



Super Science Mangalyaan

India's first interplanetary expedition
– Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)

[Read more](#)

WORLD IN FOCUS

Macmillan Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.

RIDDLES

How do you make the number
one disappear?

05

WORD OF THE MONTH:

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

06

DID YOU KNOW?

Nepal was never colonised.

07

July-October 2015 | gk.macmillaneducation.in



UP AND ABOUT Google it!

We all know about Google—the search engine, and use it to get information on various topics every day. But do we know the story behind it? Google now works under the parent company called Alphabet Inc. As the former CEO of Google, Larry Page took over as the CEO of Alphabet Inc., Sundar Pichai replaced Page as Google's CEO. Pichai has a bachelor's degree from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, a master's degree from Stanford University, and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Pichai joined Google in 2004, and with his talent, hard work and dedication, he was heading Android, Chrome and Apps by 2013 already.

Page believes that Pichai will ensure that Google “can continue to make big strides on our core mission to organize the world's information”.



Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Google Inc.

Candy Floss

Film Preview of

Popeye

Popeye, the spinach-munching seaman of the '90s, is all set to make a comeback! Popeye will be seen in the form of an animation movie by Sony Pictures Animation. Although Sony had announced in March 2010 that they will be bringing a computer animated adaptation of Popeye to the big screen in 3D, the movie is slated to release only next year in 2016....

[Read more on
page 4](#)



Reflections

Film Review of *The Little Prince*

The film is an adaptation of the book by the same name by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

[Read more on
page 4](#)



Super SCIENCE

MANGALYAAN



India's first interplanetary expedition – Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or Mangalyaan is the cheapest Mars mission in the world. Mangalyaan entered the orbit of Mars on 24 September 2014 after NASA's MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) on 5 September 2014. While MAVEN completed 1000 orbits of Mars in 200 days, Mangalyaan completed 800 orbits in 180 days. Both ISRO's and NASA's aim is to study the atmosphere of Mars. The life of Mangalyaan was estimated to be about six months after the launch but “all subsystems worked fine and a fuel of 39 kilograms was still remaining and lasted for a long time”, ISRO said emphasising that the MOM could survive for “years” in the Martian orbit.

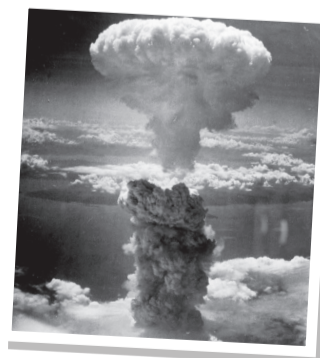
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HIROSHIMA NAGASAKI BOMBINGS

The Little Boy and Fat Boy landed on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively, with a difference of three days.

6 August 1945, in the frenzy of the ongoing Second World War, the United States, dropped its first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing 129,000 people instantly. Without any reconsideration and hesitation, on 9 August 1945 the US dropped the second bomb, this time on Nagasaki. This bombing claimed 40,000 lives. Many more residents of the two cities were left to suffer the repercussions of this show of power on their health. Only 165 survived the bombings.

Now, 70 years after the horrific experience, people from around the world have come together to debate again: Did US actually have to drop the bombs? NHK Hiroshima broadcasted various documentaries, dramas, music across all genre and held events to commemorate the anniversary. The city of Hiroshima continues to mourn for the dead, and pray at a service conducted every year on August 6.

On 2 September 1945, the World War ended. Japan surrendered 13 days later with Emperor Hirohito accepting the power of “the new and most cruel bomb”. This is the only instance in world history when these weapons were used. Thankfully!





Australian

SHEEP SAVED FROM WOOLY DEATH!



An Australian sheep was saved from its own overgrown fur after five shearers removed about 40 kg of wool from its body. Chris, the sheep, has set an unofficial record after its 'haircut' for the heaviest wool haul from a single shearing. Welfare crews warned of the risk of its death from the weight of its wool as it was very woolly, living in the wild for many years. National shearing champion, Ian Elkins was called in for the mammoth task. Elkins described the shearing session as one of the biggest challenges he had faced in 35 years of his work. Chris had to be sedated during the procedure. Animal welfare officials claimed that he was three to four times the normal size before undergoing the knife.

EXOSKELETON

Developed by researchers from Germany and Korea, the exoskeleton is a robotic device that fits around a man's hips and legs. A dark cap covered with electrodes, worn by the person using it, facilitates the connection between the brain and the machine. The researchers who developed this device feel that one day people, who are not able to walk and have a physical disability, will be able to 'walk' using this technology. The difference between the exoskeleton and the previously invented similar technology is that the earlier ones, like the robotic arm, which allowed movements in the arms for those unable to do so, required the participants to undergo a brain surgery. The exoskeleton's operation requires no surgery; the electrode cap allows the movements. The researchers from the Korea University in Seoul and the Technical University of Berlin, who developed the exoskeleton, are conducting many more intensive researches before bringing it out in the market.



PEARLS OF WISDOM

THE DREAM



Once upon a time in a village far away, there lived two brothers, Mohan and Sohan. Mohan was a hardworking and jolly person. He enjoyed farming in the sunshine, tending to his cattle and lived a content life. Every day, he thanked god for he always had enough to eat, and feed anyone who came to his door looking for food and water. Sohan, on the other hand, was a greedy person. He wanted to be the richest person in the village without working for it and made fun of Mohan for being content with what he has. One night, he had a dream that he and Mohan are dead. They are standing in front of god. God asked Sohan, 'Who do you wish to become in your next birth?' Sohan replied that he wanted to become a person who never has to give away anything but only take from others. When god asked Mohan the same question, he replied that he wanted to become someone from whose door nobody would return hungry. Viola! Sohan was a beggar! He always got and never had to give. Mohan became the richest man in the village and nobody would return hungry from his door.

Moral: There is enough for everyone's need not for everyone's greed.



