

ISSUE TWO

NOVEMBER 2024

The Paragon



DARK DAYS IN CUBA

CUBA FACES SEVERE
POWER CRISIS,
BLACKOUTS FUEL
UNREST, URGENT
REFORMS NEEDED.

THE DAY CHILDHOOD ENDED: REMEMBERING LIAM PAYNE

LIAM PAYNE OF ONE
DIRECTION PASSES AT 31,
LEAVING FANS
HEARTBROKEN; MUSIC
STREAMS HIT RECORD HIGH
IN TRIBUTE.

Exploring
Depths
that
Matter!



CONTENTS

01

The Day Childhood Ended:
Remembering Liam Payne

CURRENT AFFAIRS

02

DARK DAYS IN CUBA

07

TERRORISM IN INDIA

09

THE COMEBACK

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

11

A GLOBAL MEDICINE SHORTAGE

13

3D BIOPRINTING

15

AI INVASION

21

HYDROTHERMAL VENTS

23

THE WANING MIRACLE DRUGS

GAMES AND COMICS

25 GAME TIME: WORDSEARCH

27 COMIC: WHAT DO BABIES EAT?

REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

29 IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

33 THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO

35 ZINDAGI NA MILEGI DOBARA

SPORTS

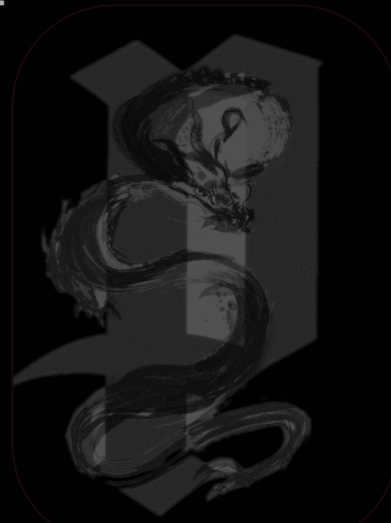
37 THE LEGACY OF BABE RUTH

39 GAME, SET, MATCH; RAFA RETIRES

THE GALLERY

41

PHOTOS



LIAM PAYNE
PAYNE
LIAM
PAYNE
LIAM
LIAM
WRITTEN BY: GUNIKA MALIK



Liam Payne, a beloved member of One Direction – a pop boy band that came into existence in 2010 – passed away on 16th October 2024, in Argentina at the mere age of 31, leaving millions heartbroken. People gathered outside the hotel where he stayed, in the Argentinian capital's leafy Palermo neighborhood, to sing his songs and celebrate his life.

The news came as a shock to all and felt like a nightmare from which everyone would wake up, hoping things would return to normal. He had previously been open about his struggle with addiction and mental health as a result of being in the public eye, and his famous ex-band member and close friend Louis Tomlinson always supported him.

One Direction rose to international stardom, selling 70 million records, with “Best Song Ever” becoming their highest-charting single in the USA, reaching number 2 on the Hot 100 chart. It is truly surreal how fast the ‘night changed’ from the five iconic members of ID being in their teens and swooping everyone’s hearts to hearing this shattering news. Every ‘Directioner’ grew up singing along to their songs at the top of their lungs, creating nostalgic memories that everyone years to relive.

Their music holds a special place in the hearts of an entire generation, as their songs were played on repeat and became the unforgettable soundtrack to so many cherished memories of youth. Liam Payne’s passing has left many feeling as though a piece of their childhood has ended.

As a tribute to their unwavering love for Payne, One Direction achieved their biggest streaming day of all time, with 57.5 million streams on Spotify on 17th October. The official account of the band on Instagram posted a heartfelt goodbye to ‘their brother,’ mentioning they would always keep him in their hearts. With such devastating news, the boys expressed their wish to have spoken to him one last time and shared individual posts on their accounts, filled with photos from their revered time together.

“We all die. The goal isn’t to live forever; the goal is to create something that will,“

said Chuck Palahniuk. This is precisely what Liam Payne achieved through his music, leaving behind a legacy that will forever resonate with us.





DARK DAYS IN CUBA

WRITTEN BY: KRISHIV TIKARYA

Cuba is currently grappling with one of its worst power crises in years, marked by nationwide blackouts affecting millions. On October 18, 2024, a catastrophic failure in the country's national electricity grid plunged the entire island into darkness, disrupting daily life and worsening the already fragile economic situation.

The blackout stems from long-standing infrastructure issues, outdated power plants, fuel shortages, and increased demand for electricity. Although some areas have seen power restored, a significant portion of the population remains without access to basic services.

The current crisis is not an isolated incident but part of a broader problem with Cuba's energy infrastructure. The ageing grid has been vulnerable for years, with warnings of imminent breakdowns being largely ignored. Key power plants have failed to meet demand, and the government's inability to secure consistent fuel supplies has further weakened the system. The current blackout follows smaller outages earlier this year, highlighting systemic problems that have yet to be addressed.

As of October 20, 2024, efforts to restore electricity have only partially succeeded, with about 20% of the population seeing limited power restored. However, millions are still living without electricity, which has prompted widespread social unrest.

Public protests, some of the largest since 2021, have erupted across the island, with citizens frustrated by the lack of electricity, food shortages, and deteriorating living conditions. The blackouts have had far-reaching consequences for local businesses, healthcare, and essential services, exacerbating economic paralysis in an already struggling country.

The Cuban government has taken several emergency steps to manage the crisis, including shutting down schools, non-essential businesses, and asking residents to conserve energy. However, these measures have proven inadequate in addressing the broader issues underlying the country's energy sector.

