

# Child Friendly News



HAPPY DIWALI!

Due to the Diwali break, the next issue of Child Friendly News will be printed on November 6, 2014. Have a safe Diwali!



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## AN INDO-PAK NOBEL

Last Friday the Nobel Prize Committee announced that this year's Nobel Peace Prize would be shared by Indian Kailash Satyarthi and the young Pakistan girl Malala Yousafzai. Satyarthi is the second Indian after Mother Teresa to win the Nobel Peace Prize and it is the first time that any Nobel has been shared by India and Pakistan.

### All about Kailash Satyarthi

60 year old Kailash Satyarthi has spent all his life freeing children who have been made to work in factories and offices, which is against the law. According to the United Nation's children's agency UNICEF, 28 million children between the ages of 6 and 14 go to work in India each morning instead of heading to school. These children work in factories that make cigarettes, beedis (similar to a cigarette), firecrackers, saris and carpets. They are made to work very long hours, paid very little and treated badly. Their work place is like a prison. Kailash Satyarthi and his organization Bachpan Bachao Andolan or Save the Children Mission have saved 70,000 such children over the years.

### Who is Malala?

As a young girl growing up in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai found herself fighting for the right to go to school as the Taliban (a terrorist group in Pakistan and Afghanistan) began saying that girls should not attend



Kailash Satyarthi

Satyarthi says that his moment of truth came when he saw a cobbler's son outside his school one day. When he asked the cobbler why the child wasn't in school the cobbler replied, 'Look, sir, we are the people who are born to work,' he said. 'I was so disturbed. Why do we people have so many dreams, and they have none? This has gone so deep to my heart, and that is when I started working with poor children.'



Malala Yousafzai

school. When Malala spoke out against the Taliban, she got a lot of support from people around the world. But it also made the Taliban very angry and in 2012, when she was 14 years old, she was shot in the head by the Taliban. Malala was sent for treatment to the United Kingdom (UK) and she has now fully recovered. She goes to school in the UK now. Al-

though the Taliban have still threatened to kill her, she continues to speak out in support of educating girls.

### Why the Nobel?

The Nobel Peace Prize was given to Malala and Satyarthi for the work they have done in fighting for the rights of children. By giving it to India and Pakistan at a time when the two countries have been fighting at the border they share, the Nobel Prize organization seems to be pushing the countries towards a more peaceful co-existence.

### Economics Nobel for Jean Tirole

Frenchman Jean Tirole has been awarded the Economics Nobel. Economics is the study of the way business operate, how they are governed and how money is made and spent. Tirole was awarded for his work in studying how governments



could manage companies that had a monopoly or near monopoly in any market. A monopoly controls the market it makes products for – for example, if most of the burgers sold in India were made by McDonalds, it would be a monopoly. Now, imagine then how much power it would have – it would be able to increase prices whenever it wanted, and people who wanted to eat burgers would have no choice but to pay. Tirole's work can help governments work out how best to control such companies so that buyers are treated fairly.

Read about the other 2014 Nobel Prize winners on pages 4 and 5

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# SLEEPING ON THE FLIGHT TO MARS

**U**S space agency NASA is thinking of putting its astronauts to sleep on the long flight to Mars. This will help reduce the amount of food, water and other supplies carried on board the spaceship as well as help astronauts get over the challenge of a 600 million mile journey that could take around 6 months. A manned space expedition to the red planet is one of the NASA's planned missions and this is likely to happen in your lifetime.

## How will NASA do it?

Putting someone to sleep for a period of time is a procedure called 'therapeutic torpor'. It is used by doctors to treat someone in extreme pain or in great danger from an illness. However, the maximum period of time a person is placed into such 'medical sleep' is a week. NASA is planning to experiment with longer sleep periods, something that has never been attempted before.

## How will it help?

Sleeping astronauts will require less water, food and other resources, thus making the space craft lighter or freeing up space for scientific instruments and other items that the astronauts will need on Mars. Plus, it is one way for astronauts to cope with the 180 day long journey to Mars, one that will be made in a small space craft with just a few other humans for company.



It is possible that we will land a person on Mars in this century

A journey to Mars is a complex project and decisions like these will be made over the next few years as we attempt to put humans on Mars.

## TREADING ON THIN ICE IN THE ARCTIC



**Y**ou are looking at a birds-eye view of – believe it or not – 35,000 walrus that have crowded onto an Alaskan beach. The low levels of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean have driven the animals to take refuge (shelter) on the beach in Alaska, the northern-most state of the United States.

