

SEPTEMBER 2024

The Paragon

ISSUE ONE

Let's
Dive
Into
It!

ROLE OF AI

WHAT'S THE NEXT GENERATION?

QUANTUM COMPUTING USES QUBITS, WHICH LEVERAGE SUPERPOSITION AND ENTANGLEMENT TO PERFORM TASKS FAR BEYOND CLASSICAL COMPUTERS. IT HAS POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS IN CRYPTOGRAPHY, AI, AND MATERIALS SCIENCE.

PAGER BOMBS

ISRAEL ALLEGEDLY TARGETED HEZBOLLAH BY DETONATING EXPLOSIVES HIDDEN IN PAGERS AND WALKIE TALKIES, KILLING 37 AND INJURING OVER 3,000. HEZBOLLAH SUSPECTS ISRAEL BUT INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE.



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"JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED"

INDEPENDENCE? DAUGHTERS OF INDIA?

Written by: Bhoomika Garg

ReliefWeb

01

In recent years, there has been an uproar in violence against women. It is 2024. The question remains: what is happening? Despite yearly celebrations of independence, half of the world's population—approximately 49.74% as of 2023 (*WBC, n.d.*)—has still not achieved the independence that is celebrated globally.

What are we truly celebrating? Year after year, the media reports on gruesome cases of violence against women. Protests take place, and in 10 to 15 days it fades into the background. The case is forgotten. The fear lingers. Each new brutal attack brings back memories of previous incidents, provoking terror, anger, and distrust among the public.

They say *Justice delayed is justice denied*. The 2012 Nirbhaya case itself took 7 whole years to finally gain justice (*Business Standard, 2020*). Justice was denied. To her, her family, and the women of the nation. There were many shocking cases even after the 2012 gang rape. One being the Badaun Gang Rape Case of 2014 (*Her Zindagi, 2020*). Two underage girls were raped, murdered, and hung off a tree. This case had gained a lot of attention, nationally and internationally. The CBI had to take over, and all they did was release the five accused and conclude there was 'no rape'. Later in 2019, Bollywood made a movie on this, titled "Article 15".

Another case took place in 2017, the Unnao Rape Case (*Her Zindagi, 2020*). Kuldeep Sengar, a former member of the UP Legislative Assembly, was involved in the kidnapping and gang rape of a 17-year-old who'd sought his help to find a job. She risked her life and filed a complaint (*Her Zindagi, 2020*). A few months later, the accused was arrested.

No one can forget the recent case of a beloved doctor being brutally raped and murdered in her workplace. Where's the independence if you are not safe in your own workplace? All these cases only highlight the systemic failures in addressing violence against women. These incidents are occurring at an alarming rate, and the lack of improvement only makes the public lose all hope.

The mentality of blaming the women for the violence they face is something that needs to be changed. Only then can the female population experience true independence.



How can we bring about change around this issue? Educating people that it is never the victim's fault is a key to bringing about change. Often victim blaming and "shame" stop a victim from reaching out. It is important to know that rape does not take place due to sexual desires but for power and control. It is a way of showing strength and dominance (Southern Connecticut State University, n.d.). It is time for meaningful change. To provide sex education and to stop restricting women from what they want to do. To teach the youth about consent.

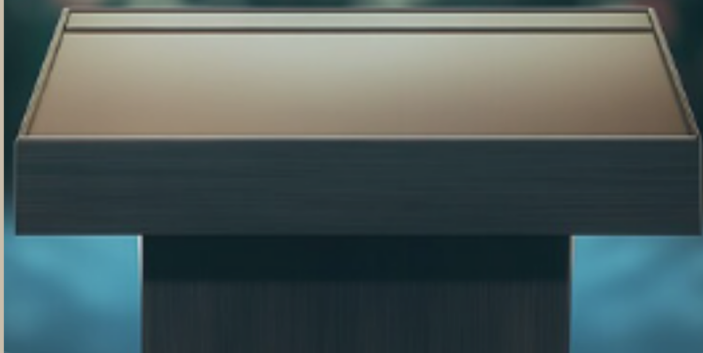
Without these steps, it would be harder for the female population to live without fear. Where there is fear of safety, there is no independence. No woman wants to be the next "daughter of India".

