

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

Know more about the recently-developed invisibility shield that has been inspired by Harry Potter books
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If I were a flower... a student imagines herself as a flower and how she would bring happiness around her with her sheer presence
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Liverpool oust Benfica to enter Champions League semi-finals
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STUDENT EDITION
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

NEWS IN CLUES

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

Russian Oil and Gas: How much is the WORLD DEPENDENT ON IT

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, S JAISHANKAR, ON MONDAY, SAID THAT INDIA'S TOTAL PURCHASE OF OIL FROM RUSSIA IN A MONTH IS PROBABLY LESS THAN WHAT EUROPE DOES IN AN AFTERNOON. His comment came following a question from a journalist, moments after US secretary of state Antony Blinken urged India not to buy additional Russian oil, at the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue in Washington, DC

WHY THE WORLD IS TALKING ABOUT RUSSIAN OIL: Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US, the European Union (EU), and the UK placed restrictions on oil and gas imports from Russia. While the US has completely banned Russian oil, gas and coal imports, the EU has reduced its Russian imports by two-thirds.

WHAT ABOUT INDIA

- According to petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri, oil trade between both the countries is still less than 1% of the country's total oil imports. As per Puri, India purchased about 4,19,000 tons of crude oil from Russia in the first 10 months of the fiscal year – accounting for 0.2% of the total import, which was at 175.9 million tons
- India imported 6,33,000 tons or 0.3% in 2020-21, and 2.93 million tons or 1.3% of total imports were bought during 2019-20

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE WORLD

While for gas supply, many countries are planning to move towards Norway, Azerbaijan, Qatar and the US; for oil, many European countries are turning towards Saudi Arabia and the UAE

REALITY CHECK: HOW THE BAN WILL AFFECT THE WORLD

- It is a well-known fact that Russia is a major player in the global energy market. In fact, it is one of the world's top three crude producers, only behind Saudi Arabia and the United States
- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in 2021, Russian crude and condensate output reached 10.5 million barrels per day (bpd), which is 14 per cent of the world's total supply
- Europe imports about 40 per cent of its natural gas from Russia, with most being transported by pipeline. In 2021, Russia exported 750,000 bpd of diesel to Europe, meeting 10% of its demand
- Russia is also the world's largest exporter of oil to global markets and the second largest crude oil exporter, only behind Saudi Arabia
- Last year, Russia exported an estimated 4.7 million bpd of crude around the world, with China being the largest importer at 1.6 million bpd
- Some eastern European countries such as Finland, Slovakia, Hungary, etc, are completely dependent on Russia for oil

X-PLAINED

Which Indian billionaire industrialist started his career as a diamond broker?

CLUE 1: He was in the Taj Hotel during the 2008 Mumbai attacks

CLUE 2: One of his companies won the bid for the world's largest solar power project

CLUE 3: He owns India's largest private sector port

ANSWER: Gautam Adani. The richest Indian is now the 6th richest man globally, with a net worth of \$118 billion as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, widening the gap with Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani to more than \$20 billion. Adani, who started off as a diamond broker in Mumbai, owns Adani Green, which won the largest solar power project in 2020 with an investment of ₹ 45,000 crore. Adani Ports owns India's largest private sector port – Mundra Port – located in Gujarat's Kutch district

HEAT ILLNESSES ARE THE NEXT THREAT

Heat-related ailments are becoming more common in the country far sooner than expected. According to health experts, heat illnesses induced by acclimatisation will become more common as individuals return to work and children return to school after almost two years of comfort at home. The worst-case scenario, according to specialists, is that the number of cases, which are currently confined to less than five at most health facilities, would skyrocket in the following weeks.

Experts have encouraged people to be cautious in order to prevent health risks, such as heatstroke and sunburn, which can be fatal if ignored. In the month of April, there have been reports of occurrences of heatstroke, which are usually serious and necessitate emergency treatment

ALERT!

Prince William to be part of a podcast on climate change hosted by Cate Blanchett, Danny Kennedy

Audible, a leading creator and provider of premium audio storytelling, on Thursday announced the launch of 'Climate of Change with Cate Blanchett and Danny Kennedy', an Audible Original podcast series. Exclusively streaming on Audible, the podcast has a line-up of inspirational innovators, activists and thought leaders, including Britain's Prince William, former Irish President Mary Robinson, filmmaker Adam McKay, author-professor Katy Milkman, and musician Imogen Heap, who has also composed the soundtrack to the series alongside biologist, filmmaker and sound recordist Dan O'Neill.

