

Child Friendly News



FLIGHT OF THE FALCON



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BHARAT RATNA FOR TENDULKAR AND CNR RAO

India's cricket hero Sachin Tendulkar and one of its most respected scientists, C N R Rao, have both been chosen for the Bharat Ratna award. This was announced by the government this week. The Bharat Ratna is the highest honour (prize) given to an civilian (a civilian is a common citizen who is not part of the armed forces) by the Indian Government

The Last Medal

For Tendulkar, the award is a suitable finish to a 24 year long career in cricket. The legend played his last match for India against the West Indies which concluded (ended) on Saturday, November 16 at Mumbai.

During his long career, Tendulkar has broken almost every major batting record and created many new ones. Some

The Chemistry Man

The scientist chosen for the award, C N R Rao, is an expert in the field of Chemistry. That, as some of you may know, is the study of chemicals and how they interact with each other. Within Chemistry, Rao is considered one of the world's top experts in a field called 'solid-state chemistry.' This is the study of the properties of solid things and what they are built of. C N R Rao has received many awards and honours from colleges and universities all over the world and has published hundreds of research papers.

Rao is the third scientist after C. V. Raman and the former President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, to be chosen for the Bharat Ratna.



of these – such as 100 centuries in international cricket – will be hard to beat for a player from any country. Explaining the decision to honour Tendulkar, the government said, "The records set by him are unmatched, and the spirit of sportsmanship displayed by him is exemplary."



Tendulkar waves goodbye at Wankhede, Mumbai, after playing his last match for India.

A RARE AWARD

Only twice in the history of the award has a foreigner been given the Bharat Ratna. The two exceptions are South African leader Nelson Mandela in 1990 and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a freedom fighter from Afghanistan, in 1987.



THE BHARAT RATNA

The Bharat Ratna award, which literally translates as 'Jewel of India', was introduced by (then) President Rajendra Prasad in 1955. It has so far been given to 41 people. Here is some trivia related to the award:



- ◆ Only three Bharat Ratnas can be awarded in a single year
- ◆ There is no age limit for the award
- ◆ Tendulkar is the youngest person to be chosen for the award. He will be the first sportsperson to receive the Bharat Ratna

OTHER BHARAT RATNA WINNERS



Scientist C V Raman



Singer M S Subbulakshmi



Film-maker Satyajit Ray



NOT JUST A BALLOON IN THE SKY

Did you know that most of the people in the world still don't have access to the Internet? That is because they live in far-away areas where connections are hard to come by. To connect these people, Google is setting up a network of balloons high up in the sky. Are you wondering: 'Balloons!!!!?' How on earth would that work? Let's find out more.

How it works

As part of what it calls Project Loon, Google is sending up super strong weather balloons that will travel 20 kilometres above the ground. At that height we have the stratosphere, which is a calm area that has mostly gentle, slow moving winds. Riding these winds, the balloons will slowly go around the earth. They will have special machines that will wirelessly connect with

antennae on the ground as well as with telephone companies that will in turn connect the balloon network with the Internet. People who want to access the Internet through the Google balloons will need to install these special antennae on their roofs or windows.

Each of Project Loon's balloons will cover an area that is as big as a circle with a 40 kilometre diameter (that's huge, bigger than a city). Internet speeds on the Loon network will be as fast as 3G.

Why is Google doing this?

Many parts of the world are not yet connected to the Internet as it's too costly to roll out wired networks to remote areas far away from cities. Project Loon could also be very useful in establishing connections with areas that have been cut off due to floods and other natural disasters.



Project Loon is being tested in New Zealand before being taken to other countries



(Photos courtesy: Project Loon)

Dogs came from Europe

The little puppy in your home probably had a European ancestor (an ancestor is a relative who died long, long ago). New research by scientists in Finland has shown that modern dogs have DNA links with ancient fossils of wolves.

DNA is the building block of all living matter and it helps establish links between people who are related. For example, if you compare your DNA to that of your parent, you will see definite similarities.