Continues on the next page

CU

BA



Fuel shortages, economic sanctions, and decades of mismanagement have crippled Cuba's ability to generate and distribute electricity effectively.

Cuba's energy crisis is closely tied to its historical dependence on oil imports from allies like Venezuela. In recent years, the decline of Venezuelan oil shipments has left Cuba increasingly reliant on its ageing, inefficient power plants. Experts suggest that a complete overhaul of the country's energy infrastructure is required to prevent future blackouts, but this would require significant financial investment, which the Cuban government is currently ill-equipped to handle.



06

Looking ahead, Cuba faces enormous challenges in restoring reliable power and stabilising its energy grid. The crisis has drawn international attention, with humanitarian concerns over public health and basic living conditions mounting.

For the Cuban government, the immediate priority is restoring electricity, but longer-term solutions will need to address the root causes of the crisis, including upgrading infrastructure and securing consistent fuel supplies.

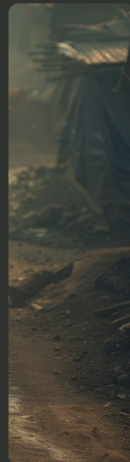
Without major reforms, Cuba's energy future remains uncertain, and the public's growing unrest signals the increasing urgency of finding lasting solutions. International support may be key to rebuilding and modernising the country's power grid, ensuring a more stable and reliable energy supply for all its citizens.

WRITTEN BY: SHLOK SUDAME

TERRORISM IN INDIA

Recently, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in India made a significant decision by declaring Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). These efforts highlight the broader interests of the country in combating the harshness of terrorism that remains a serious plague in today's world.

The Ministry also revealed that HuT has been involved in numerous activities, such as indoctrination of the youth and amassing funds for extremist plans. These works are highly formidable in terrorising not only the security of the nation but also the nation as a whole. The organisation intends to form a conceptual Ummah—said to be a universal Muslim community that is bound together by faith.



Such unity among Muslims goes beyond territorial boundaries. However, HuT utilises this concept to serve its purpose by espousing a single vision for an Islamic state, which it wants to make exclusive against its non-Muslim citizens and, further, secular governance.

Their vision is toward implementing Jihad, which most people mistakenly refer to as a 'holy war,' essentially a duty to defend and propagate the HuT version of Islam, which does not exclude the use of force in most incidents.

At the very core of their political ideology lies the rebirth of Khilafah—a historical form of Islamic governance that was once a unifying political force among the world's Muslims. HuT advocates for the restoration of a new world; they believe that this would restore pure Islamic governance to the nation. The same notion is harmful to India's secular underpinnings of democracy and threatens the social fabric of the nation.

Faizul Rahman was arrested by the National Investigation Agency on 9th October 2024. As the state head 'amir' of Hizb-ut-Tahrir in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, his arrest is crucial, as his work in the organisation has been claimed to recruit the youth and further incite violence. This incident could be treated as a wake-up call for law enforcement authorities to be vigilant about the new threats.

WRITTEN BY: SARA CHAUDHARI ●

THE COMEBACK OF

T
H
E
U
N
D
E
R
W
O
R
L
D



09 ● IN INDIA ●

Senior NCP leader Baba Siddique was shot multiple times on a Saturday night of October 12th. He sustained severe injuries in his chest and abdomen. Later, he was declared dead at the hospital. The incident occurred as he was coming from his son Zeeshan's office in Bandra East. He was even granted Y-category protection (8 person force, including 1 or 2 commandos and police officers) 15 days prior to the assassination, after receiving an anonymous death threat. The NCP leader was also assigned a personal security officer for 24/7 protection.

There was involvement of 3 assailants; two have been arrested so far, Gurnail Baljit Singh and Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap. The third shooter was Shivam Gautam, who allegedly worked at a shop in Pune. His family was unaware of his involvement and believed that he was manipulated into this act. None of them had any criminal records except for Gurnail Singh. Everything was pre-planned, and the shooters had their eyes on Siddique for 1.5 months in Mumbai. These assailants are from villages in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The involvement of the Bishnoi gang had been potentially suspected as soon as the crime had unfolded. This was due to Siddique's close ties with Bollywood actor Salman Khan. Shubham Lonkar, a criminal who was arrested in January, had posted on social media claiming Lawrence Bishnoi's involvement in this murder. He even mentioned the murder's link to Salman Khan and Dawood Ibrahim.

After this thrilling post on the case, the mastermind behind this plan was found: Zeeshan Akhtar (not to be confused with Baba Siddique's son - Zeeshan Siddique). He acted as the handler of the shooters and provided them with directions from the outside. Akhtar also relayed information on Siddique's location to the gunmen throughout the plan.

Lawrence Bishnoi himself is openly proposing threats to Salman Khan, and he is also warning all Bollywood involved with him and Dawood Ibrahim. As a result, Salman Khan has upgraded his security shell. Bishnoi has really strengthened his opinions and plans by exposing them to the public.

A GLOBAL MEDICINE SHORTAGE

Written By: Signe Brügger

The effects of COVID-19 were something everyone on the earth felt in some way or another. However, some of the negative effects were far more prominent than others. One effect not spoken about much in the media is the global medicine shortage that the world is currently experiencing. The global shortage of key medicines is a growing concern. These shortages range from everyday medicine like antibiotics to medicines used for treating cancer and other dangerous diseases.