Across six episodes, listeners will listen to long-term friends, award-winning actor, producer and environmental advocate Blanchett, and climate entrepreneur and activist Kennedy, explore eco-anxiety and optimism

NOW, A MUSEUM ON PMs OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya' (prime ministers' museum), which is a tribute to every prime minister in the country since Independence. The museum tells the story of India after Independence through the lives and contributions of its prime ministers, the PMO had said earlier. Modi also bought the first ticket of the museum before its inauguration, officials said. The PMO said the museum has been guided by Modi's vision to honour the contribution of all the prime ministers of India towards nation building, and is a tribute to every prime minister of the country since Independence, irrespective of their ideology or tenure in office. It is aimed at sensitising and inspiring the younger generation about the leadership, vision and achievements of all our prime ministers.

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GO GREEN
Three trends that confirm that the world is tilted in favour of eco-friendly eating

KNOW YOUR DAYS
This Monday (April 18) is World Heritage Day aka International Monuments and Sites Day. Know more about why we celebrate it

#GOALS
Happy birthday, Charlie Chaplin! We share some wise words from the OG funny man

FOOD AS MEDICINE
Know about types of tea and how to brew them

STUDENT EDITION
SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

SEASON'S SPECIAL
All hail, the king of fruits – Mango! Now that the season is underway, we tell you more about this delectable delight that unites us as much as divides opinions. Find some juicy facts, history and even some regional recipes

BOOKS & MOVIES
Catch up on some latest book titles
PLUS: Films that dealt with anxiety in teens and adults

SPORTS
Athletes who came from war zones and never gave up in spite of hardships

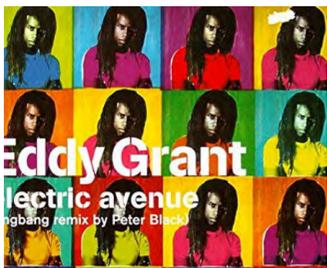
Your Weekender

JUST IN JEST

Eddy Grant's song may do what the US could not: punish the ex-prez

Electric Avenue (Trump Unmixed)

For those with good musical taste, the song 'Electric Avenue' holds a special place in the playlist. This 1982 song by Guyanese-British singer-musician Eddy Grant bends genre as it welds reggae with pop and a dash of energetic rock. The hit song that charted No 2 on the Billboard list in the US is back in the news – and, hopefully, in play – with Grant suing Donald Trump of all people for having played 'Electric Avenue' without his consent in the ex-president's 2020 re-election campaign ad. Grant has claimed copyright



infringement and sought \$300,000 in damages. Looks like he may even win the case.

Sitting here in 2022, more than a year after the January 2021 Capitol Hill attacks that had Trump as one of its cheerleaders, Grant's lyrics sound ironic, if not prophetic, 'Now in the street there is violence/ And, and a lots of work to be done/ No place to hang out our washing/ And, and I can't blame all on the sun.' Grant's song was about the race riots that took place in the south London district of Brixton's Electric Avenue – the first market street in Britain to be lit by electricity – in 1981. Trump should have stuck to something more up his street than Grant's avenue, since their politics are diametrically opposite of each other. Rednex's version of 'Cotton-Eyed Joe [Biden]' may have been the choice.

Source: ET Edit

Knowledge over prejudice, please

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi is one of the four Indian institutions of higher learning – along with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT Delhi and the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) in Bengaluru – to feature in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2022 released last week. JNU, the only Indian arts and humanities institution to make it in the prestigious list, should be proud of the achievement. It is also where on Sunday, a section of students were attacked by another, resulting in at least six of the former group injured and taken to hospital. The injuries were, thankfully, minor.



But that is not the point. That the attack was over non-vegetarian food being served during Ram Navami in a hostel mess – an activity that is, unlike the attack, perfectly legal – sits at odds with a recognised world-class university. What this attack in particular, along with 'minor' acts of bullying, whether from the left or right in general, does is vandalise institutional reputation. This is the last thing an aspirational knowledge economy can afford.

