



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

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➤ A small incident can change our lives, and how – a student tells us a funny incident in the Hindi class that developed her love for the subject

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**STUDENT EDITION**

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022



**NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of making a "big mistake" by invading Ukraine, as leaders gathered to discuss overhauling the alliance's eastern defences**

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## CUET on class XII subjects, but no bar on any course



The official announcement of the Common University Entrance Test (Undergraduate) 2022 will be a computer-based exam. "It will be conducted in double shifts over a few days. At present, the NTA is looking at a window of five to seven days in the first week of July. Minor changes in the schedule may be made depending on the number of applicants and subject combinations opted for," said a source.

**1** According to a ministry of education official, CUET (UG) 2022 will be a computer-based exam. "It will be conducted in double shifts over a few days. At present, the NTA is looking at a window of five to seven days in the first week of July. Minor changes in the schedule may be made depending on the number of applicants and subject combinations opted for," said a source.

**2** The class XII board exam score as the basis for admissions has been done away with completely, but you can take the exam only in the subjects which you studied in class XII. That, however, doesn't mean that you cannot change your stream or opt for subjects in college that you didn't study in class XII.

**3** It basically means that you will be tested in the subjects that you studied in class XII for your evaluation but the individual marks scored for each subject in the NTA test, in various permutations and combinations, depending on the criteria adopted by different universities, can be used to opt for a subject of your choice.

**4** All central universities have been given the freedom to come up with their own criteria but the building blocks you use to fulfill that criteria, by arranging them in different ways, remain the same. So, unlike JEE or NEET-UG, there will be no common counselling for admissions.

### THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

➤ For the registration process, you will have to go to the NTA portal and fill in your personal details

➤ Next, a drop-down menu will give you a list of all the participating universities and their courses. You need to check out the websites of each university to find out the eligibility criteria for these courses and work out a common list of subjects that you need to appear for the CUET to make the cut, depending on how many universities you opt for. There is no cap on the number of universities and courses you can apply for

➤ You can opt for one language, one additional language, six out of 27 domain subjects (remember, all subject to the rider that you should have studied in class XII) and a general test that will test your aptitude, logic and reasoning. This makes it nine papers. You can reduce the number of domain subjects, if you so wish, depending on your choice of universities and courses

➤ Now, you choose your courses, universities and, finally, the subjects for which you wish to be tested. All that remains is to pay the fee via <https://cuet.samarth.ac.in/> and you are done

## 5 reasons why Russia is bogged down in Ukraine

**A** month into Russia's invasion of Ukraine - the conflict on the ground appears to have reached stalemate. Few would have thought that Russia's so-called "special military operation" would last this long. After all, Russia has overwhelming military superiority over Ukraine in terms of active troops - 2 lakh to 9 lakh - and lethal arsenal. Why then have Russian troops failed to overrun any of Ukraine's largest cities, notwithstanding the ongoing siege of Mariupol? Here's a look at five mistakes or miscalculations that Russian President Vladimir Putin made in ordering the military invasion of Ukraine...



### MIRAGE OF QUICK VICTORY

**1** Russia began its campaign by largely targeting Ukrainian military sites but has of late been bombing civilian areas inside Ukrainian cities. This indicates the campaign hasn't gone to plan. While Moscow lined up 1.5 lakh to 1.9 lakh troops for the Ukraine operation, the posture and composition of the force pointed to a short-duration campaign. That's why the capture of a large number of Russian conscripts by Ukrainian forces has surprised military experts. Conscripts aren't well-trained and not equipped for long-drawn military action. Also baffling are videos of Russian mechanised units stuck in mud pits formed by thawing snow. This again points to a lack of preparedness for a long campaign. Hence, the belief that Putin was expecting little resistance and banking on the Ukrainian military melting away.

### INTERNATIONAL BACKLASH

**3** Putin may not have expected the kind of international response he is currently facing. Kicking out major Russian banks from the international SWIFT payment system was always on the cards. But the freezing of Russian foreign reserves, widespread western targeting of Russian oligarchs and the mass exodus of multinationals have come as a huge blow for the Russian economy. More than 400 corporations, including energy majors BP, Exxon and Shell, have left or drastically scaled back their operations. Additionally, countries like Germany - which are heavily dependent on Russian energy and were initially cautious about criticising Russia - are now changing their stance. This shows their governments are under pressure from their own citizens to act. In that sense, the Ukrainian resistance movement is galvanising public opinion across the world.

