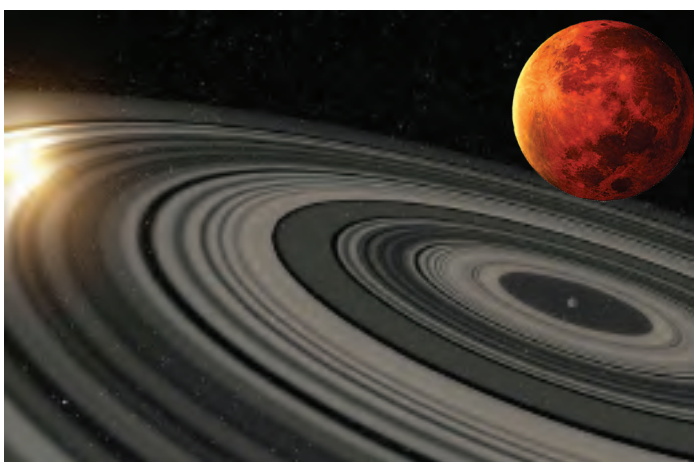


The film is set in the World War I era, based on a real life story of the Trapp Family singers.

[Read more on page 5](#)

## A new planet is in neighbourhood

The University of Rochester has discovered a 'Sun-like star' called the J1407, having rings around it that are 200 times larger than Saturn. It is 434 light years from Earth and has 30 rings with a diameter of about 120 million kilometres. It is believed to be 1/300th the age of our solar system, that is, it is 16 million years old. The mass of this young addition in the universe is said to be in the range of about 10 to 40 Jupiter masses. If the rings of Saturn were to be replaced by the rings of J1407, it would have been easily visible to the naked eye at night.





# INDIA'S PRIDE BIGGER AND BETTER

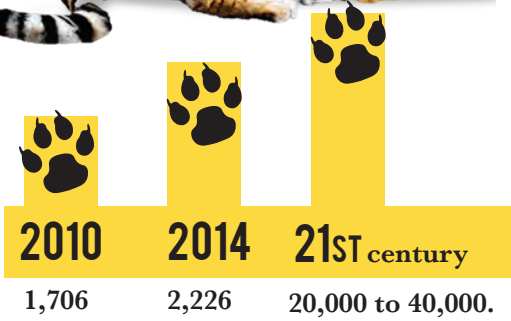
Remarkably Increased population of tigers In INDIA



While the tiger population is declining around the world, it has increased remarkably in India. As per the 3-year tiger census conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), India has seen an increase in the big cats from 1,706 in 2010 to 2,226 in 2014. Our country houses about 70% of the world's tiger population, NTCA reports. India's tiger population in the beginning of the 20th century was estimated to be around 20,000 to 40,000. But when the first countrywide tiger census was carried out in 1972, the number of tigers was just a little more than 1,800. It was an alarming decline! In 1973, Project Tiger was launched, which aimed at ensuring a viable population of Royal Bengal tigers in their natural habitats, creating more tiger reserves and also protecting them from extinction. It is the result of this initiative that our National Animal still roars in delight!



OUR COUNTRY HOUSES ABOUT 70% OF THE WORLD'S TIGER POPULATION—NTCA REPORTS



## THE WISE KING



There was once a kingdom which had a strange rule. No one could be king for more than a year. At the end of the year, the king would be taken to the forest and left there.

The forest had man-eating tigers, and the poor royal would be killed and eaten. So there were only a few who wished to become the king.

However, there was one brave man who willingly accepted the throne. At the end of the year, he stepped down from the throne showing no signs of agitation at the fate that awaited him. A boat was to ferry him to the forest and he was to be left there.

The boatman who had ferried many former kings was curious about the man's joy and lack of worry. He asked him how he could be so happy when death awaited him. All the previous kings

whom he had taken to the forest had gone weeping.

The former king replied that he had no cause to worry, for he was going to continue to be a king.

He explained that during the one year that he had been the king, he had not been idle. He had sent out people to survey the land near the forest and discovered some fertile land there. He had already sent some farmers to cultivate the land. He had sent construction workers to build a palace for him there. So now he was not travelling towards death but towards the certainty that he would be the king of a new territory.



**Moral: A little forethought and planning is all it takes to surmount what seem to be insurmountable problems.**





# 10 MUST visit Places in Delhi



1. **Chandni Chowk:** Delhi's wholesale and retail market, every street here is dedicated to one commodity each, such as spices, cloth, books, decoration material, jewellery, and so on.
2. **Old Fort:** Also known as Purana Qila, this monument, located next to the National Zoological Park, has a charm of its own.
3. **CP:** In the heart of Delhi, Connaught Place or CP, houses almost all high-end brands. It was named after the Duke of Connaught, a member of the British royal family.
4. **Hauz Khas:** Amidst the ruins of the many Mughal monuments, Hauz Khas offers a rural as well as an urban ambience.
5. **Red Fort:** Built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan, this historic monument offers a glimpse into one of the most powerful dynasties that ruled over India.
6. **Qutb Minar:** Started by the first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate Qutubuddin Aibak and completed by Iltutmish, the monument rises to a height of 72.5 m.
7. **Rashtrapati Bhawan:** The residence of the President of India, this historically significant monument, built by Sir Edward Lutyens, is open for public visit.
8. **Janpath:** Situated near CP, the flea market offers a plethora of junk jewellery, clothes and eatables at nominal prices.
9. **Akshardham:** A replica of the original temple in Ahmedabad, Akshardham is one of the biggest temple complexes in the country. The plays and the light and sound show are a must watch.
10. **India Gate:** Built in the memory of the martyrs of the World War I (1914-18) and the Afghan War (1919), this monument has the names of the soldiers who died fighting for the country, engraved on it.

## Sprout-a-meal

### INGREDIENTS

Sprouts	1 packet
Carrot	1 medium sized
Tomato	1
Cucumber	1
Onion	1
Green chilli	1
Lemon juice	2 tbsp
Salt	to taste
Vinegar	1 tsp
Chat masala	a pinch
Rajma masala	a pinch
Coriander leaves	to garnish

### PROCEDURE

Wash and steam the sprouts for 5 minutes and set aside.

