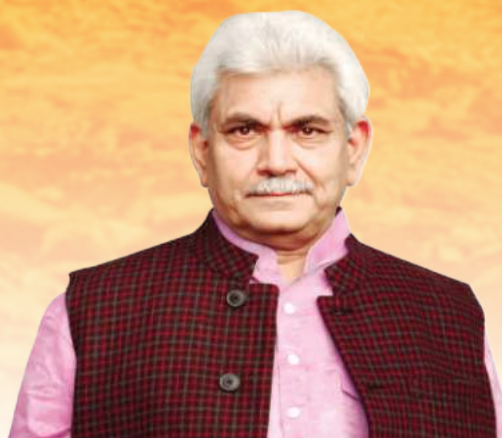


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# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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## J&K Police A Sword Against Terrorism: DGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Describing the Jammu and Kashmir Police as a sword in the fight against terror, its chief R R Swain on Friday said no war against a terror ecosystem can be won without the police.

Pointing to a series of recent terror attacks in the Union Territory, the DGP said terrorists can neither defeat the force nor diminish its resolve. He made the remarks at an event to regularise nine special police officers to the rank of constables, recognizing their contributions in eliminating two terrorists in the Hiranagar border belt of Kathua district.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Police is like a sword against the terror ecosystem. If this sword, which belongs to the people, is not properly maintained, victory in this war against terrorism cannot be achieved," Swain said.



He said the Union government has also realized the importance of the police and is working to support them accordingly.

Two terrorists and a CRPF jawan were killed while a civilian was injured in an encounter between security forces and militants in Saida Sukhal village in Kathua district's Hiranagar area near the International Border on June 12.

The DGP said while terrorists may | More on P11

## JKP To Arm Up With Israeli, German Weapons

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain Friday said that to counter the terrorists holding modern weapons, the police is procuring latest arms from Israel and Germany to boost the weaponry of the force. Talking to reporters on the side-lines of a function where nine special police officers (SPOs) were regularised for their brave role in Kathua | More on P11

WHILE TERRORISTS MAY INFLICT SOME HARM, they cannot defeat the police forces and their resolve. "Rest assured, we will defeat them. It is our resolve."

## Delhi Airport Roof Collapse All Airports To Be Audited: Minister



KO Web Desk

New Delhi: Expressing his condolences to the family of the taxi driver who was killed after a portion of the roof collapsed at Delhi Airport's Terminal 1 on Friday morning, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has said that the ministry swung into action immediately and

everyone was evacuated from the terminal as a precautionary measure.

Speaking to NDTV, Mr Naidu - who took charge of the ministry on June 13 - also listed the steps that the government is taking to ensure that the tragedy does not happen again and emphasised that the safety and comfort of | More on P11

## Kashmir-born Vikram Misri Is New Foreign Secretary

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Deputy national security adviser Vikram Misri will replace Vinay Kwatra as the next foreign secretary, the government announced on Friday. Kwatra, who was given a six-month extension in service in March, is expected to become the next envoy to the US.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Misri, Deputy NSA in the National Security Council Secretariat, to the post of Foreign Secretary with effect from July 15," said the order issued by the Personnel Ministry.

It also approved the curtailment of Misri's tenure as the deputy NSA. Born on November 7, 1964, in Srinagar, Vikram Misri graduated with a degree in History



from Hindu College, University of Delhi. He later earned an MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur. Vikram Misri, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 1989 batch, served as private secretary to three prime ministers: Narendra Modi, Manmohan Singh, and Inder Kumar Gujral.

During his career, Misri has served in both the External Affairs Ministry | More on P11

## LG Flags Off First Batch Of Over 4000 Pilgrims From Jammu



Observer News Service

Jammu: Amid a surcharged religious atmosphere, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of 4603 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims from the Amarnath Yatra base camp in Jammu on Friday.

Before flagging off the first batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims, LG Manoj Sinha also offered special prayers at the temple.

The 52-day long pilgrimage

to the cave shrine at a height of about 13,000 feet in South Kashmir Himalayas will commence from the twin tracks—traditional 48 km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal on June 29.