### WRONG NARRATIVE

**4** In the run-up to the invasion, the Russian leadership tried to portray the operation as a move to liberate Ukrainian citizens from a neo-Nazi regime, but this pitch backfired because Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky himself is a Ukrainian Jew whose family survived the Holocaust. In the early days of the conflict, Zelensky easily won the war of perception by putting out personalised videos and successfully creating a narrative of Ukrainian resistance against an unjust invasion.



This is surprising as Russia is a past master at disinformation campaigns and cyber warfare techniques. Its messaging blunders may be the result of deeper intelligence failures or a cloistered autocratic system where Putin trusts and listens to no one.

### TOUGH RESISTANCE

**5** Ukrainian forces have outdone themselves in this conflict. It was always a given fact that they would be highly motivated in defending their homeland but their tactics have been spot on. Relying on mobile units equipped with anti-tank weaponry like the US-made Javelin missile launcher and the Turkish Bayraktar combat drone, Ukrainians have managed to halt or immobilise large Russian mechanised convoys. Plus, Ukrainian forces have been facing Russia-backed separatists in Donbass since 2014. This means they were not only cognisant of Russian military tactics but also preparing for a possible Russian invasion for the last eight years. They were receiving training from western nations before the Russia invasion commenced. These factors have left Russia fighting a war it can't win without massive costs.

### NATO SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

**2** The main reason Ukrainian forces have held on is the solid support from the US and the EU. Russia should have anticipated this, but it probably underestimated NATO unity. It's possible the US exit from Afghanistan last year and Europe's dependence on Russian energy contributed to Moscow's miscalculation. Putin may have been counting on there being no appetite in the US for a fresh foreign intervention. Plus, given how fraught relations had become between the US and its NATO allies under former President Donald Trump, Moscow may have believed the West to be a divided camp incapable of mounting a meaningful joint stance on Ukraine. Putin may have assumed US President Joe Biden to be a risk-averse, status-quoist leader. But Biden has managed to rally much of the American establishment and society behind his punitive economic and diplomatic actions against Russia, and reunified NATO to an extent not seen in the last five years.

## Early warning systems for everyone on Earth in next five years

**S**tating that one-third of the world's people are not covered by early warning systems and hence they are vulnerable to climate change, the United Nations on Wednesday announced that it will spearhead new action to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years. The announcement was made on the occasion of World Meteorological Day on Wednesday, which has 'Early Warning and Early Action' as the theme this year. The UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres has tasked the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to lead the effort and present an action plan to achieve this goal at the next UN climate conference in Egypt this November.



## National Covid-19 plan to end on March 31

**T**wo years after the Centre imposed a nationwide lockdown in view of the Covid-19 outbreak and followed it up with monthly review of health protocols, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has decided against invoking provisions of the Disaster Management Act beyond March 31 for management of the pandemic. The shift comes in view of the steep decline in cases across the country in the past few weeks. The decision to do away with a national action plan and Covid restrictions, however, does not dispense with the need to continue observing safety protocols, such as wearing of masks and hand hygiene, as well as adherence to other guidelines issued by the health ministry from time to time.



## Instagram users can now control feed with Favourites, Following

**M**eta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram on Wednesday said it is introducing two new ways - Favourites and Following - to choose what users see in their feed. The company said, it wants users to be able to shape Instagram into the best possible experience and give them ways to quickly see what they are most interested in

- 'Favourites' shows users the latest from accounts that they choose, like their best friends and favourite creators. In addition to this view, posts from accounts in Favourites will also show up higher in home feed
- 'Following' shows users posts from the people they follow. Both Favourites and Following will show users posts in chronological order to quickly catch up on recent posts
- To use Favourites and Following, users will need to tap on Instagram in the top left corner of the home page to choose what they see
- "Use Favourites to see the most recent posts from the accounts you have added to your favourites list," the company said
- "You can add up to 50 accounts to your list, and make changes to this list at any time - people are not notified when they are added or removed. Posts from accounts on your favourites list will also show up higher in your home feed, as shown by a star icon," it added

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**RETHINK**  
Is your wearable band making you more anxious about your fitness? Or is it killing your self motivation? Wear the band but don't stress over stats

**WORLD WATER DAY SPECIAL**  
Water is life. Yes, we know and we tell you why  
PLUS: Benefits of including water in your skincare

**PARENTING**  
Great hacks to make your family eat more veggies

**TRIVIA TIME**  
World Theatre Day is on March 27. Get to know more about the history behind this art and famous playwrights.