Cut vegetables finely and mix in a bowl.

Add sprouts, vinegar, lemon juice, salt and masalas and mix well.

Put it in a serving bowl and garnish with finely chopped coriander leaves.

*One bowl of sprouts salad has excellent quality nutrients and is a rich source of an array of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants.*



## Decoding the Past

- 01 Delhi is believed to be the ancient city of Indraprastha, where the Pandavas set up their kingdom after the war of Mahabharata.
- 02 Delhi has been a thriving city for many centuries. In its long history, the city has seen the rise of seven cities over different periods of history, namely, Qila Rai Pithora, Mehrauli, Siri, Tughlaqabad, Firozabad, Shergarh, and Shahjahanabad.
- 03 Delhi has been ruled by various kings, the Tomars, the Mamluks, the Khiljis, the Tughlaqs, the Saiyyids, the Lodhis, the Mughals and lastly, the British.
- 04 The city has been plundered and rebuilt several times in the past.
- 05 When Delhi came under the direct rule of the British crown after the rebellion of 1857, it was made a district under the province of the Punjab.
- 06 In 1911, after King George V's declaration, the capital of India was shifted from Calcutta (now Kolkata) to Delhi.
- 07 The capital is currently divided into two parts, Old Delhi and New Delhi. Old Delhi is the one left behind by the last rulers of the city, the Mughals, and New Delhi was built under the British rule by Sir Edward Lutyens.
- 08 The Ridge in Delhi is older than the Himalayas. It is an extension of the ancient Aravalli Range. While the mountain range is about 50 million years old, the largest city forest of the capital, the Ridge, is more than 1500 million years old. It houses the second-most number of birds in the world.



REFLECTIONS

COMPOSED DURING A STORM



William Wordsworth

*One who was suffering tumult in his soul,  
Yet failed to seek the sure relief of prayer,  
Went forth—his course surrendering to the care  
Of the fierce wind, while mid-day lightnings prowl  
Insidiously, untimely thunders growl;  
While trees, dim-seen, in frenzied numbers, tear  
The lingering remnant of their yellow hair,  
And shivering wolves, surprised with darkness, howl  
As if the sun were not. He raised his eye  
Soul-smitten; for, that instant, did appear  
Large space (‘mid dreadful clouds) of purest sky,  
An azure disc—shield of Tranquillity;  
Invisible, unlooked-for, minister  
Of providential goodness ever nigh!*



William Wordsworth, the poet, always found life’s philosophy in nature. In this poem, he has tried to emphasise on the importance of prayer by taking elements from nature. He says that a man, who does not seek the relief of prayer and goes forth on his course, encounters the fierce wind and lightning. Gradually when he faces the howling wolves and the darkness around him, and becomes fearful, he remembers God. He then realises that divinity is the best assurance to combat any challenge in life. That is when; “an azure—disc shield of Tranquillity” enhances his faith in the Supreme Being.

**HE HAS TRIED TO EMPHASISE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER BY TAKING ELEMENTS FROM NATURE.**

*ONE who was suffering tumult in his soul,  
Yet failed to seek the sure relief of prayer,*

The simplest thing for man who is undergoing a lot of suffering is to seek recluse in prayers.

But being proud and arrogant, defying the power of God, he goes forth his path. He faces fierce wind, lightning and untimely thunders, unmindful of the effect it had on majestic trees, reducing them to bare yellow leaves.

*Went forth—his course surrendering to the care  
Of the fierce wind, while mid-day lightnings prowl  
Insidiously, untimely thunders growl;  
While trees, dim-seen, in frenzied numbers, tear  
The lingering remnant of their yellow hair,*

*And shivering wolves, surprised with darkness, howl  
As if the sun were not. He raised his eye*

Seeing the sudden darkness due to the storm, the wolves start howling, fearing that the sun would not come out.

*Soul-smitten; for, that instant, did appear  
Large space (‘mid dreadful clouds) of purest sky,  
An azure disc--shield of Tranquillity;*

The man, shaken to the core, looks upwards with faith of being rescued by the Almighty from the fierce storm. And lo! What does he see in that instant? The storm had abated and the sky appears like a blue disc of serenity and calm.

*Invisible, unlooked-for, minister  
Of providential goodness ever nigh!*

The man realises that God is invisible but He is the custodian of all goodness showered upon humankind, and the one who doesn’t let go of His children ever.



# CANDY FLOSS

## FILM REVIEW *The Sound of Music*



The film is set in the World War I era based on a real life story of the Trapp Family Singers. The musical with 29 songs including



instrumentals, directed by Robert Wise, revolves around seven children of a naval officer, Georg von Trapp. The Captain is a strict disciplinarian and a terror for the children. He even summons them through different whistles. The twist in the story comes when Mr. von Trapp hires a governess for his children. The governess, Maria, turns out to do the exact opposite of the master's wishes. The children, though initially aloof, start to love her. She teaches them, sings to them, plays with them and encourages them to do mischief! Gradually, Mr. von Trapp too starts to warm up to the rebellious governess.

The film talks about the bonds that Maria helps the family form, the love that the Captain and Maria share and the struggles they face after the War. Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer play remarkable roles as Maria and Captain von Trapp. The song, 'Do Re Mi...' becomes every child's delight once seen!

The Trapp family escapes to America when the Nazis capture Austria. They sing world-wide performing at concerts and gradually settle in Vermont. The last of the Trapp Family singers, Maria von Trapp, the third child of the Captain, died at the age of 99 in February last year. The surviving member of the family, Elisabeth von Trapp, grand-daughter of Georg von Trapp, lives in a village called Waitsfield in Vermont, the United States of America and is a theatre artist who portrays her grandmother's role in stages around the world.

