

Child Friendly News



**EXTREME
WEATHER IS HERE !**



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OUR HEROES

- Last June, when the flood waters of the Mandakini river swirled into their family's hotel room in Kedarnath (in Uttarakhand), eight-year-old Mahika Gupta and her brother were caught unawares. The river water that quickly filled their room almost swept away Mahika's four year old brother. Acting quickly, Mahika grabbed her brother and then bravely clung on to a window rod until help arrived.
- Seven year old Tanvi Nandkumar Ovhal luckily happened to be around when her four year old sister fell into a water tank. Tanvi didn't know how to swim but that didn't stop her from jumping into the tank, finding her sister and hauling her out.
- 14 year old Shilpa Sharma from Himachal Pradesh was walking to school with her younger brother, Anshul, when a leopard attacked him. Although it was the first time she was seeing a leopard, she reacted quickly – screaming loudly, she hit the animal with her school bag and managed to pull Anshul out from under it. Thanks to her, Anshul lived to tell the tale.



Wondering who these young people are? They are real flesh and blood heroes who have demonstrated their bravery in situations that sound straight out of a story book. Twenty five such children between the ages of 6 and 18, including those mentioned above, have been chosen for the National Bravery Awards 2013. The award includes a medal, a certificate, and

a cash prize.

While 25 children were chosen for the awards, only 20 were there to accept them. Five children actually lost their lives while helping others. The awards were given ahead of the Republic Day celebrations and the children were part of the parade that went down Rajpath in New Delhi last Sunday.

Indians live longer now

Indians live longer now than they did 10 years ago, information released by the Government of India shows. The average lifespan of a male Indian is around 69 years while Indian women live up to the age of 67 on average.

Do remember that these are aver-

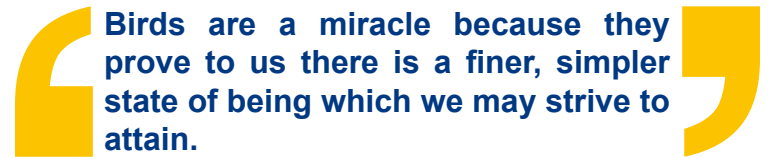
age numbers and many Indians do live much beyond these ages. The average life span has increased steadily over the years, from just 42 years in 1948 to 48 years in 1980 to touch nearly 70 now.

Why Indians live longer now

When people get a regular supply of food, they tend to live longer.

Another important factor is that people in India can now buy medicines and visit hospitals when they fall sick. Even in most rural areas, people can visit government doctors and hospitals. As fewer people die from diseases, the life span of the total population increases.





Birds are a miracle because they prove to us there is a finer, simpler state of being which we may strive to attain.

— Douglas Coupland

NOT SUCH A BIRD BRAIN AFTER ALL

The phrase 'bird brain' is used to describe people who are not very smart. But recent research on the flying formations of birds shows that birds may be smarter than we think, making use of the phrase 'bird brain' quite incorrect. We have all seen how birds fly in a V formation. While it was always believed that the formation helps birds fly over long distances, the exact mechanics of it were not clear. Now, a group of scientists who studied the flight pattern of Northern Ibises in Europe have shed new light on the topic. When flying in a V formation, the lead bird is the one who

literally has to plough through the air. The efforts made by the leader make the passage easier for the birds that follow as they experience less resistance from the on-rushing air. Also, when a bird flaps its wings to fly, it disturbs the air waves behind it. The movement of its wings causes some air to be pushed upward – this is known as 'upwash' and some air is pushed downward – this is called 'downwash'. Scientists who observed the birds noticed that birds flying in formation adjusted their wing beats to use the upwash while avoiding the downwash. By doing so, the bird flying behind another has



to use less energy to maintain flight.

Birds are also known to change places regularly during formation flight so that they

each get turns to be leaders and followers. This way, they can sustain enough energy to complete the flight.

Now, how smart is that?

Sleeping beauty spacecraft comes to life

The Rosetta probe belonging to the European Space Agency (ESA) came back to life after several years in hibernation when it sent back communication signals to the ESA control room after nearly three years. The probe is on its way to make contact with comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. Rosetta was deliberately placed into sleep-mode to conserve (save) power as the probe made its long journey towards the comet. Now, months before this journey is to come to an end, the probe has been 'powered-up' again. Before they got the signal from Rosetta that it was awake and well, ESA scientists were nervous about the probe's fate. They were worried that something might have gone wrong with it and that they would never hear from the probe again. In the coming months, Rosetta will near the comet and send back information on it. It will also drop a landing device on the comet's surface. The lander will collect samples and investigate them and then send the information back to Earth.