In summer and the period that immediately follows, higher temperatures cause the Arctic ice to melt, causing the sea of ice that makes up the Arctic to retreat north. The ice is important to walrus that rest on it between swims. It's also a diving board from which they dive in shallow waters to fish for snails, clams and worms. Therefore, walrus usually follow the retreating ice, but this year the ice has retreated much more to the north where the

ocean is too deep for the walrus to dive for food.

The plight of the thousands of walrus on the Alaskan beach has been caused by climate change which is making the planet warmer, thus causing rapid melting of ice. Such large gatherings could turn dangerous for walrus, especially young ones, in the event of a stampede caused by the sight of predators such as polar bears and human hunters.



A close-up view of the beach



If the Arctic is melting, exactly the opposite is happening in Antarctica. There, sea ice has reached record levels. In September this year Antarctica had an extra million square kilometres of ice compared to the average ice spread of the last 30 years. It's a phenomenon that scientists have been unable to explain especially given that the rest of the planet is rapidly warming up.

## BLOOD MOON

**T**he moon rose red over North America and parts of East Asia on the night of October 8, marking the passage of a lunar eclipse. A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth comes in between the Sun and the Moon and its shadow falls on the Moon.

As the Moon nears Earth's shadow, it takes on a coppery colour – thus giving rise to the name Blood Moon – due to light deflected from sunrises and sunsets happening on Earth.





NATURE MATTERS

# Grasslands in danger

Some of the most dangerous things in the world are those in plain sight. And that's quite true for wildlife as well. We've all heard of the loss of forests all over India and how this is affecting the habitat for wild creatures. The loss of forest cover is visible change; in this piece we will learn about invisible habitat loss that is happening in the open countryside, in the fields, farms and common area grasslands that make up so much of India.

## City monsters rear up

As you drive out of your city, you will notice how homes give way to scattered fields and open land, which gradually take over the landscape. You may have also noticed how each year, it takes longer and longer to drive out of the city. Our cities are growing in all directions and this growing city is a like a troll that gobbles up everything in its way.

Farmers who grew crops at the edges of cities have become millionaires overnight by selling their land to builders who construct apartment blocks and offices where green fields once stood. As bulldozers and equipment roll in, birds and animals who built nests and raised families in those fields become homeless.

Take for example, a wetland called Basai that is perched on the edge of Gurgaon in the



Photo Courtesy: Nikhil Devasar

Delhi region. In addition to many birds that live here the year around, the fields of Basai play host to thousands of migratory wading birds, ducks and geese that arrive here in the

winter months from Ladakh and central Asia. Gorgeous flamingoes arrive here from Gujarat too. Over the past few years, parts of the wetland have been sold to builders. If human movement increases beyond a point, the birds may no longer visit Basai.

## Bustard alarm call

The bird species in possibly the greatest danger in India is the bustard. India is home to four bustard species – the Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican, Bengal Florican and the MacQueen's Bustard (this bird alone is a migratory bird that visits in winter). All these bustards live in grasslands, many of which fall into common areas used for grazing of cattle. Dangers faced by these birds here include over-grazing by cattle, take-over of land for growing crops and use of the land for mining and other activities that disturb the birds. What's making it worse is the use of strong chemicals by farmers to make their soil fertile which get ingested (eaten) by the birds accidentally.

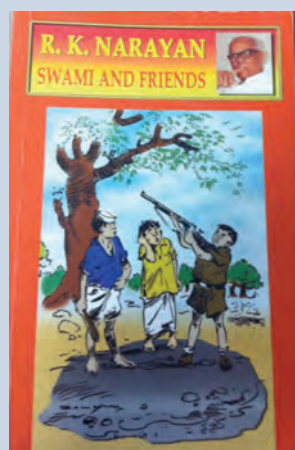
Unlike the cutting down of forests and trees, which gets noticed, the spoiling of common areas, open countryside and small wetlands goes completely unnoticed. This blindness is dearly costing the birds and small creatures that live there... and in the end will cost us all.

## THE BOOK NOOK

### Swami and Friends by R K Narayan

Malgudi first made an appearance in *Swami & Friends*, R K Narayan's first book.

Narayan was one of India's greatest writers. The simplicity of his language and the everydayness of his characters and the situations they found themselves in struck a chord with his readers. In many ways, his was a unique style of writing – it was literary without being dependant on long words or complex sentences. Swami, short for Swaminathan is 10 in *Swami & Friends*, a student at the Albert Mission School in the fictional town of Malgudi. The book is essentially a compilation of stories about his life, friends, and passions (cricket is one; Swami is one of the movers behind MCC, the Malgudi Cricket Club). The stories and



the book are set in the 1930s, in pre-independence India. Yet, childhood, children, and their concerns have remained the same through the years. *Swami & Friends* can be read and enjoyed even today. It remains one of the best books on growing up.