Let's join hands and work towards a world where every woman can live without fear, where her independence is not just celebrated but truly achieved. It starts with us, the youth of today, standing up for what is right and demanding change.

“

TRUE
INDEPENDENCE
BEGINS WHEN
EVERY WOMAN
CAN LIVE WITHOUT
FEAR





05 US POLLS

Written by:
Shlok Sudame

U.S. Democratic nominee Kamala Harris has majorly extended her lead over Republican candidate Donald J. Trump in the race for the U.S. presidency, as per the multiple polls conducted following their September 10 debate. Harris, who succeeded President Joe Biden as the nominee for the Democratic Party, has been seen as having outperformed Trump in the event, a televised one having drawn over 67 million viewers.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in the 10 days following the debate has shown Harris as leading Trump by a margin of 47% to 42%, respectively. This marks a five point advantage in favour of the Democrats.

In a similar trend, the latest Economist/YouGov poll has indicated that Harris holds a four point lead among registered voters, one of the largest margins seen by any presidential candidate in almost a year. The last time such a lead occurred was when President Joe Biden led Trump 45% to 40% in a similar poll conducted in September 2023.

The debate, held in Pennsylvania, was critical for both candidates, as the U.S. presidential election on November 5 draws nearer. Snap polls conducted immediately after the debate indicated that a majority of viewers believed Harris had the upper hand in the exchange, which may have contributed to her expanding lead in the days that followed.

“In the ashes of tragedy, we are reminded of the fragility of life and the urgent need to protect the dreams of the young.”

The Monstrous Kenya School Fire

Written by:
Sara Chaudhari

A horrifying school fire that occurred in Kenya in September 2024 killed 17 students and injured 14 students, all of whom were asleep in their dormitory. This devastating incident took place at a boarding school in Nyeri County. Their burnt bodies were beyond recognition.

The incident is truly a heartbreaking showcase of the fragility of life. It has sent shockwaves and caused an outbreak of horror across the nation and beyond. The tragic loss of the young takes into account the loss of all the potential dreams they held, which were crushed in just a moment.

The loss of these students brings tragedy to their families, friends, and loved ones. Their cries of pain and grief must be immeasurable. The loss of their children must shatter their hearts completely with the trauma they hold. This raises the question of how the fire took place and why such a horrific event could occur in a school. The answers to these questions are not only difficult to find but also complex to understand. A thorough investigation is being conducted to determine the cause of the fire and to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

The loss of young lives is a tragedy for Kenya as a nation. Education is an important pillar of any society, especially a developing one, and such a large loss hampers the mindset of students throughout the nation, raising questions about the educational system. It is a reminder of the importance of investing in the well-being and safety of students within school premises.

In Kenya, children residing in boarding schools is common, as parents believe it gives them more time to study and avoids long commutes, but school fires are also common. In 2016 and 2017, there were similar cases of terrible school fires causing the deaths of many young students. The main cause of these atrocious events has been arson attacks.

The Kenya Red Cross Society has provided medical services to the injured and psychosocial help to the families, students, and teachers. The necessary action here is to ensure that schools are well-equipped to handle such horrific incidents. The nation should now implement strict safety measures for the security of students and prevent such terrifying fires in the future. In the wake of this tragedy, it is important to remember the victims and honour their memory. As a society, we must all support the families and friends of the affected. We must ensure the security and protection of young students all around the world.



Pager bombs: Israel's threat to Hezbollah

Written by:
Sara Chaudhari

While Lebanon's Hezbollah was still distributing Gold Apollo branded pagers to its members just hours before thousands of the devices exploded this week, security sources revealed the group believed they were safe despite ongoing efforts by Hezbollah to sweep its electronic equipment for threats.

In a coordinated attack, the pagers detonated across Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon, Beirut's suburbs, and the eastern Bekaa Valley.

The explosions, followed by another wave of attacks targeting Hezbollah walkie-talkies the next day, killed 37 people, including two children, and injured over 3,000.

Lebanon and Hezbollah have slammed Israel for the attack. Although Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement, it has since intensified its airstrikes. Batteries of the walkie talkies were laced with PETN, a highly explosive substance that is very difficult to detect by any scanner or detecting device. Hezbollah had checked the devices after their delivery in 2022, but despite all precautions, the explosives went unnoticed for months. The investigation into how and where the devices were tampered with is ongoing.

