



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022



BLACK THURSDAY

PUTIN DECLARES WAR ON UKRAINE



- Big explosions were heard before dawn in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odesa as world leaders decried the start of Russia's invasion that could cause massive casualties and topple Ukraine's democratically-elected government
- Russia says it has neutralised Ukrainian air defences, while Ukraine claims to have destroyed five Russian planes

- and a helicopter, when reports last came in
- More than 40 Ukrainian soldiers and around 10 civilians died in the first hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, an aide to President Volodymyr Zelensky informed
- Residents in Kiev appeared to be filling up on petrol and trying to exit the city via car and rail
- Ukraine cut diplomatic ties

- with Russia after it was attacked
- Russian forces take control of 2 towns in Luhansk
- Indian Embassy in Ukraine issues advisory asking Indians to stay where they are and avoid travel to Kyiv
- Putin ally says Ukraine's demilitarisation only way to prevent war in Europe

* At the time of going to the press

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday ordered a military operation in eastern Ukraine. Putin made the announcement in a televised speech at the same time as the UN Security Council was urging him to give peace a chance. Putin warned other countries that any attempt to interfere with the Russian action would lead to "consequences they have never seen." He said the order was the consequence of the threats coming from Ukraine, adding that Russia doesn't have a goal to occupy Ukraine. Putin accused the US and its allies of ignoring Russia's demand to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO and offer Moscow security guarantees, adding that all Ukrainian servicemen who lay down arms will be able to safely leave the zone of combat. Minutes after the speech, gunfire was heard in the Ukrainian capital.

Putin's move rebukes months of talks to de-escalate a crisis triggered by the presence of nearly 200,000 Russian troops on Ukraine's border. His orders, West fears, could spark the largest land war in Europe since World War II

PUTIN'S MARCH SHAKES THE WORLD

UKRAINIAN GOVT WEBSITES HIT BY CYBERATTACKS: The websites of the Ukrainian ministers, and those of the ministries of foreign affairs, infrastructure, education and others, were down

OIL PRICES SOARED PAST \$100 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS: Brent surged to \$100.04 a barrel after the announcement, as concerns grew about a full-scale conflict in eastern Europe. WTI hit \$95.54

MOSCOW STOPS TRADING: The Central Bank of Russia suspended trading in the foreign-exchange markets on Thursday. The ruble plunged to a record low

EUROPE WARNS OF AIRSPACE RISKS AROUND UKRAINE: The European Union

UKRAINE'S INDIA ENVOY SEEKS PM MODI'S INTERVENTION

Ukraine's envoy to India Dr Igor Polikha on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to activate dialogue with Russia amid the ongoing crisis. Polikha said that India has a special relationship with Russia and New Delhi can play a more active role in controlling the situation.

Meanwhile, at the UNSC meeting, India called for an immediate de-escalation of tensions between Russia and Ukraine and cautioned that the situation is in danger of spiralling into a major crisis

Aviation Safety Agency has told air operators of a high risk to civilian aircraft over Ukraine, reminding air operators that "this is now an active conflict zone".

GOLD PRICES JUMPED OVER 2% A highest in more than a year as investors rushed to safe havens

PARIS WHEAT HITS RECORD HIGHS Paris wheat futures hit record highs. Russia and Ukraine account for 29% of global wheat exports, 19% of world maize (corn) supplies and 80% of world sunflower oil exports

SENSEX CRASHES 2,702 POINTS. Modi and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to discuss economic impact of Russia-Ukraine crisis

TODAY'S EDITION



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The social media dilemma: How to introduce kids to social media and keep them safe



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As schools get ready for full-time offline classes, a student relives the good old days



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Liverpool narrow gap with Man City in EPL after win over Leeds

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VIEWPOINT

Drive to protect mother tongue should become a people's movement: Vice President

Observing that 'language' is a fundamental bond that unites people, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday said that the drive to protect and preserve the mother tongue should become a people's movement in the country. "If we lose our mother tongue, we will lose our identity," Naidu said. Addressing an event organised by the ministry of earth science on the occasion of International Mother Languages Day on February 21, the Vice President called for tailoring languages to the changing needs of "our times and finding creative and innovative ways to promote them among younger generations." The Vice President also suggested referring to them as 'Indian languages' instead of 'regional languages' signifying their equal status and distinct identities.