Narayan was born on 10 October 1906 and died in 2011.

He wrote many other books and probably deserved to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, although he didn't.

Available on: [www.flipkart.com](http://www.flipkart.com)

Price: Rs.100





It is a remarkable honor to receive a Nobel Prize, because it not only recognizes discoveries, but also their usefulness to the advancement of fundamental science.

—Peter Agre

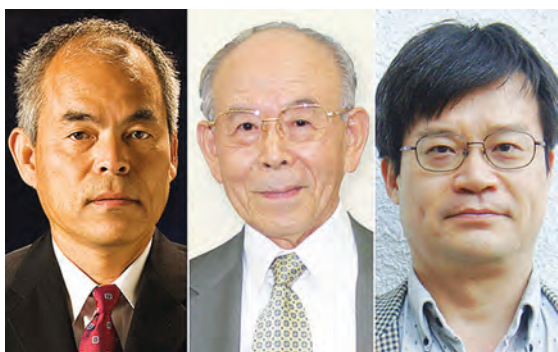
# THE NOBEL PRIZES OF 2014

The Nobel prizes for 2014 have just been announced. Go beyond the names and find out about the great inventions and discoveries that were honoured by the Nobel Committee.

## The Physics Nobel

Not all science is about putting rockets into space. Some of the best science makes our daily life better by leaps and bounds. That is the category that this year's Physics Nobel falls into.

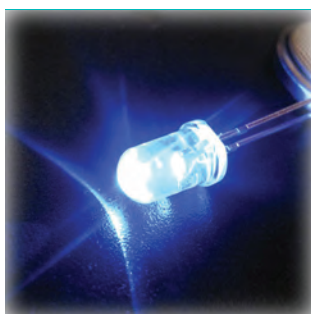
The 2014 Nobel in Physics has been awarded to three Japanese scientists - Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura - who invented the blue Light Emitting Diode (what we know as LED) twenty years ago. At that time red and green LEDs were already around, but without blue LEDs, creating a LED that produced white light was not possible.



Shuji Nakamura, Isamu Akasaki and Hiroshi Amano

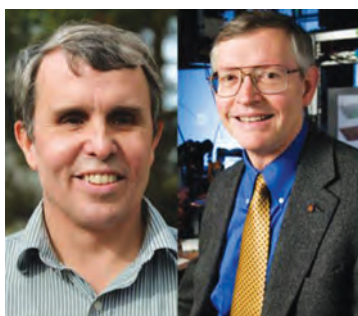
Thanks to the trio's invention, LED lights are now used in homes, offices and even to light up screens of smartphones and tablets. LED lights are much more environment friendly than other kinds of bulbs - they last up to 100,000 hours, compared to 1,000 for incandescent bulbs and 10,000 hours for fluorescent lights.

The LED lamp invention was honoured by the Nobel Committee as it holds great promise for increasing the quality of life for over 1.5 billion people around the world who don't have electricity connections - due to low power requirements, LED lights can be powered by cheap local solar power (electricity produced from the heat energy given out by the sun).



Two Indians - CV Raman and Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar - won the Physics Nobel in 1930 and 1983 respectively.

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Eric Betzig and William Moerner

## The Chemistry Nobel

The 2014 Chemistry Nobel has been awarded to two Germans and one American scientist - Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell and William E. Moerner - for their invention of a microscope so powerful it can look inside living cells.

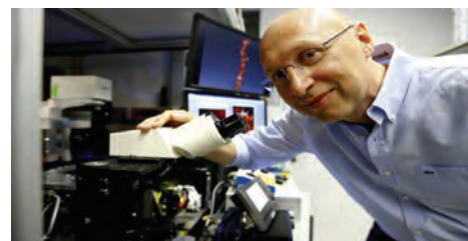
As you know, all living creatures, including humans, are built of cells. Looking inside cells of living creatures has opened up a whole new world. We can now look at how brain cells operate, study how cells affected by diseases behave and even study reproduction at the cell level.

The Nobel Committee pointed out the ground-breaking work (of the winning scientists) had brought optical microscopy into the **nanodimension**. Nano is word that refers to something that is very small. By inventing a microscope powerful enough to see inside tiny cells, the Nobel winners have changed the way biology and diseases are studied throughout the world.



Photo courtesy: Wikipedia

By inventing a microscope powerful enough to see inside tiny cells, the Nobel winners have changed the way biology and diseases are studied throughout the world.



