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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

- ◆ On December 28, 2021, the Maharashtra Legislative Council passed the "Maharashtra Public University Act, 2016 (Third Amendment) Bill". Highlights The act is being opposed over its provision to include LGBTQIA community members on University Boards. Key Provisions of the act The amended act comprises of a provision for "Board of Equal opportunity".
- ◆ Amid rising Omircon cases in India, Goa CM Pramod Sawant said there will be no night curfew in the state for now during the Christmas-New Year festival season as it may affect tourism.

## REMEMBERING BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY ON ITS 37th ANNIVERSARY

-Divyansh Narang



PC: Raghu Rai/Magnum Photos

Little did anyone know the incident on the peaceful night of 2nd December 1984 in Bhopal would make it to the schoolbooks and go on to become one of the biggest catastrophes of all time. Even though 37 years have passed, the horror has remained firmly embedded in the minds of each individual.

The Bhopal disaster, also known as the Bhopal gas tragedy, is regarded as one of the deadliest industrial disasters in history. Union Carbide India Ltd (UCILpesticide)'s factory released about 40 tonnes of the chemical methyl isocyanide (MIC), killing over 15,000 people and injuring over 600,000 workers. According to a 2006 government affidavit, the spill caused 558,125 casualties, including 38,478 temporary partial impairments and about 3,900 permanently debilitating injuries. The situation worsened when the gas plant's bell alarm malfunctioned, causing pulmonary or lung edema, emphysema, and bronchial pneumonia, as well as mortality.

Within hours of the gas leak, the entire city was in pandemonium, with a frantic atmosphere and several people fleeing the city. Thousands had died by the time mass funerals and cremations were held the next day. Choking, reflexogenic circulatory collapse, and pulmonary edema were the leading causes of mortality. People complained of breathing problems, itchy eyes, rashes, skin irritation, disorientation, and sudden blindness, among other symptoms, and were unaware that they were all experiencing the same problem.

The plants all over the city turned black and the streets were filled with dead animal bodies. The stillbirth rate increased by up to 300% and the neonatal mortality rate by around 200%. The doctors were unaware of the treatment for MIC inhalation during that time and were astounded to witness thousands of cases of the same condition.

"Nothing has changed for the survivors irrespective of the political party in power whether it's in Madhya Pradesh or at the Centre. It's always been the interest of the erstwhile Union Carbide and now Dow Chemical, and not the interest of the gas tragedy victims, which has dictated the policies of the governments," said Rachna Dhingra, founder member of Bhopal group of information and action. Dhingra says whether it's the case of compensation, rehabilitation, medical treatment for survivors,

punishment to the guilty, or shifting of toxic chemicals from the plant premises, the governments are woefully short and continue to ignore the adverse impact of gas on the next generations of the victims. Several activist groups have been demanding trials for all the accused in this case, adequate compensation to survivors' families, medical facilities for all the victims, and the removal of the toxic chemicals from the plant site for the last three decades.

The eight suspects were condemned to only 1.5 years in prison and were later given bail. The catastrophe has had an influence on survivors' psychological, mental, emotional, and sexual health as well as their physical health. The nature of some injuries is permanent. Even after more than three and half decades, the children born now in Bhopal are abnormal and have serious health issues from an early age due to the radiation.

Ninety-three percent of survivors of the accident received only \$500 in compensation for personal injuries, while relatives of the deceased received 2,000 dollars for each death, which is a joke in comparison to the lifelong agony the survivors are experiencing.

Commemorating the 37th anniversary of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, four organizations of survivors have launched a campaign, "Bhopal Disaster: 37 years; 37 questions". As a part of the campaign, the survivors will ask one question every day for the next 37 days for their pending justice.

Union Carbide India Ltd. (UCIL), now known as DOW CHEMICAL USA, has gone on to become one of the world's leading firms, despite ignoring six consecutive summonses issued by the Bhopal District Court to appear in the criminal case relating to the tragedy.

The survivors of Bhopal in pain and agony wait for their clock of luck to strike as the petition for additional compensation is ignored since then.

## There is Ability in Every Disability

-Tanya Purohit

A disability is a condition or function judged to be significantly damaged/weakened relative to the usual standard of an individual of their group. The term disability is referred to as individual functioning, including physical impairment, sensory impairment, cognitive impairment, intellectual impairment, mental illness, and various types of chronic disease. Some disabled people described this usage as being linked to a medical paradigm of impairment. People with disabilities, often known as "the world's largest minority," have poorer health, lower educational success, fewer economic opportunities, and higher poverty rates than the able-bodied. This is largely due to the lack of services available to them (like information and communications technology (ICT), justice, or

transportation) and the many obstacles they face in their everyday lives. These obstacles can take a variety of forms, including those relating to the physical environment, or those resulting from legislation or policy, or societal attitudes or discrimination. Every year December 3 is observed as the International Day of the disabled. The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3 was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of the disabled. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of the disabled in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life.