After flagging off the first batch, in a media address, LG Manoj Sinha said, "First batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims have departed from Jammu. In the last 3-4 years, a lot of arrangements | More on P11

## Amarnath Yatra Is Symbol Of Unity: LG

Seeks Support Of Locals For Peaceful Pilgrimage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of faith and unity, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir feel privileged to be part of the holy pilgrimage, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here on Friday.

Sinha attended an event organised by civil society, trade fraternity and citizens at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here to welcome pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra.

The first batch of pilgrims reached the valley on Friday.

"Glad to have attended an event organised by civil society, trade fraternity & citizens to welcome



pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. People feel privileged to be part of holy pilgrimage and contributing to make the journey safe and a truly fulfilling spiritual experience," the LG said on X.

He said the spiritual journey to the holy cave is the symbol of faith and unity.

"For centuries, it has been | More on P11

## Yatris Accorded Rousing Reception

The first batch of the annual Amarnath Yatra with 4,603 pilgrims reached the Kashmir valley on Friday amid stringent security arrangements, officials said. Local Muslims joined senior officials of police and civil administration at several places to welcome the yatris, who were flagged off from the Bhagwati Nagar Jammu base camp early morning, upon their arrival in the valley, they added. The yatra convoys received rousing welcome from the administration and the people on their way to Kashmir and the pilgrims were welcomed with garlands in Kulgam, Anantnag, Srinagar, and Bandipora districts, the officials said. | More on P11

## Mirza Waheed's Bestseller Comes To Life First Poster Of 'The Collaborator' Movie Is Out, Anticipation Grows

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The highly anticipated movie adaptation of Mirza Waheed's novel, "The Collaborator," has just released its first official poster. Sharing the poster, the celebrated London-based Kashmiri writer wrote, "We have a poster for The Collaborator."

Readers who had devoured the book eagerly dissected the poster's imagery, searching for clues about the film's portrayal of Kashmir.

The poster is a striking visual, dominated by the stern and fierce expression of a young man. His intense gaze, set against a backdrop of rugged mountains, immediately captures the viewer's attention. The design merges his shoulders seamlessly into the mountainous terrain.

In the foreground, a chilling



scene unfolds. Scattered across a desolate valley are numerous bodies, and among them, a solitary figure is seen searching through one of the corpses.

This figure seemingly represents the boy central to Waheed's story, forced to collaborate and enter the valley

to count the corpses. Each day, he fears discovering one of his friends among the dead.

This poignant detail underscores the themes of loss, survival, and the haunting aftermath of war that the movie promises to explore.

Overall, the poster has received a positive reaction from people in Kashmir who extended their love to the writer and said they are eagerly waiting for the film's release.

Notably, Mulberry Films, a production house from the US, has joined hands with Metro Productions from Georgia to bring the acclaimed author's narrative set against Kashmir's tumultuous political backdrop in the 1990s, to life on the silver screen.

"The first novel I wrote many years ago is being adapted into a film," Mirza Waheed wrote on X | More on P11

## Railways To Add Special Trains, Trips To J&K



Agencies

Jammu: In view of the two-month long Amarnath Yatra that commenced from here on Friday, the Indian Railways will add train trips to Jammu and also launch new trains from July 3 besides increasing the frequency of train trips between Banihal to Badgam.

Railway officials said that, to facilitate convenience of pilgrims visiting Jammu from across the country for the annual pilgrimage, Indian

Railways has announced to increase the frequency of two festival special trains running from Jammu.

They said that a total of 18 trips of train number 04075-04076 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi-New Delhi reserved festival special train have been increased and this train will run from July 3 to August 1.

The train will depart from New Delhi Railway Station twice a week, every Wednesday and Sunday, and from Shri Mata Vaishno | More on P11

## Sign Of A Strained Healthcare System?

## Kashmir Grapples With High Ambulance Births

Agencies

Srinagar: Despite ongoing efforts by the Health Department of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure safe deliveries and reduce maternal mortality rates, a significant number of births continue to occur in ambulances within the Kashmir division.

From the beginning of 2020 to May 2024, a total of 158 children were born in 108 ambulances across various districts in Kashmir.