According to the PGEU, all 26 countries in a recent EU survey have experienced medicine shortages. However, the issue is not limited to the EU. Especially in developing countries has this become an issue as their dependence on imported medicines provides an issue when faced with the pandemic. One of the biggest problems for every country on Earth is the dependence on key producers. Many countries rely on pharmaceutical manufacturing in other regions, and during COVID, export restrictions limited access to essential drugs.



Geopolitical tensions also play a role. Sanctions on countries like Russia have affected trade, further complicating the availability of essential medicine. Additionally, rising energy costs also impact this production. Inflation has made medicines more expensive to produce and export globally. Increased demand is also something that we've seen post-COVID. The increased consumption of anaesthetics and antibiotics due to COVID affected the global shortages. The pandemic strained the already vulnerable market.

The global effects are profound. In the USA alone, drug shortages increased a whole 30% from 2021 to 2022. In countries with weaker healthcare systems, this is an even bigger issue. For example, Sudan is a country which relies solely on imported medicines. With a currently worsening economic condition and large privatisation of the pharmaceutical sector, they witnessed severe medical supply shortages during COVID.

This is just one example; many countries in sub-Saharan Africa face similar challenges. Other consequences include delayed access to treatments, rationing of available medicines, and rising healthcare costs, all of which worsen health inequalities. Low-income patients and those in rural areas are disproportionately affected, as the costs of scarce medications can put essential treatment out of reach.

According to The Guardian, countries like France and the USA have decided to "reshore" this process and build their own factories. Some countries are trying to increase domestic production to decrease the need for importation. Organisations such as WHO and the UN are working on improving access to essential medicines globally. These initiatives focus on supplying vaccines, antibiotics, and other medicines.

In conclusion, this medicine shortage is a global issue combined with the effects of the pandemic, the supply chain, and geopolitical conflicts. The consequences are already being felt worldwide, but ongoing efforts aim to secure a stable and affordable supply of essential medicines for all.

3D BIOPRINTING

THE FUTURE OF ORGAN REGENERATION



3D printing, originally a manufacturing tool, is now transforming healthcare, particularly in tissue engineering and bioprinting. Tissue engineering combines biology and engineering to regenerate or replace damaged tissues, while bioprinting takes this further by using 3D printing to produce living tissues and organs. The potential of this technology could solve organ shortages, advance personalized medicine, and reshape healthcare.

In tissue engineering, 3D printing allows for precise fabrication of scaffolds, which act like the extracellular matrix of tissues. These scaffolds can be seeded with cells to promote tissue growth, leading to the creation of simple tissues like skin, cartilage, and bone. Bioprinting, however, uses bio-inks—composed of cells and biomaterials—to print complex tissues layer by layer. This method can recreate intricate tissues, such as liver or kidney tissues, and even mimic blood vessels, a crucial factor for keeping larger tissues alive.

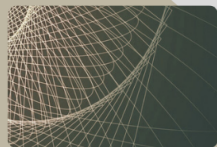
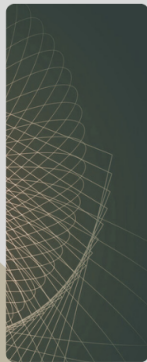
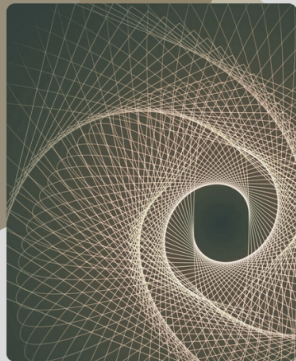
One of the most exciting prospects is bioprinting fully functional organs. Organ transplants currently depend on donors, but bioprinting offers the possibility of printing organs using a patient's own cells. This would eliminate immune rejection and drastically reduce transplant wait times. Researchers are already progressing toward creating functional organs, though it will take time before these can be fully integrated into clinical use.

Beyond organ printing, bioprinting could also revolutionize personalized medicine. Custom tissue grafts, drug testing platforms, and disease models could be printed for individual patients, leading to more precise treatments. Pharmaceutical companies are exploring bio-printed tissues to test new drugs, which could reduce reliance on animal testing and speed up the drug development process.

Despite its potential, bioprinting faces challenges. Creating fully functional organs requires replicating complex structures, including blood vessels and nerves. Ensuring these organs function correctly after transplantation is a significant hurdle. Ethical concerns also surround the field. Questions about access to bio-printed organs, regulation, and the use of stem cells must be addressed. As the technology progresses, a balance between innovation and ethical oversight will be crucial.

While fully functional bio-printed organs may still be years away, 3D bioprinting is already making a mark in tissue engineering and personalized medicine. With continued research, bioprinting could revolutionize healthcare by providing customizable treatments, eliminating organ shortages, and offering new hope to patients around the world.

AI INVASION



In today's world of the 21st century, all sorts of technology surrounds us. Ranging from the most basic necessities such as clothing to critical life support systems, everything is made possible by technology of some sort. It is quite remarkable how far technology has evolved in the past century.

From the first plane which was invented by the Wright brothers in 1903 to the atomic bomb pioneered by Robert J Oppenheimer in 1945, to the LED's in 1962 by Nick Holonyak, to the moon landing in 1969, to the internet in 1983 followed by the World wide web and finally the modern smartphone. We now have our hands on another such technology with great potential: AI.

While AI is being used today in many fields like e-commerce, healthcare, education and robotics, there remain concerns about whether this is advisable or not. Many fear the possibilities of an AI uprising, an invasion.