Hezbollah has previously busted Israel's attempts to breach its imported devices, such as landline phones and ventilation units, but this time the group admitted they were outsmarted.

Tracing back in history, Israel killed its most wanted terrorist with a phone call in 1996. Yehya Ayyash was a Palestinian bomb maker whose devices killed around 150 Israelis during 1994-95. The Israelis killed him by planting a remotely triggered bomb inside his cell phone, just as they have now killed hundreds of Hezbollah cadres with wireless devices.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is a phenomenon that seeks to threaten our future, resulting from the errors of our past and present. It is an unprecedented deviation from the normal climate, and its effects are slowly seeping into the wider world. Scientists from all around the world labour for remedies and solutions, all while mega corporations and factories continue their unrestricted barrage on the environment.

Lately, there has been a deluge of news about floods, forest fires, and rising sea levels. It is news for a few now, it may be the reality for everyone in the future, a reality where climate change impacts every aspect of our lives.

The industrial revolution was a herald of great change.

Aside from creating new jobs and furthering humanity's strength, it resulted in mass deforestation, emissions of toxic fumes, and a sudden change in lifestyle.

These factors contributed to increased levels of carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, traps energy from sunlight. To put it tersely, it is the main contributor to global warming. The other toxic emissions lead to formation of acid rain and leaching of the soil.

Global warming is a rise in the average temperature around the world. This has led to melting of glacial ice in the north and south pole. The melting of glacial ice leads to rising sea levels. Rising sea levels threaten coast lines. It is predicted that many coastal cities, such as: Rio, Sydney, Mumbai, etc. will someday be submerged in water. However, it is not a cause for worry any time soon.

Moreover, aside from being detrimental to humans, global warming also impacts animals in various ways. Revisiting the melting of glacial ice, we have observed that the animals that inhabit the north and south poles are forced to migrate elsewhere.

Animals such as polar bears and penguins, whose adaptations do not suit these other places, will face a crisis if all the glaciers have ceased to exist.

Climate change includes unpredictable seasons. This is a major cause for worry, as farmers that grow crops rely heavily on a stable and reliable seasonal shift. If harsh rains uproot crops, or freezing winters cut off their water supply, or scorching summers dry them out, where will we get our food from? Damaging crops means lesser food supplies, both for humans and cattle.

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Written by:
Om Mirashi

This is just to say that, climate change in itself is a broad term, capturing many different effects under its umbrella. Some of them, like floods and global warming, have a global reach and great potential for mass destruction.

Heavy rains have become increasingly common all around the world. In places where the infrastructure is not built to withstand the rain, it has caused issues. During 2022 in Pakistan, or 2024 in India, many cities could not cope with the excess rain. Roads were blocked and electricity was cut off. Many cities worldwide are still not advanced enough to have good enough water drainage systems, and in these places heavy rains are a major cause for worry, as it essentially has the ability to halt all activity for a period of time.

Others, like heat waves and droughts, are more localized, but not any more defanged. A profusion of these effects would be even more impactful. As I said in the beginning, climate change is a harbinger of death and transposition. Rather than stopping it at its root, humanity seems intent to run head first into a much compounded version of the problem.

To conclude, I must mention the equally impactful dust storms, droughts or heat waves. Each of these is equally effective in being damaging and harmful both to human lives and human settlements.



CRYONICS

Cryonics is the process of freezing and preserving a person's body after they die, with the hope that future technology might be able to bring them back to life and cure whatever it was that caused their death.

The idea behind cryonics is that while a person may not be curable today, advances in medicine in the future could offer a solution.

To achieve this, the body is cooled to very low temperatures, using liquid nitrogen, to stop decay.

The process begins shortly after a person is declared legally dead. Cryonics technicians immediately work to cool the body and replace the blood with special chemicals to prevent ice from forming inside the cells. Ice crystals could damage tissues, so this step is crucial. Afterwards, the body is placed in long-term storage at temperatures as low as -196°C .

Cryonics is still highly controversial because no one has ever been successfully revived from this frozen state. Scientists are uncertain if the body, and especially the brain, can survive the freezing process without damage.

