

# Child Friendly News



MS DHONI: A CAPTAIN STEPS DOWN

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## DELHI ELECTIONS ON FEBRUARY 7



Narendra Modi (BJP)



Arvind Kejriwal (AAP)

VS

VS



AAP is the only party which has named a leader for Delhi – Arvind Kejriwal who will be Chief Minister (CM) if it wins. The BJP is banking on the PM and we don't know who the CM will be. On the Congress, even less is known right now.

**D**elhi, which has been without a government for nearly a year, will go to the polls on February 7. The counting of votes will be done on February 10, and by then the state should have a new Chief Minister.

The last time Delhi voted was in December 2013 when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cornered most of the seats. But with AAP winning 28 seats and BJP winning 31, neither had a majority. Eventually the AAP formed the government with the support of the Congress party but AAP resigned from the job very soon.

This time again, the contest will be between the BJP, AAP and the Congress. The BJP enjoys a lot of support as Prime Minister Narendra Modi (also

from the same political party) is very popular. The AAP is also popular but many people have their doubts about it after the AAP resigned from the government after running Delhi for just 49 days last year. The Congress, which was soundly defeated in the 2013 elections and the 2014 General Elections, is not felt to have much of a chance.

### What are they promising?

The BJP is promising that colonies built without permissions will be protected from demolition (being brought down). The AAP is promising free water and lower prices for electricity. No one is clear what the Congress is offering. Get ready for an exciting election as the three fight to the finish!

### WHO SAYS DOGS AND CATS DON'T GET ALONG?

A tiger cub in an Indore zoo has been adopted by a female Labrador after its own mother rejected it (did not want it). Unbelievably, the Lab has taken its role as 'momma' to the cub very seriously, even allowing the tiger to feed from it.

The four month old cub, Lucky, was born along with three others to a tigress named Shivani at the Kamla Nehru Zoological Park in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Shivani killed three of her cubs while Lucky, was lucky to survive. The zoo keepers then faced a problem – how could they feed milk to the cub? Enter, Genie, a pet Labrador who adopted Lucky as one of her own pups. Zookeepers blindfolded Genie (covered her eyes) at feed time on the first two days, and by the third day, when she was used to the smell of the tiger, she allowed him to feed even without the blindfold. Now, Lucky plays with Genie as any of her pups would.



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Our car is driving more smoothly and more safely than our trained professional drivers.

—a Google executive on his company's driver-less cars



# LOOK MOM, NO HANDS!

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, United States, happens in in early January each year and this is the event at which you can see the latest gadgets that companies plan to launch that year. This year, on the Sunday before the show started, a car set out from Los Angeles to Vegas, and it was headed, as many others were, for CES.

The journey was uneventful, which unusually, was a cause for much celebration. That's because, this car, an Audi A7 was driverless for most of its journey! Once it reached Vegas, the car was put up for display at the Audi pavilion.

## What can these cars do?

Self-driving cars that operate without a driver (several computers take over) were the centre of attraction at CES this year. Apart from Audi, car companies like BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, Toyota, Ford and Hyundai displayed their self-driving car technologies at CES 2015.

While Audi put on show its technology for cars that can drive themselves on long highway journeys, BMW showed that its i3 electric car could find a parking space by itself and keep a driver from hitting obstacles. Hyundai and Volkswagen also showed how their cars could park themselves.

These companies are working on car prototypes (working models) that can be simply left at parking lots – the cars will navigate the lot and find an empty slot. Once their owners are ready to leave, the cars can be summoned back to a convenient point for a pick-up. How cool will that be?

## Now, not later

Much of the technology that these companies displayed at Vegas will



be found in cars on the road in the next five years. But the transition (change) from human operated vehicles to driver-less ones will be gradual (slow). For instance, the Audi A7 still has a steering wheel that comes into play when the car leaves the highway. Of course there are other companies like Google which is building a self-driving car that doesn't even have a steering wheel.