Institutions like JNU and the IITs provide space where free thinking is not just allowed, but is made to thrive. Puerile intimidations over dietary or clothing matters are, at best, digressive, and, at worst, destructive. There is a reason why so many scholars choose calmer, milder pastures high on the 'ease of doing scholarship' index. Knowledge incubators like JNU may well be many things to many people, some completely disregarding their function as temples of higher learning. But if India is serious about enhancing its research and scholarship capabilities, it must make its institutions hothouses of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's important to make your voice heard.

Send Letters to the Editor
at toinie175@gmail.com



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 T.OI WEBSITE

In a Cold War We Were All Soviet Fans, In This Hot War Russia's No USSR

Indians may have consumed Hollywood, Dylan etc in the 1970s-80s, but there was a special place for the Soviets, whether in Olympics, MiGs or those gorgeous kids' books



JOY
BHATTACHARJYA

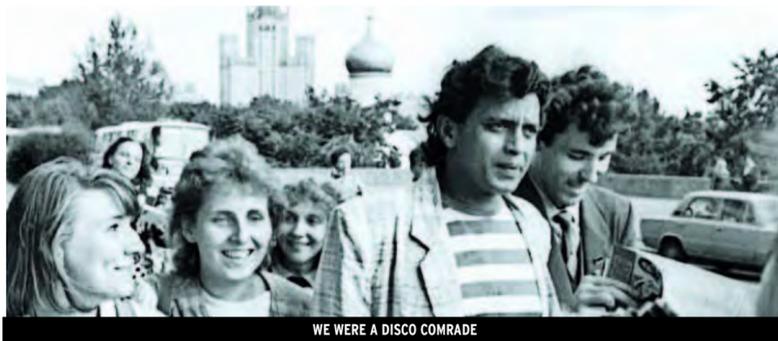
I was five when India went to war in 1971. Life in Agra was exciting with blacked-out windows and air raid sirens. Only the planes we ran to escape in the trench in the garden were North American F-86 Sabre jets. And it was the Soviet MiG-21s and the Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL)-manufactured and developed Gnats (from Britain's Folland Gnats) that were meant to defend us.

Even the headlines were about the US 7th fleet and the USS Enterprise streaming into the Bay of Bengal to help Pakistan, and two Soviet cruiser squadrons and an attack submarine tailing the Americans to make sure of fair play.

An era of Russian fairytales

As an Indian growing up in the early '70s, there was absolutely no doubt which of the Cold War combatants were on our side. We'd read American authors, watch Hollywood films and listen to Dylan and Elvis. But when it came to geopolitics, it was the Russians we trusted.

I remember following the Montreal Olympics carefully in 1976, hoping that the Soviets would pip the Americans. And they did. I was hardly alone in this. Many friends read just as many Russian fairy tales featuring Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Beautiful as they did Snow White and the Ugly Duckling. Soviet children's books were popular presents. They were beautifully illustrated and much cheaper than British and American ones.



WE WERE A DISCO COMRADE

And while solving the problems in Resnick-Halliday's physics textbook was a must for engineering entrance exams, top students spoke loftily about mastering Irodov's 'Problems in General Physics'. Stalingrad, Kursk, the Night Witch women pilots and Tarkovsky. The Russians were always the good guys for us – even as we were blissfully unaware that Stalin killed about a million of his own people and caused the death of around 20 million more.

End of 'good guy' narrative

Personally, the 'Russian good guys' narrative started fading from the late-'80s. By 1991, I was surprised at the alacrity with which the former Soviet republics – from the Baltic states and Ukraine to Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan – wanted to get away from Moscow. And the delight of the Lithuanian squad when they defeated a combined Russian team for the bronze medal in basketball at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics had to be seen to be believed.

Soon, we also figured out that the engine room of the great Soviet football teams in the '80s were almost exclusively from Dynamo Kyiv, ergo, Ukrainians, players who by 1992 would be insulted if you referred to them as Russian.

It was also about the face of new Russia. America's tycoons had decades of experience in showing off their millions. The oligarchs of new Russia, on the other hand, were in a hurry, and crassly begins to describe how the likes of Roman Abramovich and Dmitry Rybolovlev flaunted their new-found wealth.