Additionally, there is no current technology that can repair the damage or reverse death. While some people see cryonics as a way to extend life in the future, others argue that it is based on false hopes.

It's expensive, and since revival is not guaranteed, many consider it to be risky, or even unethical. Nevertheless, cryonics continues to attract interest, especially from those who believe that future technology will one day make it possible to bring frozen bodies back to life.

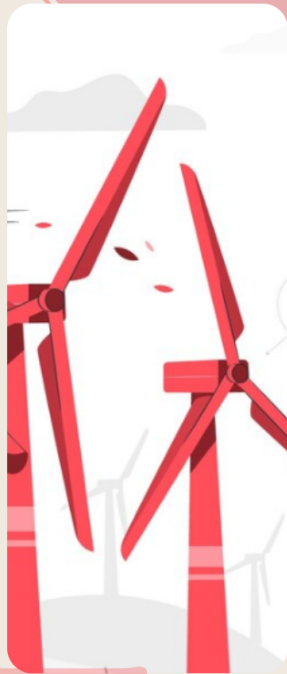
Written by:
Payaam Tamboli

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Powering the Future with Wind Energy

Written by: Signe Brügger

Most people have heard about wind power, however, many might not be as educated about the topic despite its relevance in debates today. Wind power is one of the fastest-growing energy sources around the world. With the global shift towards sustainable energy, it has become a hot topic in the media, especially in Norway (my home country) and around the globe due to various controversies. I'll be exploring both the pros and cons of these wind turbines and why this debate matters so much.



POSITIVE EFFECTS

Wind power offers a plethora of advantages which explains why it's such a rapidly growing energy source. First off, wind power generates clean energy, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. They harness energy from the wind using mechanical force to spin a generator and create electric power.

Unlike coal and oil, wind is an abundant, infinite resource. By investing in wind power, countries like Norway can reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, enhancing national energy security. Wind energy in the United States, for example, helps avoid 336 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Wind power doesn't just help the planet- it also creates jobs. Around the world, in 2022, the amount of wind energy related jobs was 1.4 million. And that number is growing. It's an industry which, as it expands, can create up to 3.3 million more job opportunities globally by the year 2025 according to GWEC (the Global Wind Energy Council).

NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Although wind energy is clean, it isn't perfect. The creation of wind turbines can heavily impact life on land and in the sea.

The sound pollution from these massive structures and the potential destruction of habitats can disrupt the lives of animals who live in the affected area. Birds and bats can be harmed by turbine blades, leading to concerns about wildlife conservation. Sound pollution can also disrupt local communities.

Specifically in Norway, there is the question of whether the indigenous group (the Sámi people) are being harmed by the continuous building of wind turbines. Sámi reindeer owners in the affected area have taken legal action as they believe that the wind power development there is a breach of their indigenous rights as the land was traditionally used for winter grazing for the reindeer.

For years, the state has allowed for wind turbines to be set up in the area, however research shows that the territory of the animals has changed since. Their migration patterns have left a radius outside of the wind energy areas. The ethics of setting up wind turbines here is therefore questioned by the people.

In conclusion, wind turbines are a far more environmentally friendly alternative to oil and coal. With positive contributions to clean energy, they offer a seemingly simple solution to the problem of pollution.

However, there are some concerns as to the side effects of noise pollution and destruction of wildlife. Overall, it's important to balance renewable energy expansion with efforts to mitigate its downsides. Hopefully, we'll see a lot more wind power in the future, without any negative effects.

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Quantum Computing

Written by: Payaam Tamboli

Quantum Computing: a living example of an advancing field of technology which might just be ahead of its time. This kind of computing has proven to leave traditional computers in the dust, performing highly efficient or, even as far as to say, impossible tasks. While classical computers use bits (represented as either 0 or 1) as the smallest form of data, Quantum Computing uses quantum bits, qubits, as their smallest form of data.

This can simultaneously represent 0 and 1, a perplexing phenomenon which is known as Superposition, unlocking millions of possibilities. Entanglement is another phenomenon which occurs over two systems.

It is said that if both the systems are linked, the qubits are able to correlate with each other. Knowledge about one qubit gives you immediate knowledge about the other, despite the prolonged distances it may have to cover. The third event which takes place in Quantum Computing is Decoherence.

