



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

> A few things to catch up about the groundbreaking film, Avatar, before you watch the sequel

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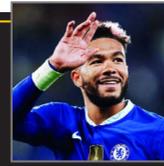
> Find out why experts believe that cheetahs will do well as India has a history of their presence

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> Reece James dispatches AC Milan to ease CL concerns for Chelsea

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STUDENT EDITION  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

NEWSMAKERS



3 scientists get Nobel in Chemistry for 'snapping molecules together'

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless on Wednesday for the development of click chemistry and bio-orthogonal chemistry – work that has “led to a revolution in how chemists think about linking molecules together,” the Nobel committee said. Bertozzi is the eighth woman to be awarded the prize, and Sharpless is the fifth scientist to be honoured with two Nobels, the committee noted.



Annie Ernaux wins Nobel in Literature

The 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded to the French author, Annie Ernaux, “for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory.

## CUET-UG

## NORMALISED NTA SCORES: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Central universities across the country will be preparing rank lists on basis of CUET-UG score card. However, they will not prepare merit list considering percentile or raw marks but “normalised” scores issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Here are some details of what the normalisation process is:

### CUET-UG: WHAT ARE 'NORMALISED' NTA SCORES?

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**1** What is need for normalisation? For several subjects, CUET (UG)-2022 has been conducted in different shifts. Since the question paper for any subject in different shifts is different and it is possible that despite all efforts of maintaining equivalence among various question papers, the difficulty level of these question papers administered in different sessions may not be the same or similar. Hence, there is a need for normalising the marks across shifts to make them amenable to such comparisons.

**2** How was the normalisation method decided?: A committee headed by senior professor from Indian Statistical Institution Delhi and comprising senior professors from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi and University of Delhi had detail deliberations to arrive at methodology.



The Delhi University launched the portal for admission through CUET in its UG programmes for the academic year 2022-23 on September 12. The Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS-2022) is being conducted in three phases. The first phase will be to apply to the University of Delhi, the second phase will be preference filling and the third phase will be seat allotment-admission.

**3** What is the equi percentile method? NTA uses the same scale for all candidates independent of which session they have appeared in a given subject. These normalised marks, obtained using equipercentile method, in different sessions in a given subject can be used in the same way we use the raw marks of a conventional single session exam. Hence, in a particular university, if the raw marks of the skill component has certain weightage, it can be added to the remaining weightage of the normalised marks.

**4** Why normalisation is not done in all entrance exams conducted by NTA? Unlike CUET-UG, other entrance exams are limited to fewer subjects. In single session entrance tests, one common statistically established method is to transform the raw marks into a common uniform scale for parity while comparing.

**5** Why percentiles cannot be used for deciding ranks? In entrance tests such CUET-UG, since the test is conducted on different days and in multiple sessions for the same subject, it will give rise to multiple percentiles for each group of students. In addition to the above difficulty, another problem with using only percentiles is that in subjects such as sports or fine arts, some weightage (eg 25%) is given to the skill component by some universities. But, addition of raw marks in the skill component and the remaining weightage (75%) of percentile cannot be done to prepare the rank list because it would be like adding oranges to apples.

## Why Putin annexed 18% of Ukrainian territory?

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law to incorporate four partially-occupied Ukrainian regions - DONETSK, LUHANSK, KHERSON and ZAPORIZHZHIA - into Russia on Wednesday. The new law would incorporate around 18% of Ukraine's territory into Russia, equivalent to the area of Portugal, in Europe's biggest annexation since World War Two. Russia does not fully control any of the four provinces it claims to have annexed, however, and Moscow has yet to demarcate what it now asserts to be Russia's new borders. “People who live in are becoming our citizens – forever,” Putin said at the chandeliered St George's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace – the same place where he declared in 2014 that Crimea was part of Russia.



### THE NUCLEAR THREAT

The annexation of the 4 regions adds a degree of legitimacy to Putin's nuclear threats, which were earlier denounced by Western experts as brinkmanship. During the ceremony to officially announce the annexation, Putin chillingly vowed to protect the newly-annexed regions by “all available means.” Though he did not drop any fresh nuclear warnings, Putin also said that the US had set a precedent when it had dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945. The message was painfully clear: any attack on the newly-annexed regions would be construed as an attack on Russia. This would give Putin enough reasons to use any means available in Russia's vast arsenal, including nuclear weapons. Even earlier, Putin had said that his nuclear threat was not a bluff. His top

Ukrainian territories annexed by Russia



associate, Dmitry Medvedev, said earlier this week that Russia has the right to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine if Kyiv threatens Russian statehood. Experts feel the annexation signals the onset of a “new and highly dangerous phase” in the war, one that could escalate to the use of nuclear weapons for the first time in 77 years.