Stefan W. Hell with the microscope he invented





I don't want revenge on the Taliban. I want education for sons and daughters of the Taliban.  
—Malala Yousafzai



# Special Report

CHILD FRIENDLY NEWS

16 October 2014

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# 5



## The Medicine Nobel

Three scientists – British American John O Keefe and the Norwegian husband and wife team of Edvard Moser and May-Britt Moser – have been chosen for the Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovering how the brain's 'inner GPS' works. GPS or Global Positioning System is the technology that tells where we are on Earth. It now turns out that the human brain has its own version of GPS, tucked away into a part of the brain called the hippocampus, that helps us build a map of the places we visit and stores away the information for future use. In other words, it is this 'inner GPS' that helps us find our way around.

Back in 1971, while studying rats in a lab, John O'Keefe discovered that cells in certain parts of the rats' hippocampus lit up when the animal was in a particular part of the room. These cells were clearly behaving like markers. Much later in 2005, while again studying lab rats, the Mosers discovered that other brain cells lit up in patterns that resembled the position of a rat in a room. These two discoveries show the way the brain stores information about the layout of spaces we visit.



Edvard Moser, May-Britt Moser and John O'Keefe



Indian Har Gobind Khorana won the Medicine Nobel in 1968

The Nobel prizes were the brainchild of a Swedish inventor named Alfred Nobel. A few years before he passed away, a newspaper wrongly published that he had died. On reading the article, he started thinking about how people would remember him when he actually died. That's when he decided to set up an organization that would use his wealth to give out prizes each year for the best inventions in various scientific fields such as Physics, Chemistry and Medicine as well as in Literature (writing). Today these are among the most important and sought after awards in the world



## The Literature Nobel

The Nobel for Literature in 2014 has been awarded to French writer Patrick Modiano. Modiano has written novels, children's books and screenplays (scripts) for movies, all in French, but he is little known outside France.

Unlike other major literature prizes such as the Man Booker prize, the Nobel is given for a body of work created by a writer in his lifetime. Modiano's works have a common theme – many are set in the city of Paris during World War II – and deal with the difficulties and losses that people experienced during the war.

The only Indian to win a Literature Nobel was Rabindranath Tagore in 1913.





This is not an African disease. This is a virus that is a threat to all humanity.

—Dr. Gayle Smith on the Ebola virus



## WORLD

# 50% of world's wildlife has disappeared

Nearly 50% of the world's wildlife has disappeared in the last 40 years, according to the WWF Living Planet report, released recently by WWF, one of the world's largest wildlife conservation (protection) agencies.

The report tracks 10,000 of the most important species of mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Populations (number of the animals) of these species have dropped by 52% between 1970 and 2010. This means that if there were 100 animals of one kind or species in 1970, this number dropped to 48 by 2010.

This shocking drop has been caused by us, humans, in three ways: habitat loss, hunting or fishing and climate change.



**HELP ME!**

Wildlife habitats have been cleared by people for farming, mining and building factories leaving animals squeezed into smaller and

smaller spaces. Poachers and hunters have in turn killed scores of rhinos, tigers and elephants. To top it all, we lead a lifestyle that is warming the planet and making it difficult for certain species to survive – for example, polar bears and walruses in the Arctic (see story on page 2).

WWF has warned that humans cannot continue doing this for much longer for two very good reasons:

- If we destroy and clear more forests, the planet will get warmer, leading to disaster for all people
- 2 billion of the planet's poorest people depend on forests for food shelter and earning money.

If we don't stop the killing of wildlife, clearly, this terrible mistake will punish us in the end.

## INDIA

### Cyclone Hudhud batters Vizag

It's a cyclone named after the Arabic word for the Hoopoe bird, but the storm that hit Andhra Pradesh on Sunday afternoon had no resemblance to the gentle flight of this common garden bird. Instead, strong winds travelling at 200 kilometres per hour along with rain struck the coastal town of Vishakapatnam (or Vizag), the place where the cyclone crossed over into India.

Together, the wind and rain cut off communication networks in and around the city. The government switched off power supply as a safety measure in case power poles (on which the wires are strung) should fall. Traffic on the Chennai-Kolkata national highway was stopped and so were train operations on the route.

Lakhs of people who lived along the coast have been moved into relief camps. Sadly 21 people were killed during the disaster as trees fell and houses collapsed due to strong winds.

On Monday, government workers started clearing the roads and removing uprooted trees. It will take some time though for things to go back to normal in Vizag.