Comets are fast-moving space objects made up of rock and ice. As comets have remained unchanged for billions of years, understanding what comets are made of will help us understand more about the universe. It is also believed that several natural disasters were caused on Earth long, long ago when comets struck the planet. By understanding what comets are made up of, scientists hope to prevent this from happening again.



Disease ended Indus Valley civilization



Climate change, disease and fights between groups of people brought an end to the Indus Valley civilization, new research has shown. The Indus valley Civilization, which spread across parts of India and Pakistan around 4000 years ago, was one of the largest and most advanced human settlements on Earth at that time. Its people were thought to be very advanced and they built some of the best-planned cities of the ancient world. Scientists have been studying the skeletons that date back to this age with new tools and technology. They have found out that many people appear to have died from diseases such as leprosy and tuberculosis. Evidence of injury was also found, showing that fights had broken out between people in the Indus cities towards the end of the civilization. Around the same time, the monsoon system also began to fail, and this climate change speeded up the death of the Indus Valley civilization.

Owlle Talks Technology

2014'S COOLEST TECH

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) takes place in Las Vegas (United States) in January every year. It's one of the most important technology shows in world, and companies feverishly compete to present the best and brightest in tech. Let's take a look at a few gadgets that created quite a stir at CES. Not all the gadgets mentioned below may make their way into Indian stores, but they are worth a look just to evaluate where technology is heading.

Oculus Rift

The Oculus Rift is a Virtual Reality (VR) Headset and wearing it makes you feel that you are in the middle of the

scene being projected on the headset's screen. What adds to the effect is a VR engine that allows you to make natural body movements to explore the screen. The demo that the Rift's makers showed at CES was of a cave scene. So, if you looked up (while wearing the device), you'd be able to see the roof of the cave and if you looked down, you'd see the floor. A fantastic new feature even allows the user to look around corners by leaning forward and angling the head. The Rift is likely to be launched in stores this year. While an



obvious use will be video gaming (for a total 3D effect), the Rift is also likely to be useful in simulation exercises that are part of specialized training programmes, like a pilot training course.

Virtual Reality or VR is a three-dimensional image created by a powerful computer. When the image is projected on a screen inside a VR headset, it can make the user feel that he or she is actually within the image shown on the screen.

Wearable Tech

Smartwatches that do a lot more than just tell time have been around since last year, but they are now getting even more interesting. Smartwatches are now talking to other machines, and in the process, becoming very useful. The Pebble is a smartwatch that is sold in the United States (US). At CES, the watch's makers showed off a new model for Mercedes car owners that displays current mileage, the amount of fuel in the car tank and tyre pressure, whether the user

is near the car or not. It can even connect to the Internet to alert the driver of a traffic jam ahead.

Intel, the chip-maker, has come up with a very different piece of wearable tech – body-monitoring ear-buds that you wear much like ear-phones. The ear-buds have trackers that collect calorie burn rate, pace, distance, and time data during a work-out. That's not all. If the user is going too slow or too fast compared to the goal set at the beginning of the work-out, the ear-buds will play fast or

slow music to help the user speed up/slow down.

DoorBot

The DoorBot is a Wi-Fi-enabled doorbell that lets you see and talk to visitors standing outside your door using a smartphone. When someone rings the bell, DoorBot sets up a video call so you

can see the person standing outside. Since it can connect through Wi-Fi to the internet, it can transmit the video to your phone, even if you are not at home. So, now, if that urgent courier comes home when you are away, you can speak to the messenger and sort things out.



Website Wanderings

GET SOME MATH PRACTICE DONEQUICK!

With annual exams approaching for many in coming months, it's time to get serious about work. So here is a resource that might come in handy.

<http://www.math-drills.com/> is a website devoted to math worksheets. You can find worksheets on addition, subtraction, division, fractions, measurements.....

almost every topic you learn in school. The sheets can be easily printed using Adobe PDF reader and the good news that is that it's all free!