NEP-2020 encourages the use of mother tongue in schools and colleges, and seeks to 'Indianise' the education system by making it holistic, value-based and inclusive

A language is the vital, unseen thread that links the past with the present. Our languages are a repository of our collective knowledge and wisdom, which we have amassed over thousands of years. Children should be encouraged to learn the nuances of language through games and activities



M VENKAIAH NAIDU, Vice President

Q: ARE WE MOVING AWAY FROM OUR MOTHER LANGUAGE? SHARE YOUR VIEWS AT TOINIE@GMAIL.COM

James Mangold to helm biopic on Hollywood legend Buster Keaton

Filmmaker James Mangold is set to direct a biographical drama film based on the life of Hollywood legend Buster Keaton. According to Deadline, Mangold is collaborating with 20th Century Studios to develop the project. Mangold's team is meeting with writers to adapt author Marian Meade's 1995 biography 'Buster Keaton: Cut To The Chase'. The book explores Keaton's often brutal childhood acting experiences, the making of his masterpieces, and his shame at his own lack of education.

Often remembered as the Silent Star, Keaton was an actor, comedian and filmmaker, who made many critically-acclaimed silent films, including 'Sherlock Jr', 'The General' and 'The Cameraman'. He was famous for his physical comedy with a consistently stoic, deadpan expression that earned him the nickname 'The Great Stone Face'



Meta bets on short video format, launches Reels globally

Facebook, now Meta, is all set to launch the short video feature - Reels to more than 150 countries, betting big on what its parent company Meta Platform calls the 'Fastest growing content format'. Inspired by the explosive growth of TikTok, Meta launched Reels on Instagram in 2020 and next year on Facebook. The social media giant, which recently lost a third of its market value after a dismal earnings report, has highlighted Reels as a key priority.

Facebook has also announced new ways for creators to make money through the Reels features. The company plans to expand its programme to pay creators bonuses to more countries and is testing overlay ads using banners and stickers providing monetisation options for creators



Facebook will also roll out full-screen advertisements between the Reels soon. Meta also said it would roll out updates for users to make and see Facebook Reels at the top of the news feed, along with the Watch tab and stories features

MOODY'S UPS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST TO 9.5% FOR 2022

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday raised India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for the calendar year 2022 and to 8.4 per cent for the coming fiscal beginning April 1, even as it flagged high oil prices and supply distortions as a drag on growth.

In November last year, Moody's had forecast India's economy to expand 7.9 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal beginning April 1. As per official estimates, the Indian economy is estimated to grow at 9.2 per cent in the current fiscal ending March 31



The speed of the recovery from the first lockdown-led contraction in the June quarter of 2020 and subsequently in the June quarter of 2021 during the Delta wave was stronger than expected



THE TIMES OF INDIA

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

Learn how science teaches us some of the most critical life skills.

Your Weekender

STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022



FASHION

We celebrate the birthday of the inventor of modern day denim, Levi Strauss, with some amazing facts and trivia on the evolution of 'blue jeans'.

BEAUTY

Why is acne no more just a teen but an adult phenomena too? Find answers at the end of your fork.

MIND MATTERS

What is brain fog and what can you do to clear

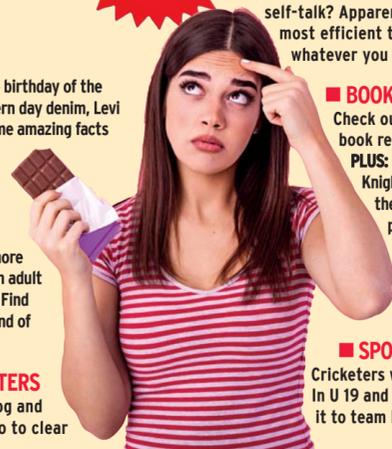
it up? PLUS: Ever tried distanced self-talk? Apparently it is the most efficient tool to thrive at whatever you do.

BOOKS & MOVIES

Check out some hot new book releases. PLUS: Who is Moon Knight? Let's assess the character and powers of the new superhero who will feature in the new Marvel series.

SPORTS

Cricketers who made a mark in U 19 and eventually made it to team India.



THE HIJAB CONTROVERSY

Dress code for girls

XX chromosome comes with its own wardrobe, which schools soberly monitor



SHINEE ANTONY

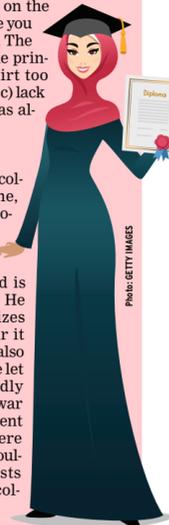
The devil may wear Prada, but schoolgirls in India don't. Female fashion in classrooms is set by moth-eaten school manuals and high-fiving parents and principals. It all begins at the school gate, where a snitch is stationed to look you up and down, and culminates on the assembly ground where you are called out by name. The walk of shame is to the principal's room for a) skirt too short, b) shirt too tight, c) lack of a slip ... Modesty has always been a woman's job; no rapist should be able to stand in a court and say, 'but her collar button was undone, milord.' The XX chromosome comes with its own wardrobe.