## World Aids Day

-Farzad Irani

World AIDS Day takes place on 1st December each year. It's a chance for people all over the globe to join forces in the battle against HIV, show solidarity for HIV-positive people, and remember those who have perished from AIDS-related illnesses. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first-ever global health day.

Over 105,200 people are living with HIV in the UK. Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS-related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history. Today, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment and there are laws to protect people living with HIV as we keep understanding more and more about the disease and its symptoms and its causes, condition.

Despite this, over 4,139 people in the UK are diagnosed with HIV each year, many people are unaware of how to protect themselves and others, and stigma and prejudice remain a reality for many people living with the disease. What can you do to raise awareness? World AIDS Day is an opportunity to show solidarity with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide. Most people do this by wearing an HIV awareness red ribbon on the day. World AIDS Day is important because it

reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education. The world is threatened by an expanding list of pandemics. As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we also enter the fifth decade of the AIDS pandemic. COVID-19 was far worse than it should have been. As the world mobilizes against COVID-19 and prepares for future pandemics, we risk making many of the same mistakes that have prevented us from putting an end to the AIDS epidemic. The course corrections we need to end AIDS will also protect the world against future pandemics. We must invest in community-led, human rights-based, gender transformational responses, essential workers, equitable access to life-saving medications and health technologies, data systems that can detect inequalities, and rights-based initiatives to rectify those gaps.



PC: Scepticemia

### QUOTE FROM THE HOLY QURAN

“And let there be from you a nation inviting to good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful.”  
-Surah Ali ‘Imran

## World Abortion Day

-Arushi Jhajharia

Do you know that unsafe abortions (termination of pregnancy) are a leading cause of maternal death among child-bearers? People who do not support or approve of safe, legal, and accessible abortion violate a person's right to their own body, which is a fundamental right of every citizen. Yet, after so many years and deaths, abortion continues to be a taboo among major sections of our society. Ironically, in the world's second most populated country, we shy away from conversations of sex, pregnancy, sexuality, and abortion. Surprising as it is, after years of feminism, societal structures, even now, show women as inferior citizens and bereave them of right to their own body constructing a patriarchal template that women are only to be married and bear children.

Society enforces whatever they believe is correct upon people disregarding personal choices or decisions. Being settled and married with kids is an essentiality for women in our society, and any demurrer is considered dangerous. We have shifted through many philosophies and movements over centuries but now it's high time we understand everyone is a free individual and begin to respect their boundaries and decisions. Their life and choices are their alone. Societies are to guide and help, not to enforce one's expectations over others.

Pregnancies are beautiful. Though physically, emotionally, and financially demanding, pregnancies become a reason to celebrate. At the same time, women who adopt, or decide to go child-free deserve equal understanding and respect. We also need to keep in mind that pregnancy is not a joke and takes a toll on the person, emotionally and physically. Women endure insufferable amounts of pain and go through various bodily changes during this period. Unplanned and forced pregnancies do happen and rather than shaming, we should support women who are already mentally toiling and want to terminate.

Unfortunately, there are countries where abortions are illegal or lack the means to safe abortion and we could have saved countless lives if governments and people weren't as ignorant as they're. But, hopeful protests and demands to educate people, regardless of their gender, on safe abortions continue. On 28th September we celebrate international safe abortion day. We are the future and need to normalize such essential topics to make a better, safe future. We must begin talking about it and educating others about it without regard for shame or gender, and we must also raise our voices in support of individuals who are demanding their rights in various countries, as our fight will not be over until every individual is safe and can exercise their rights without fear or discomfort around the world.

## Critics' Section

(based on IMDb's rating)

### MOVIES



**Dybbuk**  
5.1/10



**Sardar udham**  
8.9/10



**The Witcher**  
8.2/10

### BOOKS

-Divyansh Narang

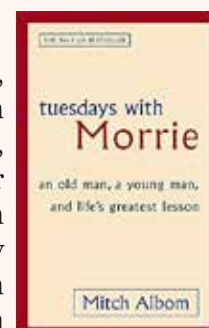
#### Little Me in Everyone



'Little me in everyone,' written by Eddy Singh will leave you speechless. The novel depicts the hardship of a little insecure child named Vikas who faces the most terrible challenges in life that one can possibly imagine. The author methodically planned the narrative and has written in an odd style, with platitudes following each challenge experienced by Vikas that never ends.