Although it is the loss of the quantum state in a qubit, experts work towards the goal of delaying this state with the help of distinctive structures which stop the radiation from further affecting the qubits. If this information interests you, AWS, a company which provides cloud platforms also has one for Quantum Computing called 'Amazon Braket'. Additionally, universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have courses on Quantum Computing. To conclude, Quantum Computing is a progressive field of Physics and Technology combined to revolutionise other fields like cryptography, artificial intelligence, and materials science.

IN HEALTHCARE

ROLE OF AI

Written by: Kajal Kaushik
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MBA in Healthcare Management
PGDM in Medico-Legal
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We live in a digital age where everything is readily available at a single click, but have we ever imagined a smartphone app asking you about the stomach ache you had yesterday and if you would like to consult a doctor for it. This seems like a dream now, but this vision of healthcare is not too far off, due to recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare.

AI has made significant strides in the healthcare sector and is set to transform the role of medical practitioners while empowering patients like never before. Its potential to revolutionise healthcare promises a future of personalised, accessible, and affordable medicine for everyone. This transformation stems from AI's capability to analyse vast amounts of data effectively.

In diagnostics, AI plays a crucial role in creating tailored treatment plans and helping doctors stay updated with the latest research. Its impact in clinical settings spans radiology, cardiology, laboratory work, surgeries, and intensive care. Technologies such as image and speech recognition enhance patient care, while AI-driven algorithms minimise manual errors, leading to more precise clinical decisions without increasing costs for patients. Additionally, AI automates routine tasks, allowing healthcare staff to focus on their expertise and contribute even more value.

The possibilities that AI presents in healthcare are vast, significantly improving patient safety, satisfaction, and overall quality of care.

The healthcare sector in India has embraced technology enthusiastically, enhancing the capacity of providers to deliver higher-quality care without overwhelming the system. Early disease detection not only improves treatment outcomes but also lowers costs for individuals and the economy as a whole.

TRANSFORMING PATIENT CARE AND OUTCOMES

MAJOR AREAS OF GROWTH

With advancements in computing power and technology, AI solutions are essential for addressing inequities in healthcare. AI is being integrated across various fields, particularly in image-based diagnostics, which has become a crucial area of focus. Its influence on diagnosis, disease detection, and management is set to be substantial.

AI will enable individuals to monitor their health in real time, potentially extending human lifespans beyond 100 years. One of the most significant benefits will be the early detection of diseases before they progress to critical stages. Emerging smart technologies and intelligent machines are already making strides in areas like radiology, imaging, operating rooms, and post-operative care monitoring.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

The biggest challenge with AI is the difficulty around the extent of data points available and for the period for which it is accurately available. Furthermore, when dealing with human beings as a species, any number of scenarios and data models need not guarantee an accurate prediction. Since you are dealing with the life of an individual, you cannot entirely base your decision on what a machine or program tells you.

Therefore, artificial intelligence and cognitive computing should be used by experienced clinicians to improve the patient experience and provide a higher degree of satisfaction and safety.

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Industry experts believe that AI is still in its developmental phase and has yet to fully penetrate the mass market or our collective awareness. "We're not accustomed to it yet. Just think about how we would feel the first time we got into a driverless car. Similarly, in healthcare, the idea of advanced surgeries being performed remotely can naturally raise skepticism." This hesitance is primarily due to a large user community that remains unsure and has yet to fully embrace AI, presenting a significant cultural barrier.

Moreover, while there's considerable buzz around various AI solutions, choosing the right one for a specific industry can be challenging, especially since no clear leaders have emerged in this space.

Another pressing concern is patient confidentiality, which weighs heavily on healthcare providers. Acceptance of AI among clinicians is also problematic, as many senior doctors are wary of relying on machine technology for patient care. Additionally, patients are still adjusting to the idea of AI in healthcare, and many harbour reservations about its implementation.

THE WAY FORWARD

In the coming years, artificial intelligence is set to revolutionise healthcare in India more significantly than in any other sector. The Indian healthcare industry has much to gain from AI, with exciting new advancements emerging daily. Importantly, AI is not intended to replace doctors, rather, it aims to enhance their efforts, ultimately improving the quality and accessibility of health services.