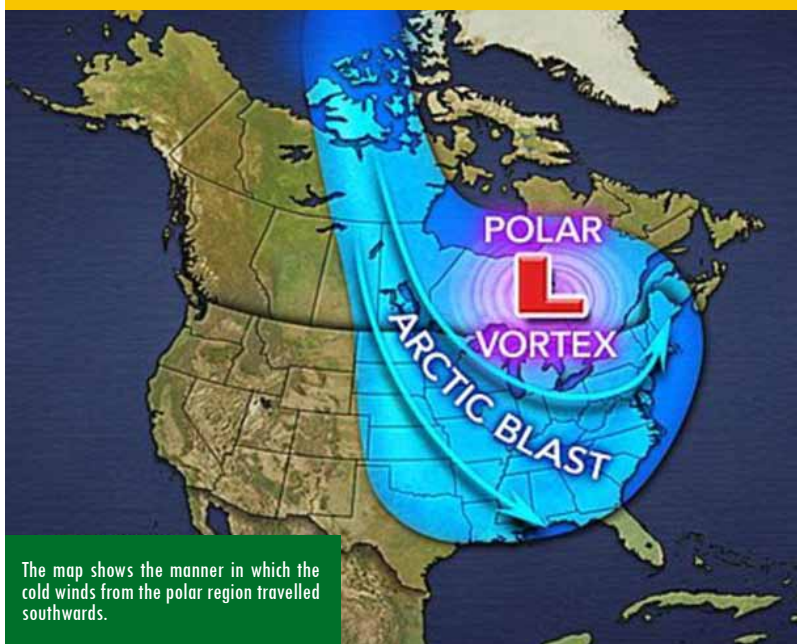




The Polar Vortex

At the beginning of January, parts of the United States (US) experienced the coldest weather seen in 20 years. Major cities like Chicago saw temperatures falling to -27°C – that's as cold as it gets in Antarctica! It got so cold that water, even boiling hot water, turned instantly to ice, when it came into contact with cold air outdoors. Experts warned people to venture out only after dressing properly as the cold could freeze exposed flesh in under five minutes.

The extremely cold temperatures were the result of a polar vortex. A polar vortex is a large pocket of very cold air, the coldest in the Northern hemisphere, which sits over the polar region during the winter season. This year wind systems that built up over the Arctic pushed the vortex much further south, bringing cold winds to many parts of North America.



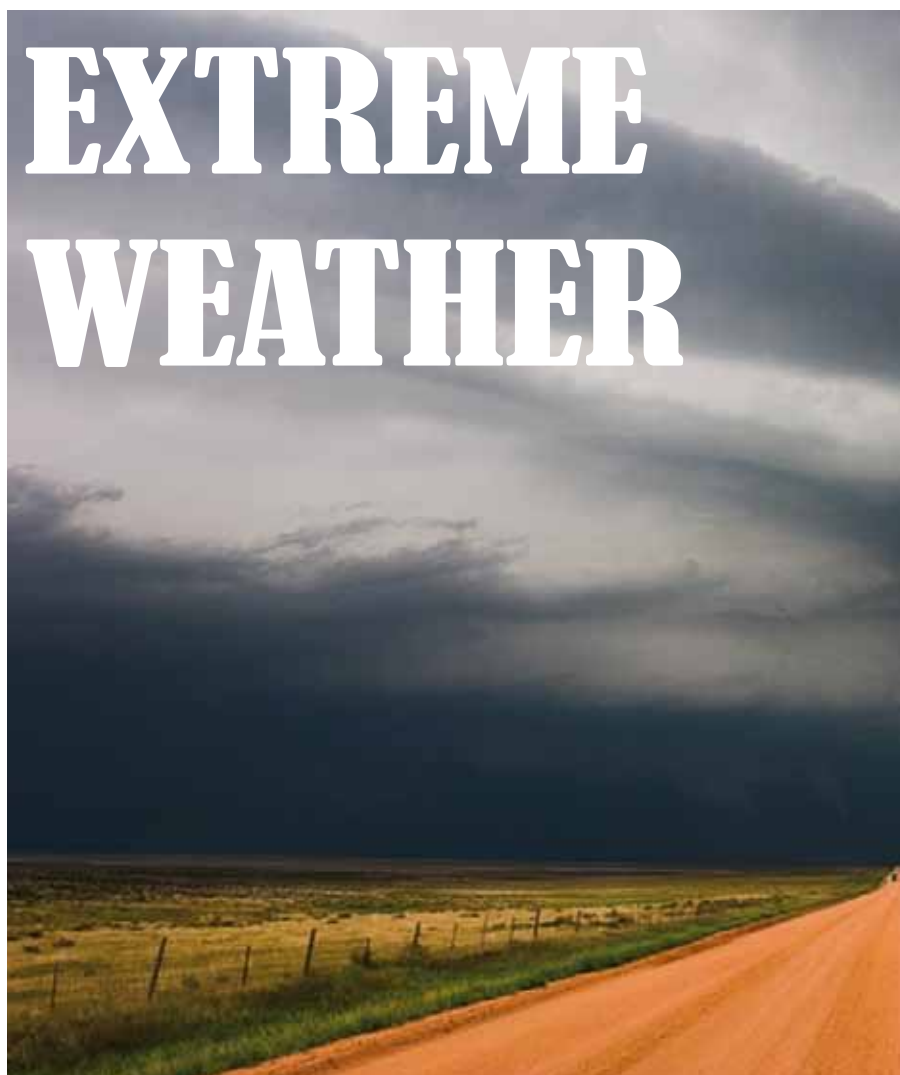
Lake Michigan in Chicago froze over.