What scientists did as part of this project was to take DNA samples of dogs from many parts of the world and compare them to wolf fossil remains from North and South America and Europe. Some of these samples were more than 30,000 years old. The analysis proved that the modern dog – regardless of breed – is descended from the European wolf. It is likely that wolves began visiting camps of ancient humans to look for scraps of food. Over time, they were domesticated.



(Photo courtesy: Wikipedia)

Ming the Mollusk

Ming, a clam discovered in Iceland in 2006, has been found to be around 507 years old. Ming was alive when the clam was discovered, making it (at that point) the world's oldest living animal. The clam is named after the Chinese kings who were ruling China at the time it was born. Unfortunately for Ming, when researchers opened up the clam to count the growth lines on the inside of its shell (that's how a clam's age is calculated), they ended up killing it!



What a shot!



(Photo courtesy: NASA)

US space agency NASA has released the first natural-color image of Saturn from space showing the planet, its moons and rings, as well as the planets Earth, Venus and Mars. The image shows how Saturn would look to the human eye. The massive image was created by stitching together 141 large images of Saturn taken by NASA's Cassini spacecraft.

More people have access to phones than access to running water. We've never had anything like this before since the beginning of the planet.

— Marc Andreessen

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Creative Science

AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Last week, you read about an app called Scentee that helps mobile phones transmit smells. So, if you are reading a recipe for a new dish, Scentee could actually tell you what it would smell like if made correctly. The Scentee smell disperser (a small device that spreads smells) plugs into the headphone slot of smartphones. It works through an app that has to be downloaded and installed on the phone.

Apps like Scentee show the way we will use smartphones in the future. Like the scent disperser, it is likely that more sensors will be attached to phones to make the cell-phone useful in many new ways.

Take for example, fingerprint sensors which are becoming popular. Apple's latest smartphone, the iPhone 5s, comes with a fingerprint sensor built into the phone's 'Home' button. The phone uses an image of your thumbprint to set up a Touch ID and this is matched with your thumbprint

each time you press the 'Home' button to unlock the phone. If the thumbprint does not match, the phone will remain locked and cannot be used.

Such technology replaces security passcodes which are a combination of numbers that have to be punched in to unlock the phone. After all how many passcodes can a person remember? It is expected that fingerprint recognition will become very popular and that half a billion smartphones will have finger print sensors by 2017!

A healthy idea

Such sensors could have uses in the medical field as well. In the future, it is possible that we will have sensors that track heart rate, blood pressure and even take an ECG (stands for an 'Electrocardiogram' which is a test that checks for problems with the heart). These sensors would also plug into smartphones to store and transmit information on the health of body to care givers and doctors. Such devices could



be used to keep track of old/unwell family members at home or even to send information to your doctor.

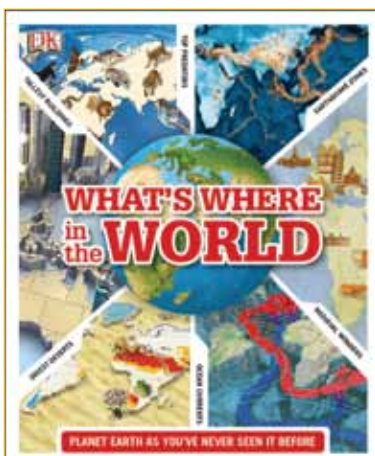
From smelling a rose to saving a life, smartphones are promising to help us stay on top of the game!

What are smartphones?

Smartphones are intelligent phones that can be used to do a lot more than make and receive calls. They can connect you to the internet, be used for playing games and even to make video calls.

The Book Nook

WHAT'S WHERE IN THE WORLD



You've all seen maps of the world but the maps in the book 'What's Where in the

World' are something special. The book explains a bunch of concepts – from physical features to natural disasters to animal populations and even pollution – through a series of maps.