BON APPETITE

INGREDIENTS

Corn Kernels	½ cup
Carrot	½ medium sized
Tomato	½ medium sized
Cucumber	½ medium sized
Onion	½ medium sized
Mayonnaise	1 spoon
Ketchup	to taste
Salt	a pinch
Black pepper	a pinch

RECIPE

Microwave the corn for 1 minute. Wash and chop the vegetables into small pieces. Put some mayonnaise, salt and black pepper in a bowl. Add the vegetables and corn to it and mix well. You can also sprinkle some ketchup on top. Your bowl of healthy and tasty salad is ready! You can also spread this mixture on a bread loaf and make a sandwich.



Sprouting a Successor

King Mahendra was in search of a successor to his throne as he had no heir apparent. His advancing age made the need for a crown prince even more necessary. He decided to choose his descendant from among his subjects. King Mahendra made an announcement in the kingdom that those who were willing to take on the throne from the king should assemble in the royal hall on the appointed time.

Many men, young and old, assembled in front of the king. He handed them each a seed and asked them to come back in six months' time when the seed would have sprouted, saying that the one who can take care of a plant can take care of the entire kingdom. Six months later, the palace grounds saw a swarm of people lined with different types of plants in their pots. All of them were eager to show their skills of gardening to the king. All but one pot was sprouted.

When the king completed his inspection of all the plants, he called the young man forward whose pot had no plant. King Mahendra asked, "Why is your pot empty? Did your seed not sprout?"

The young man replied, "Your Majesty! I tried all my gardening abilities to sprout this seed, added extra fertiliser and tended it with utmost care but it just did not sprout."

The king smiled and said, "You, my dear man, are my crown prince. None of the seeds I handed out were meant to sprout as they were roasted prior to distribution. No one but you had the courage to come with an empty pot and be honest in the task assigned to you."

Others who were sneering at the young man, a while ago, held him in high regard after the announcement.



CANDY FLOSS

The Little Prince has landed



Director Mark Osborne is all set for the release of *The Little Prince*, which is an adaptation of the book by the same name by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. The film is set in modern times where The Little Girl is being prepared for a grown-up world by her mother. In the middle of her monotonous schedule, she meets The Aviator, who introduces her to a world full of extraordinary possibilities and also acquaints her with the adventures of The Little Prince. Through these stories, The Little Girl discovers the power of imagination. She reconnects with her childhood and learns “a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.” The film brings out the complexities of a grown-up’s life through encounters between The Little Prince and other characters such as the King, the geographer, the businessman and the fox. The Little Prince does not belong to Earth and meets these characters on each planet he visits, missing his Rose all the while. The Little Prince is innocent and cannot understand these complex adults.

The movie has something to offer for people of all ages. Releasing in December 2015, it is a must watch.



Film Review: Popeye



Popeye, the spinach-munching sailorman of the ‘90s, is all set to make a comeback! Popeye will be seen in the form of an animation movie by Sony Pictures Animation. Although Sony had announced in March 2010 that they will be bringing a computer animated adaptation of *Popeye* to the big screen in 3D, the movie is slated to release only next year in 2016. With its release date shifted twice, the Sony team released an early animation

test (not film footage) to put to rest all speculations about its release in 2016. The video begins with its director Gennedy Tarkovsky

talking about the film and his love for the character. The Russian-born Gennedy Tarkovsky, is the man behind the Cartoon Network hit serials such as *Dexter’s Laboratory*, *The Powerpuff Girls*, and *Star Wars: Clone Wars*.



‘Popeye the Sailor Man’, the cartoon fictional character created by Elzie Crisler Segar, first appeared in the daily King Features comic strip ‘Thimble Theatre’ on 17 January 1929; However, in the later years the strips’ title was changed to ‘Popeye’. *Popeye* became a cartoon in the 1930s with a series of shorts produced by Max and Dave Fleischer’s Fleischer Studios. The last time Popeye was on the big screen, the musical comedy film was directed by Robert Altman in 1980. Everyone is eager to know how Tartakovsky and his team will present the 85-year-old sailor today.



7. **Teacher:** Ellen, give me a sentence starting with 'T'.
Ellen: I is...
Teacher: No, Ellen. Always say "I am".
Ellen: All right. "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."

8. **Teacher:** If I had 7 oranges in one hand and 8 oranges in the other hand, what would I have?
Roy: Big hands!

9. **Teacher:** Your composition on 'My dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his essay?
Student: No, sir. It is the same dog.

1. **Teacher:** Could you please pay a little attention here?
Student: Yes ma'am, I am paying as little attention as I can!!

2. **Two students were chatting:**
First: Do you know what the snake's favourite subject is?
Second: No, you tell me.
First: Hissstory!!!

3. **Teacher:** Who will tell me the chemical formula of water?
One student: It's "h.i.j.k.l.m.n.o."
Teacher: What is this?
Student: Ma'am, yesterday you told us that it is H to O!!

4. **Teacher:** John how do you spell 'crocodile'?
John: "K-R-O-K-D-A-I-L"
Teacher: No, that's wrong!
John: Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me how I spelt it.

5. **Teacher:** Willy, name one important thing that we have today, which we didn't have 10 years ago.
Willy: ME!

6. **Teacher:** Why are you late?
Webster: Because of the sign.
Teacher: Which sign?
Webster: The one that says, "School ahead, Go slow".



RIDDLES?

Q 1: How do you make the number one disappear?

Q 2: Mr. Blue lives in the blue house, Mr. Pink lives in the pink house, and Mr. Brown lives in the brown house. Who lives in the white house?



Q 3: If you look at the numbers on my face you won't find thirteen anywhere.



Q 4: Tear one off and scratch my head what was red is black instead.



Q 5: The eight of us go forth not back to protect our king from a foe's attack.

Q 6: What room can no one enter?

Q 7: What is it that's always coming but never arrives?

Q 8: What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?



Q 9: Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?

Q 10: Feed me and I live, yet give me a drink and I die.



SALEM (TAMIL NADU)

A hill station in the Salem district of Tamil Nadu, Yercaud is located in the Shevaroy Range of the Eastern Ghats. Situated at an altitude of 1515 m above the sea level, the city is termed as the Jewel of the South. The area is administered by a local village council. Coffee and citrus fruits, especially oranges, bananas and jackfruits are found here in abundance. With Salem being its nearest city, 32 km away, the nearest station and airport connecting this beautiful town is also in Salem.