Which brings us to Putin. A former KGB agent who rode to power on threats, coercion and, most importantly, the nostalgia of a generation who simply could not get over the hu-

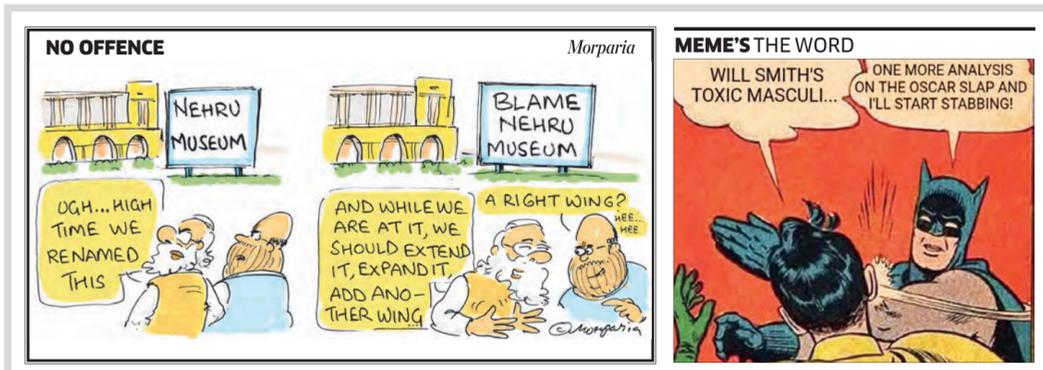
miliation of no longer being a superpower. Three decades ago, the Soviets were the underdogs. This Russian dispensation has nothing redeeming to support. So, does a former Soviet fanboy come to terms with the new Russia? There is hope. Schoolgirl Olga Misik reading the Russian

Constitution while surrounded by armed police. Lilia Gildeeva quitting Gazprom Media's NTV channel after posting a 'No to war' message. Huge protests in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

I think I'll console myself by watching Olga Korbut's magical balancing beam routine at the 1972 Munich Olympics. And hope Mother Russia soon prevails over the thugs that rule the post-Soviet country today.

Source: ET Edit

We'd watch Hollywood films and listen to Dylan and Elvis. But when it came to geopolitics, it was the Russians we trusted...



WATCHING FILMS ON TINY SCREENS: AN INSINCERE RANT

Father, forgive them/us when they/we view movies in inappropriate conditions



JAI ARJUN
SINGH

Occupying the top spot on my movie watchlist just now is SS Rajamouli's epic 'RRR'. But if 'watchlist' makes you think of streaming platforms, let me clarify that I'll see it the only way a big-canvas film should be experienced: on a very large screen. I remember being floored by 'Baahubali' in a cinema, but feeling underwhelmed, even bored, when I caught it on TV years later.

Watching 'RRR' will also be a small step in atoning for abasphemism – and an accompanying hypocrisy – that I have often indulged in. For years, I have given friends pedantic lectures about the ghastriness of watching films – especially certain types of films – on very small screens. I list all the usual arguments, grumble that anyone who watches a film that way is only engaging with it at plot level without registering any of the visual qualities that make it C-I-N-E-M-A.

In the 1980s, my family hardly went to cinemas. So, even mediocre films watched thus appear larger than life in my mind's eye now. An indelible memory of my multi-starrer-obsessed childhood is a scene from the long-forgotten 1986 Tatineni Rama Rao-directed 'Dosti



YOU'RE DESTROYING A PRECIOUS EXPERIENCE!

Dushmani' where the three heroes: Jeetendra, Rajinikanth, Rishi Kapoor, ride their bikes side by side, singing of friendship.

On the other hand, I shudder to think that I watched visually ambitious films like Mukul S Anand's 1991 'Hum' on videocassette, with animated underwear ads running across the bottom of the screen. Or that my obsession for old Hollywood – including wide screen format films whose use of space is integral to their effect – has been built around TV viewings.

'Dune' on mobile? Please...

Recently, I felt comforted by a video featuring Martin Scorsese. He and critic Mark Kermode are discussing the 1947 classic 'Black Narcissus', a film directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger about a group of British nuns in the Himalayas. 'I first watched it,' Scorsese

says, 'on black-and-white TV.' Kermode shakes his head disbelievingly. Both men crack up. And anyone who knows this film will understand why.