For example, the double spread (across two facing pages) on earthquakes, not only explains what quakes are, but maps the kind of quakes that have been there in different parts of the world. At a glance it's easy to see that earthquakes have typically happened in certain regions. A quick backtrack to the previous page

which shows how the crust is divided into plates will show that earthquakes typically happen near places where two plates meet. The book is therefore great for the visual learner.

It is also peppered with interesting facts. For instance, the map on the biggest stadiums in the world also contains this interesting fact – that the record for the loudest crowd roar of 131.76 decibels was set at the Turk Telekom



Arena in Istanbul, Turkey during a football match in 2011.

A must read for the fact loving reader and quizzier.

Published by: Dorling Kindersley
Cost: Rs.599



Birds are indicators of the environment. If they are in trouble, we know we'll soon be in trouble.

— Roger Tory Peterson

#1 Such a long journey

Every year, at the start of the cold season, thousands of Amur Falcons take flight from Russia and head out for the warmer climates (climate) of Africa. En route (on the way), they make a stop in the North-eastern Indian state of Nagaland to rest and fatten up before they set out for Africa



The Amurs fly over the Indian Ocean on the way to east Africa, covering more than 4000 kilometres over the sea. This is the longest over-sea flight of any bird of prey. The Amurs travel 22,000 kilometres a year during their annual migration.



FLY OF FAL

#2 Killing Fields



Until this year, when the Amurs landed in Nagaland, they would become prey to local hunters who killed them for food and money. The falcon is an insectivorous bird, which means that it feeds on insects. Each morning, thousands of these falcons line up on telephone wires, swooping down upon flying insects. They were thus easy targets for Naga hunters who would shoot them down with guns and catapults. Hunters also used nets to trap thousands of birds. The birds were taken to markets where they were sold. The birds were thus a source of income (money) for the Nagas.

More than one lakh birds were killed each year in Nagaland.

(Photos courtesy Ramki Sreenivasan)

Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird?

— David Attenborough



Special Report

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We hear so much bad news about the illegal (something against the law) killing of animals and the steady decrease in the wildlife of India. So, when we get news of a conservation effort that actually has good news to offer, we think it merits a Special Report. Presenting the incredible story of the Amur Falcons in India.....

THE FIGHT THE FALCON



(Photo courtesy Ramki Sreenivasan)

What remains to be done

Hunters kill birds in order to earn money. Therefore, if they have to be stopped from killing falcons, the hunters have to find some other way to earn money. The Nagaland government is now working on this. That would be a long term solution to the problem faced by the Amur Falcon in Nagaland.

#3 The Fight Back

Shocked by this terrible happening, several organizations like Conservation India, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Bird Life International came together to protect the Amur Falcon. Killing of wild birds is not allowed in India, but the difficulty was in enforcing this law.

Along with the government, they started educating local people in the areas the birds visited. They taught them the importance of protecting the Amur Falcon. The church, which is very powerful in Nagaland (as most Nagas are Christians), was also used to spread the message that it was wrong to kill the birds.

A 'Friends of the Amur Falcon' club was also started for young children to build more support for the beautiful raptor (a raptor is another word for a bird of prey).



People are educated about protecting the Amur Falcon

(Photos courtesy Amanda Banerjee)

#4 What happened this year



(Photo courtesy Ramki Sreenivasan)

Thanks to all the work that was done by the organizations, not a single Amur Falcon has been killed this year. Over the beautiful reservoir (water body) of Doyang in Nagaland, the Amurs are now finally flying free. This is a fantastic achievement as so many birds were killed last year.

A LESSON

The story of the Amur Falcon tells us how, when people come together and work, they can prevent terrible things from happening. If the killing hadn't been stopped, the Amur Falcon could have become an endangered bird.

Remember, every person's effort can make a difference!

ELEPHANTS KILLED ON RAIL TRACK

Seven wild elephants were killed last week when a herd tried to cross a railway track that cuts through Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal. They were hit by a speeding train.