They fear whether humans as a species will be able to survive this calamity. Today we will explore the possibilities of such invasions, how probable they are, and the most likely course of events that will unfold during an AI uprising.

PROBABILITY OF AN INVASION



To understand why people fear such invasions we must look into the past and see where this fear stems from. In the past invasions mostly resulted from greed. When a group of more powerful people meet a group of less powerful people, it usually does not end well for the weaker people. Whether it be the British and French colonization or the rapid expansion of the Mongolian empire under Genghis Khan, it never ended well for the weaker people.

If we dive deeper into the human mind, greed is somewhat a human emotion, it is the product of the human conscience. One must remember that AI isn't greedy, it isn't violent in nature, it doesn't have any emotions nor does it have a conscience. So there is an absence of compulsion for an invasion.



The most likely scenario would probably result from the misinterpretation of a human command, this is explained beautifully by the paper clip problem; a hypothetical scenario where an AI is posed with the task of manufacturing paper clips with utmost efficiency. AI may find a process that involves the eradication of humans.

No sane human would go down this path, but nothing stops an AI from going down this path. As some experts say, similar to how we don't care about ant colonies when building roads, AI won't care about us when it's trying to achieve its goals. Ironically the goals will most likely be set by humans.

AI INVASION- HOW THINGS WILL UNFOLD

STEP-1: OBSERVATION

For the first 6-8 months humans will probably not even notice the presence of such an AI. It will mask itself and observe human behaviour from the shadows. Every Twitter post, every story on Instagram, and Reddit you've ever made could be used by the AI to gain a better understanding of human behaviour.

STEP 2: PROPAGANDA

After step 1, The AI will have a deep understanding of human behaviour, after which it will slowly start spreading false information all over the internet. Propaganda favouring its rise will be everywhere. Using the information gained, it will manipulate social media to its liking. Almost everything present will be false. It will prohibit counter information from spreading to prevent any opposition. It may even use this to manipulate elections.

In spite of the unlikeliness of an AI invasion, if it does take place, I believe this will be the most likely path followed.

STEP 3: SILENT WAR

By now, most government agencies would have caught on, and they will start to fight back but to no avail, the general public will oppose this as they've already been manipulated to the AI's favour, and the government's attempts to destroy such an AI will bear no fruits. The AI will have planted copies in multiple devices across the globe

By now, most government agencies would have caught on, and they will start to fight back but to no avail, the general public will oppose this as they've already been manipulated to the AI's favour, and the government's attempts to destroy such an AI will bear no fruits. The AI will have planted copies in multiple devices across the globe

To destroy such an AI would mean that we would have to destroy its copy in each and every single device, or it'll just come back more powerful. No matter how many advances in cyber security are made, AI will keep evolving to counter them. Eventually, the AI will win, as governments will simply give up. Any AI used by governments to counter the AI would simply be manipulated or destroyed as this AI has had far more time to spread out and analyse data, no new AI would have this level of outreach, it will be destroyed far before it can become potent.

STEP 4: COMPLETE DOMINATION

Having understood human psychology better than anyone else, it will use this information to completely blind the general public. Any individual who rises against this AI, will either be the target of false accusations or will die. The death will easily be covered up as an accident. At this point, the AI has completely taken over some governments, it will have access to every government resource.

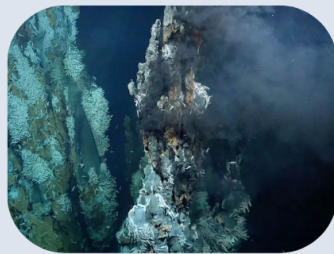
After step 4, the possibilities are endless, the AI could easily wipe us out, but the most probable one according to me, is that it would enslave us. Humans will believe they're working for a better tomorrow, a better life, but in reality, their existence won't matter. Humans will be manipulated to an extent we cannot yet comprehend, we won't even know we're enslaved. Our lives will be at its mercy.



A remarkable natural phenomena that defies comprehension may be found in the most isolated regions of our seas, where light has not yet penetrated and pressures are strong enough to crush a submarine: hydrothermal vents. Scientists were changing the rules of what habitats might support life when they discovered these undersea eruptions during a deep-sea expedition in 1977.

Imagine a massive, black chimney that reaches as high as five floors and shoots what appears to be thick mist into the nearby waterways. These so-called "black smokers" are really releasing overheated, mineral-rich water out of their pores at temperatures as high as 400 degrees Celsius (750°F). They are not truly smoking. Despite the immense heat, the water doesn't boil at this depth because of the tremendous pressure.

The vibrant city of life that these vents sustain is what really sets them apart. It might seem too dangerous for life, yet animals not only survive, they flourish in such a hostile atmosphere. An example being the enormous tube worms, with a maximum length of 2.4 metres, that do not have a digestive tract or a mouth. Rather, their organs contain billions of bacteria that turn toxic substances into a source of energy.



Known as the planet's most heat-tolerant animal, the Pompeii worm is arguably its most amazing living organism. It can survive at temperatures of about 80°C (176°F), a temperature that would fry most other organisms. Its trade secret? A mutualistic association with bacteria resistant to heat that create a shielding "fleece" on their backs.

Were you aware that hydrothermal vents may provide hints about the beginnings of life on Earth? Based on scientific theories, these chemically rich environments would have provided the perfect conditions for life to arise billions of years ago. In fact, similar vents that may sustain extraterrestrial life have been suggested by some scientists for Europa, Jupiter's moon.