DUNE

Written by: Om
Mirashi



Los Angeles Times

REVIEW

The Dune franchise has been in scintillating form, with the recent Dune: Part Two movie making a staggering \$711.8 million at the box office, while the third instalment of the trilogy, Dune Messiah, is currently in the planning stages. The first Dune book was released in 1965, so it might seem reasonable to assume the story is outdated. How can something remain so relevant almost 60 years after its inception? Somehow, Dune has not only stayed relevant, but its pertinence seems to grow with time. To set the stage, the story begins with Paul Atreides, the heir of House Atreides, living a peaceful yet busy life on the water planet Caladan. What follows is a twisting, labyrinthine plot involving major and minor houses as House Atreides is sent to the desert planet Arrakis, commonly known as Dune. It is a trap. Although the Atreides are aware of the trap, they are ensnared in the powerful, swirling currents of politics, unable to escape their destiny.

The book thoroughly explores the culture of the native Fremen, who inhabit Dune, and follows Paul Atreides' journey as an outsider learning the ways of the Fremen while wrestling with and resisting fate. What's so compelling about Dune is its seamless blend of politics, philosophy, and exciting set pieces.

The next book, Dune Messiah, has a heavier focus on philosophy and deconstructs what it means to be a protagonist, to be the so-called 'destined one.' The subsequent books—there are six in total—only get more philosophical and increasingly strange. If this all sounds too intimidating, the movies have done a fantastic job of adapting Dune's convoluted world and making it more accessible and enjoyable to experience. While the books can be difficult to get into and the films might seem slow to some, I highly recommend Dune to anyone who hasn't yet experienced it. Despite its occasional faults, it is, in my opinion, a tale worth exploring, boasting inspired storytelling and prescient insights into the genre.



has

Bollywood

returned for good?

Written by:
Gunika Malik

Stree 2 has broken box office records, amassing a whopping ₹840 crore worldwide, making it the highest-earning Hindi film of the year. Its predecessor, Stree, earned a 7.5/10 IMDb rating, garnering enough attention to justify a sequel. Stree 2 has lived up to expectations, surpassing them with a 7.6/10 IMDb rating.

The film was theatrically released worldwide on 15 August 2024, starring Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor in the lead roles, along with other notable actors, including the king of comedy, Pankaj Tripathi. Leaning towards the comedy genre with a blend of mild horror, it offers a fun couple of hours for a broad audience. The jokes are playful and carry implicit meanings, making it a PG-13 recommended film.

Similar to its predecessor, the sequel follows the theme of a mythological spirit, but this time the spirit's perspective clashes with modern feminism, leading to the abduction of women in a small town known as Chanderi. While the core plot remains unchanged, the movie delves deeper into societal issues, using the spirit as a metaphor for outdated male stereotypes, especially in rural areas, making it a must-watch for all.

However, the film is not without criticism. The pacing of the second part felt slow, and Shraddha Kapoor's sporadic appearances left her fans a bit "dispirited." Personally, I found the ending lacking. After the prolonged resolution and the return of peace, a new problem is introduced to set up Stree 3. Despite this, many die-hard Bollywood fans have returned to theaters after several disappointing films, praising Stree 2 as one of the "best films" and hoping this revival continues.



STREE 2

REVIEW

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paris olympics

Written by: Ishan

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On the 26th of July 2024, the 33rd edition of the Summer Olympic Games kicked off in Paris, France. Thus began another chapter in the famed tournament that pitches the most extraordinary athletes in the world against each other in a fight to be the best. A famed tradition that has been running since the original Olympic games of the modern era in 1896.

The 2024 Olympics featured 10,500 athletes, and a total of 329 medal events spanning over 19 days. The games ended with the United States coming away with the most medals at 126 and joint-most gold medals at 40. The other nation with 40 gold medals was China, which also finished second in total medal count, with 91. Closing out the top 3 with the highest medal count was Great Britain with 65. India finished with 6 total medals and finished with a final ranking of 71st.

Notably, the sport of breaking (break dancing) made its Olympic debut in Paris 2024. The first ever breaking gold medalist was Canada's Philip Kim. The sports of Skateboarding, sports climbing, and surfing returned for their second entry after making their first appearance in the previous Olympic games.