The big bully in the school playground is the uniform seller. He measures you two sizes larger so you can wear it till the day you die and also leaves ample cloth to be let out. Schools gladly swapped skirts for salwar suits when the latter went national. Dupattas were primly pinned to the shoulder or unsightly vests added. An all-female college in Kerala where students had to wear saris suspended whoever wore anything else. A Bangalore college used to employ a dress inspector who personally pulled out tops tucked into waistbands; girls got around by wearing untucked tops just an inch past the belt. In another college where pre-university teenagers must don salwar-kameez, parents are urgently summoned if pants reveal ankle, kurta is kurti and dupatta a stole or scarf. College is not willing to accept that it all shrank in the wash.

There are stray parents who exult in the micro-mini a daughter wears, which is code for 'we are modern western type ji'. But mostly young girls must dash into the mall loo to shed their sartorial sobriety. Some pin their skirts up to keep it cool, some flick the tie askew. By the time daddy comes to pick up, they are back in baggy jeans and T-shirts loose enough to hide a full-term pregnancy.

There is no rest though for those in charge of hemlines and necklines. In this guarding of virtue 24/7, women become each other's unsolicited chaperones. They will suddenly pat your bra strap into place, though it's costlier than the blouse and deserves a little red carpet of its own. Or bend with a tut-tut to tug your sari over your heels. This is India - your mortality is directly proportionate to your morality.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



ONE WORLD, DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Explore diversity in vision and figure out how the same topic may be viewed differently by different folks. This is a mirror to society and life

BAPPI LAHIRI 1952-2022: He banished discontent with disco, another word for achhe din

THE MAN WHO LIBERALISED INDIA



INDRAJIT HAZRA

India was liberalised a decade before it economically followed suit. If 1991 is considered as Point Zero for economic liberalisation, with PV Narasimha Rao-Mannohan Singh unveiling the Great Reformist Budget, it was 1982 — bookended by the release of 'Namak Halaal' in February and of 'Disco Dancer' in December — that unleashed a brash, unapologetic, in-your-face India. The architect of that India was Bappi Lahiri.

Even his name — from the staid Alokesh Lahiri to the 'daaknaam' Bappi, — is redolent with a rhythm that upends any tradition of treating understatement as a virtue. His music simply enforced the belief, already prevalent but still lacking the confidence, that over-the-top is a taste that one must embrace both to attain as well as to celebrate success in the 'Only Vimal' polyester 1980s that was moving away from elite (Nehru) Gandhian cotton aesthetics.

Kishore Kumar, his mama, was a great influence in this aspect of Bappi's appetite for pulling out all stops both in music and in spirit. The trajectory for Bappi's 1982 was set in the 1970s, an era in which India Inc was still clad in licence-raj era safari suits, angry young men were scowling while delivering lines from 'Deewar'.

In 1976, Bappi's songs for 'Chalte Chalte' got him noticed, with the title



Disco-Verly of India: Bappi Lahiri with Amitabh Bachchan, 1982

song with the words, 'Kabhi alvida na kehna', apparently being one of Kishore's favourite songs. But there was nothing really that made the 24-year-old music director's music stand out in terms of a break from the prevalent R D Burman rollicking sound. 'Namak Halaal' changed all that — 32 minutes 7 seconds into the film and 2 minutes 7 seconds into the song, 'Pag Ghunghroo Baandh', to be precise.

Amitabh Bachchan as the country bumpkin applying for the job of a waiter in a 5-star hotel restaurant being forced to sing and join the dance floor. He starts with a traditional, feisty enough 'Meera bhajan' with filmi dhol, violins and tabla. And then, with the suddenness of an '80s customs dockyard raid, we find Amitabh's pink pagdi and shermani wearing figure bracketed by a pair of shimmering hips, and hear what we now know as Bappi Lahiri — gui-



'I went to America in 1979 and there was a big hit film, 'Saturday Night Fever'.... I came back and signed a film called 'Suraksha'.... From this movie, disco music started'



Kitschy Khichdi

But it was the Babbar Subhash-directed and Mithun Chakraborty-starring 'Disco Dancer' that clinched the deal — unleashing, in Mannohan Singh's words in a not-so-different context, India's 'animal spirits'. All songs from the film — Vijay Benedict singing 'I am a Disco Dancer', Parvati Khan 'Jimmy Jimmy Jimmy Aaja' (stolen from French pop duo Ot-tawan's 1980 'You're OK'), Usha Uthup 'Koi Yahan Nache Nache' (lifted from the English band The Buggles' 1980 hit 'Video Killed the Radio Star') — hit like a massive series of diastolic-systolic beats across the country.