The film won many awards including the Golden Globe and the Academy Awards under various nominations. Completing its Golden Jubilee in March, the film, which released in 1965, is a must watch for children and adults alike. To celebrate the glory of the film, Lady Gaga, sang a medley of its songs at the Oscars this year, surprising everyone.

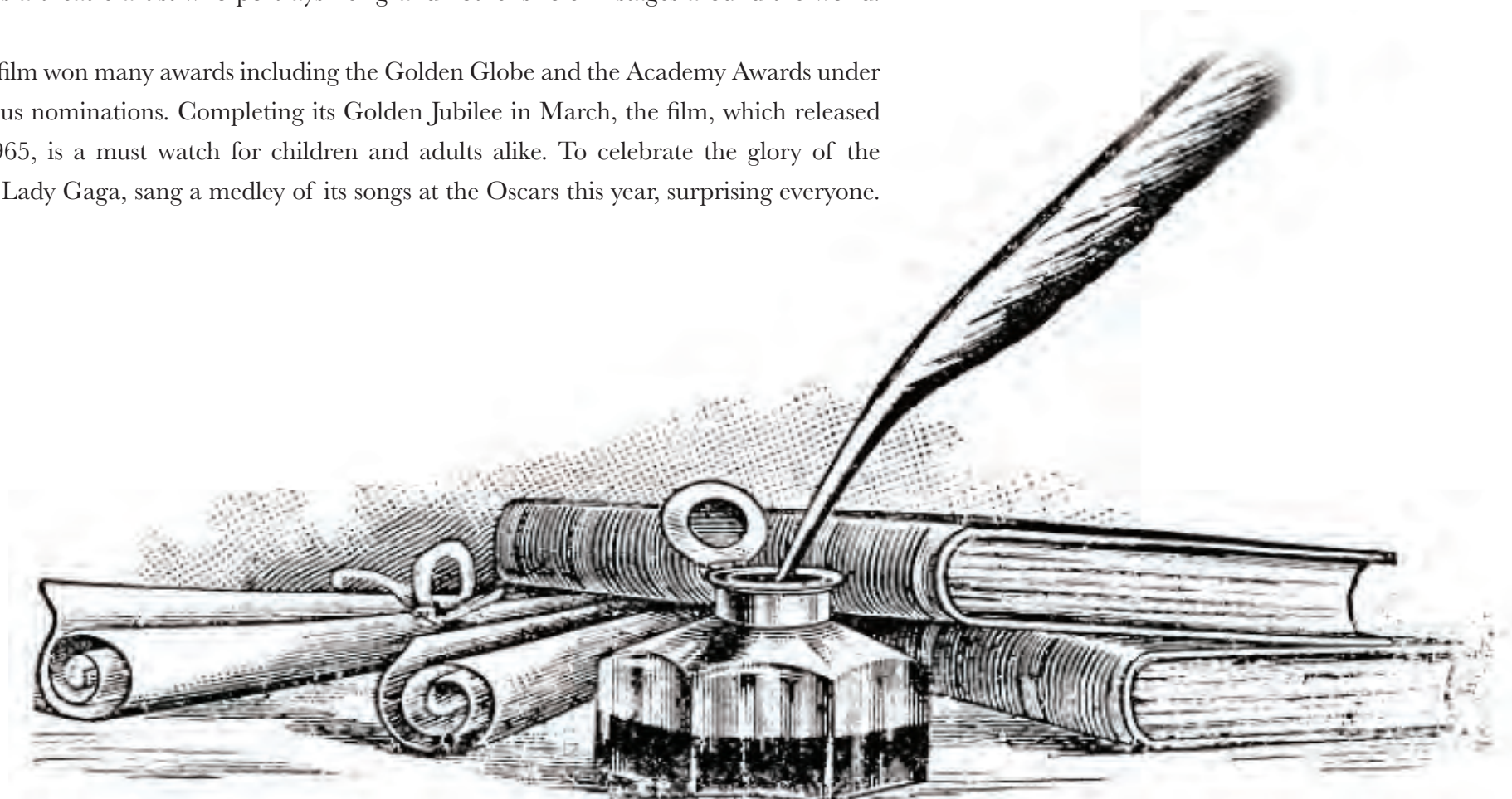


*The film won many awards*

*including the Golden Globe*

*and the Academy Awards*

*under various nominations.*







1. **Bob:** I am going to make bread with yeast and shoe polish in my bakery.  
**Rob:** Why would you do that?  
**Bob:** It is for those who want to rise and shine.

2. **Radha:** Did you know one of the smartest persons in the world is going deaf?  
**Priya:** No, who is it?  
**Radha:** What did you say?

3. **Sam:** I lost my dog.  
**Pam:** Why don't you put an advertisement in the newspaper?  
**Sam:** It will be of no use. My dog doesn't know how to read.

4. **Mother:** How was your first day at school? What did you learn?  
**Son:** Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.

5. **Teacher:** How would you treat a pig stung by a bee?  
**Student:** Apply oinkment



6. **Teacher:** I had asked you to write a two-page essay on milk. Your essay is only half-page long. Why?  
**Student:** That's right ma'am. I wrote on condensed milk.

7. **Teacher:** What is the chemical formula for water?  
**Raju:** H I J K L M N O  
**Teacher:** What are you saying?  
**Raju:** Yesterday you taught us it is H to O!

8. **Teacher:** What would you call a person who eats only vegetables?  
**Student:** A vegetarian.  
**Teacher:** Good. And what about a man who eats humans?  
**Student:** A humanitarian.

# RIDDLES?

- Q 1: What dress does a house wear?  
.....
- Q 2: How do you make a fire with two sticks?  
.....
- Q 3: If you threw a blue shoe in the Red Sea, what would it become?  
.....
- Q 4: What is the easiest way to double your money?  
.....
- Q 5: What comes after cheese?  
.....
- Q 6: What happens when you phone a bee?  
.....
- Q 7: What always has one eye open but can see nothing?  
.....
- Q 8: Why is tennis such a noisy game?



Read the answers on next page....