As per a local agency, statistics reveal a concerning trend of ambulance deliveries in several districts: Bandipora: 32 referred cases, 5 home-to-hospital cases, Ganderbal: 24 referred, 10 home-to-hospital, Kupwara: 24 referred, 10 home-to-hospital, Kulgam: 20 referred, 1 home-to-hospital, Budgam: 12 referred, 9 home-to-hospital, Baramulla: 11 referred, 5 home-to-hospital, Shopian: 11 referred, 5 home-to-hospital, Anantnag: 9 referred, 2 home-to-hospital, Pulwama: 3 referred, 4 home-to-hospital and Srinagar: 7



referred, 2 home-to-hospital. In a recent incident in Bandipora, a pregnant woman referred from the district hospital had to deliver her baby in a 108 ambulance. Her husband expressed frustration with the referral system, stating that the district hospital should have been equipped to handle the delivery, thereby avoiding the risks associated with ambulance births.

The National Health Mission (NHM) aims for 100 percent safe deliveries and reduced maternal mortality, yet the high number of ambulance births in Kashmir raises

concerns about the effectiveness of the healthcare system. Many of these cases involve patients being referred from local medical centers to district hospitals and, subsequently, to urban hospitals, often leading to emergency births en route.

This referral overload is particularly burdensome for urban hospitals, which are already strained by high patient volumes. For instance, in the main maternity hospital in Srinagar, SMGS, 50 to 60 delivery cases are handled daily, including 5 to 10 referrals. The hospital | More on P11

## Uproar In Parliament On NEET Issue

Agencies

New Delhi: The opposition continued its strident pitch on the alleged irregularities in the NEET examination with the Congress and other parties demanding a discussion on the floor of the house. With the government insisting on first completing the motion of thanks to the presidential address both houses were adjourned with the Lok Sabha adjourned till Monday, July 1, 11 AM.

Taking potshots at Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankar, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said "On entering the Well of Rajya Sabha, Rajya Sabha LoP Mallikarjun Kharge said, "It is his (Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar's) mistake...I went inside to draw his attention. But even then he was not looking... I was drawing attention. He was only looking at the ruling party. When I draw his attention as per the rules, he should look at me, but instead, he deliberately ignored me to insult me. So what was left for me? So to draw attention I would have to either go inside or shout very loudly. So I will say that it is Chairman Sahab's mistake. I say that he should not do this and | More on P11





# India's Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

*Its Implications for Fairness and Accountability*

UMMAR JAMAL

“

**Collaboration between central and state governments is essential to create a uniform framework that addresses the unique challenges faced by different regions. States must be encouraged and supported to enact similar laws to ensure that the fight against exam malpractices is comprehensive and effective across the country**

The Union Government has announced that the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, will be implemented starting June 21. Although the Act was passed by Parliament on February 9, 2024, and received presidential assent on February 12, 2024, it had not yet been enforced because the Government had not issued a notification. This changed yesterday when the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions released a statement: "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 (1 of 2024), the Central Government hereby appoints the 21st day of June, 2024, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force."

This notification comes amidst widespread issues with paper leaks, including those in the NEET-UG 2024 exam. The recent UGC-NET exam was also canceled due to similar problems. However, the Act will not apply retroactively to incidents that occurred before June 21.

Paper leaks have become a norm in India for some time now. An investigation by the Indian Express revealed that there have been 41 paper leaks in India over the past five years, affecting approximately 14 million job seekers. These repeated breaches compromise the integrity of exams and the fairness of the selection process.

#### Key provisions of the Act

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, aims to bring greater transparency, fairness, and credibility to public examinations. It prohibits the disclosure of exam-related confidential information before time and unauthorized individuals from entering exam centers to create disruptions. The Act targets cheating in public exams conducted by entities such as the UPSC, SSC, railways, banking recruitment exams, and the NTA.

The Act defines "unfair means" to include: (i) unauthorized access to or leakage of examination materials, (ii) providing unauthorized assistance



to candidates, (iii) tampering with computer networks or resources, (iv) altering documents used for shortlisting or ranking candidates, and (v) conducting fraudulent exams and issuing fake admit cards or offer letters for financial gain. Individuals found guilty of using unfair means under this Act face imprisonment from three to five years and fines up to 10 lakh.

