



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

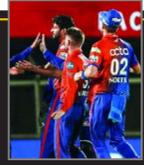
► Find out in 'Money Matters' how diplomacy plays a major role in peaceful resolution of conflicts
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► The hill station of Munnar in Kochi, famous for its tea plantation and Periyar wild life sanctuary, is a perfect holiday destination, says a young traveller
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STUDENT EDITION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

Prices blew up in many countries post the Covid pandemic and then the Russia-Ukraine war compounded the trouble due to blocked supply chains

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17-YEAR-OLD STUDENT INVENTS low-cost prosthetic arm that can be controlled with mind



A 17-year-old student has invented a low-cost robotic arm that can be controlled by the mind. Benjamin Choi got the idea of creating a mechanical arm after watching an episode of '60 Minutes', where researchers implanted tiny sensors

into the brain of a patient, who moved a robotic arm using only her thoughts. Benjamin was impressed by the technology but was also alarmed as it required a risky open brain surgery. As the cost of replicating what researchers did on '60 Minutes' was very high, Benjamin started working on a low-cost prosthetic arm.

- As he had the experience of building robots and coding throughout his education, it became easier for him to complete the project quickly
- The high-schooler used his sister's printer and some fishing line to print the arm in small pieces. After that, he bolted and branded each part together
- To make the arm strong and durable, he had to run 75 iterations of the design. In the end, the arm was made of engineering-grade materials that can withstand up to four tons of weight
- The most impressive thing about the arm is that it uses artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm that interprets the user's

The invention costs \$300, whereas a basic, body-powered prosthetic arm in the market can cost up to \$7,000

- brain waves
- The tech uses electroencephalograph (EEG), which records the brain's electrical activity through sensors on the head
- To ensure the arm's efficiency, Benjamin worked with six volunteers and even collected their brain wave data

What pulled the RUPEE down to its lowest value?

The rupee closed at a new all-time low of 77.50 against dollar on Monday, breaching the previous record of 77.05 earlier in day. The rupee has been staggering since the beginning of the year. Foreign funds have pulled out \$17.7 billion from Indian equities this year already. Rising inflation is pervading many big economies, and as the dollar strengthens, the impact is being felt across the world. Analysts say the value of the rupee could slide further, and this comes with benefits and risks...

Why this fall

GLOBAL FACTORS: Uncertain global economic conditions, prompting forex traders' flight-to-safety trade, have triggered a risk appetite for the dollar weakening the rupee.

THE AMERICA FACTOR: Driven by higher treasury yields, the dollar has climbed to its highest levels in two decades as inflation surges and anticipation rises for further rate hike by the US Federal Reserve in its next review soon.

CHINA: Beijing's zero-Covid policy and slowing economic growth have further unsettled forex markets that are struggling to deal with the war, which has entered its third month in Europe.

AT HOME: Rising oil prices, a 17-month-high inflation breaking the RBI-mandated ceiling and intense selling by the foreign institutional investors - net sellers for seven months now - have pulled down the rupee to its lowest level.

WHY IS THE DOLLAR STRENGTHENING?

The 'greenback' is considered a safe-haven asset, and in the backdrop of the unstable geopolitical conditions, investors and currency traders are reposing their faith in it. So, foreign money is flooding into US businesses particularly after an aggressive Fed rate hike, because investors get better returns on their money



HOW IT WILL IMPACT COMMON MAN

IMPORTS: Importers will have to pay extra as the rupee depreciates, as they need to buy dollars to pay for imported items. A weaker rupee will push up costs of manufacturing firms in sectors like petroleum and gems and jewellery, thereby directly impacting consumers. Additionally, other imported items as well as components are also likely to get costlier, which will increase the prices for consumers. This means that cars and appliances are likely to get expensive. Escalating prices might accelerate inflation, which is already high currently. Moreover items that require imported

components, such as phones and appliances are also likely to get costly

STOCKS: Rupee depreciation is also the result of foreign investors pulling out of Indian equities. This means that there could be a sharp fall in equity markets, resulting in a decline in stock and equity mutual funds investments

BENEFITS: Once the price settles and if the depreciation sustains, export-heavy sectors could get a boost. IT and Pharma companies' earnings are expected to benefit since exporters can get more money from converting foreign currency payments into rupee. Analysts believe that a sustained depreciation can help sectors like textiles and garments where the dependence on imported raw materials is minimal. Other sectors that may benefit are labour-intensive like agriculture, footwear, and handicrafts

FOREIGN EDUCATION: Foreign education can get more expensive due to a lower currency value, as students would have to pay more rupees for every dollar due to its depreciation. Therefore, students planning to study abroad, or already studying there, will have to restructure their budget. Foreign trips will be expensive

60% of children's clothing contain toxic PFA chemicals: Report



About 60 per cent of children's clothing, including fabrics used in pillows, bedding and furniture, often with green certification, contain toxic PFA substances known as 'forever chemicals' due to their persistence in the environment. A study showed that many children's products, including those labelled as 'waterproof', 'stain-resistant', or 'environment friendly' contain harmful PFA chemicals that are not mentioned on the label.