Replying to how he 'created' disco music in India, Bappi told the play-

wright-comedian (and ET on Sunday columnist) Anuvab Pal in the 2011 book, 'Disco Dancer: A Comedy in Five Acts', 'What is the meaning of disco? There is a disc. A big disc. When you play it and it rotates, when they play in nightclubs, that's disco. I went to America in 1979 and there was a big hit film, 'Saturday Night Fever', John Travolta. I came back and signed a film called 'Suraksha'. From this movie, disco music started... well, then 'Disco Dancer' was a massive hit. So that was the birth of disco.'

But Bappi was much more than just about going music-shopping abroad, coming back with an imported style, and then unleashing it on a listenership that couldn't relate to the Bee Gees but could relate to the disco sound of groups like Boney M and Osibisa retrofitted to Hindi filmi gaana.

Blingy Basso

Bappi's song from the 1981 film 'Jyoti', Kishore's 'Chidiya Choon Choti', was lifted wholesale from Trinidadian musician Roaring Lion's 1945 hit, 'Mary Ann'. Bappi loved the tune so much that he even used it (without credits) in the song 'Whole Day Whole Night' in the 1991 film 'Yodha'. The original Calypso song even bore the line, 'All day, all night, Miss Mary Ann'. No one knew, no one cared. It was another Bappi Lahiri hit.

Bappi's India paved the way for post-liberalisation India, its celebration of bling — kitsch being trotted out confidently as mirrors to popular taste — its pride in OTT culture where every utterance is exclaimed, and its appropriation culture whether of apps or public figures. Bappi Lahiri liberated India with a happy, infectious flashiness we now take for granted. He banished discontent with disco, another word for achhe din.

Indrajit.Hazra@timesgroup.com | Source: ET Edit

THE SOCIAL MEDIA DILEMMA

How to introduce kids to social media

A few weeks before a TikTok spat between Kanye West and Kim Kardashian had all parents bothered about their children's use of social media. But looking on the positive side, like most controversies, there's always a lesson for every party — even if they are on two polar opposite sides of a debate. The West-

Kardashian case is a useful reminder that, like it or not, all parents must accept that children have digital presences. So, how does a parent guide the child to navigate a space that's so full of dangers? There's no escaping it when some children have social media accounts, some don't. Here are 3 books that could help you tread a difficult path softly...

Dot (Age 5+)

Dot, like a lot of little kids, is good with tech, from swiping an iPad to FaceTiming with friends. But when she gets burned out from being plugged in too long, her mom urges her to go play outside. There, she rediscovers the joys of running, painting, and being with friends.



Blackout (Age 4+)

It's a typical hot, noisy night in the city. A child wants to play a board game, but everyone else in the family is too busy. Then the lights go out — all across the city.



Me, Myselfie & I: A Cautionary Tale (Age: 4+)

For Mom's birthday, her kids are excited to teach her how to take selfies. At first, it's fun for the whole family. Soon, driven to take the perfect selfie, Mom gets obsessed.



A case for returning to office this March



HARSH GOENKA

Work-office routine as we knew it consisted of a series of daily rituals. Dress codes, the commute, the exchange of pleasantries at the workplace, informal banter, meetings, bonding with colleagues over tea and coffee, the list is endless. The Covid-19 pandemic abruptly brought this typical work routine to a halt, forcing us to experiment with novel concepts of remote working. Work from home became the new norm. Once the pandemic is over there could be many tempted with the idea that WFH could provide the perfect work-life balance. But the question is, is that the best way forward? And the answer is a resounding NO.

'Culture eats strategy for breakfast'

An important reason for this is a fundamental facet of organisational functioning - work culture. At the root of every organisation is its cul-

ture or ethos. The oft-quoted Peter Drucker phrase "culture eats strategy for breakfast" is a testimony to the importance of this all-pervading facet of every organisation. Within its ecosystem, human interaction remains the most significant fuel. The prolonged persistence of the pandemic is beginning to erode this capital and threaten its very existence. How do we prevent this erosion?



One of the recent developments affecting organisations has been the

extremely unusual and high rate of attrition. While there may be many reasons for this, one of the driving forces is the lack of personal interaction and the eventual loss of a sense of belonging. Being together in a common workplace builds unity and helps remove the sense of isolation and makes us feel we are part of something much bigger, having a larger purpose.