#### Tuesdays with Morrie

Mitch, the author, begins seeing his college mentor Morrie, who has been diagnosed with a deadly condition, on Tuesdays for life lessons. 14 Tuesdays before Morrie died, 14 life-changing lessons, 14 times dread paralyzes your neck. Mitch's writing is an outstanding gem, with each aspect and instruction conveyed so exactly and succinctly that it transports you beside Mitch during his sessions with Morrie. The conclusion will fill you with tears, leaving a vacuum that will be impossible to replace.



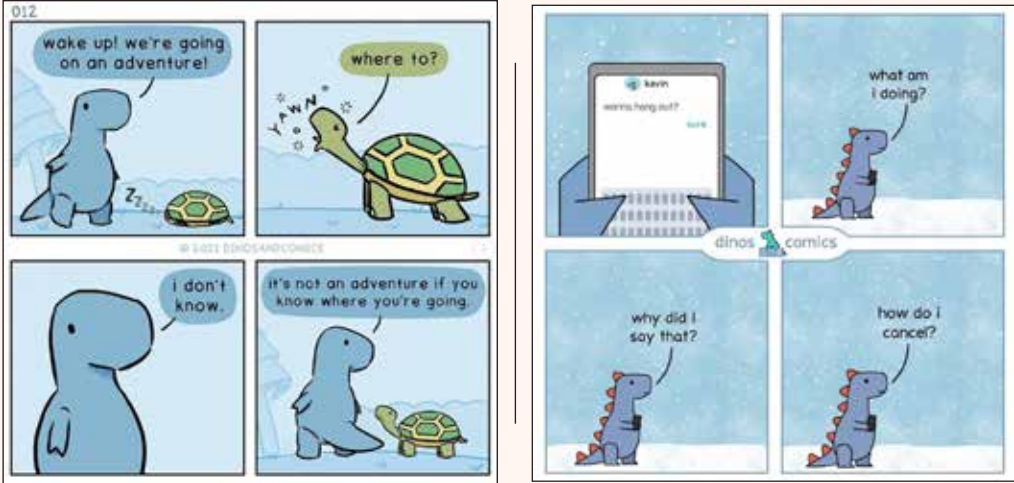
#### The Nightingale



The Nightingale is a beautiful yet very painful narrative depicting the powerful resistance of allied forces against the Nazis during WW2. It is a tale of two sisters whose valor and fortitude helped in a Free France despite the fathomless terror inflicted by Nazis. The book portrays the uncertain ways women undertook in order to survive the war and protect their families. The vivid description of the smallest details makes you enthralled at every moment.



TINY TICKLES



CC: DinosandComics

Human Rights Day

-Darshit Tanna

Every year on the 10th of December, Human Rights Day commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights entrusts us all. The standards honored in the Declaration are as pertinent today as they were in 1948. We have the right to stand for ourselves as well as others. We can make a change in our daily routines to protect the rights that protect us all and so promote the family relationships of all human beings.

In December 1948, UNESCO was the main United Nations organization to put the Universal Declaration at the core of all its activity, to advance it across the world through education and the media.

Human rights gained new importance when they became a reality in the day-to-day routine of everyone on the planet. Bringing human rights home is the main goal of the center of UNESCO, the entirety of its fields of skill – schooling, science, culture, and correspondence. With regards to the recognition of the 70th commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), UNESCO brings to the front the centrality of human rights security in the set of experiences and the order of the Organization.

Invention Of A Blue Pigment After 200 Years

-Khushi Chheda

Mas Subramanian, a Madras-born chemist, invented blue pigment after 200 years in 2009 at Oregon State University in the US. Who was expecting this outcome? Nobody! Not even him!

Subramanian, with his other team members, had been heating the chemicals yttrium, indium, and manganese oxides at 1260°Celsius for 12 hours in the lab furnace. But when the sample was out, the chemist's jaw dropped. 'I was expecting it to turn out black or grey. That blue was dazzling, I don't know what four-letter words I used that day. I was awestruck. I didn't sleep that night.' he said.

The next day, like any scientist, he set out to reproduce his experiment to see whether it would produce the same results and he did it. He had generated the first synthetic blue since the discovery of cobalt in France in 1807. But unlike cobalt, which is toxic if consumed, YInMn Blue was shielded.

Further experiments showed that this blue pigment was the first blue that reflected infra-red radiation, i.e. if a car or home painted in it would absorb less heat on a sunlit day. 'It's not just a pretty face.' the chemist says.

His team received a patent for the blue in 2012. The US approved it for individual and commercial uses well. Later on, a first-grader sent him a handwritten note expressing euphoria in his work.

Hereafter, he also won a new grant for creating a range of synthetic colors based on YInMn's principles. Following that, the team found success with purples, deep orange, and green, but has struggled to create a red color. Nonetheless, the chemist seems confident that he'll entice a red eventually.