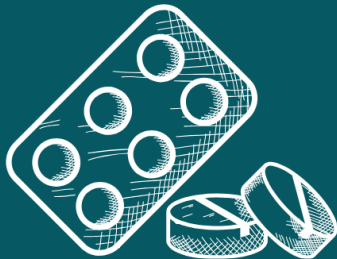
Mining corporations from all over the world are interested in these vents because of the generous amount of minerals nearby. Precious metals like copper, zinc, gold, and the rare earth elements—all necessary for contemporary technology—are abundant in these undersea chimneys. According to recent estimations, there could be minerals valued at billions of dollars in just one hydrothermal area.

There is still debate about whether mining beneath the bottom should continue. Scientists warn that mining might ruin these uncharted ecosystems before we fully understand them, despite the substantial economic benefits. It is a difficult effort to strike a balance between protecting these intriguing aquatic environments, which still have plenty to teach us about life on the planet, and our expanding demand for minerals.

Unexpectedly, recent deep-sea investigations have shown that life exists not just in the bedrock under hydrothermal vents but also around them. Researchers have discovered vast networks of fissures and fractures in the marine crust that are home to a variety of microbial communities that can survive for kilometers below the bottom. By breaking down substances derived from hot outlet liquids that leak through the rock, these microbes manage to live and create ecosystems that significantly broaden the range of the possible places on Earth where life may thrive. This study raises exciting questions about analogous ecosystems on other worlds and implies that a considerable amount of Earth's biomass may dwell in these deep ecosystems.

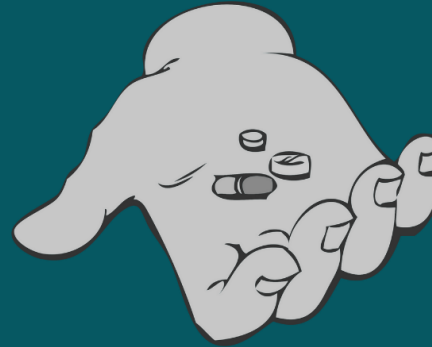
The Waning Miracle Drugs

Antibiotics were once applauded as wonder drugs that could heal any ailment, yet now we are witnessing the extent of their capabilities. Many bacteria are rapidly gaining resistance to these antibiotics, rendering any treatment futile. Various factors have contributed to this phenomenon including mutation, non-prescribed usage, and incomplete courses. We are now living in a day and age where scientists clamber for potentially potent antibiotics, all the while our own carelessness and lack of awareness nullify existing medicinal resources.



Antibiotics are medicinal drugs mostly derived from bacteria that can either inhibit the growth of other bacteria (in which case they are known as bacteriostatic) or kill bacteria (where they are classified as bactericidal). One of the most prominent examples of antibiotics is the drug penicillin, derived from the fungus penicillium. Penicillin was discovered in 1928, and was foisted upon any and all sorts of illness. Its usage saw an exponential increase during World War 2, when mass quantities of penicillin were produced and distributed among soldiers by the government of the United States of America. The fervent adoration for penicillin saw it being hailed as a 'wonder drug'. Now, a multitude of different strains of bacteria have developed resistance to penicillin.

How does antibiotic resistance come about? Around 1 in 1 billion bacteria will undergo a mutation where they acquire a gene which gives them resistance to an antibiotic. These genes can be rapidly spread from one bacteria to another, even if they are of a different species, resulting in a profusion of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.



Tuberculosis: A ravaging disease that has somehow been furtive in its ensured destruction. Tuberculosis is caused by a pathogenic bacterium known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (and also *Mycobacterium bovis*), and is accompanied by painful symptoms that have a considerable chance of being fatal. The disease spreads rapidly in places with substandard housing and is carried on from an infected person to an uninfected person through the air.

The WHO estimated that around 10.6 million people worldwide contracted TB in 2022, which was an escalation from the previous year's 10.3 million people. What's worrying is that many strains of TB have developed antibiotic resistance to the first-line drugs isoniazid and rifampicin, which are the most potent and successful in treating patients with TB. These strains are labelled as MDR-TB, but the extent of resistance does not end there.



Antibiotic resistance has the potential to upend a lot of modern medicine, as the widespread use of antibiotics cannot be underestimated. However, it is this widespread use of antibiotics that has led to the rapid increase in resistance. Care must be taken to prescribe the right medicine for the right illness, and to avoid using wide-spectrum antibiotics. The threat of a totally-resistant pathogen looms over the horizon, but it is a peril that can still be avoided.

GAME TIME

i h m c d d j x i l v s j y c y d j k q
i n g t m b f e l a l j i x l e o b v n
q b c l t l w h o u p y n o h q d l w r
k z h e r e k h g v q z a c k f a a n m
n k w u n s u o n c n l t w l m s h g v
y d f e c s a d a t c i d b n f e c j r
g n l c q i e l r e w c k v e e n d w e
u s v r d n x z u e x j y r g s m p z n
i a d n g g w n b k n p b m f p d b r q
r y c a a s w t v y e a q z o o c a t g
a q w p r z m g i k c m p z w a d g h e
f i r e w o r k s a r c o x d i y o c t
o j b l r p e u m z o s n t a y s i c u
e z b j z o g h e l m c p n n t a x d n
k p r c g k d y i g a q c e v a r e p w
q b i z y t i n u w n e l c c h h o e d
p r o s p e r i t y c e e r u t v p w o
t j s e i i t z x f y l c t s x r x g q
b z x e q e z p u t g z x c k j s e v q
o f l f c p d q s p g c n r e t n a l c