# FUN WITHOUT iPad

N a n d i t a M e n o n

When I entered the house my eight-year-old cousin, Arnav was hooked on to his iPad as usual. He did not even realise that I was standing beside him. Earlier whenever I would go to his house, he would jump on seeing me, hug me tight and almost beg me to take him to the nearby park so that he could play to his heart's fill. But now I was quite upset to see the ever enthusiastic and active kid addicted to something which restricted him to the boundaries of his house.

## "Hi! Arnav!" I called out to him.

"Oh! Hi Namrata Di! Sorry, I did not realise when you came in. This iPad is so engrossing and interesting that you tend to forget the world," he laughed at his own joke. That day too, like many in the past couple of months, I had to be contended with a brief hug, just namesake.

"So what are your plans for the weekend?" I asked him putting away the iPad so we could continue our conversation. "Let's go for a picnic, to the Children's Park."

"Sorry Di, not this time. I have to get some games downloaded on my Play Station. Maybe we'll go next weekend."

"Fine. But for now, let's go to the park". I said trying not to sound dejected.

"Oh! But why; Di?" Arnav made a face. "You also play with this. It is really interesting. At least try for once. Or maybe we can play games online on the computer. I guess you would like that. Wouldn't you?"

"No, Arnav," his mother came to my rescue. "Go with Namrata right now. It's been so many days



since you have gone out to play. Get up and get dressed now. Leave your iPad and go," Aunt Shanti said firmly as she brought in a tray of juice and biscuits for Arnav and me.

Arnav scowled at both of us and got up to change. After finishing the goodies, Aunt Shanti had brought for us, we left for the park. But a surprise awaited us. There was no one in the park. Not a single child was playing. Deep inside I felt a pain seeing what this generation was losing out

on. Seeing the empty park brought a wicked grin on Arnav's face.

"Di, it seems no one is interested in playing nowadays. Come on, let's go home. My iPad and Play Station are calling out to me," he said.

"No way, little brother. We came here to play and we are going to play. Come on," I said. Tying my scarf on his eyes, I asked him to catch me. I even challenged him that if he would catch me I would buy him a chocolate. His greed got the better of him.

"Just wait, Di. I won't stop on one chocolate," he said excitedly.

Once we began playing, I noticed many of Arnav's friends coming out of their homes and watching our game. I motioned them all to join the game. Everyone ran to the park and joined us in the fun. The simple game of Blind Man's Bluff brought Arnav and his friends closer to a very important part of childhood, playing. Leaving aside their otherwise grim and serious expressions (in front of the many screens), they laughed out loud like children. And seeing the kids play, I saw a smile on the faces of their mothers. Finally, the magic of the enchanted screens was broken!

- To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.

-Anatole France

- The wisest men follow their own direction.

-Euripides

- We need men who can dream of things that never were.

-John F. Kennedy

- Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.

-Jane Howard

- All men by nature desire knowledge.

-Aristotle

- In the field of observation, chance favours only the prepared mind.

-Louis Pasteur

- Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds.

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

- We go where our vision is.

-Joseph Murphy

- I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.

-Douglas Adams

- Enthusiasm is the greatest hill-climber.

-Elbert Hubbard

## Light in Darkness Quotes



Answers

Ans 1: Address

Ans 2: One of the sticks should be a matchstick

Ans 3: Wet

Ans 4: Put it in front of the mirror, of course!

Ans 5: A mouse

Ans 6: You get a 'buzzy' signal.

Ans 7: A needle

Ans 8: Because the players always raise a racket.



# TRAVEL SAFARI



## MAJULI (ASSAM)

Majuli (Assam): If you ever plan to visit North-East India, 'the land of the seven sisters', you cannot miss the world's largest river island, **Majuli** in **Assam**. Located in Jorhat district of the state, the island is in the mighty Brahmaputra River. It is 321 km from Assam's largest city, Guwahati. The island was formed when the Brahmaputra and its tributaries, especially Lohit, changed their course. The main occupation of the people here is agriculture with paddy being the chief crop. The residents are the 'Missing Tribes' of Arunachal Pradesh who had migrated to this region centuries ago. To reach the island, you have to take a bus or hire a taxi to the Nimati Steamer Ghat, from where ferries ply. Majuli, a wet land, is known for its bird sanctuary. The best time to visit this place is between November and March. White wagtail, ferruginous, common sandpiper, brown and grey shrike and many more birds are common sights here. The cultural celebration, exhibitions, the Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary and the hospitality of the people, make it a worthwhile visit.



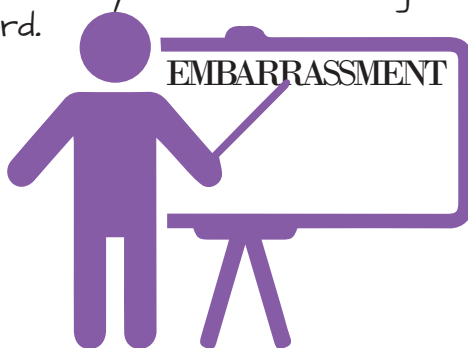
### THINGS TO CARRY WHEN YOU VISIT MAJULI:

- Binoculars (for bird lovers)
- Fishing equipment (for those interested in fishing)
- Walking shoes (for long walks along the river banks)
- Pencil/pen and notebook (for scribbling important information and memories)
- Camera (to share pictures with family and friends)



## WORD OF THE MONTH

Make as many words (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7-letter) as you can from this giant of a word.



# Grammar Wizard



## Nouns

**What is a noun?** Nouns are an important part of the English language. The name of a person, an animal, a thing, an idea, a place, an activity and a quality are nouns.

### For example:

Preeti went to meet Riya at her house to return her book.

In the above sentence, Preeti, Riya, house and book are nouns.