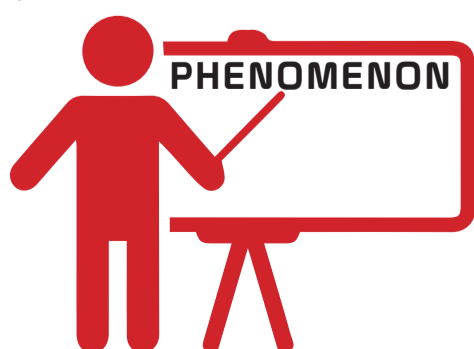
THINGS TO CARRY WHEN YOU VISIT YERCAUD:

- Binoculars (to observe the picturesque view of the mountain peaks)
- Candles (for power cuts)
- Trekking shoes (for long treks and walks)
- 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



Did you know that 'I didn't knew' is a wrong phrase we often use? Let's find out why!

- When we use 'did' or its negative counterpart, did not (didn't) to convey past tense, we cannot use another past tense form, 'knew', in the same sentence. This makes 'I didn't knew' a grammatically wrong sentence. The correct way to say this is 'I didn't know'.

Fun Facts

- Rhythm is the longest word without vowels in the English language.
- Vacuum is the only word that has a 'u' right after the first.



HOW TO WRITE A STORY

Writing stories is not as difficult as it may seem. All you need is a good plot, a hero or heroine, a villain, if required, and lots of imagination and creativity.

1. Beginning of a story can be different for different people. You can either start with a direct introduction of the characters with a third person as the narrator or you could make the protagonist of your story as the narrator and begin with an event from the story. You could also start the story by narrating the most crucial instance of the story and explain the rest as a form of a flashback. There are many more ways to begin a story. Every writer has his or her own style. So now let the story begin!
2. A story needs characters, but only as much as you can handle. Each character should be described to the reader so that they can see what you want them to see. Do not lose track of a character. Each of them should get a proper end to the story too, either along with the climax of the story or in-between, as your story requires.
3. The story should be engaging to the readers and not make them lose interest in between.
4. Every story, like an essay, should have a beginning, middle and an end. There should be a steady tempo in the story, keeping up the drama and suspense of the story.
5. All questions that have formed during a story should be answered by the end of it. No loose ends should be left.



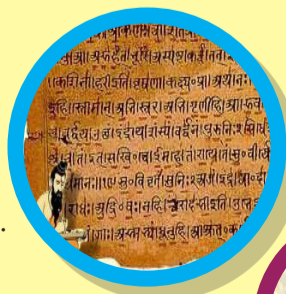
HOMEWORK

HELPER

DID YOU KNOW



1. A snail can sleep for more than three years at a time.
2. Humans have had dogs as companions and workers for more than 14,000 years.
3. Every year, millions of trees around the world grow where squirrels forgot their buried nuts.
4. Baby rabbits are called kittens.
5. Two days after ants die, they give off an odour, which other ants pick up. They come and pick up the ant and carry it to an ant graveyard.
6. Birds cannot live in space because they cannot swallow without gravity.
7. Speaking of dreams, did you know that 12 per cent of people dream in black and white?
8. An average person eats about 60,000 pounds of food in his or her lifetime. It is equal to six elephants, in case you were wondering.
9. The flamingo can only eat when its head is upside down.
10. Because news travelled so slow in the past, for more than two months slaves in Texas didn't know they were free after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.
11. Korea also celebrates Independence Day on 15th August.
12. Nepal was never colonised.
13. There are no temples or mosques in Saudi Arabia.
14. The Caspian Sea in Russia is the largest lake in the world.
15. The ancient Babylonians were the first to record their sightings of Jupiter.
16. The American President has the highest salary in the world.
17. The President of Switzerland serves only for a term of one year.
18. Sanskrit is the most ancient language in the world.
19. The State Bank of India has the highest number of branches in the world.
20. The Mahabharata is the longest epic in the world.



Lost in Translation

Let's learn some Chinese!

Hello	: Ni hao
How are you?	: Ni hao ma?
Thank you	: Xiexie <small>* ('x' is pronounced as 'sh' so we say 'shiyeshiye')</small>
Sorry	: Duibuqi <small>* ('d' is pronounced as a 'soft t' and 'b' as 'p' so we say 'tuipuqi')</small>
Excuse me	: Qingwen
Yes	: Shi
No	: Bu
Goodbye	: Zaijian
Good morning	: Zaoshang hao
Good night	: Wan an



Events

01 SCIENCE AND ART OF ICE CREAM AT HAAGEN-DAZS



The world famous ice cream brand Haagen Dazs conducted the Science and Art of Ice Cream on 16th July, at 2981, Icon Mall, 12th Main, 5th Cross HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru. The workshop was aimed at making children understand how ice cream reaches our tables, taking them through the processes of manufacturing, supply and the art of the craftsmanship. For children between ages 5 and 14 years, the two-hour activity left its participants drooling.

The children got a chance to create their own sundaes too!

02 NEHRU TROPHY SNAKE BOAT RACE

The annual boat race, held in Allepy, is undoubtedly one of the most exciting events in God’s Own Country. Held in the memory of late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the race is in its 63rd year. It is said that an impromptu race was organised when Nehru visited the city in 1952. He enjoyed it so much that he donated a trophy to be awarded to the winner. The race takes place on the second Saturday of August when 70 canoes, about 100-120 feet long, carrying 90-100 rowers each, pit against each other in the beautiful backwaters of the region.



03 KUMBH MELA



One of the largest religious gatherings of the world, the Kumbh Mela, witnesses millions of Hindu pilgrims gather for a holy dip to “wash away their sins”. The festival is held at Prayag in Allahabad, Trimbak in Nashik, Haridwar and Ujjain every third year by rotation. At Allahabad the fair is held by the Prayag where the Ganga, Yamuna and Sarawati meet, by Godavari in Nashik, and along the banks of Ganga and Shipra in Haridwar and Ujjain, respectively. Legend has it that the urn of holy nectar derived during the ‘samudra manthan’ spilled drops in the four spots. This year’s fair was held at Nashik from July 14 to September 25.