### A VICTORY OF SORTS

“Victory will be ours,” President Putin said as thousands of Russians gathered on Moscow's Red Square to celebrate the annexation. “Russia not only opens the doors of her home to

these people, she opens her heart. Welcome home!” he said, prompting chants of “Russia! Russia!” from the flag-waving crowd in the vast square. Last week's ‘show and tell’ by Russia was clearly dominated by the theme of victory. That's because victory is exactly what has eluded Putin in the last 7 months.

### PITTING UKRAINIANS AGAINST UKRAINIANS

The annexation of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia has opened up the possibility for Putin to call for conscription. According to reports, Ukrainian authorities believe that Russia will try to mobilise young men in the occupied areas to fight against Ukraine. This has already happened in parts of eastern Ukraine under Russian control since 2014, particularly Crimea.

## Let's Explore Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain



Mahakal Corridor of Ujjain temple will be inaugurated by PM Modi on Oct 11

### THE STORY OF THE TEMPLE

Mahakaleshwar temple houses one of 12 jyotirlingas, considered the most sacred of Lord Shiva's shrines. It is located in the ancient city of Ujjain alongside the holy river Kshipra. According to Hindu mythology, the temple was built by Lord Brahma. The Mahakal lingam is believed to be swayambhu (self-manifested) and the idol of Mahakaleshwar is said to be dakshinmukhi (facing the south), a feature found only in this temple. The temple is also one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peeths – shrines which have the presence of Shakti because some part of the corpse of Sati Devi fell there, according to experts. The upper lip of the devi is said to be in this holy place and the Shakti is called Mahakali, according to Hindu mythology. The temple in its present form was built by the Maratha general Ranoji Shinde in 1734 CE.

### DESIGN & RESTORATION

The newly-constructed Mahakal Corridor in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain has been named “Sree Mahakal Lok”. Under the plan, the Mahakaleshwar temple premises of around 2.82 hectare has been increased to 47 hectare, including the 17 hectare of Rudrasagar Lake. A visitor plaza has two entrances or ‘Dwaars’ – the Nandi Dwaar and the Pinaki Dwaar. The visitor plaza can hold up to 20,000 pilgrims at a time. A circulation plan to reduce congestion has also been developed. A 900-metre pedestrian corridor has also been constructed, connecting the plaza to the Mahakal temple, dotted with 108 murals and 93 statues depicting stories related to Lord Shiva, such as Shiv Vivah, Tripurasur Vadh, Shiv Puran, and Shiv Tandav Swaroop. The second phase includes expansion of the eastern and northern fronts of the temple. It also includes development of various areas of Ujjain city, such as Maharajwada, Mahal Gate etc.

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

### MIND MATTERS

Find out why spatial skills and learning is an essential life skill to have and how it makes you better at Math!

### INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY

October 8 is celebrated as Indian Air Force Day. Read some interesting facts about our IAF on this great occasion

### HEALTH

Learn smart and healthy ways to celebrate festivities

### ENVIRONMENT

5 facts you need to know about the Global Water Crisis

### PEOPLE

Celebrating birthdays

### STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

(Oct 8-14) of luminaries from books, movies, music, politics and MORE

### FAMILY TIME

Learn how to help your parents declutter and get the house ready for upcoming festivities. PLUS: What does the latest research say about watching TV with your parents

Your Weekender

### SPORTS

A look at all the players who retired in 2022



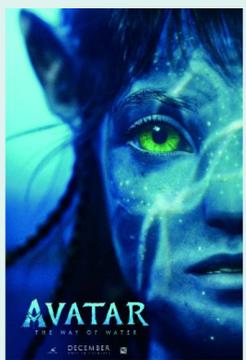
“Every time you dive, you hope you’ll see something new - some new species. Sometimes, the ocean gives you a gift, sometimes, it doesn’t.”

— James Cameron, legendary Hollywood director

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

What can be accomplished in 13 years? Given that much time, JK Rowling published all seven of the Harry Potter books – and helped turn the first six of them into movies. Taylor Swift cranked out eight studio albums – and re-recorded two of them. The New York Yankees won the World Series eight times. James Cameron made one film.

‘Avatar: The Way of Water’, a roughly three-hour sci-fi epic, is a sequel to his 2009 ‘Avatar’, which shattered box office records and garnered a devoted fan base. (The three Academy Awards – for art direction, cinematography and visual effects – didn’t hurt either.) It’s set for a holiday season release (December 16). If you remember very little about Pandora, here’s a refresher on the ‘Avatar’ universe, the phenomenon it became and the stakes a sequel faces.