Among the most popular headlines from the Olympics was the major controversy centered around Algerian boxer Imane Khelif. After a boxing match where her opponent quit within 46 seconds, a massive flare went up online over her supposedly being a transgender athlete; that is a male athlete competing in a women's event. These claims were almost immediately put to bed as the International Olympic Committee affirmed Khelif to be born female, was registered female, lived her life as a female, boxed as a female, has a female passport."However, despite how soon the information surfaced, an online movement and outrage over her participation had already taken off. Khelif became the crux of questions over online misinformation and fear-mongering

The best individual competitors of the Olympics included young French swimmer Léon Marchand who became a national hero throughout the tournament. Spurred on by the home crowds, he won 4 gold medals and broke 4 different Olympic records, including Michael Phelps's iconic 400m record. When asked about the magical home support, Marchand said he fed off the chants of "Allez" breaking out to fuel him forward.

American gymnast Simone Biles cemented her place as the most storied in her sport, taking the USA team to gold. In other news, Pakistan won their first gold medal at the Olympics since 1982, as Arshad Nadeem took the record for longest-ever javelin throw.

The triathlon also captured the attention of many around the world, as the athletes were made to swim in the Seine River; a river in which it was previously illegal to swim. There were several concerns raised over the water quality of the river- athletes attested to the river not being clean enough and difficult to swim in. The Olympic committee came under scrutiny after their efforts to clean up the river prior to the event seemed to be insufficient, and they still used it after heavy rains affected the river 2 days before the triathlon.

Paris 2024 finished as another iconic chapter in the history of the revered Olympic Games, and made countless worldwide headlines, becoming the source of national pride, event discussion, and- controversy.

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Cricket World Cup

Written by: Ishan
More



One of cricket's premier international tournaments, the 2024 rendition of the Men's T20 World Cup featured 20 teams, the most ever. This was not the only first of the 2024 edition; for the first time, the United States hosted a cricket world cup with the West Indies, a group of Caribbean nations.

The United States Cricket Board famously erected a temporary stadium of 35000 seating capacity in New York, the site of the historic first-ever cricket match- a contest between the USA and Canada, surprisingly. Going into the tournament as massive underdogs, the United States stunned the world with a historic upset against Pakistan to announce their arrival to world cricket.

The United States cricket team even took juggernauts India to the wire in a tight game, and despite all odds, qualified to the knockout stages, where they proceeded to be eliminated.

The tournament concluded with the much-berated and criticized Indian national team finally breaking their 11-year trophyless streak by securing victory in the finals after a hard-fought nail-biter against South Africa. Afghanistan was a team that shined and punched above their weight on the global stage, making their debut in the World Cup semifinals by reaching the final four. Australia and New Zealand on the other hand, two usual high-flying oceanic cricket-playing nations, put together disappointing campaigns, failing to reach the semifinals.

The 2024 Men's T20 World Cup was a major leap for the expansion and worldwide progression and growth of cricket; it was played partially in an underdog nation with a large media market. It also featured 9 associate teams (non-full members of the ICC) that can hopefully blossom into full-fledged ICC members and cricket-loving nations.



Vouge India



it
can
be
you

Written by: Gunika
Malik

Her story might just sound like a classic rise of any athlete, but it is not. An Asian woman rising from the slums to the top of boxing left people in awe and altered the course of boxing history.

Mary Kom can successfully be entitled as a legend not only in women's boxing but has left an indelible mark on the history of the sport; proving that boxing transcends gender.

Her years of struggle she faced alone have no doubt truly awarded her. The stereotypes of being a woman she encountered not only from the society but from her family too.

At the mere age of fifteen, she packed her belongings and shifted to Manipur in hopes of entering the sport, as she did so, her father - himself an ex-wrestler - had no awareness of this. However, she did not lose faith and fought her share of battles. "I look like I'm Chinese or Thai or Japanese - very different," she spoke as she tackled racism in her home country.

Winning a local tournament brought her into the limelight as an article and her photo was published in the local newspaper; her dad became aware and she slowly gained the support of her father.