Whatever the strategy, change is coming to the world of cars, so buckle up for the ride ahead – it promises to be exciting.

## GOLDBLOCKS PLANET FOUND

Far, far away from us, another planet (see the speck in front of the distant bright star) may be capable of supporting life



A planet, more like Earth than all the planets surveyed in the universe so far, has been spotted by a telescope on US space agency NASA's Kepler spacecraft. The planet, named Kepler 438b, is 475 light years away.

A light year is a unit of distance, not time, and is used to measure the enormous distances in outer space. A light year is the distance travelled by a ray of light in one year. So, one light year is equal to six trillion miles.

Kepler 438b could be a twin of Earth as it is at the right distance from its star. It's far enough so its water doesn't boil away in its star's heat, yet it is near enough to prevent its climate from getting too icy (get the Goldilocks connect - not too near, not too far?). Nothing much is known about Kepler 438b as our current telescopes are not powerful enough to study if the planet has water or other conditions to support life. These questions will be answered by a new generation of telescopes that are being built.

## 66 TIGER DEATHS IN 2014

India lost 66 wild tigers in 2014 and 15 of those deaths took place in Tamil Nadu, according to data released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Though exact data is not available, a majority of these deaths were caused by poaching.

The number of deaths per year has stayed level - in 2013, 64 tigers were lost. There are approximately 1700 tigers left in India. The national animal of India, the Royal Bengal Tiger is an endangered species.





CREATIVE SCIENCE

# Spray it down

The Bombardier Beetle is an ordinary looking ground beetle found in every continent on Earth except Antarctica. It is hard to imagine that this common creature houses (contains) a complex engineering design that is even now being copied by companies in some parts of the world.

## Dramatic defenses

The innocent looking beetle has a superb defense mechanism to protect it from predators. Inside its abdomen (middle part of its body) are two small areas containing two kinds of chemicals – hydroquinones and hydrogen peroxide – which are produced by the beetle's body. There is a third chamber where, in times of danger, these two chemicals are mixed. The resulting chemical reaction creates temperatures close to 100 degrees Celsius (as hot as boiling water) and a gas that propels the boiling acid out of the beetle's body.

The best is yet to come – the Bombardier Beetle has a spraying system that allows it to direct its spray very accurately. They can control the direction, strength, and speed of their spray with incredible accuracy. In fact if you get too close to one, it can spray you right in the eye. It is this spraying mechanism that is inspiring new designs in the world of humans.

## What has it inspired?

One such invention is the product of collaboration between British professors and a company called Swedish Biomimetics who are developing a new kind of fire sprinkler. Inspired by the Bombardier Beetle, the new sprinklers will not only spray water accurately on objects that are on fire, but they will also use a lot less water. This way, office comput-



Designs such as these which are inspired by nature are called examples of Biomimicry.

ers and furniture will not be ruined by huge volumes of water when a fire is put out.

## What else is possible?

The beetle's efficient spraying design could also find its way into many other applications – fuel injection systems for cars so that they use petrol more efficiently and even asthma inhalers that deliver the right amount of medicine. And to think, it all started with an

ordinary beetle!

## THE BOOK NOOK

### The Tigers of Taboo Valley by Ranjit Lal

A macho Facebook posting tiger, his jackal sidekick anxious to preserve his master's image in the world media, prickly villains in the form of porcupines, a greedy poacher, a National Geographic photographer and four feisty tiger cubs – Ranjit Lal's latest book has them all. And together this cast serves up a tasty treat in the form of a very funny 167 page read.

Vain Rana Shaan-Bahadur, the alpha (dominant) tiger of Sher-kila National Park, likes to loll about looking royal and pose for wildlife photographers. But he is in for the shock of his life when he finds himself the sole guardian of his four cubs after their mother and his mate Raat-ki-Rani is killed by a poacher.