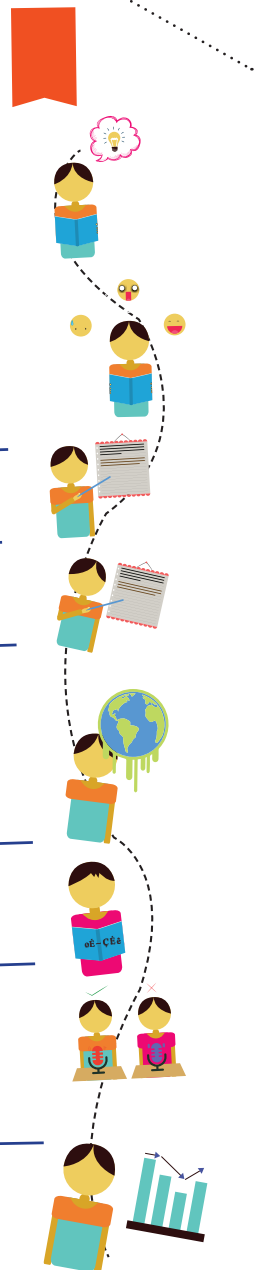
### Types of nouns:

- a.** Proper nouns: Names of specific places and people fall under the proper nouns category. For example, Preeti and Riya.
- b.** Common nouns: Common nouns such as house and wood are general and colloquial words. They are of two types:
  - i.** Concrete nouns: Things which can be seen or touched are concrete nouns such as phone or chair.
  - ii.** Abstract nouns: Ideas or qualities such as freedom and justice fall under the abstract nouns category.



## HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY:

1. The first step to writing an essay is the introduction. An essay should begin with something interesting, to catch the reader's attention.
2. The introduction should convey to the reader what they should expect further; drama, suspense, humour and so on..
3. Keep the paragraphs following the introduction short and crisp.
4. All the paragraphs should be linked to each other but they should not be repetitive.
5. The essay should follow a structure of presenting points linked to the subject. For example, if the essay is on global warming, the paragraphs should be talking about different aspects of global warming.
6. The more examples an essay gives, the more understandable it will be to the reader.
7. If the essay is about taking a stand in a debate, both the viewpoints should be presented clearly stating why the writer is taking the stand.
8. The essay should always have a conclusion. It should tell the reader a gist of what was discussed and what was the result of it.

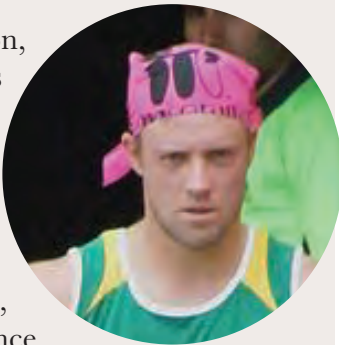


HOMWORK  
HELPER



# DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Moon's phases are created by the changing positions of the Earth, the Moon and the Sun. As the Moon orbits the Sun, the Sun and the Moon are on the opposite sides of the Earth, and the light of the Sun falls on it fully. So the Moon appears full to us. It is new Moon for us when the Sun illuminates the side facing away from us.
2. Britain is the only country which does not put its country's name on postage stamps. It uses an image of its ruling monarch.
3. The water of the Dead Sea is so salty that nothing can live in it. This is why it is called the Dead Sea.
4. What prompted Edwin Land to invent the Polaroid Camera in 1947? It was his daughter who had wondered why she could not see her photograph as soon as it was taken.
5. The lowest recorded temperature on Earth is  $-89.2^{\circ}$  Celsius, in the Vostok Station in Antarctica on 21 July 1983.
6. The Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah, owns the maximum number of high performance cars in the world. His 7000 vehicles, costing more than five billion dollars, are parked at his five ultra secret aircraft hangars, maintained by specialists from different car manufacturers.
7. The Maharashtra government has declared the traditional Dahi-Handi festival, celebrated on the occasion of Janmashtami, as an adventure sport.
8. There are insects everywhere. Is there a place where they cannot be found? Yes, in the sea. Do you know why? It is because their bodies cannot survive in salt water.
9. The buzzing of the bees is called the song of the hive. This is made by the bees when they beat their wings. Bees buzz or hum to communicate with other bees. This buzz becomes louder if they feel threatened by an outsider.
10. AB de Villiers, the famous South African cricket champion, who just recorded the fastest One Day International 150 has many more feathers in his cap. He was shortlisted for junior national hockey and football squad, is the Captain of the junior Rugby squad, holds six South Africa school swimming records, is the fastest 100 metres junior athlete in South Africa, member of South Africa junior Davis Cup tennis team, national badminton U-19 champion, has a golf handicap of scratch, received a national medal from Nelson Mandela for a science project and has even recorded a bilingual pop music album. Phew!



## Lost in Translation

What is the first greeting in the morning? Of course, it is GOOD MORNING. That's in English. How do you say the same in different languages?

Assamese	: Suprobhaat
Bengali	: Suprobhat
Gujarati	: Su prabhat
Kashmiri	: Namaskar, Salam
Konkani	: Deu boro dis dium
Kannada	: Śubhōdaya
Malayalam	: Suprabhātham
Marathi	: Su-prabhāt
Sanskrit	: Shubha prabhātam
Nepali	: Suva Pravat
Oriya	: Suprabhaat
Punjabi	: Śubha savēra
Telugu	: Shubhodayam
Tamil	: Kaalai Vanakkam
Urdu	: Subha bākhair





Events

**01** The 17th Bharat Rang Mahotsav, the International Theatre Festival of India was held from February 1 to February 18, 2015. Originally a national festival organised by the National School of Drama to stimulate the growth and development of theatre across the country, the festival has evolved to international scope, hosting theatre companies from around the world. Over 75 productions performed at seven venues at the NSD campus in Delhi. Nepal, the USA, Israel, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, the UK, China, Germany were among the 12 countries that participated in the 18 - day long event. Besides



**Bharat Rang Mahotsav**  
the plays, there were seminars, rock shows by college bands, lecture-demonstrations with photographer Raghu

Rai and Kathak maestro Pt. Birju Maharaj. The theme of the festival was ‘Breaking the Borders’. The festival also travelled to various cities of the country which included Agartala, Jabalpur, Goa and Aurangabad. NSD felicitated various colleges and institutes which performed at this year’s festival. The idea behind this initiative was to connect the young generation with theatre. For the first time, Theatre Bazaar was set up where products related to theatre were showcased. The entire NSD campus was transformed into a mela for 18 days with food, music, handloom and handicraft products available for the visitors.