The seven were part of a herd of 40 that was crossing the track when the train that was headed for Guwahati hit them. Newspaper reports say that the train was travelling faster than it should have. As per the rules, inside forest areas, trains have to be operated at slow speeds so that they can be stopped to let wildlife pass. In forests such as Chapramari, wild animals have the right of way (naturally!). In this case,



Crossing rail tracks can be dangerous for elephants

the train driver didn't follow the rules and the elephants paid the price with their lives.

This is not the first time that elephant deaths have been caused by trains. Over the years, as road

and rail networks were built across India, several forests areas that were once part of one huge wild area got separated. Elephants, which move continuously in search of food, do not

recognize these divisions. Sometimes when they cross these roads and rail tracks, they come in the way of fast moving traffic, and thus suffer injuries and even death.

Chennai school boys create a 'Batmobile'



The winning team and their car

Two Chennai school boys have won an international robotics competition in Singapore for their miniature, fully operational car that was built using 'green' materials. The winning design was based on the 'Batmobile', the famed transport of superhero Batman.

The winners Abhishek Murali and Rehan Hanif are Class 12 students of Maharishi Vidya Mandir. They built their

'Batmobile' on the scale 1:20, which meant that each part of the model car was 20 times smaller than an actual car that can be driven by a person.

The winning design was created out of paper mache, cardboard and balsa wood, all re-cycled (re-used) materials. Robotix, the company that sponsored the competition, provided the motor and fuel cells that powered the car.

The perfect storm

They are calling it 'the perfect storm.' In the first week of November, one of the most powerful storms ever seen in recent times, hit some islands that are part of the country of Philippines. Named Typhoon Haiyan, the storm brought with it winds travelling at more than 300 kilometres an hour (that's five times the speed at which cars travel on city roads).

Worse, the cyclone caused a massive 'sea surge', which is a rise in the level of the sea. The sea rose more than 15 feet

in some places and the massive wall of water wiped out the port city of Tacloban. Thousands of people were killed and many more injured. Homes in the islands that the typhoon struck have been completely destroyed, leaving thousands without a roof over their heads.

Help has come in from countries all over the world but it is still not enough. There isn't enough clean drinking water and this may cause a large break out of diseases. Thousands of homes also need to be re-built.



An aerial view of the massive storm

INDIA TAKE DOWN THE WEST INDIES 2-0, BAG NO 2 SPOT

It was a fitting background score for Sachin Tendulkar's final cricket series. Last week, India won the two test match series against the West Indies team. And that too, in style by dealing the Caribbean team an innings defeat in both matches with the West Indies unable to match the Indian first innings score even after batting twice, both times.

Rohit Sharma continued his

purple patch by scoring 177 at Kolkata and followed that up with an unbeaten 111 in the second test at the Wankhede in Mumbai. At Kolkata, Rohit Sharma paired up with R Ashwin who also scored a century to put up a 250 run partnership for the seventh wicket. This is an Indian record for a seventh wicket partnership.

The pick of the Indian bowlers were pacer Mohammed Shami who picked up 9 wickets in



the first match and spinner Rohit Sharma was declared 'Player of the Series'. Pragyan Ojha who bagged 10 wickets in the second match.

Ashwin's 100th

When Darren Sammy fell to R Ashwin in the first West Indies innings, at Mumbai, it was a moment to savour for this Chennai bowler, for Sammy's fall took him to the 100 wicket milestone in test cricket. Ashwin has taken only 18 tests to achieve this – making him the fastest bowler in the last 90 years to reach this mark. Ashwin now owns the Indian record for the being the quickest to reach the 100 wicket mark in test cricket.



The win takes India to the No 2 spot in the ICC Test Cricket Rankings, just behind South Africa and ahead of Australia.

Carlsen has the edge



Norwegian Magnus Carlsen looked like he had the edge over India's Vishwanathan Anand at the end of the eighth round of the FIDE World Chess Championship Match that is underway in Chennai.

After the first four rounds ended in draws, Carlsen won the fifth and sixth rounds, but Anand managed to draw the seventh and the eighth.