Cozy in jail

The weather got so cold that a man in the US, who was running away from the police, decided to surrender so he could move into a warm jail!

EXTREME WEATHER



Australia fe



At the other end of the world, Australians have been looking for ways to deal with the extreme heat making its way across the continent.

In the second week of January, a wave of very hot air formed over the Indian Ocean, moved eastwards, causing one of the hottest waves ever in Australia. The highest temperature ever recorded, previously held by existing records, was broken. Many days. Cities like Adelaide were about to experience high temperatures for five days. With temperatures reaching nearly 42°C on January 10th.

He was stopped at the Australian Open that was then underway in Melbourne. On January 11th, 46°C Adelaide in South Australia became the world's hottest city.

The extreme heat is worrying farmers as bushfires sparked by the high temperatures are burning in parts of Australia. There is also worry that high temperatures could reduce the yield of food produced by Australia's farmers. Australia is the world's second-largest food exporter (countries that sell to other countries are called exporters), the third-largest beef exporter and a drop in Australia's food exports could hurt the rest of the world.

A few weeks ago, it was so cold in parts of North America that even the polar bear in Chicago zoo had to be moved indoors. Soon after, Australia experienced one of its worst ever heat waves — it got so hot that play had to be suspended (stopped) at the Australian Open.

We've barely just rung in 2014 and already, extreme weather is causing havoc across the globe.

Let's find out more what happened in North America and Australia. Along the way we will also try to answer the question if extreme weather is here to stay.



els the heat

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peratures going to
ary 16, play had to
On the same day, at

heat spread across
ice the amount of
st wheat exporter
est sugar exporter
production could

AT THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Players like Maria Sharapova
had to use ice vests just to
keep playing on the court



A ball boy fainted due to
extreme heat

2013 — An Extreme Year

Hot, hotter, hottest...

The first few weeks of 2014 only continue a trend seen through 2013, a year that saw extreme weather in many parts of the world.

2013 was the second warmest year since countries began measuring and recording temperatures more than 100 years ago. Last September the IPCC, which is an international group of scientists, said that the period from 1983 to 2012 was the hottest ever period on Earth in the last 1400 years.

Australia, which normally gets hot in January, recorded its hottest ever month in January 2013. With temperatures regularly touching 48°C in some parts, Australia's weather bureau had to add a new colour to its weather maps to show the extreme heat!



A Koala cools off in a pool to beat
the fierce Australian heat

Shivering away

The year also saw extreme cold. US space agency NASA's satellite detected an extraordinary low temperature of -93.0°C on July 10 in the middle of Antarctica. This is the second lowest temperature ever seen on Earth.

Rain and Storm

It was also the year of rain and storms. Typhoon Haiyan, which hit the Philippines November 2013 was probably the most powerful storm ever recorded by humans. The storm killed over 6000 people in the Philippines.



Closer home, in the month of October, Orissa witnessed the second most powerful cyclone ever seen in India. The most powerful cyclone ever experienced in India also occurred in Orissa in 1999. Rainfall was also unusually intense in Europe, which over two days in June saw as much rain as usually occurs over two months.

Bizarre weather

The most bizarre weather of 2013 was experienced in Nikkaluokta, a small Lapland village that is located inside the Arctic circle in northern Sweden. On December 3, the village was unseasonably warm at 4.7°C. Within a few days, temperatures dropped to -40.8°C (-41.4°F) but on 10 December they rose again in just a few hours to a much warmer 7.7°C. That's a rise of 48.5°C in just 48 hours!

With so much happening in 2013, it does look like extreme weather is here to stay!