Bright, bold, unflinching in its use of colour, featuring spectacular matte paintings as a stand-in for Indian landscapes, and some startling moments that centre on colour effects (such as a character's garish red makeup), 'Black Narcissus' can scarcely have made any sense in monochrome. The present day, where someone might, heaven forbid, watch a 'Blade Runner 2049' or a 'Dune' on a phone, seems especially conducive to viewing transgressions (even without this plague keeping us out of movie halls). And yet, that Scorsese interview is a reminder that for much of film history, many serious movie buffs have watched great films in inappropriate conditions.

Within the big-screen experi-

ence too, there have been terrible traditions such as the one (in the US) where viewers would come in at any point during a screening, watch till the end, and then catch up with what they had missed in the next show. This was also the catalyst for Alfred Hitchcock's famous admonition while denying viewers mid-screening entry: 'We have discovered that 'Psycho' is unlike most motion pictures. It does not improve when run backwards'.

I once experienced a variant on this when I watched 'Sholay' on a big screen as a child. Because my thoughtless family was 15 minutes late, I caught only a bit of the train-attack flashback near the beginning, and stayed confused for years about the chronology of the story. So, does all this mean that I'll stop lecturing friends? Not really, since I have a trump card. I have never watched a film, even a short film, on a phone. That's a frontier I have no intention of crossing. There may not be an enormous difference between a laptop screen and a smartphone screen, but as tennis commentators say, it's a game of inches.

Meanwhile I'm hoping that a fingernail-sized viewing device isn't on the way.

Source: ET Edit

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Invisibility Shields

UK STARTUP DESIGNS SHIELDS THAT MAKE YOU INVISIBLE



Why, is there a new Harry Potter book or movie coming out?

I'm talking about the real deal here, out of the realm of wizards and witches and into science.

No way

Yes way. Or at least that's what the crowdfunding campaign by British startup Invisibility Shield Co claims.

How does it work?

It's essentially based on an optical trick. The shield deflects light around the subject using a "precision engineered lens array" meaning it reflects light in a horizontal direction to the extent that the subject right behind the shield is nearly obscured.

Okay, but does it actually work?

To an extent, if you don't have ambitious plans like using it to escape after a bank heist or sneak in undetected somewhere you've always wanted to. The innovators say the shields work best against uniform backgrounds like foliage, sky and sand. It creates a blurry representation rather than a perfect replica.

Clever. And how much does it cost?

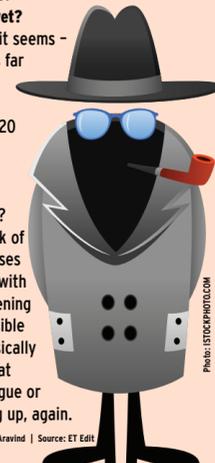
A full size shield, which is 3 ft by 2 ft, cost 299 pounds or close to ₹30,000 and a small one (12" x 8") is 49 pounds, or about ₹4,900.

Any takers yet?

Quite a few, it seems – the startup's far exceeded their target, raising over 20 times that!

Whoa.

But perhaps unsurprising? One can think of a few use cases – especially with offices reopening and the possible need to physically hide from that pesky colleague or boss popping up, again.



Text: Indulekha Aravind | Source: ET Edit

WORDPLAY

SOME OF THE FUNNIEST WORDS IN ENGLISH...

BUMFUZZLE: Refers to being confused or perplexed.

HULLABALLOO: A commotion.

BUMBERSHOOT: This fun word is another word for umbrella!

TITTER: Another word for 'giggle'.

WHIPPERSNAPPER: A young and inexperienced person considered to be presumptuous or overconfident.

BIBLIOKEPT: This refers to a person who steals books.

LOLLYGAG: A person that is messing around and doing something that isn't useful.

BAMBOOZLED: When you have been fooled or cheated into doing something you otherwise won't.

CUTESY-POO: Sickeningly cute.

FLABBERGASTED: Shocked surprised all at the same time.

FOPPIH: Someone always super-concerned about how their outfit looks.

GOBBLEDYGOOK: Gibberish.

FLIBBERTIGIBBET: A person who is silly and irresponsible.