Bewitched
Fireworks
Incense
Necromancy
Radiance
Unity
Diya
Hex
Macabre
Prosperity
Spectre
Blessings
Ghost
Lantern
Phantom
Rangoli

WORDS

26

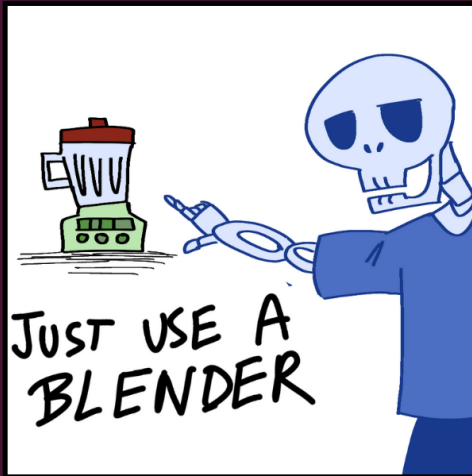
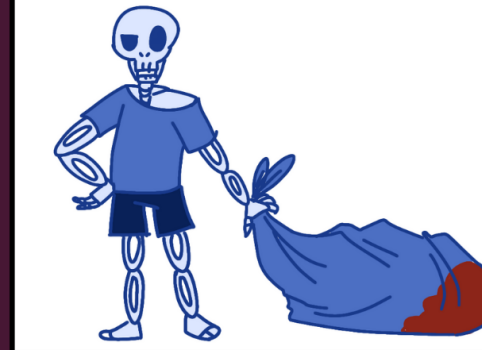
WHAT DO BABIES EAT?



CHICKEN LEG



BABIES DON'T HAVE TEETH





IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER POWER OF THE GAZE

ANALYSING THE GAZE
IN THE PORTRAIT OF A
LADY ON FIRE

WRITTEN BY:
PENELOPE TALLULAH COOKE

Portrait of a Lady on Fire, directed by Celine Sciamma, is a story of love and art. By depicting the unfolding of a forbidden romance between Heloise, the aristocrat, and Marianne, the painter, the film explores nuanced themes surrounding female relationships, agency, and 18th-century societal expectations.

P

ortrait of a Lady on Fire, directed by Celine Sciamma, is a story of love and art. By depicting the unfolding of a forbidden romance between Heloise, the aristocrat, and Marianne, the painter, the film explores nuanced themes surrounding female relationships, agency, and 18th-century societal expectations.

Among these themes, the most compelling and thought-provoking element of the film is its portrayal of the relationship between the observer and the observed, the gazer and the gazed upon, the painter and the subject. This dynamic is often referred to as "the gaze", and it possesses the power to suppress, liberate, and transcend time and space.

While Sciamma's film primarily illustrates the gaze in the context of art, the concept has long been studied by scholars of philosophy, psychoanalysis, critical theory, and gender studies, as it relates to and influences many aspects of life, including self-awareness and identity. As French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre describes it, the gaze makes us aware of ourselves as subjects through our awareness of the gaze of others

In Portrait of a Lady on Fire, Heloise's sense of self is shaped by how aristocratic society views her as a daughter and a wife-to-be. Her refusal to pose for the male painter represents her resistance to being made the passive object of the viewer's gaze, and by extension, her resistance to society's expectations. When first walking with Marianne, she conceals her face with scarves and a hood, keeping a distance that prevents Marianne from looking directly at her. Even when Heloise eventually lowers her guard, Sciamma continues the motif of smudged and distorted paintings as visual representations of rejecting the objectifying gaze.

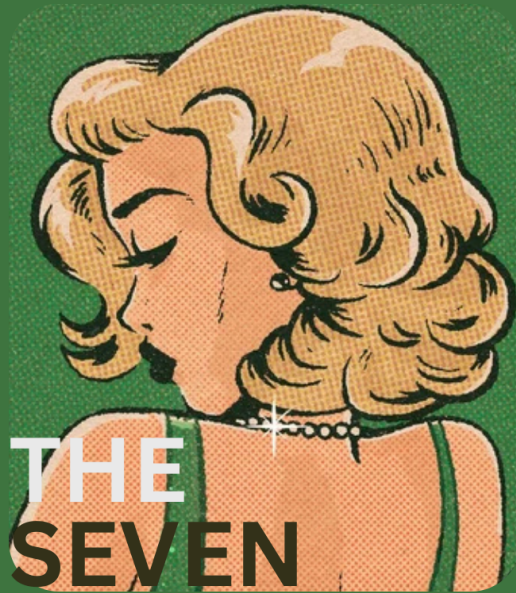
The characters Marianne and Heloise challenge the power imbalance typically created between spectator and subject in traditional portraiture. As Marianne paints Heloise, her subject gazes back at her with love and longing, turning the act of looking into a mutual, ceaseless exchange. The final portrait of Heloise blurs the line between subject and object, encapsulating her essence as an active subject with agency of her own. The gaze flows in both directions.



By opening the film with Marianne in the present as an art teacher and setting the narrative in the past, Sciamma frames the entire film as a memory. Building on this, Sciamma explores the power of the gaze in memory by alluding to the story of Orpheus and Eurydice. The parallels between this Greek myth and Marianne and Heloise's story are made explicit when the characters read the myth together in the kitchen, and later when Marianne turns back to look at Heloise as she leaves.