- PFAs are a class of more than 9,000 chemicals that companies add to a wide variety of consumer products to make them non-stick, waterproof, and stain-resistant. PFAs are also used in everyday items, such as non-stick cookware, food packaging, cosmetics, and even dental floss
- These chemicals are linked to cancer, birth defects, liver disease, thyroid disorder, decreased immunity, hormonal disruption and a range of other serious health problems
- PFAs are dubbed 'forever chemicals', as they do not break down naturally and accumulate in the human body



'Doctor Strange 2' collects biggest opening of 2022

Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness' grossed an estimated \$185 million in ticket sales in its first weekend in US and Canadian theatres. It provided a blockbuster start to the summer movie season...

- It's the biggest opener of the year, ahead of 'The Batman's' \$134 million. It's the second biggest of the pandemic, behind 'Spider-Man: Far From Home's' \$260.1 million. It's also the sixth biggest of all-time globally
- Internationally, it's doing even better with an estimated \$265 million

since opening on Wednesday. In total, 'Doctor Strange 2' has already made \$450 million

- The film also has a gigantic footprint. It's playing in 4,534 theatres in the US and Canada alone. Disney says this is the seventh-widest opening ever. Premium format screens, including IMAX and 3D, accounted for 36% of the overall box office

NEWS IN CLUES

\$195 MILLION

That's the price of Andy Warhol's 'Shot Sage Blue Marilyn', which was sold at an auction recently, making the iconic portrait of Marilyn Monroe the most expensive artwork by a US artist ever sold at an auction. The 1964 silkscreen image shows Monroe in vibrant close-up - hair yellow, eyeshadow blue and lips red - on a turquoise background. It's also the most-expensive piece from the 20th century ever auctioned, according to Christie's auction house in New York, where the sale took place. Warhol created more than one image of Monroe; this particular painting has been exhibited in museums around the world

Did you know Ethiopia is 'seven years behind' rest of the World?

A video recently went viral where a TikToker @TheKevine explained: "Ethiopia is behind like seven years. They have their own calendar, they have their own date." Yes, you read it right. Unlike most countries in the world that are currently in 2022, Ethiopia is about 7-8 years behind - it means it's still in 2014. As the TikToker explained, Ethiopia uses its own calendar that's different from the Gregorian calendar, used by the rest of the world.

WHY IS ETHIOPIA SEVEN YEARS BEHIND? Ethiopia's calendar takes its inspiration from the idea that Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden for seven years before they were expelled for their sins. After they repented, the Bible says that God promised to save them after 5,500 years. Ethiopians call the method used to calculate the calendar 'Bahere Hasab', or 'sea of thoughts'

This country calculates the birth year of Jesus Christ differently. While the Catholic Church amended its calculation in 500 AD, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church did not



13-MONTH CALENDAR

■ The Ethiopian calendar has 13 months in a year, 12 of which have 30 days. The last month, called Pagume, has five days, and six days in a leap year. In contrast, the Gregorian calendar has days that can be less or more than 30 days in a month

- This means they are between seven and eight years behind the rest of us, with 2014 getting underway last Sept
- This is another difference - Ethiopians celebrate the beginning of a new year on 11 September 11, or September 12, if it is a leap year
- So, the people of Ethiopia, officially at least, only celebrated the turn of the millennium on September 11, 2007
- It also means that the country has many public holidays on different dates compared to other countries across the world because of this different calendar



Diplomacy & Trade: Twin human binder

The idea of peaceful, voluntary cooperation through trade and diplomatic skills is something humans discovered in ancient times and continue to refine it

WHY ARE WE READING ABOUT TRADE

From elementary school, students instinctively grasp the importance of trade as the key to a good deal. From games to Pokémon, or crackers and chips at lunch, students understand they can achieve better outcomes through trade.

SO HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

The history of trade dates to prehistoric times, as individuals sought to improve their well-being through trade. It started with simple exchange of goods called barter system.



TYPES OF TRADE

Domestic trade

Domestic trade is the exchange of goods within a country. It allows different types of goods to reach all parts of the country.

Wholesale: is the sale of goods to industrial, commercial, institutional or other businesses. It is the sale of goods to anyone that is not a consumer.

Retail: is the process of selling goods or services to consumers through different distribution channels. A retailer sells a small amount of goods to many individuals, who are consumers.

International trade

International trade is the exchange of goods and services between different countries. International trade has existed throughout history. For example Uttarapatha, Silk Road, Amber Road, scramble for Africa, Atlantic slave trade, salt roads.

Import: is goods or services bought by one country that is produced in another country.

Export: is goods or services produced in one country & sold to another.

Entrepôt: An entrepôt is a port, city, or trading post where goods may be imported, stored or sold. These cities grew because of the growth of long-distance trade.



TAKEAWAYS FROM ACTIVITY

- Photo description will lead to language enhancement and general knowledge
- The ability to use the art

- of diplomacy
- Learn leadership values and know to be solution-centric



Who are diplomats and what role do they play in betterment of ties?

