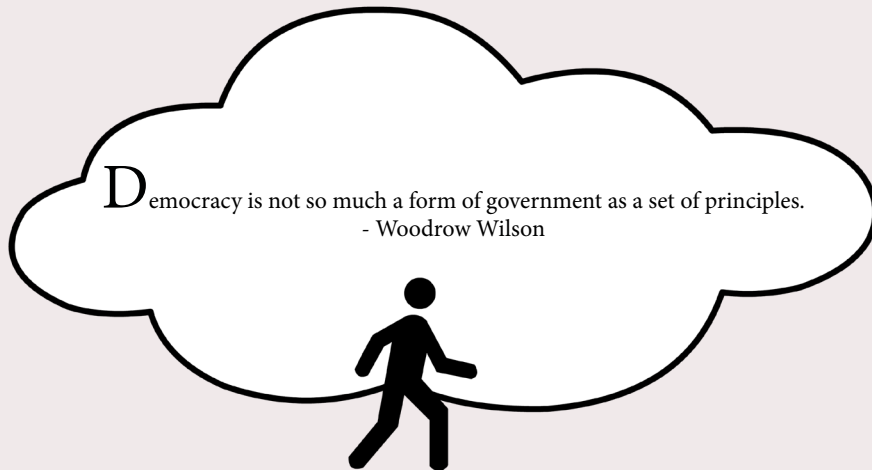







## THINK THROUGH IT ...

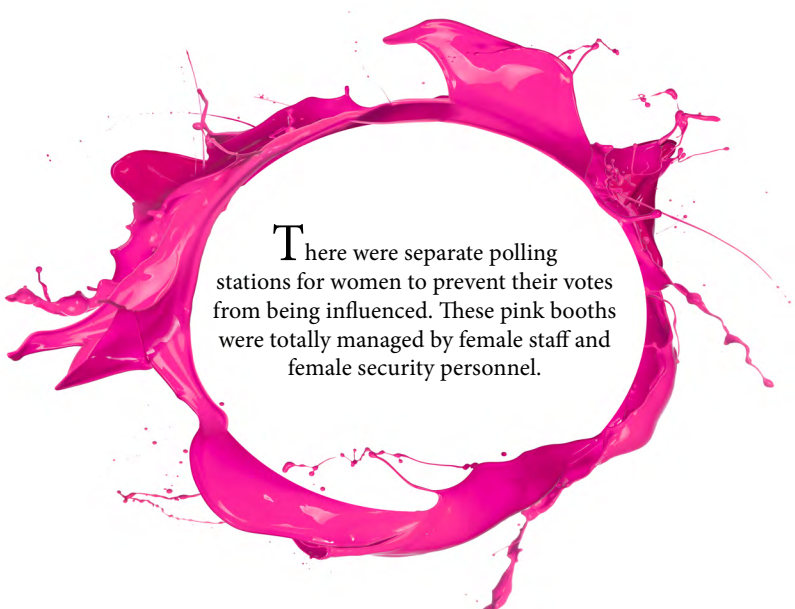


## What is happening in Indian democracy?

The big news in Indian democracy is the elections to the 690 seats in five states of the Indian Union. Check out the outcome in the table given below –

PUNJAB	GOA	UTTAR PRADESH	UTTARAKHAND	MANIPUR
				
CAPTAIN AMRINDER SINGH	MANOHAR PARRIKAR	YOGI ADITYANATH	TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT	NONGTHOMBAM BIREN SINGH
VOTER TURNOUT AROUND 75 %	VOTER TURNOUT AROUND 80 %	VOTER TURNOUT AROUND 60 %	VOTER TURNOUT AROUND 65 %	VOTER TURNOUT AROUND 85 %
CONGRESS	BJP WITH SUPPORT FROM GOA FORWARD PARTY (GFP), MAHARASTRAWADI GOMANTAK PARTY(MGP) AND TWO INDEPENDENTS	BJP	BJP	BJP WITH SUPPORT FROM NATIONALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY (NPP), NAGA PEOPLE'S FRONT (NPF), AND LOK JANSHAKTI PARTY (LJP)

### Adding colour to the elections



There were separate polling stations for women to prevent their votes from being influenced. These pink booths were totally managed by female staff and female security personnel.