An angry sea raged against the Vizag beach as Hudhud hit the coast

## WORLD

### 4000 and counting...

Ebola, the deadly virus that is spreading fast in Western Africa has killed more than 4000 people while double that number have been infected with the disease. Worryingly, the disease has spread to the United States (US) and Spain, where people who had spent time in West Africa, have become infected with the virus and now seem to be passing it on to others.

Could the disease spread to India? Indian airports have been screening (checking) passengers from West African countries for those who show signs of the disease. While a few have been tested, no one seems to have Ebola so far.



Fruit bats are the natural hosts of the Ebola virus, and from them it spreads to humans



# Hockey gold for India

It was sweet success after a wait of 16 years for the hockey team that won gold at the Asian Games in Incheon earlier this month. The last time India won gold in hockey was at the Bangkok Asian Games of 1998. The success was all the sweeter as India have now directly qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio (Brazil) in 2016. In the final at Incheon, India defeated arch rival Pakistan in an exciting penalty shoot-out which was required as both teams had drawn the match with one goal each. India won the shoot-out 4-2, thanks to a brilliant performance from goal keeper PR Sreejesh who prevented Pakistan from scoring.

India ended the event at eighth place with 57 medals in all, including 11 golds, 10 silvers and 36 bronze medals. China topped the table with 151 gold medals and a fantastic 342 medals overall.



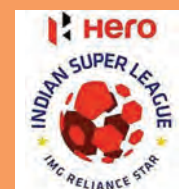
## No longer No 1

India lost its spot as the No 1 One Day International (ODI) team in world cricket, thanks to Cyclone Hudhud. The severe storm led to the cancellation of the third ODI that was to be played in Vizag in Andhra Pradesh, which was badly affected by the cyclone. Now even if the Indians win the next two matches and the series 3-1, they still won't be able to beat Australia which has captured the No 1 spot. The series against the West Indies, which is being played at home, began badly with the loss of the first match played in Kochi. A huge knock by Marlon Samuels who hit 165 from just 23.1 overs helped the West Indies score a massive 321 to which India responded with a poor 197. The home team however came back in the second match at Delhi to level the series. Two matches remain to be played at Dharamshala and Kolkata.



Indians celebrate the fall of a West Indies wicket

## Soccer anyone?



Soccer is not a hugely popular sport in India and lags far behind cricket which is the all-important sport in India. But the Indian Super League (ISL), which started this weekend, promises to change all that.

The big difference will come from the format of the tournament which is copied from the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket event. Eight teams from eight cities will play against each other and the soccer league will be played at many places across the country.

To improve the level of the game, team owners have signed up Italian World Cup winners Alessandro Del Piero and Marco Materazzi, Spain's Joan Capdevila and Luis Garcia, and French stars David Trezeguet and Robert Pires.

There's even a cricket connection to ISL, with Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly and M S Dhoni becoming ISL team owners. The league will be played between October and December 2014.







## Prize Catch

The people in the photos here have won important national awards in India. Can you identify them and the awards they won?



1. T. C. N. Rao, scientist, Bharat Ratna (2013)  
 2. Sachin Tendulkar, cricketer, Bharat Ratna (2013)  
 3. Somdev Devvarman, tennis player, Arjuna Award (2011)  
 4. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, Indira Gandhi Peace Prize (2013)

Answers

## UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Re-arrange the alphabets to find the word

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

1. EIRZP

2. LDMAE

3. AADRW

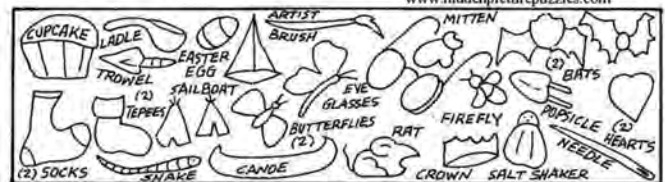
4. UOROHN

1. Prize  
 2. Medal  
 3. Award  
 4. Honour

Answers

## FIND THE HIDDEN PICTURES

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



## Top Reads for Kids and Young Adults

1. Heroes of Olympus: The Blood of Olympus by Rick Riordan
2. National Geographic Kids Almanac: 2015
3. Guinness World Records 2015
4. Dork Diaries: Once Upon a Dork by Rachel Renee Russell
5. The Kingdom of Fantasy: The Search for Treasure by Geronimo Stilton
6. Horrid High by Payal Kapadia
7. Captain Coconut and the Case of The Missing Bananas by Anushka Ravishankar & Priya Sundram
8. Lockwood & Co.: The Whispering Skull by Jonathan Stroud
9. The Tigers of Taboo Valley by Ranjit Lal
10. George and the Unbreakable Code by Stephen & Lucy Hawking



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

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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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