A "service provider" is defined by the Act as any agency, organization, body, association, business entity, company, partnership, or sole proprietorship, including its associates and sub-contractors, engaged by the public examination authority to conduct public examinations. If an examination authority or service provider commits an organized crime, the jail term will be a minimum of five years, with a maximum of ten, and the fine will remain 1 crore. The Act mentions the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, specifying that the provisions of the Indian Penal Code will remain in effect until its implementation.

This is the first legislation specifically designed to address the issue of paper leaks. The stringent measures outlined in the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, classify these violations as cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable offences.

#### Some concerns

Legal experts have acknowl-

edged the critical need for this legislation, commending it as the first in India to address organized crime networks behind paper leaks and to hold government bodies like the NTA accountable. However, they have pointed out several shortcomings. One significant issue is that the Act does not cover state exams. This leaves it up to individual states to create their own laws to address these problems. Although the government's new law aims to curb paper leaks, dismantle organized cheating, and hold the National Testing Agency (NTA) accountable, it primarily focuses on centralized exams, overlooking malpractices in other types of examinations.

While the Act is intended to serve as a model for states, it's important to recognize that each state has unique job requirements and may not be able to adopt identical model drafts. If a state chooses not to enact a similar law, any incidents of paper leaks will have to be addressed through the standard process of inquiry and investigation under general law. This poses a significant challenge to implementing the law effectively at the grassroots level.

Additionally, there are some other loopholes also, such as the absence of fixed timelines for agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe malpractices, and the lack of interim measures during in-

vestigations. They also noted that students are exempt from accountability under this law, meaning that even if a student is found engaged in irregularities, they would not be punished under this legislation.

#### Legislation alone is not enough

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, is a significant step towards combating the malpractices plaguing our examination system. However, legislation alone is not enough. Strict implementation of the Act is crucial to ensure that its objectives are met. The concerns raised by experts regarding its limitations must be addressed to make it more comprehensive and effective.

The Act's introduction offers a glimmer of hope for a fairer examination system in India, but it must be part of a broader strategy that includes technological advancements, increased surveillance, and robust administrative procedures. For instance, integrating advanced technology such as blockchain for secure and tamper-proof storage of exam papers and results could significantly reduce the risk of leaks. Additionally, employing AI-driven surveillance during exams could help identify and prevent cheating in real-time.

Furthermore, there needs to be a cultural shift in how exams are perceived. The pressure to

succeed in exams often drives students and other stakeholders to resort to unfair means. Promoting a culture of integrity and ethical behaviour, starting from school education, can help address the root causes of cheating and malpractices.

Collaboration between central and state governments is essential to create a uniform framework that addresses the unique challenges faced by different regions. States must be encouraged and supported to enact similar laws to ensure that the fight against exam malpractices is comprehensive and effective across the country.

In addition to legal and technological measures, there should be a focus on capacity building among exam conducting bodies and agencies. Regular training and upskilling of personnel involved in the examination process can help them stay updated with the latest trends and techniques in exam security and management.

There must be a robust mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Act. Regular audits, feedback from stakeholders, and independent evaluations can help identify gaps and areas for improvement, ensuring that the Act remains effective and relevant over time.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, while the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, is a commendable initiative, its success will depend on how well it is implemented and supplemented by other measures. By addressing the concerns and suggestions raised by experts, leveraging technology, fostering a culture of integrity, and ensuring collaboration between central and state governments, India can move towards a more transparent, fair, and credible public examination system.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*  
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## Death Of Petrodollar Is A Biden Legacy

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

The Deep State should have been alert five years ago when Candidate Joe Biden announced that he, if elected as president, was determined to make the Saudi rulers "pay the price, and make them in fact the pariah that they are."

Biden was blunt to the point of being brutal about the Saudi royal family, saying there was "very little social redeeming value in the present government in Saudi Arabia" under King Salman's rule. But, instead, the Deep State felt delighted that Biden was just the man to succeed Donald Trump and reverse the Trump-era practice of forgiving Saudi human rights violations in order to preserve jobs in the American arms industry.