- Use of VVPAT (Voter-verifiable paper audit trail) to enable voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly, to detect possible election fraud or malfunction, and to provide a means to audit the stored electronic results.
- Introduction of electronic transmission of votes from the polling booths to the main centre.

## Decoding EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines)

The EVMs in India have been devised and designed by the Election Commission of India in collaboration with two Public Sector undertakings viz., Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad after a series of meetings, test-checking of the prototypes and extensive field trials. The EVMs are now manufactured by the above two undertakings.

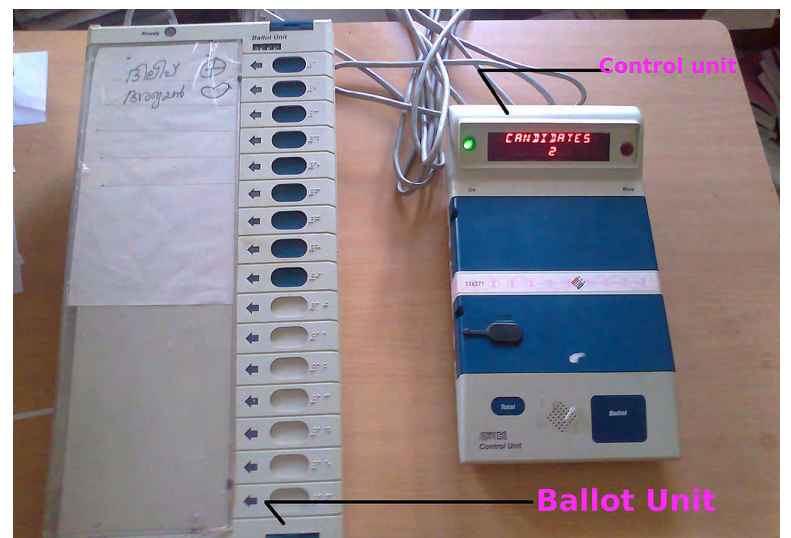
The EVMs reportedly save about 10,000 tons of ballot paper (about 200,000 trees) every national election.

India turned into an e-democracy in the 2004 general elections when 1.75 million EVMs were used across all polling stations in the country. Since then, all elections are conducted by EVMs.

An EVM can record a maximum of 3,840 votes. Since the total number of electors in a polling station does not usually exceed 1,500, the capacity of an EVM is more than sufficient.

An EVM can cater to a maximum of 64 candidates.

The Control Unit in an EVM can store the result in its memory for 10 years and even more. This makes it possible to count the votes on a single day, even weeks or months after they have been used.



An Electronic Voting Machine

Once polling is completed, the election results can be known instantly at the counting station by pressing the “Result” switch. This switch is located in a sealed compartment of the control unit.