**STUDENT EDITION**

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022

PLUS: Take our theatre quiz to check how much you know about the world of theatre

**Your Weekender**

**BOOKS & MOVIES**  
Andy Weir's 'Project Hail Mary': Why you shouldn't miss 'the' audiobook of 2022  
PLUS: The best films to watch on humankind's quest to understand space

**SPORTS**  
We tell you all about the wondrous sport of Wushu



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

READ FULL STORIES ON THE WEBSITE

# DELIVER US FROM COVID HOBBIES, FROM SOURDOUGH TO WORDLE

One horrible consequence of the multiple waves of the pandemic has been the eruption of amateur bakers, overnight home caterers, hyper-documented mothers... Vax them!



RAJYASREE SEN

The Third Wave seems to have abated. It also seems that we've emerged relatively unscathed this time around. Not from Covid, but from that fall-out from Covid — the rise of the latest hobbyhorse for everyone stuck at home and having to spend time with their spouses and children. Oh, the horror of it all.

I am speaking of surviving The Rise of The Sourdough Bakers from the First Wave. Never have so many people befriended so many types of yeast at the same time. It was a mass movement like no other. People who had never entered a kitchen, suddenly started baking sourdough loaves, and more frighteningly began posting about it copiously. There were social media groups dedicated to discussing the mood and texture of your sourdough starter. Did it rise? Did it fall? Did it rise and then fall like Edward Gibbon and William Shirer would have liked it? Did it ferment? Did it write itself a poem while fermenting?



Photo: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Look how far we have come since the Dalgona coffee craze of the First Wave!

But once the lockdown was lifted and the First Wave ebbed, the Sourdough Movement which had rocked the world from New York's Greenwich Village to Mumbai's Chuiim Village, seemed to have thankfully come to an end. But the bakers returned in the Second Wave. Before we could literally catch a breath, never mind a mutating virus, the bakers had now mutated into different variants. There was the kombucha lover. "What kombucha?" A friend asked. Is it a new Goan contraceptive device? It could well be, given that once someone

started waxing eloquent on the virtues of kombucha, your ovaries immediately seized up. Health drinks — like the rather tasteless fermented tea drink that is kombucha — were the new 'it' bacterial food item to catch the public's notice. People had moved on — no more sourdough, give us sour tea.

There was also the home caterer. Everyone started making and delivering food — much, much after me — whether all they could cook was a boiled potato or not. So, while I discovered some of the most fabulous bakers of en-

tremets, makers of Bengali and Odiya food, authentic ramen et al, I also discovered chicken patties that no self-respecting patty snob would eat, biryani that when ordered on different days tasted totally differently, khao suey which simply failed to suey. But at least people were being entrepreneurial — even if they were depending on the largesse of friends to buy their wares. Many a friendship has fallen to the wayside thanks to Covid's cooking craze and poorly cooked pulao.

Another side-effect of the Second Wave was the rise of the social media mummy. Suddenly mothers started posting copiously about, um, spending time with their children. They were reading to their kids, feeding their kids, talking to their kids — and we had to experience each and every moment of what is really normal parenting on social media. You did wonder whether some of them could have been documentary filmmakers, given that every instance of their child and their lives seem to be captured on camera from dawn till dusk. Were their suddenly invisible ayahs being used to take videos and photos while documenting handheld — sorry, hands-on — motherhood?

But with the Third Wave already on

the slide, we still seem to be grasping for a collective hobby. For a second there, I thought it was Wordle. But it seems that nowadays one can't even solve a word jumble without posting one's multiple incorrect guesses on social media. Anyone would think — going by the gloating on display for guessing a five-letter word correctly in five tries — people were solving the Riemann hypothesis. But as long as Wordle kept people out of the kitchen and away from the sourdough, I'm not complaining.

But hang on. It turns out that China has announced yet another Covid variant. So, brace yourself for what will come our way in the Fourth Wave. Maybe people will discover their inner (social media-friendly) mime artist? How much of a jump is it, anyway, from sourdough to Marcel Marceau?

Source: ET Edit

MEME'S THE WORD

A SACKED CONGRESS STATE PRESIDENT TRYING TO JOIN A BHARATIYA HOLI PARTY



## THE INDIAN-ORIGIN CEOs RULING SILICON VALLEY

"Wear your failure as a badge of honour!"