A TALE OF TWO CATS

Over the past week, two big cats in two parts of the country have been in the news. In Mumbai, a leopard that was seen prowling Aarey Milk Colony on the outskirts of the city was captured by local people and the forest department. Further south, in the green hills of Ooty, Tamil Nadu, a man-eating tiger was shot dead by forest officials. The two events both go back to the larger problem of man-animal conflict in the fast disappearing natural habitats of India.

The Mumbai leopard

Before it became a busy city bursting at the seams, Mumbai's thick forests were home to many kinds of mammals and birds. Even, now Sanjay Gandhi National Park (which is close to Aarey Milk Colo-

ny) does contain leopards. But as people and buildings mushroom (grow in number), these animals find themselves sharing spaces with humans. Neither party is happy about that – people get frightened when they see a leopard and try to chase or hurt the animal. The leopard, in panic, is likely to lash out and cause hurt. In this particular case, luckily, the forest department and local people set a trap and succeeded in catching the leopard which was then released into Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

Tragedy in the Nilgiris

Near Ooty in the Nilgiri region of South India, a tiger that had a hurt jaw had turned into a man-eater as it was unable to catch other prey. Here too, the increase in the

number and size of villages even in peaceful rural areas is bringing people into close proximity to wildlife. The man-eater thus found easy prey amongst the tea-plantation workers and people of 45 villages on the outskirts of Ooty. As news of the man-eater spread, life came to a halt in the area. Schools shut down and even offices and tea plantations were unable to function properly.

With their lives disturbed, anger against the tiger mounted, forcing



In this July 2011 photo, a leopard gets ready to maul a forest guard who was helping to capture it.

INDIA

the forest officials to shoot down the man-eater instead of tranquilizing (putting it to sleep) and releasing it in a forest far away. Both stories (one happy, one sad) show how increasingly difficult it is for humans to share the planet with wildlife that has as much rights to life as we do.

Why do we celebrate Republic Day and Independence Day?

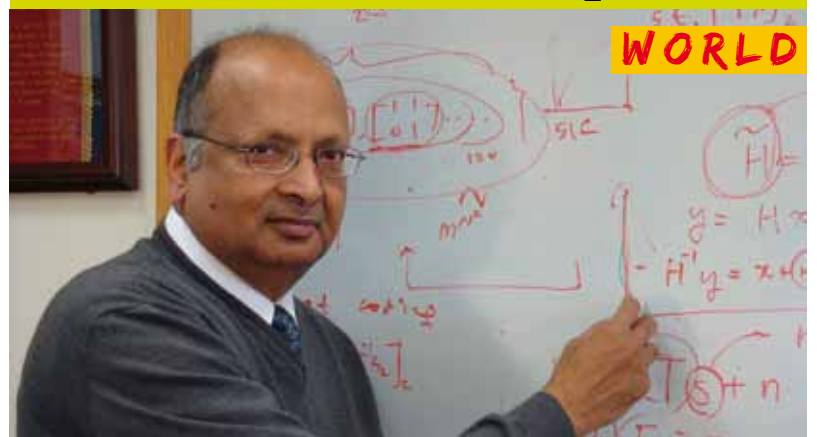
On Sunday, you would have watched the colourful Republic Day parade on TV. Did you ask yourself why our country celebrates both Republic Day and Independence Day? Here is the answer:

India became free of British rule on August 15 1947 and this day is celebrated as our Independence Day. At that time, India did not have a constitution and our laws were still based on rules set by the British. India was a constitutional monarchy and the head of state (or chief representative) was still the British king George VI.

Within a fortnight of getting independence, a team was appointed to draft the new Constitution of India, a task that took nearly three years. The new Constitution of India came into effect on January 26 1950 and on that day, the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, took office. George VI ceased being India's head of state. That's why the 26th of January is celebrated as Republic Day.


INDIA

Scientist from India wins Marconi prize


WORLD

Arogyaswami Joseph Paulraj, an India-born professor working in the United States (US) has been awarded the Marconi prize. This award is called the 'Technology Nobel' as it is one of the most important honors that can be won for technology-related work. Professor Paulraj, who now works at Stanford University at California in the US, won the award for his invention of MIMO technology. MIMO stands for Multiple Input Multiple Output technology, and is widely used in WiFi and 4G systems.

Many of you may be using WiFi routers in your homes to connect to the Internet. WiFi is a local area wireless network, which can be used to connect to the Internet as well as other devices close by (such as printers and other computers). 4G is an improvement to 3G mobile phone technology as it allows data to travel faster. Faster data output will enable quicker access to the Internet, faster video downloads, clear, blur-free video calls and overall better connectivity.