- First, diplomats are front-seat witnesses to many world events, serving our nation 24/7 around the globe in often dangerous or unhealthy situations, or working with highly complex societies where knowledge of the local language and culture is essential for success.
- They work on important issues such as environment, climate change, counterterrorism, women's rights, conflict resolution, human trafficking, and the need to preserve cultural and intellectual property.
- Diplomats promote business to create new and better paying jobs, and they help foreign countries protect basic human rights like freedom of speech, religion etc.
- Foreign Service officers are often the first on the scene during natural disasters around the world, and save people who get lost or sick or who have been victims of crimes.



LESSON PLAN FOR STUDENTS



TEACHER PROMPT: Show the photos to students (in groups) and discuss the following:

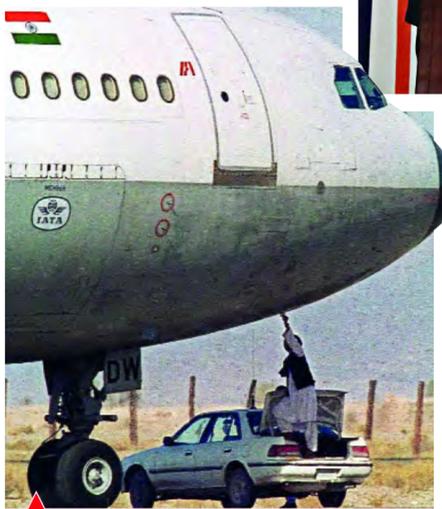
- What is the mood of each picture?
- What is going on in the minds of the participants in the picture?
- What was the outcome of the dialogue?
- What skills worked in resolving the issue? (discuss each photo's political climate)



French President Emmanuel Macron, left, winks as he shakes hands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after a joint news conference following their talks in Kyiv, Ukraine on February 8, 2022



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, at the Joint Press Statement at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi in April this year



In this picture taken on December 27, 1999, a Taliban security personnel receives a paper on which the hijackers of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 put their demands at Kandahar Airport. India accused Pakistan in March 19, 2008, of refusing to hand over hijackers involved in the 1999 seizure of a domestic passenger airline that was commandeered to then Taliban-ruled Afghanistan



On February 28, 1999 Atal Bihari Vajpayee, then Prime Minister of India with Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, at the Lahore Bus Seva ceremony

5 REASONS WHY DIPLOMACY IS A SKILL IN THE SCHOOL OF LIFE

RESPECTING EVERYONE'S OPINION

1 The diplomat remembers, first and foremost, that some of the vehemence with which we can insist on having our way draws energy from an overall sense of not being respected or heard within a relationship. Diplomats know the intensity with which humans crave respect. They play a key role in recognising everyone's opinions, while logically defending theirs'.

TACKLING FEAR

2 Diplomats know the difference between having a correct diagnosis of how someone needs to grow and a relevant way to help them do so. They know that what holds people back from evolution is fear. Therefore, they work towards offering those, whom we want to acknowledge difficult things, warmth and reassurance.

WORK TOWARDS LARGER TRUTH

3 In negotiations, the diplomat is not addicted to indiscriminate or heroic truth telling. They appreciate the legitimate place that minor lies can occupy in the service of greater truths. Diplomats know that a small lie may have to be the guardian of a big truth.

STAYING CALM AND SERENE

4 Another trait of the diplomat is to be serene in the face of obviously bad behaviour: a sudden loss of temper, a wild accusation, a very mean remark. They don't take it personally and reach instinctively for reasonable explanations and solutions.

WHEN TO ENGAGE & SIDE STEP

5 A diplomat understands that there are moments to sidestep a direct engagement. They wait until the right moment to speak so that they are heard. At points, they disarm difficult people by reacting in unexpected ways. In the face of a tirade, instead of going on the defensive, a diplomatic person might suggest some lunch!



Oil to wheat, story of a dependent WORLD: TRADE BUILDS PALS

By Elizabeth Thomas
Chief Mentor, Tale Tellers,

Training the teachers with Tale Tellers Jr, Elizabeth comes in with over 10 years experience in training and human resource management. She also has a rich industry experience



As we approached the petrol pump, my husband, looking at the rate, said, "Looks like we have to cut our monthly fuel expenses as the petrol prices are rising day by day". My son was quick to ask, "But why Dad?" To which, my husband replied: "Because we need to import oil and when the global oil prices go up, we end up paying more for our fuel expenses." The puzzled look on my son's face through the rearview mirror made me realise that kids need to know what is export and import.

Natural resources map

Just like the geographical map, expose your children to Indian and worldwide natural resource maps. This will make them understand clearly that natural resources are spread across the world and that is why countries need to depend on each other for

co-existence. Please make it a point to stress upon human resources and outsourcing resources, as the same may not appear on the map.

Link it with examples

Linking the same with real-life examples like how much India is dependent on oil and how India is looking at exporting nearly 10 million tonnes of wheat in FY23 to bridge the supply gaps arising from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, would get the child inclined to thinking. We can also take domestic examples of how one home can have more resources and how the neighbourhood can co-exist.

Connect Currency

While learning about trade, it's imperative that the child must learn how the currency is linked to import and export. This can be done by quoting the right comparison between Indian Rupee and the US dollar. This will get the child to learn that the more we depend on the outside world, the more our currency depreciates and vice-versa.