**02** Delhi witnessed for the first time a unique National Tribal Festival called VANAJ from February 13 to February 18, 2015. It showcased the rich diversity in art and culture, various music and dance forms and as a special attraction, tribal cuisine. There was also sale of tribal products, medicines, paintings, art and handicrafts during the festival. Simultaneously held at three venues—Central Park in Connaught Place, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts and Baba Kharak Singh Marg in



**VANAJ 2015**

New Delhi—the festival also screened documentary films on tribal life. Over 900 participants from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal participated in this festival.

**03** The 23<sup>rd</sup> World Book Fair was held from February 14 to February 22, 2015 at Pragati Maidan. While the Union HRD minister, Smriti Irani inaugurated the event, the HRD Minister of State Upendra Kushwaha inaugurated the children’s pavilion. The theme of the fair this year was ‘Suryodaya: Emerging Voices from North East India’, celebrating North East writers and their writings. The Guest of honour country this year was Singapore while the Focus Country was Korea.



**World Book Fair 2015**

The 2015 book fair was the largest in the Afro-Asian region. The publishers participating in the event wanted to not just further their business but also build cultural ties with India and introduce their literature to the audience here.

Word Search

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

The above grid has the names of 16 states hidden. Find them vertically, horizontally and backwards.

- ☒ 1. Karnataka
- ☐ 2. Odisha
- ☐ 3. Haryana
- ☐ 4. Goa
- ☐ 5. Assam
- ☐ 6. Delhi
- ☐ 7. Rajasthan
- ☐ 8. Nagaland
- ☐ 9. Bihar
- ☐ 10. Tripura
- ☐ 11. Gujarat
- ☐ 12. Andhra Pradesh
- ☐ 13. Puducherry
- ☐ 14. Kerala
- ☐ 15. Punjab
- ☐ 16. Mizoram









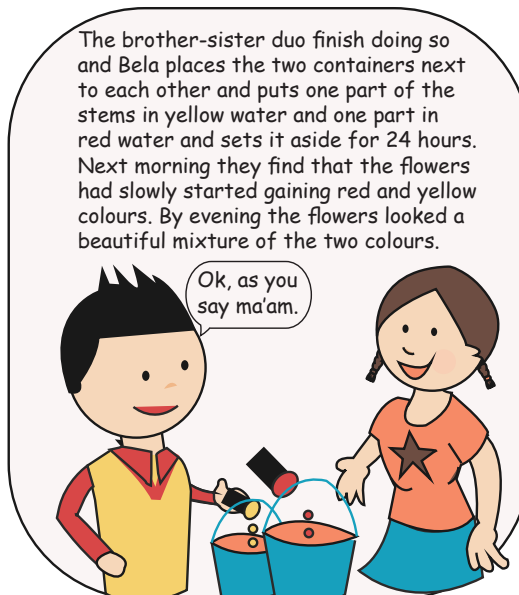
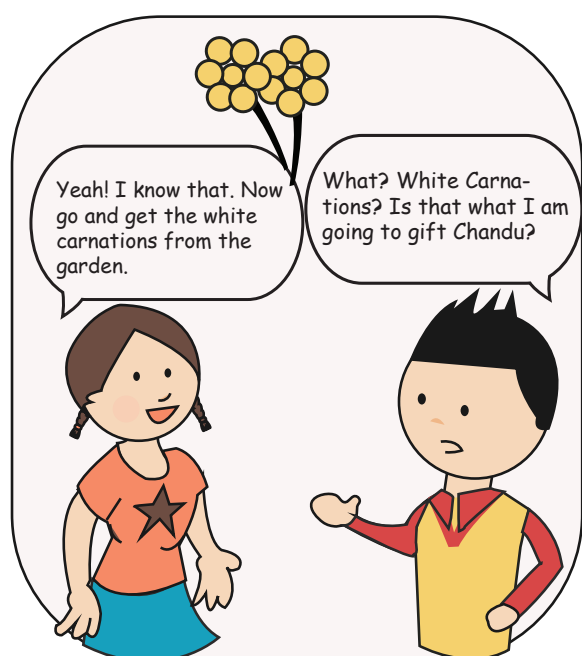


# Comic Strip

## BAIRA AND BELA



*It's Baira's best friend's birthday and he has not found a perfect gift for him yet. He's walking up and down as Bela looks up from her books.*





# MONTHLY NEWS

## February 2015

### 1 February 2015

Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams win the men's and women's singles title, respectively in Australian Open 2015 played in Melbourne, Australia. Indo-Swiss pair of Leander Paes and Martina Hingis wins the mixed doubles.

### 2 February 2015

India and China jointly launch Visit India Year in China. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the flow of tourists from China to India and to strengthen the people to people bond.

### 3 February 2015

Twelve-year-old, Saloni Dalal becomes the youngest individual medal winner in the National Games 2015 in Thiruvananthapuram when she won bronze in 200 metres breast stroke swimming event.

### 5 February 2015

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captures the rare triple-moon conjunction. The three largest moons of Jupiter, namely Europa, Callisto, and Io were captured while racing across the banded face of the gas-giant planet. This was a rare occurrence, as the event occurs once or twice in a decade.

### 7 February 2015

Eminent Marathi writer Bhalchandra Nemade, known for his novel *Kosala* published in 1963 that changed the dimensions of Marathi literature, was chosen for the Jnanpith Award for the year 2014.

### 10 February 2015

- Union Health Minister declares 10 February as National Deworming Day and launches an initiative aimed at protecting more than 24 crore children in the ages of 1-19 years from intestinal worms.
- In the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections 2015 results, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) headed by Arvind Kejriwal secures absolute majority in the assembly by winning 67 seats out of 70 seats.