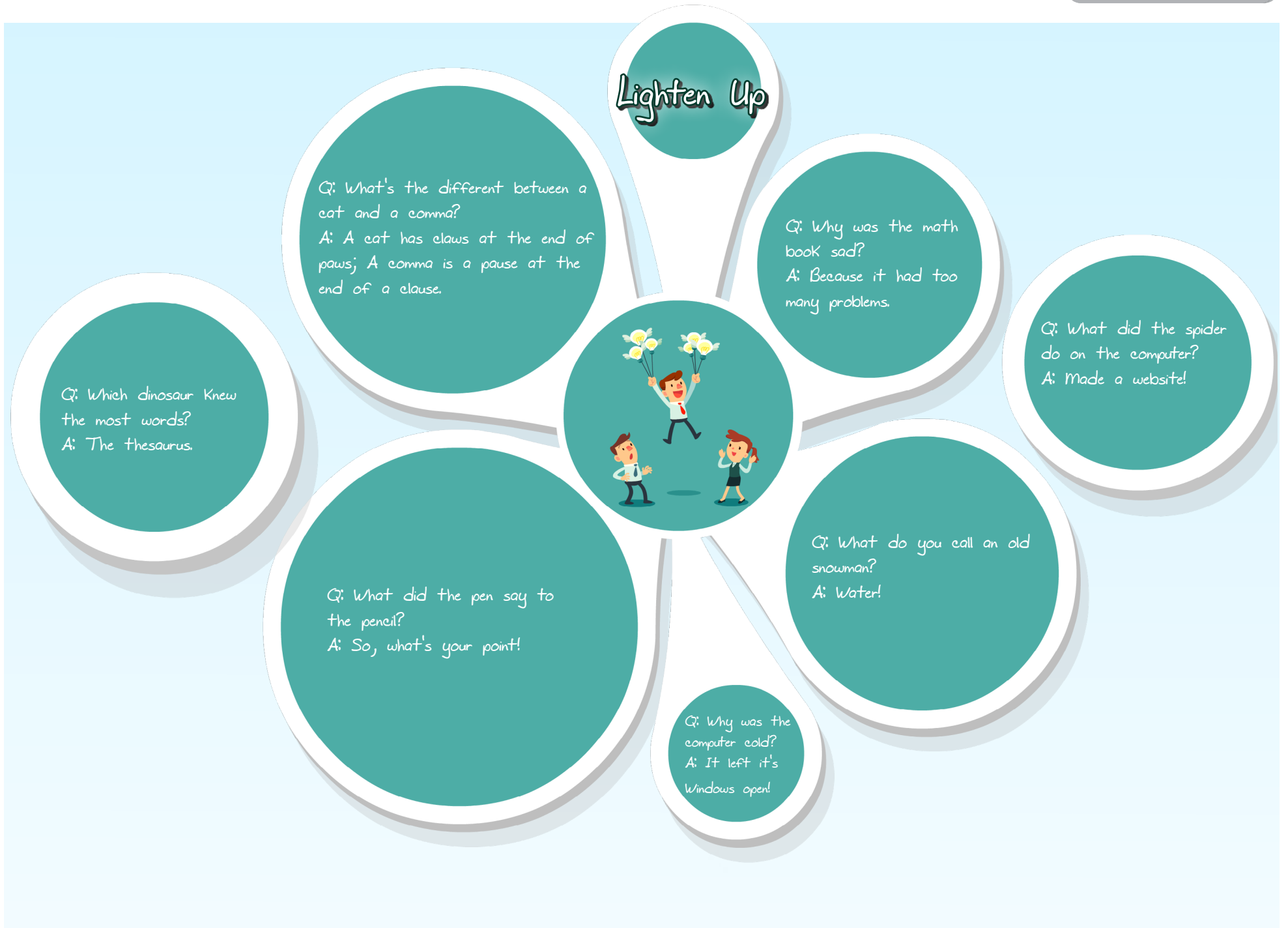
NOTA (None of the Above) is counted as a vote since invalid votes are not allowed by EVMs.

Many of the EVMs have Braille signage on the ballot units indicating the serial number of the candidate. With the help of Braille signage a visually challenged voter can locate the particular serial number of the candidate on the ballot unit on her/his own and be able to cast her/his vote independently.



With populations of about 10,000, Nauru and Tuvalu are two of the world's smallest democracies.





# RIDDLES

Q: What has 5 eyes and is lying on the water?



Q: What stays in the corner, but travels around the world?



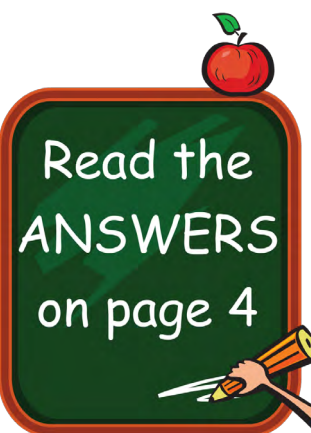
Q: I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?