Four more rounds remain which will be played between now and the 26th of November. If, after the scheduled 12 rounds, both players are level, then a set of tie break games will be played. The winner will be crowned FIDE World Chess Champion 2013-14.

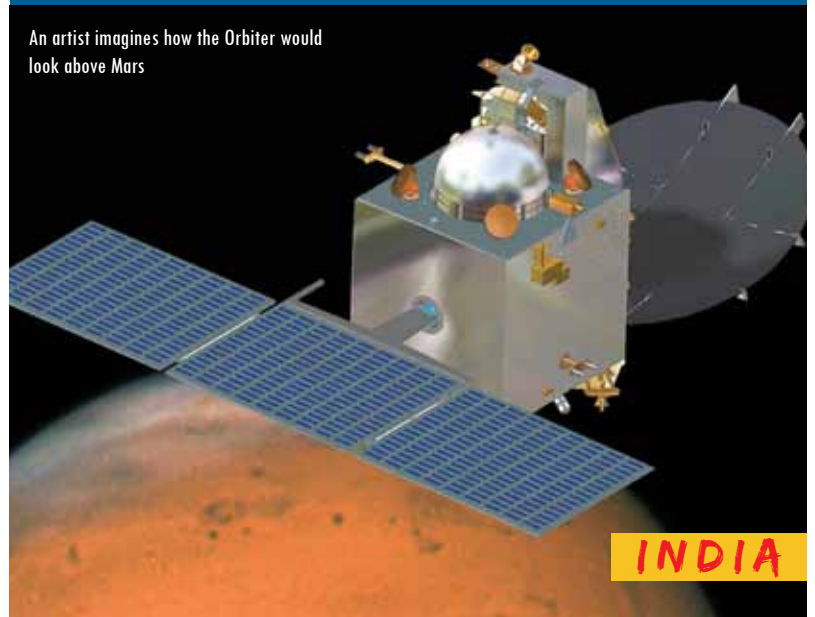
(Photo Courtesy: FIDE)

India's Mars Orbiter gets final lift

Scientists at Indian space agency ISRO have performed the last of the five orbit 'lift' moves to move India's Mars Orbiter spacecraft into its highest orbit above Earth. The Orbiter is now circling our planet and at its furthest (most far away) point, it is 1.92 lakh kilometres from Earth.

On December 1, ISRO will place the Orbiter on a trajectory (path) headed for Mars. If all goes well, the space craft will reach Mars orbit by September 2014 after a 10 month journey.

An artist imagines how the Orbiter would look above Mars



BE A BIRD BRAIN

You read about the Amur Falcon in this issue of CFN. Now, can you try and identify these famous raptors (birds of prey)?



Answers
1. Snowy Owl 2. Peregrine Falcon 3. Vulture 4. Secretary Bird

FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS

Can you spot the hidden objects listed at the bottom of the picture?



UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Re-arrange the alphabets to find the word

Clue: All clues are linked to birds

1. KBAE

2. GWNI

3. OARS

4. YEPR

Answers
1. Beak
2. Wing
3. Soar
4. Prey

SUDOKU TIME

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

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.

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

Answer

Top Reads for Kids and Young Adults

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck by Jeff Kinney
2. The Volcano of Fire: The Kingdom of Fantasy (Vol 5) by Geronimo Stilton
3. Heroes of the Olympus: The House of Hades by Rick Riordan
4. Asterix and the Picts by Jean-Yves Ferry
5. Sita's Ramayana by Samhita Arni & Moyna Chitrakar
6. Revealed: A House of Night Novel by PC & Kristin Cast
7. My Sister the Vampire: Flipping Out by Sienna Mercer
8. Allegiant by Veronica Roth
9. Devi by Shekhar Kapur
10. Dork Diaries: OMG! All About Me by Rachel Renee Russell



To know more about these books and to buy them, check out

www.toptenbooksoftheweek.com

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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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