Bahadur whisks his cubs off into the forbidden

Taboo Valley deep inside Sher-kila and goes about bringing them up, little realizing his move has put up the back of other tigers in the Park who believe that it is unnatural for a father to bring up cubs. They form a reluctant alliance with Shaan-

Bahadur's old enemies, a hit-squad of porcupine terrorists, the ASKAA. And on one moonlit night, with the Nat Geo photographer watching, the enemies move in for the kill. Will Shaan-Bahadur prevail? Will the cubs be safe?

You'll have to read Lal's book to find out. With its touching and hilarious moments and unusual look at tiger family life, the read will be a breeze, we promise!

Published by: Red Turtle/Rupa

Price: Rs.295







**A couple of weeks ago, India's most successful captain, M S Dhoni announced his retirement from test cricket. The announcement was sudden but in typical Dhoni fashion, it was made without fuss or bother. As MSD (as he is known) hands the baton to Virat Kohli, in this Special Report we look at what makes him one of the legends of Indian cricket.**

### Out of nowhere

India's brightest cricket stars usually come with a certain pedigree (status at birth). Take Sachin Tendulkar who was a star in Mumbai circles before he played for India or Rahul Dravid, who had built a solid reputation even before he made it to the Indian team. Dhoni's career started much quieter. Although Dhoni played for Bihar in domestic cricket for various tournaments in India, it was five years before he was selected to play for India in 2004-05 in the One Day International (ODI) team. Only in December 2005 did he make it to the Indian test team. Here was a boy from a state (Jharkhand) that was hardly known for its cricket talent who was beginning to make it big.



Dhoni hits his first test century in 2006

### Captain Cool

Dhoni's rise to the top was quick. He became captain of the Indian test team in November 2008, a position he held for 6 years before announcing his retirement from test cricket in December 2014. He led India in 60 matches, of which India won 27, making him India's most successful test captain ever. Under him, for a year and a half between 2009 and 2011, India became the No 1 test team in the world. Overall, he has played 90 tests for India and has scored 4876 runs with an average of 38 runs scored per innings. As team wicketkeeper, he was responsible for 294 catches/stumpings – which is the



**Football, not cricket, was Dhoni's first love. He was the goalkeeper of his school team and was actually sent to play for a local cricket club by his football coach.**

# M S DHONI: A CAPTAIN STEPS DOWN



Dhoni walks off the field after his last match against Australia

fifth highest ever in test cricket.

### Away and out

If there was one thing that marred (spoiled) his captaincy record, it was his poor record in test matches played outside India. Of the 30 tests played by India at home under Dhoni, we won 21, the highest ever for an Indian captain. But out of 30 tests played overseas, India won just six matches (just 20%) and lost 15. This is a poor record compared to the win percentages of previous captains Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly. Of course Dhoni was hampered (affected) by the lack of bowlers who could take wickets on the fast pitches of England, Australia and South Africa.

### What next?

When announcing his retirement, Dhoni said that playing all three formats of the game – test cricket/ODI/T20 – was getting very tiring and



I don't really sit in front of a laptop and analyse everything. I attend the bowlers' meetings and all, and most things get into my head. Instead of wasting four hours reading something, I would rather see something in clips and get output out of it.  
—MS Dhoni on preparing for a match



## MSD Math

Some Dhoni statistics you should know:

- Dhoni captained India in 60 tests, the highest ever for a wicket keeper
- With 27 wins from 60 matches, he is India's most successful test captain
- Only six captains in the world have won more test matches than Dhoni
- As a wicketkeeper, he was responsible for 294 dismissals, the fifth highest in test cricket
- Dhoni's highest test score was 224 against Australia in Chennai in 2013 – this is the third highest score by any wicket keeper in the world
- Dhoni has struck 78 sixes in test cricket – only Virendra Sehwag has hit more for India

that was why he wanted to step down from test cricket. Virat Kohli will now lead India in tests and it may only be a matter of time before he also becomes the ODI captain. For now however, Dhoni will continue to lead India in ODIs and T20s. With the title defense of the ODI World Cup coming up next month, all eyes will once again be on Dhoni.