- 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

THIS DAY THAT YEAR

1. 2 April 1805

Fairy tale author Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) was born in Odense, Denmark. He created 168 fairy tales for children including the classics ‘The Princess and the Pea’, ‘The Snow Queen’ and ‘The Nightingale’.



2. 4 April 1968

Civil Rights leader Jr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee. As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he had championed non-violent resistance to end racial oppression and had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.



3. 4 April 1949

Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.

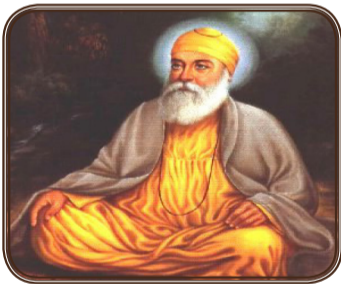


4. 6 April 1896

After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

5. 15 April 1469

The founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, was born.



6. 16 April 1853

The first Railway line established between Bombay and Thane.

7. 16 April 1889

Film comedian Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977) was born in London.



8. 7 May 1861

Nobel prizewinner Rabindranath Tagore was born.



9. 10 May 1994

Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela became the president of South Africa. Mandela had won the first free election in South Africa despite attempts by various political foes to deter the outcome.



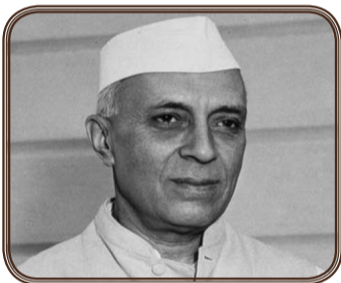
10. 21 May 1991

Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in the midst of a re-election campaign, killed by a bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers. He had served as the prime minister of India from 1984 to 1989, succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.



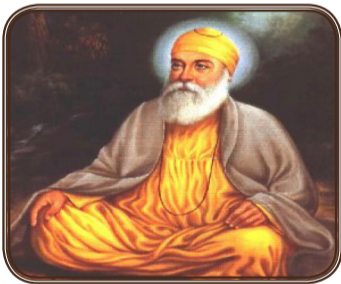
11. 27 May 1964

India’s first Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru passed away.



12. 4 June 1989

The Chinese government ordered its troops, the People’s Army, to open fire on the unarmed protesters, mainly students, in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Over 3000 students died in the massacre.



13. 16 June 1963

Valentina Tereshkova, 26, became the first woman in space as her Soviet spacecraft, Vostok 6, took off from the Tyuratam launch site. She manually controlled the spacecraft completing 48 orbits in 71 hours before landing safely.



SUDOKU

6		8	2		9			
	1	4		6				
5					8			7
3		7			1			
1								3
			6			2		9
4			3					2
				1		6	9	
			8		6	5		4

(ANSWER)

6	7	8	2	5	9	3	4	1
9	1	4	7	6	3	8	2	5
5	3	2	1	4	8	9	6	7
3	2	7	9	8	1	4	5	6
1	6	9	5	2	4	7	8	3
8	4	5	6	3	7	2	1	9
4	8	6	3	9	5	1	7	2
7	5	3	4	1	2	6	9	8
2	9	1	8	7	6	5	3	4

Comic Strip

Baira and Bela



Oh! No. I think we have got lost in the forest. We have been going around the same place for the past 15 minutes.
Read the story on page 11...



RIDDLES

Answers

- Ans 1: Add the letter G and it's "GONE"
- Ans 2: The US President
- Ans 3: A clock
- Ans 4: A matchstick
- Ans 5: Chess pawns
- Ans 6: A mushroom
- Ans 7: Tomorrow
- Ans 8: A stamp
- Ans 9: Incorrectly
- Ans 10: Fire

THE
HAPPY
HAIL

The temperature in Surajpur was dipping and the air had become very cold. The clouds, above, were discussing in great detail about the result of this harsh weather below on earth.

“The cold is becoming unbearable. How are the humans going to bear it?” said a beautiful cloud, Gaiety.

“The rich people may not mind as they have means to withstand it but what about the many homeless and poor? How are they going to live in such a condition?” said her brother, Flimsy, sadly.

“Moreover if the weather remains like this, soon there will be a hailstorm and we all may have to go down. Think about that,” said Gaiety sadly, as she did not want to leave her home in the sky.

“Go down as hail? But that would worsen the condition of the poor. We can’t be so harsh,” said the youngest cloud, Fluffy.

“Yes, it will be harsh, but that is the law of nature. Already so many layers of ice pellets have been accumulated within us. We are all getting heavier every minute. There will be a shower very soon,” the eldest and the wisest cloud, Drops, tried to explain.

Fluffy understood what Drops was trying to say, but felt disheartened. He thought to himself, ‘If all of us would shower hail on the poor humans down there, they would be so unhappy. How I wish I could make someone happy even after falling as hail!’

Down on earth, in the dingy streets of Surajpur, Raju, a small boy of eight, was very upset and angry. He had a bad day. He had failed in his maths test and the teacher had sent him out of the class in school that day.

Raju’s family was very poor. His parents and his elder sister, Rani, made clay pots. Every week Raju’s father sold the clay pots at the weekly market and earned just enough money to feed his family of four.

Only Raju went to school. His sister did not go to school as she helped her parents. Raju’s parents hoped that Raju would one day get a good job and they could all live comfortably.

Upset with his maths test result, Raju was playing with his ball outside the house. He had not told his parents that his teacher had scolded him. He was angry with himself that he had disappointed his parents. Suddenly Raju slipped and fell on a pile of pots. At least a dozen pots fell and broke. The crash brought out his parents and sister. All of them shouted at him. Raju apologized many times but his parents refused to talk to him. His sister too was very upset.

Raju was very sad. He understood why his parents were so angry. Because of his carelessness at least two days’ of their hard work was wasted.