## February 2015



### 11 February 2015

ICICI Bank launches India's first digital bank, Pockets. Pockets, the digital e-wallet that uses a virtual VISA card to enable the users to transact on any website or mobile application in India, can be downloaded from Google Play Store.

### 14 February 2015

- Arvind Kejriwal sworn in as Chief Minister of Delhi.
- Usain Bolt, the six-time Olympic Gold medalist, decides to retire after 2017 World Championships in London in which he will concentrate only in 100 metres event.

### 16 February 2015

Nagesh Kukunoor's film *Dhanak* wins two awards at the 65th Berlin International Film Festival.

### 22 February 2015

- Nitish Kumar takes oath as Chief Minister of Bihar. He succeeds Jitan Ram Manjhi. With this, Nitish takes oath as the state's Chief Minister for the fourth term.
- At the 87th Academy Awards, Los Angeles, the Best Actor Award was won by Eddie Redmayne for *The Theory of Everything* and the Best Actress Award was won by Julianne Moore for *Still Alice*.

### 27 February 2015

AB de Villiers of South Africa hits the fastest 150 runs in ODI. He takes 64 deliveries to reach 150, broke the previous best record of Australian Shane Watson by 19 balls. He struck 162 not out from 66 balls.

## March 2015

### 1 March 2015

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed sworn in as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

### 7 March 2015

The game of snooker has been shortlisted among three sports to be included in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

### 9 March 2015

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sets off on a three-nation tour to the country's immediate Indian Ocean neighbours, Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka, to develop strong relations with them which is considered to be 'vital' for India's security and progress.

### 10 March 2015

Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers develop a finger-mounted device with a built-in camera that converts written text into audio for visually-impaired users.

### 15 March 2015

Indian women's hockey team lifts the Hero Hockey World League Round 2 defeating Poland 3-1 in a high-intensity final in New Delhi.

### 20 March 2015

Indian women's hockey team lifts the Hero Hockey World League Round 2 defeating Poland 3-1 in a high-intensity final in New Delhi.

### 23 March 2015

The founding father and the first Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew (91), passes away.

### 24 March 2015

The Supreme Court strikes down Section 66 A of the Information Technology Act calling it unconstitutional in its entirety. This draconian provision had earlier led to the arrests of many people for posting questionable content on the Internet.



MONTHLY NEWS

March 2015

24 March 2015

A Germanwings passenger jet A320, operated by Lufthansa crashes in the French Alps killing all 150 people on board.

27 March 2015

- President Pranab Mukherjee confers the nation's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna upon former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his residence in New Delhi.
- To evacuate its stranded nationals in the war-torn Yemen, Prime Minister Modi launches 'Operation Raahat', an Army operation, under General (Retd.) V.K. Singh, the Minister of State and External Affairs and the former Chief of the Army Staff.

28 March 2015

- The Aam Aadmi Party expels the party's founder members Yogendra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan from its national executive for anti-party activities.
- K. Srikanth becomes the first Indian to win the \$120,000 Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold.

29 March 2015

- Australia crushes New Zealand by 7 wickets to win its fifth ICC Cricket World Cup title in Melbourne.
- Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal wins her maiden India Open Super Series title in New Delhi becoming the first Indian woman shuttler to clinch the world No. 1 ranking in women's singles. Kidambi Srikanth beat Denmark's Viktor Axelsen to win the title in the men's singles.



April 2015

1 April 2015

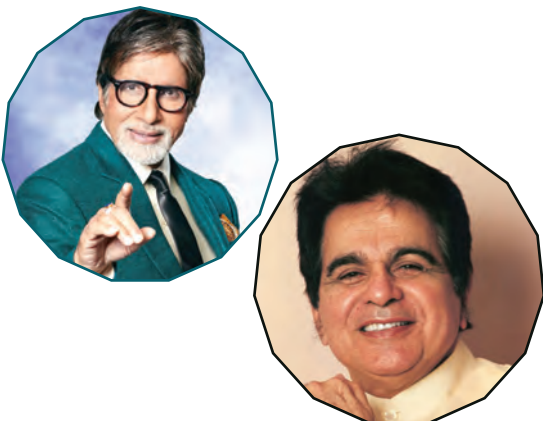
- Amravati becomes the capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- A mountaineering team of the Indian Army takes the "Swachh Bharat" campaign to Mount Everest to clean up and bring down tonnes of garbage dumped there by mountaineers over the decades.

5 April 2015

Promising to make Delhi country's "first corruption-free city", Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launches a revamped 24x7 anti-graft helpline (phone number-1031).

8 April 2015

- Prime Minister Modi announced, at the launch of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, a higher compensation and government support for farmers whose crops have been hit by unseasonal rains.
- Film stars Amitabh Bachchan and Dilip Kumar, spiritual leader Prince Karim Aga Khan, and philanthropist Dr. D.V. Heggade were among the 54 who were conferred with the Padma Vibhushan Award.



9 April 2015

- Prime Minister Modi begins a three-nation tour of France, Germany and Canada to boost India's economic agenda.
- The Union Home Ministry suspends the registration of Greenpeace India under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) for six months and freezes its accounts, prohibiting donations from abroad

April 2015

10 April 2015

The Supreme Court instructs all private hospitals across the country to provide free treatment, including medicines and expensive reconstruction surgeries, to acid attack victims.

11 April 2015

Operation Raahat, Army operation launched by Prime Minister Modi ends. Through this operation, Indian Armed Forces safely evacuated 4741 Indians and 1947 foreign nationals from 48 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Russia.

21 April 2015

- Odisha's three-time former Chief Minister Janaki Ballav Patnaik (89) passes away in Tirupati.
- The Union Cabinet clears amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act that would allow juveniles aged between 16 and 18 to be tried as adults for heinous crimes such as murder and rape.

24 April 2015

A Bill protecting and providing rights for transgenders passed by the Rajya Sabha. The bill also guarantees reservation in education and jobs, financial aid and social inclusion.