The unwavering commitment and dedication she put in for her goal is a primary example of how if you truly work hard for something you will attain it. While participating in tournaments that barely provided for her needs, she worked as a part-time police officer in the Manipur Police. She invested her blood, sweat, and tears as she achieved her childhood dream and became the epitome of boxing; breaking the world record by being the only boxer (male and female) to win eight world championship medals.

It doesn't end in the ring; she is also a mother of three and has served as a respected member of the Rajya Sabha in the Indian Parliament. When a woman can excel in every aspect of life - from the house to the arena to the political stage why does the question of "Can a woman really do it all?" continue?

Her story is a source of inspiration for not only women, but for everyone, showing that regardless of their colour, creed, or gender, anything is possible.

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ovak Djokovic spent years chasing the Olympic gold and finally achieved his long-held dream at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris and grabbed another record. The Serbian superstar, aged 37 years, watched his first gold medal in men's singles slip into his bag after a heart-pumping final against the Spaniard, Carlos Alcaraz.

This victory was, in a way, more of a commemoration for tennis history as it gave Djokovic the rare Career Golden Slam achievement shared by only four other tennis legends: Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, and Serena Williams.

But this was far from being an easy journey. Coming into the Games after a tough year for Djokovic, he came here full of fierce determination. This victory felt particularly gratifying, especially following his loss to Alcaraz at Wimbledon just months earlier. Though struggling with a knee injury since the French Open, Djokovic showed incredible grit.

He fought through a long first set, saving multiple breakpoints before he clinched it in a tense tiebreaker, which the Serb went on to win.

The Serbian would add another incredible win to the already incredibly long list he has accumulated in his career. Djokovic boasts 24 Grand Slam titles, seven Nitto ATP Finals trophies, and a record 40 Masters 1000 titles.

He clearly proves to all tennis fans why people respect him so much, and perhaps even consider him the greatest of all time. For instance, he is the only player to win all nine Masters events, a Grand Slam, and an

Olympic gold in singles. And now, with a career total of 99 titles under his belt, he stands at the threshold of a great exclusive club of 100 titles, where legends like Jimmy Connors and Roger Federer reside. It is difficult to imagine how big Djokovic's legacy can get, but here we are, proved wrong once more.

Olympic Glory

Djokovic's Golden Moment

Written by: Shlok
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Sinner Shakes Scandal US Open Triumph

Written by: Shlok
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Jannik Sinner's win at the 2024 US Open is definitely going to be a game-changer for the young player's career. At just 23, the Italian has already made quite the name for himself, having won 2 Grand Slams in this year alone. This victory over Taylor Fritz - 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 - marks his second Grand Slam title and first at the US Open, that is, undoubtedly, the first of many.

But the journey to this point was far from a level playing field for the player. At the beginning of this year, Sinner was embroiled in a doping scandal after he tested positive for the presence of anabolic steroids in his system. The news shook the tennis world, but it was later determined by a tribunal investigation that the substance had entered the player unknowingly, during a massage. He was acquitted of all charges, but the shock he received was immense, and he faced major criticism during the entire tournament because, unlike the decisions against Russian Maria Sharapova and Croatian Marin Čilić, the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) chose not to ban him from future tournaments.

Facing him, Fritz had the crowd's support, all of them eager to see an American man in a Grand Slam for the first time in 20 years, since Andy Roddick's US Open victory in 2003. Chants of "USA" filled the air, further motivated by the presence of celebrities such as Taylor Swift and John Krasinski. Despite the support, however, Fritz couldn't manage to keep up with Sinner's physical and mental strength.

While Fritz had his moments throughout the match, Sinner was in a league of his own. Hitting 23 winners during the duel, he kept his unforced errors down to just 21 - a depiction of his composure under immense pressure. In the crucial moments of the third set, he broke Fritz's serve and ended the match with 4 straight games, much to the dismay of the American crowd.

After the match, Sinner commented on the challenges he faced this season and the impact they had on both his mental and physical abilities. "It's been a tough few months, but I trust my team and the people around me," he said. "I just wanted to focus on my game and leave everything else behind."

This victory has firmly established Sinner as a force to be reckoned with in tennis. But the lingering question remains: how will the controversy shape his legacy in the years to come?



I S S U E Ö N E

Designed by Dhruv Karade