WHAT WAS ‘AVATAR’ ALL ABOUT?

It’s the middle of the 22nd century, and humans have depleted Earth’s natural resources, so they are now colonising a moon, known as Pandora, which is home to both the valuable mineral unobtainium and a tribe of 10-foot-tall indigenous blue creatures known as Na’vi, who look like a mashup of the Blue Man Group, centaurs, professional basketball players and armed supermodels. A group of specially trained humans inhabit



Remember ‘AVATAR’?

INTRO: HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO CATCH UP ABOUT THE GROUNDBREAKING FILM BEFORE YOU WATCH THE SEQUEL ‘AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER’

ry, and humans have depleted Earth’s natural resources, so they are now colonising a moon, known as Pandora, which is home to both the valuable mineral unobtainium and a tribe of 10-foot-tall indigenous blue creatures known as Na’vi, who look like a mashup of the Blue Man Group, centaurs, professional basketball players and armed supermodels. A group of specially trained humans inhabit

genetically engineered Na’vi bodies, known as avatars, to interact with the tribe while their human bodies remain in a remote location.

The protagonist is Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), a paraplegic ex-Marine who replaces his

At its heart the story of ‘Avatar’ is of our arrogant species’ capacity to destruct nature, and take over lands – on or beyond Earth (as is happening right now with Mars) – and claim it as our own, in short – colonising

identical twin brother in the Avatar Programme after his death. Power struggles ensue about what is worth sacrificing to obtain the unobtainium, as well as the value of Na’vi life; within the forest, as Jake tries to convince the

Na’vi to accept him as one of their own; and within Jake himself. He grapples with the ethics of what he is doing, which is complicated by the fact that he has fallen for one of the Na’vi women, Neytiri (Zoe Saldana).

After Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang), the head of the security force for the group mining the unobtainium, destroys the Na’vi’s gathering place, Hometree,



and kills many of them, Jake confronts him in his Na’vi. Quaritch almost kills Jake before Neytiri fatally shoots the colonel with two arrows to the chest. Jake, in love with Neytiri and having gained the trust of the Na’vi, chooses to transfer to his avatar form permanently. The film’s closing shot is of his eyes, waking up on Pandora.

THE VISUAL EFFECTS

Oh, yes. Reviewers focused as much – if not more – on the images as on the plot, both explaining and lauding the use of performance capture, which was then a newfangled innovation that had been most notably used for Gollum in Peter Jackson’s ‘Lord of the Rings’ films.

WHAT’S THE SEQUEL ABOUT?

Cameron, who won an Academy Award for directing ‘Titanic’, is going back to the sea with the sequel, which is – as you may have guessed

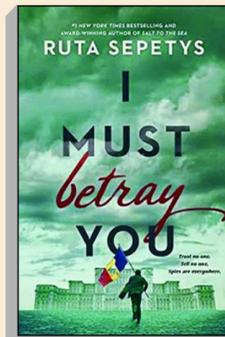
‘AVATAR’ WAS FILMED IN 3D

The film was shot with a 3D camera system that gave Cameron an augmented-reality view in real time by integrating the live actors with computer-generated environments in the viewfinder. ‘Avatar’ was one of the films that restarted a fad of 3D cinematic releases, though you may not have actually seen it in 3D. Many theaters didn’t yet have 3D-projection systems.

from the title – set primarily underwater. It takes place more than a decade after the events of the first film and focuses on Jake Sully and Neytiri and their preteen children. It also introduces a new tribe of reef-dwelling Na’vi known as the Metkayina.

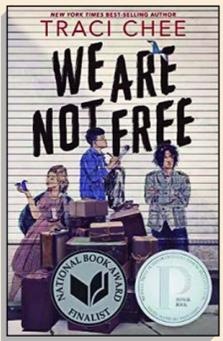
(Featuring extracts from an NYT story)

I MUST BETRAY YOU BY RUTA SEPETYS



forward to the future, but when he is blackmailed by the Communist regime into reporting on his community he must decide if he’ll betray his people or risk his life by joining the resistance.