25 April 2015

- Marathi litterateur Dr. Balchandra Nemade honoured with the Jnanpith Award by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- More than 7500 people died and over 14,000 injured in Nepal when a powerful 7.9 magnitude earthquake ripped through the upper part of the South Asian peninsula. The earthquake also hit north and east India, killing at least 52 and injuring 237.

29 April 2015

- Union Cabinet decided to spend ₹ 48,000 crore in 5 years on smart cities under the AMRUT project which is supposed to cover 500 cities and towns.
- Two Indians, Dr. Pramod Patil and Dr. Anand Kumar have been awarded the prestigious 2015 Whitley Awards for their contribution to wildlife conservation in developing countries.



MONTHLY NEWS

May 2015

1 May 2015

NASA's Messenger spacecraft crashes into the surface of Mercury, ending its historic 11-year mission that provided valuable data and thousands of images of the planet.

4 May 2015

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi becomes the first Indian leader to open an account on Chinese micro-blogging site 'Sina Weibo' to interact with the Chinese people.
- The Bombay High Court suspends the five year sentence of Salman Khan and grants him bail.

7 May 2015

- A controversial Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill that provides for trying juveniles aged between 16 and 18 years for heinous crimes under laws for adults was cleared by the Lok Sabha.

8 May 2015

David Cameron-led Conservative party wins the general election of United Kingdom with majority, contrary to popular expectations. The Conservative party wins 51% seats, 331 out of 650.



10 May 2015

Veteran actor Shashi Kapoor, honoured with the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Arun Jaitley at the Prithvi Theatres in Mumbai.

May 2015

13 May 2015

- The Union Cabinet approves a proposal to ban employment of children under 14 in all kinds of commercial enterprises. However, the Cabinet has made an exception for work done in family enterprises and on farmlands after school hours and during vacations.
- The Supreme Court restrains the government from publishing the photographs of political leaders, Ministers or prominent persons in government advertisements. Only the photographs of President, Prime Minister and Chief Justice of India to be published.

15 May 2015

Setting aside their border dispute, PM Modi and Wen Jiabao sign 24 agreements worth over 110 billion dollars during Modi's visit to China.

18 May 2015

Aruna Shanbaug (67), former nurse at Mumbai's King Edward Memorial (KEM) hospital who was in a vegetative state for 42 years after a sexual assault by a ward boy in 1973, declared dead.

23 May 2015

AIADMK general secretary Jayalalithaa sworn-in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the fifth time.

24 May 2015

Mumbai Indians defeat Chennai Super Kings by 41 runs, winning the IPL title for the second time.

27 May 2015

Punjab gets WHO award for its campaign against tobacco.

30 May 2015

Barcelona Football Club wins King's Cup title for the 27th time.

31 May 2015

The Ministry of External Affairs announces the appointment of former Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo as the new Chancellor of Nalanda University.

June 2015

2 June 2015

Sepp Blatter resigns as FIFA president amidst corruption scandal.



4 June 2015

- First time in the history of Indian Railways, a solar photovoltaic system is used for power requirements of light and fan in a broad gauge coach.
- Prominent scientist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim (56) becomes the first lady President of Mauritius.

5 June 2015

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) banned Maggi as it was found unsafe and hazardous for human consumption due to high levels of monosodium glutamate and lead.

6 June 2015

- India, Bangladesh signed Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 under which the countries will exchange territories, with 111 enclaves being transferred to Bangladesh and 51 to India.
- Rahul Dravid named coach of India 'A' and Under-19 cricket teams.
- Serena Williams beats Lucie Safarova at French Open to win 20th grand slam.

7 June 2015

Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland) defeats Novak Djokovic (Serbia) to lift his first French Open 2015 Men's Singles title.



## MONTHLY NEWS

### June 2015

10 June 2015

In the second round of crackdown on NGOs, the central government on Tuesday cancelled the licence of 4,470 such set-ups.

24 June 2015

The Union Cabinet approved setting up of six new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in the country at Amritsar (Punjab), Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Sambalpur (Odisha), Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).



30 June 2015

Greece became the first developed nation to default on International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt. It became a defaulter after it missed the deadline for payment of 1.7 billion dollar (1.5 billion euro) to IMF.



### July 2015

4 July 2015

- Chile defeated Argentina 4-1 to win 2015 Copa America Cup Football tournament.



- President of Tunisia Beji Caid Essebsi declared state of emergency in the country for 30 days.

5 July 2015

- Greece delivered a shocking rebuff to Europe's leaders by decisively rejecting a deal offered by the country's creditors in a historic vote.
- USA defeated Japan to win Women's FIFA World Cup for the third time.



8 July 2015

- The seventh BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit was held from 8 to 9 July in the Russian city of Ufa in Bashkortostan.
- India, Kazakhstan signed five Agreements including a contract for supply of uranium
- Rahul Bhatnagar was named as new Managing Director (MD) and chief financial officer (CFO) of Bharti Enterprises. He succeeds Manoj Kohli.

### July 2015

9 July 2015

Union Home Ministry extended the 'disturbed area' status of Nagaland for one more year.

10 July 2015

- An Earthquake Warning System (EWS) was successfully installed in Uttarakhand, Dehradun in the first week of July 2015. With this, Uttarakhand became first Indian state to install a system that can detect earthquakes and disseminate warnings.
- Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka has set a Guinness World Record for spending longest time in space with a total of 804 days as on July 2015.



11 July 2015

Sania Mirza created history by becoming first Indian player to win women's doubles title at a Grand Slam when she clinched the Wimbledon women's doubles title with Martina Hingis beating Makarova-Vesnina.

12 July 2015

- Novak Djokovic beats Roger Federer in Wimbledon 2015 men's singles final to claim his third Wimbledon title and ninth Grand Slam overall.
- Leander Paes of India and Martina Hingis of Switzerland win mixed doubles title at Wimbledon 2015 against Timea Babos of Hungary and Alexander Peya of Austria. It is Leander's eighth mixed doubles title in Grand Slams and fourth at Wimbledon.