PC: Hindustan Times

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.”  
– Babe Ruth

DID YOU KNOW?

The fastest reptile is the sea turtle?

Marlin and Dory had a wild ride when they went for a cruise on Crush’s back. And it seems that scene has a basis in truth: Sea turtles can swim as fast as 35 mph

Blinking could serve as mental rest, not eye lubrication?

The intuitive reason why humans blink so much, 15 to 20 times per minute, is for eye lubrication. But research suggests that it’s actually to give our brains a break. Although these breaks only last for a few seconds, they could be giving the brain a chance to go idle and recharge.

FUN FACTS

Sudan has more pyramids than any country in the world

Not only does Sudan have more pyramids than Egypt, but the numbers aren’t even close. While 138 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt, Sudan boasts around 255.

CONSUMING CONTENT IN PRESENT TIMES

- Shreyash Srivastava

Content production is on the increase in today's society. Everyone is talking about content management, content analysis, and other content-related topics. It's difficult to define what we mean when we say "content." The presentation of information for a specific purpose to an audience via a channel in a form is referred to as content.

Consider seeing a rom-com with a different influence than a sci-fi, historical, or comedy-drama film. Let us now expand our imagination to include a 9-year-old affluent child who has no idea what a cigarette is. Will the child be aware of the dangers of smoking cigarettes? Assume the child is now 18 years old and is still unaware of smokes. Do you believe he smokes? No, you can't do anything unless you have material or knowledge about it.

Spending time with someone entails spending time with their mind or manner of thinking, communicating, or humor, for example. You may begin to like items or agree with the opinions of the person with whom you spend the majority of your time. Admit it, after viewing a superhero movie at the theatre, you pictured yourself soaring about the city, fighting the baddies, and saving the city. Of course, you won't become a superhero just because you saw the movie, but you will ponder about it for a long time.

Similarly, if you are regularly reading books of the same author or listening to similar podcasts, your life will automatically drift in the direction of the message you are receiving through them. If you listen to cheerful songs, there is a chance you will have a cheerful day meanwhile, You'll naturally spend more time thinking about sad things if you exclusively listen to sad tunes.

This is also true about any unhelpful comment you consume. If you’re watching negative news that takes a toll on your mind, you’ll probably find yourself becoming a negative person or being sad all day.

Rather than squandering time on meaningless content that neither brings positivity nor helps us grow. Each of us has the ability to pick what we see and do not see, but making the appropriate decision is critical. Negative or harmful information might have a negative impact on our thinking. Furthermore, it may persuade us to take incorrect decisions. Every individual should concentrate on content that will help us become better people in order to implement it as we become the information we consume.





-Mrunali Bhagwat



-Rahul Shigwan



-Ishita Karmaran



-Pratham Soni



-Sayam Doshi



-Sama Padvekar



-Shreyash Srivastava



-Ishit Neema



-Faiz Farooqui

WRITE OUT LOUD

Take me back to the night,  
When the sky sparkled with orion ,  
The moonlight glinting on your face,  
Making it an exquisite riverscape,  
Besides which we lay,  
Difficult to hide our glees.  
Considering it a fortunate stroke of serendipity,  
For what it's worth,  
We asked Aphrodite no more,  
Just for ourselves  
little did we know,  
After we are gone,  
We would get a constellation of our own,  
And become an epitome of love

-Divyansh Narang

Now that my eyes don't shine anymore ,  
my smile does not look nice anymore ,  
now that I have fat flat tummies instead of those  
beautiful curves ,  
now that my hairs are still untied messy but they do  
not fly anymore ,  
now that those heavy earrings do not swing around  
my ears anymore ,  
now that I don't style anymore .  
Now that my fair skin has turned into pale and gloomy.  
hairs grown all over my body with cuts and scratches  
here and there  
and those moles you once loved turn into patches with  
intense flare .  
Now that my red blood is turning black  
Your leftover cigarette's now holding my back ,  
Now that I only drink neat more and more  
Oh yes ! I forgot to write that now i hate watching  
moon from my inner core .  
Now that I don't look up to the mirror as I earlier did ,  
I don't wait for you to come back to me like a lost kid  
The only thing that I know now is to forgive myself and  
forbid because I'm not more an orphan kid .

-Shruti Pandey

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BIRTHDAY WISHES

Simone Jaiswal- 8th December  
Shreyash Srivastava- 9th December  
Arya Bharti- 11th December  
Vanshika Nanavati- 17th December  
Akshat Patil- 18th December  
Nidhi Nisar- 22nd December  
Sama Padvekar- 23rd December  
Dhara Joshi- 24th December



Today is the oldest you have been, and the youngest you will ever be. make the most out of it. -Nicky Gumbel

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