Raju didn’t have his dinner and quietly went and lied down on his mat. He was so guilty that he could not get a wink of sleep. Not only the broken pots, the fact that he had not till then told his parents about his maths test result also upset him.

As he was staring at the ceiling, suddenly the rattling of the windowpane attracted his attention. There was a fierce wind blowing outside. In no time he heard the thunder. Raju was very scared of the thunder. He sat up covering his ears with his hands. And then he heard another sound. He felt as if someone was pelting stones at their house. He rushed to the window to see who was throwing stones at his rooftop. But he was in for a surprise. It was a hailstorm! Big hail stones were falling all over.

His parents and sister too were wide awake. His mother quickly came and wrapped him in her shawl and told him to move away from the window lest he got wet. But Raju was too excited to see the hail stones. The entire street was covered with a layer of white stones. Raju wanted to go outside and pick up some hail stones but his parents didn’t let him go. They shut the windows and doors tightly.

Raju was feeling miserable sitting in a corner of the house when all of a sudden, something hit his head. Raju looked up and saw a small hole in the roof above. And through the hole had descended a hail stone right on to his head. Raju’s face brightened up immediately. He carefully took the hail stone out from in between his hair and looked at it as if it was a gem. He smiled lovingly looking at it. The round and smooth ice stone too smiled back at him. It was none other than Fluffy. His wish had finally come true. Fluffy was satisfied that he was in the hands of someone who was not feeling bitter on seeing him. It was the first time Raju had seen something like Fluffy. He danced around the whole house with his precious ‘gem’.

But, in no time his ‘gem’ melted. That is when Raju realised that if a hail stone could give so much happiness before melting away, so could he. He knew what he had to do to bring a smile on his parents’ faces.



NANDITA MENON

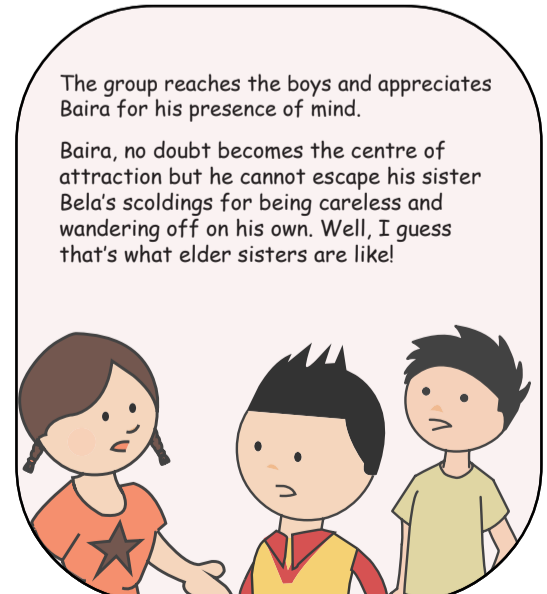
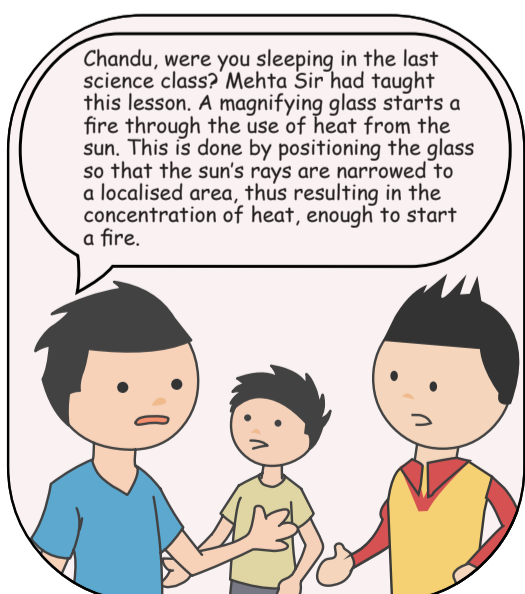
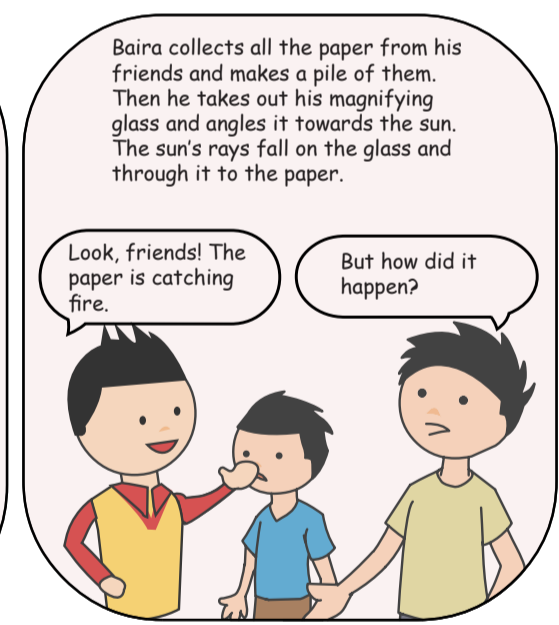
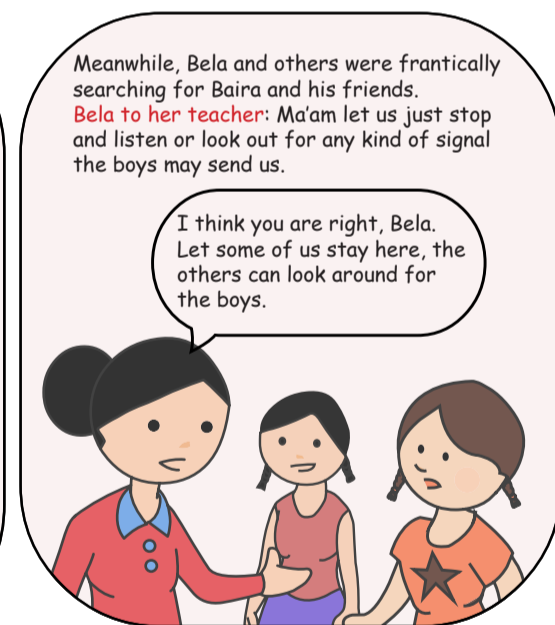
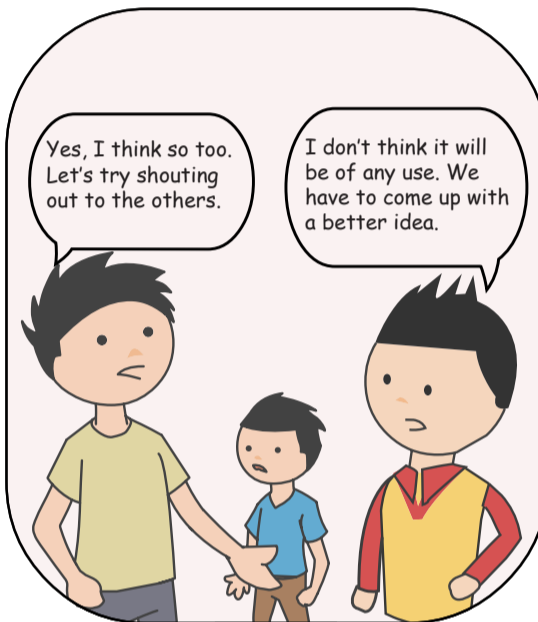