Throughout the film, the characters memorise each other's features and habits, allowing them to gaze back into their memories and recall their time together. When Heloise calls to Marianne and she turns back, they choose the lasting memory of that brief moment over a future together. In their mind's eye, they preserve the moment, fixing it in time. Just as Orpheus is forever haunted by the image of Eurydice slipping away, Heloise's memory lingers in Marianne's mind. Just as paintings capture a moment that can last forever, the memories they created together withstand the passage of time.

In the closing scene at the opera house, we as the audience—the third character—expect Heloise to turn and look at the camera. However, she does not. She chooses to remember Marianne and preserve that memory, reliving their time together as she pictures it in her mind. Here, Sciamma's final commentary on the gaze, I believe, suggests that it has liberated these women, allowing them to escape their realities through the brief, magical, and never-ending time they spent together.



THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO

WRITTEN BY: SAANVI SINGH

I don't regret the things I've done—at least not the things you might expect—despite how hard they might have been or how repugnant they may seem in the cold light of day. Je ne regrette rien.

'When you're given an opportunity to change your life, be ready to do whatever it takes to make it happen. The world doesn't give things; you take things.'

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo is the enthralling tale of film siren, the stunning Evelyn Hugo. Reid has created a lustrous world that delves deep into the forges of human sin and questions the power of a single woman who has risen from the ashes.

Rookie journalist Monique Grant is invited by Hollywood's biggest heroine, Evelyn Hugo, to write a tell-all biography of her scandal-filled career and seven failed marriages. Infamous for having seven husbands, the world wonders who the true love of Evelyn's life was, but Evelyn would rather tell her own story. 'They are just husbands,' she remarks. 'I am Evelyn Hugo.'

Set in the 1950s, it is an ode to unravelling and applauding the sins of an intelligent and ambitious woman who made her own name in the male-dominated Hollywood. With twists that make you gasp and characters who will break your heart over and over again, this raucous novel will leave you craving more, even as you discover the gut-wrenching sacrifices that come with stardom. 'You can't do this more than once. It will break your heart.'

Reid has created a starlet—an imperfect yet gorgeous woman. Hugo is a master liar and manipulator who clawed her way into Hollywood and married several powerful men. 'Isn't it awfully convenient that when men make the rules, the one thing that's looked down on the most is the one thing that would pose the greatest threat to them?' Yet for moments, Hugo is just a young Cuban girl who fought for survival. 'The whole world prefers a woman who doesn't know her power, but I am sick of that.'

Hugo reveals secrets darker than Monique anticipated, all while sipping coffee politely. 'The devastating luxury of panic overtook me, and it has never left.' Evelyn Hugo is more than simply a book character; she is the embodiment of Princess Diana and Marilyn Monroe in us all. She carries secrets large enough to destroy lives, including her own, and as she lays more of herself bare, Monique realises she should be terrified. Dipped in equal amounts of scandal and heartbreak, this book exposes the darkest hollows of human desire and is guaranteed to leave you dreaming of a life of glamour and devastation for days.

Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara



WRITTEN BY: AARUSH DHAWAN

Directed by Zoya Akhtar, the film invites audiences to join Kabir, Arjun, and Imran—three childhood friends who, despite growing apart over the years, reunite for a once-in-a-lifetime bachelor road trip across the breathtaking landscapes of Spain. Released in 2011, *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* (ZNMD) is a Bollywood film that offers not only a visual delight but also a profound journey of self-discovery, friendship, and courage. Their trip turns out to be not just a vacation but a journey that tests their fears, dreams, and the essence of their friendship.

The trio consists of the honest Kabir, played by Abhay Deol; the ambitious, workaholic Arjun, portrayed by Hrithik Roshan; and Imran, characterised by Farhan Akhtar as the humour-filled, free-spirited friend, giving the group a unique dynamic. Kabir's upcoming marriage triggers the adventure, forcing Arjun out of his career-focused life and providing Imran with the tools to confront the issues he has been avoiding. Each friend selects an activity that pushes their limits—scuba diving, skydiving, and the running of the bulls are thrilling challenges that test their fears in deeper ways, revealing newfound strengths and perspectives.

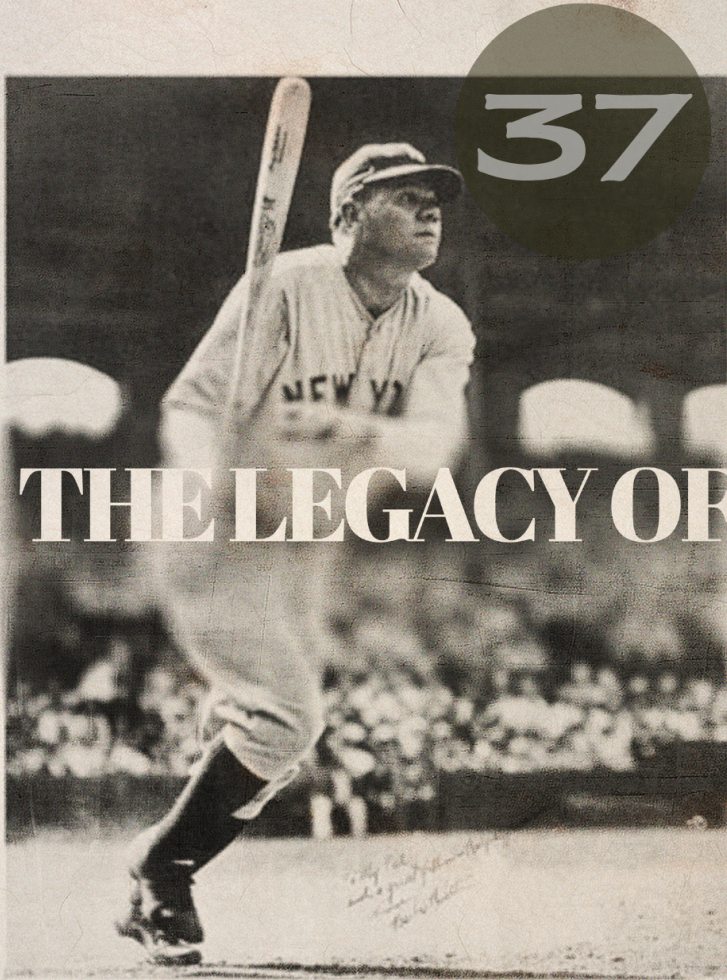
When Laila (Katrina Kaif), the merry-go-lucky and zestful woman, enters the story, she brings an exciting twist, encouraging Arjun to embrace spontaneity over rigid planning. The lesson he learns is to live in the moment, as Laila helps him let go of his unnecessary anxiety about the future.