**SUNDAR PICHAI,**  
CEO, GOOGLE

India-born American business executive, Sundar Pichai is the chief executive officer of Alphabet Inc., and its subsidiary, Google. Born in Madurai, India, Pichai earned his degree from IIT Kharagpur in metallurgical engineering.

"Memory matters today more than ever before"

**SANJAY MEHROTRA,**  
CEO, MICRON TECHNOLOGY

Sanjay Mehrotra, also CEO of Sandisk earlier, is the current CEO of Micron Technology. Mehrotra is an engineering graduate from BITS, Pilani.

It's not just Pichai, Nadella, Agarwal. The US tech valley has had Indians as top executives for a while. Here are some of them...

"Playing cricket has taught me more about working in teams and leadership"

**SATYA NADELLA,**  
CEO, MICROSOFT

After a 22-year stint with Microsoft, Nadella was appointed as the chief executive officer of the company in February 2014. He previously held the position of executive vice president of Microsoft's Cloud and Enterprise group.

"I do not shy away from a strong debate as long as it is objective in nature and rooted in logic and data"

**KAMAKSHI SIVARAMAKRISHNAN,**  
CEO, DRAWBRIDGE

Named among the 50 most powerful women in technology in 2018 by 'Forbes', Sivaramakrishnan heads Drawbridge, a people-based identity management company.

"Being transparent about our plans helps us to get better feedback"

**SHANTANU NARAYEN,**  
CEO, ADOBE

Born in Hyderabad, Shantanu Narayen joined Adobe in 1998 as the senior vice president of worldwide product research and became the COO in 2005 and CEO in 2007. He holds an MBA from University of California, Berkeley, and an MS from Bowling Green State University.

"Collaboration is a key part of the success of any organisation"

**DINESH PALIWAL,**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, HARMAN INTERNATIONAL

Dinesh Paliwal is the president and CEO of Harman International, a premium audio gear brand that owns the likes of JBL, Becker, dbx, among others.

"In today's era of volatility, there is no other way but to re-invent"

**FRANCISCO D'SOUZA,**  
CEO, COGNIZANT

Among the youngest CEOs in the software services sector, D'Souza is Cognizant's CEO and a member of the company's board of directors. During his tenure as CEO, Cognizant's employee base has grown from 55,000 to over 230,000.

"I always tell women to use the fact that we offer a different point of view in a room full of men"

**PADMASREE WARRIOR,**  
FORMER CEO, NIO

Padmasree Warrior was the CEO of NIO, a Chinese electric autonomous vehicle startup in the US. She left her role recently in December 2018.

"Every job you get into, you bring 50 per cent of the skills you need, and you learn the other 50 per cent if you're lucky enough"

**NIKESH ARORA,**  
CEO OF PALO ALTO NETWORKS

Nikesh Arora is the chief executive officer and chairman of Palo Alto Networks. Arora was formerly a senior executive at Google.

"Preserve your grit. Being a little deaf helps quite a bit — it's a survival strategy"

**NEHA NARKHEDE,**  
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, CONFLUENT

Narkhede was named in 2018 among the 50 most powerful women in technology by 'Forbes'. She is the co-founder and CEO of data analytics firm Confluent.

"Practising vulnerability is a sign of strength, and an incredibly powerful leadership tool"

**ANJALI SUD,**  
CEO, VIMEO

An MBA from Harvard Business School, Anjali Sud is the CEO of Vimeo, a popular open video platform. She was appointed CEO of Vimeo in 2017 and prior to that had stints with Amazon and Time Warner.

"You have to adapt to the style of the place that you're working in and the people you're working with"

**GEORGE KURIAN,**  
CEO AND PRESIDENT, NETAPP

George Kurian became the CEO and president of storage and data management company NetApp in June 2015, after serving as its executive vice president of product operations for nearly two years.

"There is no good time to make change"

**DEEPAK AHUJA,**  
FORMER CFO, TESLA

Deepak Ahuja joined Verily as chief financial officer in 2020. Before that he had been with Tesla for close to 10 years in two stints. He has also worked with Ford Motors earlier.

"He leads with heart and soul"

**JACK DORSEY ON PARAG AGRAWAL,**  
CTO, TWITTER

Parag Agrawal has been with Twitter since 2011 and is currently their chief technical officer. An engineering graduate from IIT, Bombay, Tiwari has also worked with Microsoft, AT&T and Yahoo.