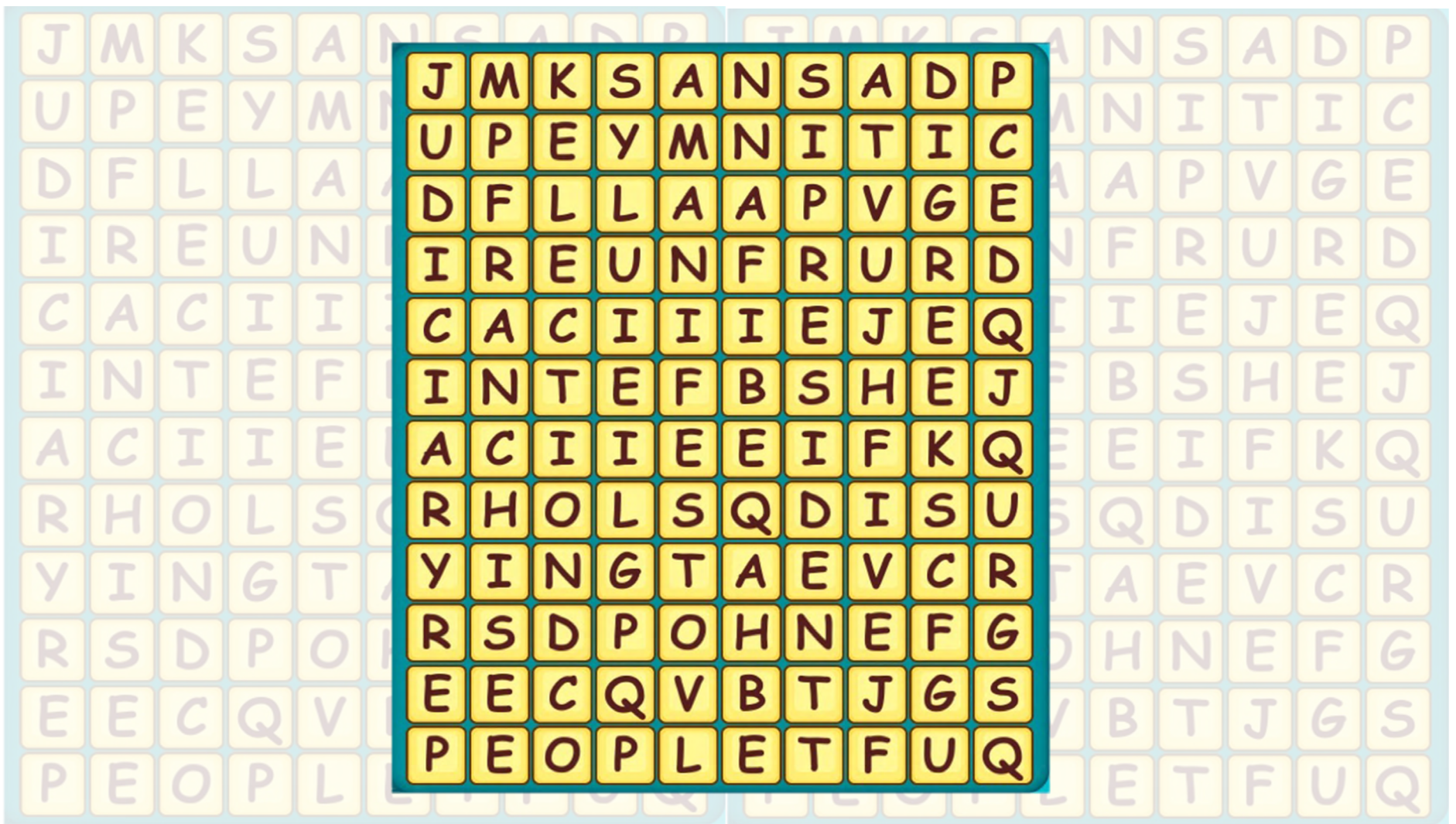
Q: What is the longest word in the dictionary?