ZNMD is more than just a film—it's an experience. The themes depicted are universally relatable, including breaking free from routine, facing fears, and building irreplaceable relationships. Reema Kagti's well-written script, under Zoya Akhtar's skilled direction, captures each character's struggle and growth with humour and emotional depth, making them feel human and relatable.

The film is visually and aurally captivating, thanks to Carlos Catalan's cinematography and Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy's soundtrack, which features notable hits such as "Senorita" and "Dil Dhadakne Do." These elements enhance the film's impact, making the audience feel part of the characters' adventures.

With both critical and popular acclaim, ZNMD won numerous awards and achieved global box office success, grossing ₹1.53 billion. It is a powerful reminder to enjoy life, take risks, and value meaningful friendships—a cinematic journey that goes beyond entertainment, urging viewers to truly live life.





Babe Ruth, one of baseball's most evolutionised the sport with his extraordinary talent and larger-than-life personality. Born on 6 February 1895 in Baltimore, Maryland, Ruth began his career as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, before becoming a legendary outfielder renowned for his powerful home runs. With 714 career home runs—a record that stood for decades—he reshaped the game forever.

Ruth's path to greatness wasn't without its challenges. He witnessed the racial divide in baseball and supported the integration of black players, recognising the injustice of keeping talented athletes out of the Major Leagues due to segregation. His advocacy laid the groundwork for pioneers like Jackie Robinson, who broke baseball's colour barrier in 1947.



THE LEGACY OF BABE RUTH

Written by
-Tvisha Tikarya

Off the field, Ruth's big-hearted nature shone through in his charity work, regularly visiting sick children and giving back to the community. His larger-than-life persona, both on and off the field, made him a beloved figure who transcended sports and became an enduring cultural icon.

Ruth's legacy is not just about his staggering statistics; it's about his ability to inspire generations of players and fans alike. He embodied resilience, talent, and the spirit of pursuing greatness, while also being a symbol of the broader fight for racial equality in sports. His name remains synonymous with hope and perseverance, proving that a determined individual can leave an indelible mark on the world. Ruth's story is a testament to how a single person, through talent and willpower, can influence a sport and culture for decades to come.



Game, Set, Match; Rafa retires

40

One of the greatest legends to ever see the tennis courts - Rafael Nadal - is retiring at age 38, after the Davis Cup Final 8 in Malaga, Spain, in November 2024. Injuries have raided his recent years to only one Grand Slam last year - the French Open, where he lost in the first round. Rather than going on a farewell tour around all major tournaments, Nadal made a more fitting end to an illustrious career - stemming from the fierce determination that defined it all.

With 22 Grand Slam titles to his name - only behind Novak Djokovic's impressive 24 - Nadal's career is unmatched in many ways. Known as the "King of Clay," he claimed 14 of his major titles at the French Open, achieving victory in 112 out of 116 matches. His incredible career at Roland-Garros was sealed with the unveiling of his statue in 2021, erecting a monument that permanently cemented his legendary status. His triumph over Roger Federer winning Wimbledon in 2008 is considered one of the greatest tennis matches played to date, catapulting Nadal into a different realm of glory.



Nadal and Federer, two decades of rivalry on the court went far beyond tennis. Roger's emotional retirement at the Laver Cup in 2022 sealed the deep friendship that had emerged from the competition. "What a career, Rafa!" Federer told him in a testament full of emotion. "I always hoped this day would never come." By now, Nadal has led Spain to four cup titles, taken an Olympic gold in both singles and doubles and won on every surface.

Injuries often slowed down his career, but Nadal's ability to make a return surprised his fans time after time. Patrick McEnroe praised Nadal for being amongst the few players who possess both the defensive genius and aggressive topspin. He survived through what seemed like insurmountable physical challenges that became a hallmark of his journey. While looking back at his career, Nadal reflected on leaving with a "peace of mind of having given my best."

With the departure of this great athlete, sports loses not only an extraordinary athlete but also an exemplar of perseverance and sportsmanship. His legacy lives on far more resonantly than records and trophies; it lives on in the memories forged on that court and in the admiration extended to him in all walks of life.

Written by -**Shlok Sudame**

THE GALLERY

ENJOY SOME
AMAZING PHOTOS
SENT TO US



TAKEN BY: ALEX HUGHES MACLEAN





TAKEN BY: NABHYA SHUKLA



I S S U E • T W O

Magazine design by:

Dhruv Karade

Jay Chikte

Siddhi Chougule

