



A thing of beauty...

..Is A Chemical Forever

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Let the products splash
As we get you ready in a dash
But before that, you must know
There is a lot behind
that flawless made-up glow

A little bling
Eyeliner with a wing

We'll begin by priming our faces with primer to make our skin look blemish-free and get the makeup to last longer. For this, we will be coating our faces in non-biodegradable silicones and siloxanes; filling each nook



and cranny of our not-so-perfect faces. Over the course of the day, this will prevent your skin from breathing, as all the pores will be closed. This may even accelerate the ageing process, but that's what surgeries are for! *wink wink*

Now for the foundation and concealer, we will be stuffing our pores with octinoxate, a chemical linked with thyroid disruptions. Heavier foundations have traces of lead, but if it can be present in the nation's favourite snack



contouring and highlighting your face with the help of colours derived from petroleum sources containing human carcinogens linked with diseases like ADHD in children. But didn't the bottle already tell you to keep it out of their reach?

Illustration: Vanshika Chaudhary, AIS PV, X C



Time to paint one of our sensory organs in dibutyl phthalates - eye shadow! Blend the colours and go for eye priming to make your lids heavier. It can cause disruption in hormone functioning, increase risk of genetic mutilations and, maybe, even liver failures, when it interacts with chemi-



cals after being absorbed through the skin. To complete the look, line your eyes with some carbon black or coal tar dye, a neurotoxin due to its contamination by heavy metals. If you want your eyes to draw more attention, go for mascara to leave lingering traces of quaternium-15!

Finally, a dash of lipstick! Just can't go wrong with lipstick and its plethora of options. You can choose from eight different heavy metals, chains of parabens, acetates and high hazard colorants. All



depends on your choice! Nickel neon and Arsenic amber are all the rage these days. Now, you'll look like the new goddess - the goddess of chemicals!

Your skin will be grateful for years to come as you sport the 'no makeup' makeup look, with every product seeping into your skin and blessing it with disruptions and skin diseases. Your visits to the cosmetic store will be outnumbered by the ones to a dermatologist; but who cares with that flawless look!



What does DEATH mean?

Illustration: Keshav Gupta
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Can You Define It? At Least Give It A Shot!

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The doctor finally re-entered the lobby. "Unfortunately, she has died." However, around 10 am the next morning, Mrs Rafiq's daughter found her mother waking up. Mrs Rafiq had been declared dead, yet here she was, alive and breathing again. There being numerous cases where people are 'coming back alive', the line between life and death seems blurred.

Is there a true definition?
Death. We all feel that we are well acquainted with that word.

But problems start arising when we attempt to define it with precision. What is death? Scientists, doctors, philosophers, they have all struggled with placing death into exact words.

Is it brain or heart?

Death was once defined as the cessation of heartbeat and breathing, but modern technology has proven that definition to be insufficient, as it is possible to sometimes revive a person even when their heart stops or their lungs collapse.

Nowadays, there exists a new form of medical declaration known as 'Brain Death', wherein patients are considered dead

when the electrical activity in their brain ceases. Your brain controls all your movements, your thoughts, and your personality. So if your brain 'dies', your consciousness dies with it.

Yet, a brain dead person's vital organs can continue to function; they can have a heartbeat and even respond to certain stimuli. The body could still be biologically functioning and it could probably be kept 'alive' on life support systems. But the 'person' or their 'soul', is gone.

Is death a paradox?

So are we trying to redefine 'death'? In a way, yes. But if we refer to the previous definition,

no. On cellular level, death is an event where a biological cell ceases to carry out its functions. Which implies, if the event of 'death' of cell occurs, the tissue dies and follows death of human. But then we have seen cells revived based on their complexity. So, a breathing person is not alive, as his cells are dead, which again creates a paradox.

We are questioning the reliability of this end, as it is all a game of cellular chemicals and their functionality. We can't tell if a dying person is closer to being alive or to being dead. Death is, after all, seemingly the end to this transient period we call 'life'.

Settlement elsewhere

Are We Finally Ready To Destroy Another Planet?

Graphic: Aditya Doomra, AIS PV, XI D

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In a day and age where we're already planning on setting up camps on Mars, settlement on another planet seems like an easy feat on paper, but what would we require to actually go through with it?

Final destination

Unless travel websites set up shop for trips around the galaxy, choosing a destination to go to is a major challenge for future settlements. Proximity to sun, availability of water and sustenance of life are some factors you might want to consider before choosing your destination. Organisations like NASA generally look for planets that most resemble Earth and Mars along with 50 new exoplanets that were identified for the same. While planets like Jupiter might seem attractive for settlement, you might actually end up literally making 'sandcastles in the air' to sustain life on the gas giant.

Stuck at structures

After you are done with choosing a destination, channel your inner Elon Musk and design the structure for your settlement. The structure should be designed such that it meets gravity, atmosphere, materials available and residential requirements. Several



scientists also mention that weightlessness, growth potential of settlement in the future, and capabilities to harness solar energy are also vital in making a structure for a settlement. Many have suggested spinning settlements, to create pseudo gravity, even in zero gravity.

Inside infrastructures

You might have to promise your settlers 'Aache Din', for you shall be responsible for devising infrastructural planning and think of ways to provide basic amenities to the residents: food,

water, sunlight. You will have to arrange for these using advanced methods of aeroponics and/or aquaponics, to recreate living conditions on our home planet.

Humanity insanity

Settlements, in general, are a game of real estate; they provide the best housing for settlers. But humans need more viz entertainment, recreation and reassurance in their lives. These elements, such as communication systems, would be further essential for human survival. The most common way to do this is to use

satellites, just like we do on Earth. You might also need to include safety measures for your settlement inhabitants.

After a long, tedious exercise of planning a settlement on a planet similar to Earth, we are all left wondering, "Why do we need to leave Earth in the first place?" To continue that thought, the best setep seems that we should preserve our very own settlement; which we have been naturally provided what we might fail to artificially recreate, but would we really? 🇮🇳