Comic Strip



BAIRA AND BELA

Baira and Bela are on a school trip, camping in the forests bordering the city. They are here to study the different kinds of insects for a project. Trekking along with their friends, Baira and a few of his friends go astray from the rest of the group.





LESSER KNOWN SPORTS IN INDIA

1. ELEPHANT POLO



We know of polo played on horses and in the water; but you probably don't know it is played with elephants, too! Each player is given three chances to hit the ball without hooking the sticks; not more than two elephants of a team can be present in any one half of the play field. Elephants cannot lie down before reaching their goals, or use their trunks to pick up balls.

3. PHAN SOHLAIMUNG

One of the games that call for both strength and the ability to focus, Phan Sohlaimgung, makes to our list of the lesser known Indian sports. It is native to Tripura. Players stand at a specified distance from another player and a spot is designated in between. Each player places the ends of a bamboo pole under the armpit of the right shoulder and grasping the pole firmly, tries to go across the mark by pushing the opponent.

5. JALLIKATTU



Another sport which makes to our list is the relatively unknown Indian sport of Jallikattu. The ability to fight an animal was traditionally considered a measure of a man's strength and bravery. No wonder then that in some communities, this was used as a yardstick by which parents sought a suitable match for their daughter.

The best known such duel between man and animal is the Jallikattu of Tamil Nadu traditionally held during the Pongal festival in January every year. Both bulls and men train specially for this perilous encounter that can prove deadly for the one who is lesser prepared. With no need to rely on such ways of choosing a life partner, quite a few people believe it is probably time to bid goodbye to this dangerous sport.

7. VETRUKKAAL SEVAL PORR

Considered by many to be one of the oldest spectator sports in the world, cock fighting began in Persia, but it is a sport practiced in different forms all over the world. In Tamil Nadu, India, this fight takes place between two roosters that use their sharpened natural spurs to attack each other. Some rare breeds of roosters are trained especially for these fights that are conducted in different parts of the state with slight variations in techniques such as attaching a blade to the legs of the rooster.

9. SILAMBAM



Indian-style fencing is probably the best way to describe Silambam, a sport that dates back to the era of Pandya kings. Participants drape themselves in traditional wear that includes turbans, *langots*, sleeveless vests and a chest guard for protection.

The aim of the game is to touch an opposing player's body with the staff called Silambam even as he dodges and maneuvers to avoid the touch; the player receiving the maximum touches loses the game. The staffs are coated with a sticky substance to make it easy to identify the number of times a player has been touched.

2. CHOUKA

A game that encourages the use of resources available at home for entertainment, chouka is a popular pastime in Tripura. Using sea shells, tamarind seeds and broken bangle bits as coins, players seek to move them across a square drawn on the floor to reach an inner space called "home," using moves that are reminiscent of Ludo.

4. ASOL AAP

Showcasing their rowing skills, the inhabitants of the Andaman and Nicobar islands participate in the Asol Aap canoe race. Teams with equal number of people row a distance of 6 kilometers in their canoes made from the stems of coconut trees. An interesting twist to this race is also seen in the form of what is called Asol-Tale Aap or the canoe race on sand. Team players sit in the canoe with one leg inside and one hanging out onto the ground and drive the canoe forward with the help of their limbs – truly a test of physical stamina.

6. KANG SHANABA

The celebrations of New Year and Ratha Yatra festivals in Manipur provide an occasion to witness the sport of Kang Shanaba. Symbolic of the cycle of life and death, day and night, this game is played with a circular object called "kang" that represents the seed of life and the act of throwing it within a specified boundary called "Kang Shanaba."



8. ONATHALLU OR AVITTATHALLU

The days of wars may be over but the communities that fought these wars can never really sever their identity from their traditional role. In fond memory of the role they played, the Nair community of Pallassana in Palakkad, Kerala, conducts a traditional festival called Onathallu or Avittathallu as a grand finale to the Onam celebrations. In an enactment of war-like situations, men pair up and engage in physical struggles, war cries, and pretend battle behaviour.

10. MALLAKHAMB

A sport that is believed to have originated during the 12th century Mallakhamb is the Indian version of gymnastics combined with martial arts. This sport consists of acrobatic feats of which two formats are popular—the rope version in which the performer hangs by a rope from the pole and the hanging version where a pole is hung from a chain so as to be a little distance away from the ground.

Gymnasts performing Mallakhamb exhibit not just body balance and controlled movement, but also intense mental concentration as they execute their feats.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

July 2015

14 July 2015

- Iran and a group of six nations led by the United States reached a historic accord to significantly limit Tehran’s nuclear ability for more than a decade in return for lifting international oil and financial sanctions. After repeated diplomatic failures and threats of military action.
- India defeat Zimbabwe by 83 runs in the third and final One-Day International cricket match to complete a 3-0 series whitewash in Harare.
- The Supreme Court-appointed Justice R.M. Lodha Committee on the Indian Premier League (IPL) betting scandal, suspends India Cements Ltd. (ICL) and Jaipur IPL Cricket Private Ltd. (JIPL) from the League for two years and suspends Gurunath Meiyappan, CSK official and Raj Kundra, former Rajasthan Royals part-owner, and slaps a life ban.