## The Best Ones

Dhoni is considered by many as one of the best captains the game has seen. In fact global rankings, including one done by an American scientist, have regularly shown Dhoni as one of the top 10 captains of all time.



Dhoni is ranked alongside legends like Ricky Ponting, Australian test captain 2004-2011

## Little known Dhoni tales

- When he was growing up young MSD hardly watched any cricket on TV
- The army is a major theme in Dhoni's life. He travels in army camouflage print pants and carries camouflage luggage. His wicket keeping gloves have the same army print and are specially made for him in Meerut. When he was made a Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army in 2011, it was one of the proudest moments of his life. He wore his new uniform through that day and didn't even take it off that night!
- Other than cricket, Dhoni loves fast bikes and shooting. In fact he usually carries his licensed gun when he travels in India.
- When the team orders food in a hotel, Dhoni makes sure they order only once – so that the food is not wasted.

## Strange coincidence

Dhoni took over as captain of the Indian test team in November 2008 after the previous captain Anil Kumble announced his retirement after the third test in a series against Australia played in India. Six years later, Dhoni also announced his retirement after the third test in a series being played with Australia!



MSD with the World Cup 2011 trophy and the Man of the Match award for his performance in the final



Dhoni visits soldiers in Kashmir





The terrorists want two things- they want to scare us and they want to divide us. We must do the opposite - We must stand up and we must stay united.

—French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius On



## WORLD

# 'Je suis Charlie' unites the world

Translated from French, the words 'Je suis Charlie' mean: I am Charlie. This simple sentence has become the rallying point for millions around the world protesting the terrible killing of journalists of a Paris newspaper last Wednesday. That day, three terrorists entered the office of the Charlie Hebdo newspaper and shot down 10 members of its staff in revenge for the paper's cartoons that often made fun of Prophet Mohammed.

Prophet Mohammed is worshipped by people of the Muslim region and these terrorists were upset that their god was being ridiculed. To be fair, the newspaper's papers cartoons had also poked fun at Christianity and Judaism (other religions) but that didn't stop the terrorists from taking their terrible revenge. Terrorists are people who use violence as a way of achieving their aims, which could be to attack certain countries, people of certain religions or just to make their presence felt.

The three terrorists who attacked the Char-



lie Hebdo office also killed three police officers who tried to fight them off and went on to attack a supermarket on Friday but all three were cornered and hunted down by the French police.

The event has shocked the world, and on Sunday, millions of people marched on the

streets of Paris, the capital of France, to show that they were united against the terrorists and refused to be afraid. Many of them held banners with the words 'Je suis Charlie' as well as flags and pens in memory of the journalists who lost their lives.

## WORLD

### Air Asia crash: Black boxes found

Divers of the Indonesian Navy have located the two black boxes from the wreck (broken remains) of the Air Asia flight that crashed into the Java Sea on December 28. The flight with 162 passengers on board had taken off from Surabaya in Indonesia and was headed for Singapore, two hours away. No one survived the crash.

Experts believe that the plane crashed after running into a storm, but the exact cause could be found from the black boxes that have now been found. One of the black boxes is a flight recorder that contains information from the instruments used inside the aircraft. This will help investigators piece together what really happened on the Air Asia flight. The other black box records the voices in the cockpit where the pilots sit and will also help find exactly why the flight crashed.



Deep sea divers found the black boxes

## INDIA

### Obama for Republic Day parade

United States President Barack Obama will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2015. This will be the second time Obama has visited in India (he last came in 2010), the first time ever that a US President has visited the country twice. It is also the first time that a US President will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Parade.