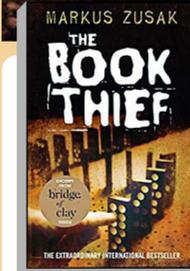
WE ARE NOT FREE BY TRACI CHEE



This award-winning novel tells the stories of 14 Nisei, second generation Japanese American citizens, whose lives are forever changed following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, and who find themselves in an internment camp on American soil. Growing up together in Japantown San Francisco, they must now band together for survival as they fight against injustice

5 HISTORICAL FICTION YA BOOKS

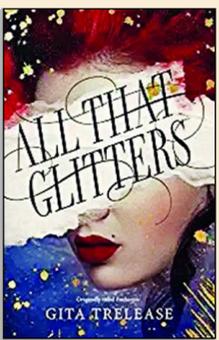
Dame Hilary Mary Mantel, who died September 22, was a British writer whose work includes historical fiction, personal memoirs and short stories. Before you read her books, here are a few historical fiction books you can start with



THE BOOK THIEF

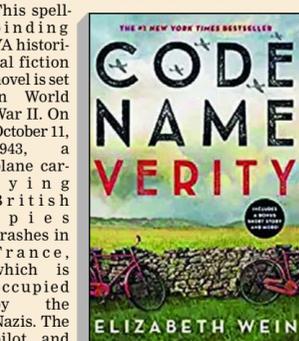
by MARKUS ZUSAK  
In 1938, young orphan Liesel (Sophie Nélisse) arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans (Geoffrey Rush) and Rosa (Emily Watson). When Hans, a kindly house-painter, learns that Liesel cannot read, he teaches the child the wonders of the written language. Liesel grows to love books, even rescuing one from a Nazi bonfire. Though Liesel’s new family barely scrape by, their situation becomes even more precarious when they secretly shelter a Jewish boy whose father once saved Hans’ life.

ALL THAT GLITTERS



their parents die and their brother isn’t up to the task. Camille leans on dark magical powers she shared with her mother, eventually making it to the court of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI. But it’s harder than she imagined.

CODE NAME VERITY



This spell-binding YA historical fiction novel is set in World War II. On October 11, 1943, a plane carrying British spies crashes in France, which is occupied by the Nazis. The pilot and passenger are best friends, but only one of them walks out alive – Verity – who is swiftly arrested by the Gestapo. Verity is faced with a choice: either reveal her mission or be executed.

READ THIS NEXT

**THE SUNBEARER TRIALS** by Aiden Thomas. Every decade the Sunbearer Trials are held to determine who will light the Sun Stones and the loser is sacrificed to fuel them. (Ages 13 to 18)

**THRONE OF GLASS** by Sarah J. Maas. Celaena must battle evil forces threatening her realm. (Ages 14 and up)

**NOTHING MORE TO TELL** by Karen M. McManus. Brynn investigates the murder of her favorite teacher at Saint Ambrose School, Mr. Larkin. (Ages 14 and up)

**THE BALLAD OF NEVER AFTER** by Stephanie Garber. After vowing to never trust the Prince of Hearts again, Evangeline finds that he may be the only one she can trust. (Ages 13 to 18)

**THE INHERITANCE GAMES** by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. Avery Grambs tries to figure out why an inheritance from a stranger was bestowed upon her. (Ages 12 to 18)

**LONG LIVE THE PUMPKIN QUEEN** by Shea Ernshaw. Sally, the new Queen of Halloween Town, must save her town from a sleeping curse. (Ages 12 to 18)

**FAIRY TALE** by Stephen King. A high school kid inherits a shed that is a portal to another world where good and evil are at war.

**THE STARS DID WANDER DARKLING** by Colin Meloy. When an ancient evil is unleashed, it’s up to the kids to save the town of Seaham. (Ages 8 to 12)

WHO IS LYLE?



Crocodile (1965), on which an upcoming movie is based. Eventually, it lead to the ‘Lyle the Crocodile’ book series.

MORE ON LYLE

A super friendly crocodile who loves to sing and perform, Lyle is a resident of an old Victorian brownstone. The musical comedy follows Lyle (played by singing superstar Shawn Mendes) as he navigates New York. After the Primm family moves into their house on 88th Street, Mrs Primm (played by Constance Wu) is shocked to find a singing crocodile in her bathtub. Eventually, the crocodile makes friends with her son Josh (Winslow



Fegley) and his owner Hector P Valenti (played by Javier Bardem).

BOOK VS MOVIE

According to reports the film will feature multiple elements of the classic book, including the time when the Primms try to protect Lyle from the angry Mr Grumps, who (in

the book version) gets the friendly reptile locked up in the zoo after pestering his cat. However, it remains to be seen if the movie version of the friendly croc will end up being locked away. If that does end up happening, then we’re in for some great antics from the characters trying to free him.

AN OLD FAVOURITE

Just like Paddington and Peter Rabbit, Lyle the Crocodile is an old timer from the world of children’s literature. The friendly reptile was

created by American children’s author Bernard Waber in his book ‘The House on East 88th Street’, published in 1962. The book was followed by the sequel ‘Lyle, Lyle,