21 July 2015

The United States and Cuba and re-establish diplomatic ties ruptured more than 54 years ago, in 1961 during the era of the Cold War.

26 July 2015

Former President passes away while delivering a lecture on Creating a Livable Planet Earth at the IIM, Shillong. A seven-day National mourning was declared as a mark of respect. President Kalam was a ‘People’s President’, who was conferred with the highest civilian honours Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1990), and the Bharat Ratna (1997) besides receiving honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions.

31 July 2015

Ending decades of wait, India and Bangladesh implement their landmark Land Boundary Agreement with a historic land swap, as a result of which 14,214 citizens of Bangladesh, who had been residing in 51 enclaves (a total area of 7,110 acres) within India, became Indians. At the same time, 111 Indian enclaves (17,160 acres) in Bangladesh merged with that country. Of the 36,021 living there, 979 opted to move to India.

August 2015

1 August 2015

Golfer Ranveer Singh Saini (14) creates history by becoming the first Indian to win a Gold medal at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.

2 August 2015

- Joshna Chinappa wins her 10th professional squash title, the Victorian Open, in Melbourne.
- The Indian men’s team wins a Gold medal at the 3x3 South Asian Basketball Association (SABA) tournament in Sri Lanka.

3 August 2015

The Government signs a peace accord with the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), moving a step closer towards resolving one of the country’s longest running internal conflicts.

5 August 2015

At least 25 people killed after two trains—Kamayani Express and Janata Express derailed within minutes of each other as flash floods triggered by heavy rain washed away the tracks in Madhya Pradesh.

7 August 2015

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the first National Handloom Day in Chennai.



8 August 2015

England clinches the 2015 Ashes series 3-1 in Nottingham.

August 2015

11 August 2015

India-born Sundar Pichai appointed the next CEO of Google.



12 August 2015

Grandmaster Tania Sachdev wins the Silver medal in the Asian Continental Women’s Rapid Chess Championship in UAE.

13 August 2015

The nationwide ban on Maggi noodles revoked by the Bombay High Court, but in the interest of public health, orders fresh testing of all variants of the product.



15 August 2015

The Taj Mahal becomes one of the first historical monuments in the world to have a Twitter account of its own: @TajMahal

17 August 2015

A bomb on a motorcycle explodes just outside a Hindu shrine in the centre of the Thai capital, Bangkok, killing at least 27 people and injuring over 100.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

August 2015

19 August 2015

After 18 years of legal battle by the next of kin of victims of the gruesome fire in Uphaar cinema in New Delhi, the Supreme Court allows real estate magnates Gopl and Sushil Ansal to walk free in the Uphaar Cinema fire case that led to the death of 159 people.

20 August 2015

Saina Nehwal regains the top spot in women’s singles in the latest rankings of the Badminton World Federation, despite losing the world championship final in Jakarta.

21 August 2015

United National Party (UNP) leader Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the fourth time.

22 August 2015

A day before they were to begin, Pakistan calls off the talks between its National Security Adviser Sartaj Aziz and his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval in New Delhi after war of words.

26 August 2015

The Gujarat bandh called by Hardik Patel, the leader of the economically and politically powerful Patel community demanding reservation, paralyzes life in the State.



27 August 2015

- Usain Bolt wins both 100 m and 200 m crown at the World Athletics Championships in Beijing.
- Over 200 feared dead when an overcrowded fishing boat carrying over 600 migrants attempting the perilous journey across the Mediterranean capsizes off Libya.

August 2015

28 August 2015

Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu unveils a list of 98 cities as part of the Smart City Mission.



29 August 2015

- The Indian women’s hockey team qualifies for next year’s Olympic Games at Rio de Janeiro, in a comeback after a long gap of 36 years.
- Sania Mirza, currently ranked world number one in women’s doubles, decorated with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. Sixteen sportspersons and five coaches were among those who were honoured at the National Sports and Adventure Awards ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan.



30 August 2015

M.M. Kalburgi, 77, a veteran Kannada writer known for his strong stand against superstition and right-wing groups, shot dead at his home in Dharwad, Karnataka.

31 August 2015

The Supreme Court restores the Jain religious practice of a ritualistic fast unto death called ‘Santhara’ by staying an order of the Rajasthan High Court comparing it to an act of suicide.

September 2015

1 September 2015

Indian cricket team wins its first series 2-1 in Sri Lanka in 22 years.

4 September 2015

The Delhi High Court allows women to be granted permanent commission in the Navy, ensuring that women naval officers enjoyed rights similar to their counterparts in the Army and the Air Force.

5 September 2015

Fulfilling one of the major election promises of the BJP, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar announced the implementation of the one rank, one pension (OROP) scheme for ex-servicemen.

9 September 2015

ISRO chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar receives the Gandhi Peace Prize on behalf of the organization from President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



10 September 2015

Dhruthi Venugopal and Sasi Kumar Mukund win the mixed doubles Gold in tennis in the Commonwealth Youth Games in Apia.

11 September 2015

Singapore’s ruling People’s Action Party (PAP) wins a sweeping victory in a snap parliamentary election, extending its 56 years in power.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

September 2015

12 September 2015

- Veteran Indian tennis star Leander Paes lifts the US Open mixed doubles title with Martina Hingis.
- Flavia Pennetta wins her first Grand Slam singles title in the U.S. Open.

13 September 2015

The top-seeded duo Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis win in straight sets in the US Open.

14 September 2015

Novak Djokovic wins the men’s final in the U.S. Open.

15 September 2015

Malcolm Turnbull sworn in as Australia’s 29th Prime Minister a day after defeating Tony Abbott as Liberal Party leader in a vote.

16 September 2015

Manpreet Kaur of Railways rewrites the National record in shot put to book a berth in the Rio Olympics 2016.