In the wake of the third wave, local administrations in cities called

for a partial shutdown and reduced commercial and social activity. At this juncture, it was an unavoidable necessity in order to stem the rapid flare-up in infections. Once we pass this wave, it is important that organisations educate people on the subjective benefits of in-office working because that aspect in spite of being so vital is least understood.

There are some solutions that are worth exploring. One is a hybrid model option where people work remotely for part of the week and at the workplace for the other part. This will help alleviate some of the downsides of WFH. Also, it will help shake off the inertia developed with remote working in the last two years.

Another option is to categorise people into those that mandatorily need to work from office and those that can have a more flexible schedule. The advantage of this model is that the core group that are critical to driving the business and are those that come face to face with customers are able to engage in the physical workplace.

A third option, which I personally do not advocate, would be to make it mandatory for all to attend all the time.

The writer is chairman of RPG Enterprises

ON LITERARY FICTION VS BESTSELLING BOOKS

Each book has its readers, every small slice of the large loaf needs to be published



SHASHI DESHPANDE

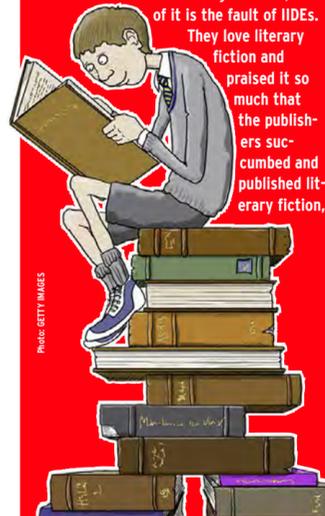
In Chetan Bhagat's recent article in TOI, 'Little Do They Know Us', the 'us' is Bhagat and people like him while 'they' come with an acronym, IIDE (India's Intellectual and Discerning Elite). He goes on to describe IIDEs as people who read newspapers, magazines and books in English, see English films, and have read the classics. So far so good.

Even I can call myself an IIDE because these are the things I have done. But then Bhagat says that IIDEs, in spite of their good English, do not know India, Indians and how Indians think. This is, as Mark Antony said, "the most unkindest cut of all". If I am an IIDE, I need to apologise to my readers for having cheated them, making them think I was writing of the society I lived in and the people I lived among, when I knew nothing about them.

We are further told that IIDEs have a lethal quality, they can destroy anyone whom they seduce. One example that's provided is the recent shutdown of an Indian publishing house, Westland, by its American parent company. We have read many reports about how and why this happened. One of the theories about 'why' is that Westland paid a few bestselling authors such big amounts that it sank.

But according to Bhagat, who has been named by almost everyone as one of these 'best-selling authors', all of it is the fault of IIDEs.

They love literary fiction and praised it so much that the publishers succumbed and published literary fiction,



books which did not sell even a hundred copies. And therefore the Big Bust. Except, an intelligent man like Bhagat knows very well that publishers are businessmen and businesswomen, they know that they need to stay afloat.

And therefore they cast their net far and wide, they publish all kinds of books; literary fiction is but a small slice of a large loaf.

Westland was run by experienced, professional and committed people at the top, with other enthusiastic and competent people supporting them. That such a firm could be "seduced" into publishing books which they knew were bound to fail is a bizarre theory. In any case, there never is any guarantee that a book, or any form of art, will be a success.

Movies show the chanciness of success most clearly. A movie which has everything needed to make it a hit, flops. Whereas, the Marathi film 'Sairat', with the usual tired theme of rich girl, poor boy, upper caste, lower caste, and with totally new actors, was a stupendous hit. Truly, you never know.

Literary fiction is hard to define, Bhagat rightly says. And then goes on to define it as a "self-indulgent expression of IIDE gibberish ... [which] nobody wants to buy or read". IIDEs mocked and shamed popular fiction, instead of encouraging it, he adds. How can those who can't sell even a hundred books of their own have any power to encourage others? More confusion, more hatred.

I am saddened that a fellow writer who has done so well for himself exhibits so much hatred for literary fiction, or for any writing. Writers do not compete with one another; each book, I have learnt through the years, has its own readers.

The writer is a novelist | Source: TOI Edit

WORDPLAY

This week, we focus on another term associated with opinion or opinion building: conjecture (noun)

Synonyms for conjecture

calculate, call, estimate, figure, gauge (also gage), guess, judge, make, place, put, reckon, suppose

Words Related to conjecture

conclude, deduce, extrapolate, gather, infer, reason, understand

Etymology

Conjecture derives via Middle English and Middle French from the Latin verb *conicere* ("to throw together"), a combination of *com-* ("together") and *jacere* ("to throw")

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's important to make your voice heard.

Send Letters to the Editor at toinie175@gmail.com