Q: What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?



# GRID GAME



1. The English word democracy is sourced from \_ language.
2. The term demos in democracy means \_.
3. The \_ is the supreme commander of the armed forces in India.
4. The branch of the government that interprets and applies laws is called \_.
5. In India elections are held after every \_ years.
6. The right to vote is called suffrage or \_.
7. The Parliament of India is also called \_.
8. A public declaration of policy and aims by a political party or individual candidate before an election is called \_.
9. The \_ Aayog replaced the Planning Commission in 2015
10. The process of choosing someone for a political office through the casting of votes is called \_.

1. GREEK  
2. PEOPLE  
3. PRESIDENT  
4. JUDICIARY  
5. FIVE  
6. FRANCHISE  
7. SANSAD  
8. MANIFESTO  
9. NITI  
10. ELECTION

## ANSWERS FOR RIDDLES

A 1: The Mississippi River

A 2: A stamp

A 3: A candle

A 4: Smiles, because there is a mile between each 's'

A 5: Short





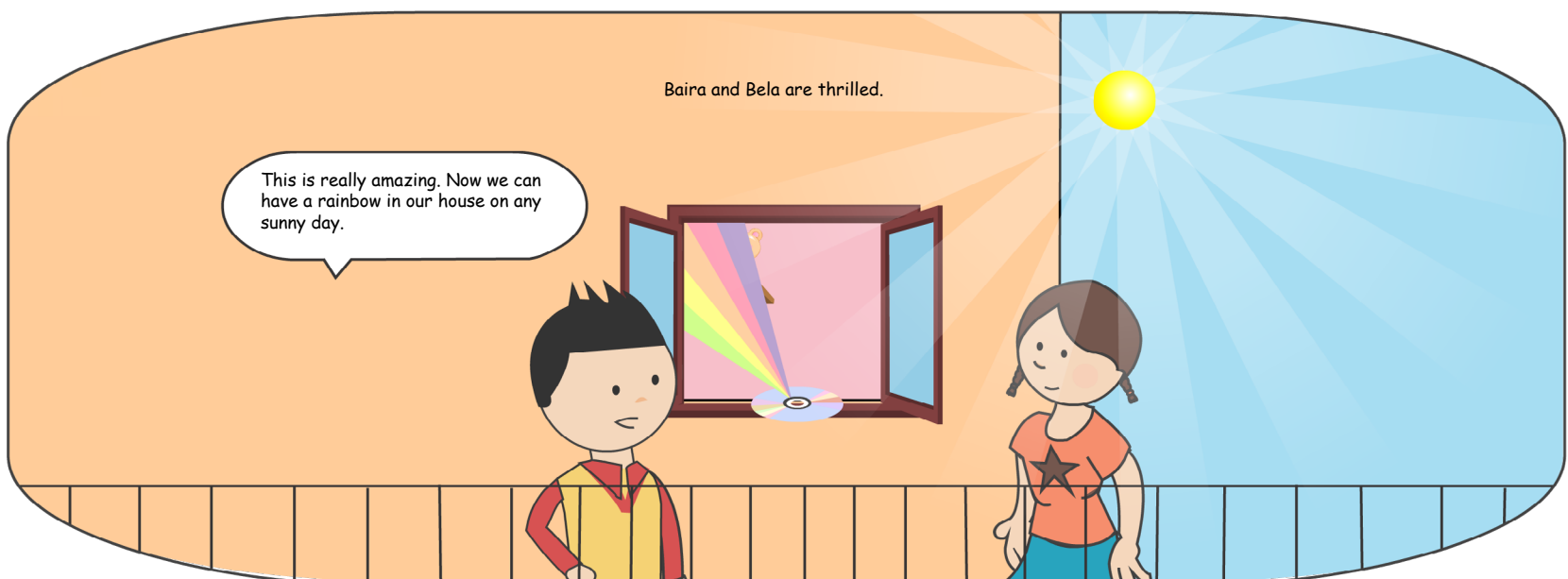
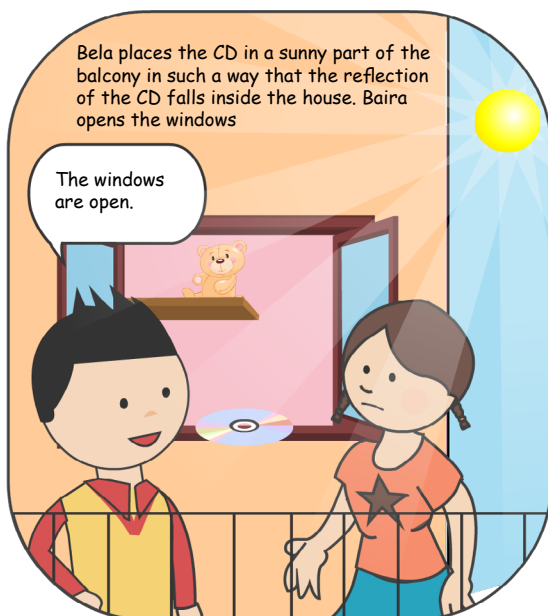
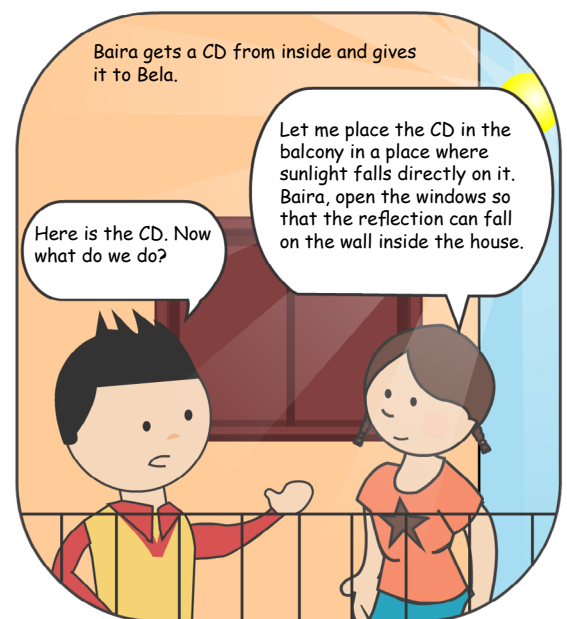
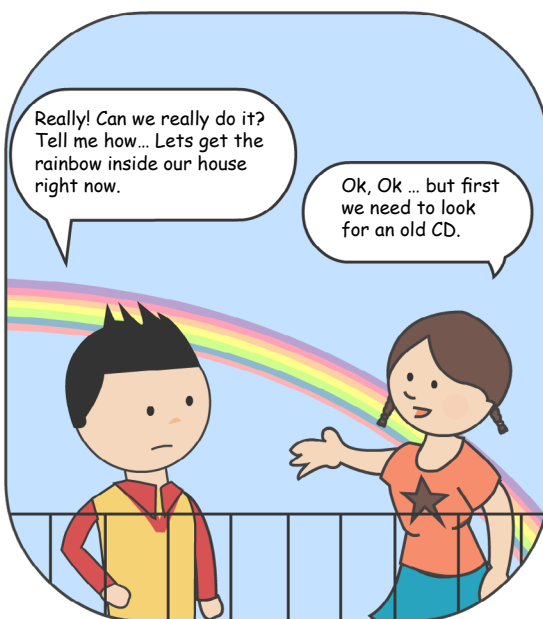


# Comic Strip



## Baira and Bela

Baira and Bela are standing in the balcony. It has just stopped raining and a glorious rainbow is arching the sky.