17 September 2015

Mahesh Rangarajan steps down as director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).

20 September 2015

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Jagmohan Dalmiya (75) passes away in Kolkata.

23 September 2015

Chaitanya Tamhane’s Marathi film *Court* has been chosen as India’s official entry to the Best Foreign Language category of the 2016 Academy Awards.

September 2015

24 September 2015

A huge stampede killed at least 717 people at the Haj in Saudi Arabia in one of the worst-ever tragedies at the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

26 September 2015

The CBI registers a case against Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, his wife and associates for allegedly amassing assets worth over Rs. 6 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income.

27 September 2015

Manipur Governor Syed Ahmed (73) passes away at a private hospital in Mumbai. Pankaj Advani wins the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Adelaide taking his world title count to 14.

28 September 2015

- The ISRO launches its first multi-wavelength space observatory Astrosat into space, besides six satellites for Canada, Indonesia and the U.S.
- Absconding Aam Aadmi Party legislator Somnath Bharti surrenders at a police station in Delhi in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court.

30 September 2015

- Nine years after a series of powerful explosions ripped through local trains in Mumbai, a special Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA) court sentenced to death five convicts for planting bombs on 11 July, 2006.
- Heena Sidhu wins the Gold medal in the women’s 10 m Air Pistol event in the eighth Asian Airgun Championship in Tughlakabad.



October 2015

2 October 2015

Prime Minister Koirala Resigns After Nepal Passes New Constitution (Oct. 2): Prime Minister Sushil Koirala announces he will submit his resignation to make room for a successor.

3 October 2015

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza along with her Swiss partner Martina Hingis clinch their seventh title together by winning the WTA Wuhan Open women’s doubles final in China.

4 October 2015

Shashank Manohar is elected as the BCCI president.

5 October 2015

- A total amount of Rs 4,147 crore was declared during the 90-day black money compliance window, higher than the previously announced amount of Rs 3,770 crore.
- India and Germany agree to promote their languages, which will allow German as an optional (additional foreign language) language in central schools, and Germany will similarly promote modern Indian languages (including Hindi, Assamese, Bengali etc.) of their choice in their country.

6 October 2015

Takaaki Kajita of Japan and Arthur B. McDonald of Canada win the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of neutrino oscillations.

7 October 2015

- At One of Kashmir’s most active and competent counter-insurgency officers, Inspector Altaf Ahmad Dar, killed in an encounter with militants in north Kashmir’s Bandipora area causing a serious blow to the state police force.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will soon induct women as fighter pilots, which will make it the first of the three wings of the armed forces to put women in combat roles.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

October 2015

9 October 2015

- The Supreme Court slaps an Environment Compensation Surcharge on all light and heavy duty commercial vehicles entering or passing through Delhi in view of the increasing pollution that inflicts heavy cost on the health of the residents of Delhi and to tackle this menace.
- Writer Shashi Deshpande resigned from the Sahitya Akademi General Council, over Akademi's silence on the murder of Professor M.M. Kalburgi, a Kannada writer, scholar and winner of the Akademi award, who was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Dharwad in August.
- Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, sacks Asim Ahmed Khan, the minister for food and environment, on charges of corruption.
- Tunisia's National Dialogue quartet win the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to build democracy in the wake of the Arab Spring.

10 October 2015

- The Sahitya Akademi president, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, officially broke his silence and passed a resolution to strongly condemn the killing of professor M.M. Kalburgi, thinkers and intellectuals and violence against fellow citizens in the country.
- At least 86 people were killed when two suspected suicide bombers detonate at a rally of pro-Kurdish and labour activists outside Ankara's main train station, just weeks before elections.

11 October 2015

K.P. Sharma Oli is elected Prime Minister of Nepal.



12 October 2015

Sudheendra Kulkarni, Chairman of the Observer and Research Foundation (ORF) and the BJP's former strategist, was attacked by Shiv Sena activists who smeared his face with paint ahead of the book launch of former Pakistan foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri.

October 2015

14 October 2015

- PM Narendra Modi announced that the Centre has decided to declassify all the files related to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Jamaican writer Marlon James bags the Man Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel *Brief History of Seven Killings*.

15 October 2015

- Pharmaceutical companies in India are expected to comply with mandatory bar-coding of medicine strips, as per directives of the Commerce Ministry.
- Zaheer Khan announced his retirement from international and first-class cricket. He will, however, continue to play in the IPL for one more season.

18 October 2015

BJP president Amit Shah summoned four senior leaders — Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan, party MP Sakshi Maharaj and MLA from Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Som — for their remarks on the Dadri lynching, and served a gag order on them.

20 October 2015

- Former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Reva Khetrapal will be the Delhi's new Lokayukta.
- Virender Sehwag announces his retirement from international cricket and the Indian Premier League.

21 October 2015

Ace Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri, the Bengaluru-based golfer, wins the inaugural Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award.

22 October 2015

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday when he laid the foundation for Amaravati by putting the first brick of the 'People's Capital' of Andhra Pradesh on the banks of the Krishna between Vijayawada and Guntur.

October 2015

25 October 2015

South Africa defeats India by 214 runs in last ODI in Mumbai, wins series 3-2.

26 October 2015

- Indian girl, Geeta, who wandered into Pakistan arrives home after 13 years.
- A strong earthquake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale, strikes Afghanistan, killing more than 200 people in Afghanistan and nearby northern Pakistan, and injuring hundreds.
- Indian archer Deepika Kumari bags a silver medal in the women's recurve event at the Archery World Cup.

27 October 2015

India's top para-athlete Devendra Jhajharia wins a Silver in men's javelin throw F46 event in the IPC Athletics World Championships in Doha.



28 October 2015

- Students of the Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India called off their 139-day-old strike and said that they will not sacrifice academics anymore.
- Nepal's Parliament elects lawmaker Bidhya Bhandari as the country's first woman President.

29 October 2015

China announces the end of its controversial one-child policy after growing fears over ageing population.

31 October 2015

A Russian airliner crashes in Egypt killing all 224 people on board and the Intelligence suggests that the plane may have been brought down by a bomb.