CM ON THE STREET

Last week, Delhi citizens were in for an unusual sight – that of their Chief Minister sleeping in the street. Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi's newly appointed Chief Minister spent two days (and a night!) on the streets of central Delhi, very close to Parliament House. He was protesting for the suspension (removal from work) of two police officers who had refused to obey his team member and Delhi's Law Minister Somnath Bharati.

What happened?

Bharati wanted to arrest a few African people living in a Delhi colony on the grounds that they were breaking the law. He landed up in the Delhi colony late in the night and demanded the police arrest the people he suspected. The police refused, saying that they did not have the required warrants (permissions) to search the house or arrest the persons. This refusal triggered Kejriwal's protest.

City centre brought to a halt

The CM's protest caused roads to be blocked and metro stations to be closed. Thousands of people were inconvenienced. But why couldn't the CM order the suspension of the police officers himself? He couldn't because Delhi Police is under the control of the central government. In fact one of Kejriwal's larger demands is that he should be given control of Delhi Police.



Police guard the protesting CM as he goes to sleep on a cold Delhi road

Owlie Says:

While it's good that Kejriwal shows such support for his team, Owlie thinks that Kejriwal's protest was not for such a great cause. After all, it is not clear how Bharti expected the police to search homes and arrest people without warrants. Plus, bringing the city to a halt over one issue doesn't seem very smart either.

P.S. The protest was finally called after the central government asked the police officers in question to go on leave!

India lose top ODI spot

The Indian cricket team is no longer the No 1 One Day International (ODI) team in the world. It lost its top ranking after losing the on-going ODI series to New Zealand on Wednesday. India, which claimed the No 1 rank in January 2013, has been replaced by Australia as the No 1 ODI team in the world.

The Indian team is currently playing a 5 match ODI series in New Zealand against the host country. They lost the first two matches, tied the third and lost the fourth. The score now stands at 0-3, in the Kiwis favour with just one match left to be played.

SPORTS



Australian Open winners

It was third time lucky for Chinese player Li Na who finally won the Australian Open at the Rod Laver arena in Melbourne on Saturday night. Li Na previously made it to the final in 2011 and 2013. The win is the Chinese player's second Grand Slam title after the 2011 French Open win.

The men's singles also saw a first time winner – Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka who beat Rafael Nadal to win his very first Grand Slam. India's best performer at the Open was Sania Mirza who along with her doubles partner Horia Tecau was the Runner-up in the mixed doubles event.

Stanislas Wawrinka



Li Na



SPORTS

WEATHER SENSE

Weather symbols appear on weather websites, television and newspapers. Can you make out what kind of weather the symbols here represent?



Answers
1. Sunny Day 2. Thunderstorms 3. Snow 4. Fog during day, ice on roads

FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS

Can you find the objects shown at the bottom of the picture?



Top Reads for Kids and Young Adults

1. Demon Dentist by David Walliams
2. Wonder by RJ Palacio
3. National Geographic Kids Almanac: 2014
4. The Secret of the Fairies: Thea Stilton by Geronimo Stilton
5. Match of the Day: Annual 2014
6. The Mahabharata by Samhita Arni
7. Chained by Lynne Kelly
8. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck by Jeff Kinney
9. BZRK Reloaded by Michael Grant
10. Requiem: Delirium Trilogy (Book 3) by Lauren Oliver



To know more about these books and to buy them, check out
www.toptenbooksoftheweek.com

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Re-arrange the alphabets to find the word

Clue: All clues are linked to weather

1. LLRFNAIA

2. RENDUTH

3. TDUROGH

4. ELOCCNY

Answers
1. Rainfall
2. Thunder
3. Drought
4. Cyclone

SUDOKU TIME

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

Try your hand at this Sudoku. Remember that numbers 1 to 6 can appear only once in each of the six rectangles. They can also appear only once in each row and column of the overall square.

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

Answer

Subscribe to Child Friendly News

Child Friendly News or CFN is an age appropriate newspaper for children in the age group 7-13. The newspaper comes out every fortnight. Every issue is written using language that young readers can understand on their own interspersed with pictures and imagery. Quick explanations of difficult words and terms and boxed elements that explain concepts accompany every article — this is to help build

vocabulary as well as context understanding. Special reports take up one topic in depth while regular columns on everyday technology concepts keep children up-to-date with the world around them. A subscription costs Rs.500 for the year.

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