Obama will be accompanied by a huge number of security officials and will travel to India in the US President's personal aircraft - Air Force One. He will even bring his own car with him. Nicknamed 'The Beast', the car has been built to withstand bullets, explosions and chemical weapons! Obama will be accompanied by his wife Michelle Obama.







## SPORTS

# India lose series but silver linings remain

India lost the four match test series against Australia 0-2 but silver linings (good news) remains for India fans as the Indian batting held up well against the Aussie bowling attack.

After losing the first two matches to Australia, India managed to secure draws (a draw is a match with no result) in the third and fourth matches.

### A Captain's knock

The series was a resounding success for India's new test captain Virat Kohli who smashed 639 runs. He also scored four centuries, equaling Sunil Gavaskar's record. He is only the third batsman in the world to score four centuries against Australia in a single series. He has also scored more runs than any other Indian batsman in a single series when playing Australia in Australia, considered a very tough challenge. In addition to Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane and opener Murali Vijay also came good.

However bowlers including



Virat Kohli after scoring his 10th test century



The Australian team with the Border-Gavaskar trophy, named after two famous captains from India and Australia.

Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami and RAshwin failed to make an impact and found it difficult to dismiss the Australian batsmen. This does not bode well for India as the ICC World Cup looms.

With the series loss, India has slipped to No 7 in the ICC test cricket rankings. But they can take heart from their ODI rankings where they are the second best team in the world after Australia.

## SPORTS

### World cup team chosen



Will Dhoni and Kohli repeat the 2011 win?

The team that will defend India's ICC Cricket World Cup title has been chosen and the list of 15 players had only a few minor surprises. The World Cup will be played in Australia and New Zealand between February 14 and March 29 2015.

MS Dhoni will lead the squad which includes obvious choices like Virat Kohli (Vice Captain), Suresh Raina and Ajinkya Rahane. But the selection of out of form players like Shikhar Dhawan has raised eyebrows (is being questioned) as is the dropping of Murali Vijay who played so well in the test series against Australia.

The inclusion of the untested Stuart Binny has also caused some concern. But he is expected to help Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the Indian bowling attack. Bowling remains the team weakness and it looks to be seen if skipper Dhoni can get a good performance out of the bowlers.

India's first match in the World Cup will be played on February 15 against Pakistan.

## WORLD

### New President for Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has a new President in the form of Maithripala Sirisena who won a surprise victory over Mahinda Rajapaksa who had been heading Sri Lanka for 10 years. It was a surprise victory as Rajapaksha was expected to easily win his third term as President. In Sri Lanka, the President has a lot of power, unlike in India.







## Captain Calling

Here are images of some of the best captains the cricket world has seen. Can you identify them?



1. Steve Waugh, Australia  
2. Stephen Fleming, New Zealand  
3. Clive Lloyd, West Indies  
4. Graeme Smith, South Africa

Answers

## UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Re-arrange the alphabets to find the word

**Hint:** All clues are linked to the theme of cricket

1. LSIAB

2. TWCIEK

3. NSIP

4. ECBUORN

1. Balls  
2. Wicket  
3. Spin  
4. Bouncer

Answers

## SUDOKU TIME

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

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

Answer

## FIND THE HIDDEN PICTURES

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



## Top Reads for Kids and Young Adults

1. Awful Auntie by David Walliams
2. Dragons at Crumbling Castle by Terry Pratchett
3. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul by Jeff Kinney
4. Malgudi Schooldays by RK Narayan
5. Girl Online by Zoe Sugg
6. Thea Stilton and the Missing Myth by Geronimo Stilton
7. The Bane Chronicles by Cassandra Clare
8. Pashu: Animal Tales from Hindu Mythology by Devdutt Pattanaik
9. Amulet: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi
10. Young Bond: Shoot to Kill by Steve Cole



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

[www.toptenbooksoftheweek.com](http://www.toptenbooksoftheweek.com)

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while regular columns on everyday technology concepts keep children up-to-date with the world around them. A subscription costs Rs. 650 for the year.

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