## Current events updates January-March 2017

Jan 1

António Guterres began his tenure as the ninth U.N. secretary general on Sunday with a call for peace for 2017.



Jan 2

The Supreme Court, in a majority judgment, held that an appeal for votes during elections on the basis of religion, caste, race, community or language, even that of the electorate, will amount to a 'corrupt practice' and call for disqualification of the candidate.

Jan 4

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar took oath on Wednesday as the Chief Justice of India to become the first from the Sikh community to head the Supreme Court in its nearly 67 years of existence.

Jan 6

Om Puri, an actor of international repute, passes away.



Jan 7

The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held during 7-9 January 2017 at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), in Bengaluru. The theme for this year was "Redefining engagement with the Indian diaspora".

Jan 9

The Supreme Court today ruled that churches in India have no power to grant divorces, asserting that only district and high courts can annul a marriage of a Christian couple under the Indian Divorce Act, 1869.

Jan 9

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh declares Dharamsala town of Kangra district as the second capital of the state.



Jan 20

Donald Trump is sworn in as the 45th President of the USA.

Jan 26

India celebrates its 68th Republic Day. The Chief Guest was the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Jan 26

The Padma awards are announced.

Jan 30

The Union Government launched nationwide Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC) on the occasion of Anti-Leprosy Day.

Feb 1

The Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley presented the Union Budget 2017 in the Lok Sabha. This is the 87th budget of independent India.

Feb 7

The Lok Sabha passed the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2017. The Bill seeks to enable employers to pay wages to workers through cheque or directly crediting to their accounts.

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Feb 8

The Union Government approves the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA). The programme aims at making 6 crore rural households digitally literate.

Feb 8

The House of Commons of the British Parliament passed legislation authorising the government to initiate Brexit talks with the European Union.

Feb 10

India's first National Women's Parliament begins its three-day conference in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, organised by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. The theme of the conference is 'Empowering Women - Strengthening Democracy'.

Feb 13

India's first floating elementary school, Loktak Elementary Floating School was inaugurated at Langolsabi Leikai of Champu Khangpok floating village on Loktak Lake in Manipur.



# Current events updates January-March 2017

Feb 13

Indian tabla player, Sandeep Das, wins the 59th Annual Grammy Award for the Best Global Music category.



Feb 15

The Union Cabinet approves the merger of State Bank of India with five of its associate banks – State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Bikaner, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Patiala.

Feb 26

The 89th Oscar Awards were conferred. The movie La La Land received the most nominations. The Best Picture award went to the movie Moonlight.



Feb 28

The United Nations appoints Amina J Mohammed as the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

March 9

The Parliament passes the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

March 13

The House of Lords of the British Parliament gave its final approval on the Brexit Bill paving way to legally initiate United Kingdom's exit from the European Union.

March 20

The President, Pranab Mukherjee, presents Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations at a Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

March 21

Sarbananda Sonowal, the Chief Minister of Assam, launches initiatives to develop Majuli as India's first carbon neutral district and as a biodiversity heritage site. Majuli is the biggest river island in the world in the Brahmaputra river in Assam.

March 21

The Border Security Force received its first woman field officer, Tanushree Pareek, after 51 years.

March 27

The Lok Sabha passes the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016. The bill recognises the rights of mentally ill people to affordable treatment and also seeks to decriminalise suicide.



March 29

The Supreme Court bans the sale and registration of vehicles which are not compliant with Bharat Stage-IV emission norms.



March 29

The Lok Sabha passes four GST bills –  
 •The Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017  
 •The Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017  
 •The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017  
 •The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to the States) Bill, 2017

# GST

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

March 30

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, presents the Padma awards at a Civil Investiture Ceremony, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This year 7 Padma Vibhushan awards, 7 Padma Bhushan awards and 75 Padma Shri awards were announced.