Biden probably knew by then that the American intelligence had concluded about the role of Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi crown prince and the de facto leader of the country, in the killing of the dissident-journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was a 'strategic asset' of the CIA for navigating the next Saudi succession and the ensuing regime change to a happy ending. Khashoggi's decapitation crippled Washington's game plan to install a pliable ruler in Riyadh.

Today, all that is history. But unlike the Bourbons, the Saudi royals never forget

or forgive. They also have infinite patience and their own concept of time and space. And last Sunday, June 9, they struck.

In great royal style, last Sunday, Riyadh simply let the 50-year-old petrodollar agreement between the US and Saudi Arabia to expire.

To recap, the term "petrodollar" refers to the US dollar's pivotal role as the currency used for crude oil transactions on the world market per the US-Saudi deal dating back to 1974 shortly after the US went off the gold standard.

In the history of global finance, few agreements have wielded as many benefits as the petrodollar pact did for the US economy. At its core, the agreement stipulated that Saudi Arabia would price its oil exports exclusively in US dollars and invest its surplus oil revenues in US Treasury bonds—and, in a quid pro quo, the US would provide military support and protection to the kingdom.

The 'win-win' deal ensured that the US gained a stable source of oil and a captive market for its debt, while Saudi Arabia secured its economic and overall security. In turn, the denomination of oil in dollar elevated the dollar's status as the world's 'reserve currency'.

Since then, the global demand for dollars to purchase oil has helped to keep the currency strong, not only made imports relatively cheap for American con-

sumers but in systemic terms, the influx of foreign capital into US Treasury bonds supported low interest rates and a robust bond market.

Suffice to say, the expiration of the 1974 US-Saudi 'oil-for-security' deal has far-reaching implications. At the most obvious level, it highlights the shifting power dynamics in the oil market with the emergence of alternative energy sources (eg, renewables and natural gas) and new oil-producing countries (eg, Brazil and Canada) challenging the traditional dominance of West Asia. But this is more the optics of it.

Crucially, the petrodollar's expiration could weaken the US dollar and, by extension, the US financial markets. If oil were to be priced in a currency other than the dollar, it could lead to a decline in global demand for the greenback, which, in turn, could result in higher inflation, higher interest rates, and a weaker bond market in the US.

Suffice to say, going forward we may expect a significant shift in global power dynamics with the growing influence of emerging economies, the changing energy landscape and a tectonic shift in the global financial order as it enters a "post-American" era. The bottom line is that the US dollar's dominance is no longer guaranteed.

There is no question that Saudi Ara-

bia has a roadmap worked out. Four days before the expiration of the oil-for-security deal, Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia has joined a China-dominated central bank digital currency cross-border trial, "in what could be another step towards less of the world's oil trade being done in U.S. dollars."

The announcement on June 4 came from the Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS), an international financial institution owned by member central banks. It means that Saudi central bank has become a "full participant" of Project mBridge, a collaboration launched in 2021 between the central banks of China, Hong Kong, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates.

The BIS announcement took note that mBridge had reached "minimum viable product" stage—that is, it is ready to move beyond the prototype phase. By the way, 135 countries and currency unions, representing 98% of global GDP, are currently exploring central bank digital currencies, or CBDCs.

The entry of Saudi Arabia, a major G20 economy and the largest oil exporter in the world, signals a scaling up of commodity settlement on a platform outside of dollars in a near term scenario, with a new technology behind it. Interestingly, the mBridge transactions can use the code China's e-yuan is built on!

The intention is to modernise payments with new functionality and provide an alternative to physical cash, which seems in terminal decline anyway. China dominates the mBridge project and is carrying out the world's largest domestic CBDC pilot which now reaches 260 million people and covers 200 scenarios from e-commerce to government stimulus payments.

Indeed, other big emerging economies, including India, Brazil and Russia, also plan to launch digital currencies in the next 1-2 years while the European Central Bank has begun work on a digital euro pilot ahead of a possible launch in 2028.

Now, add to this Russia's master plan to create a new BRICS payments system bypassing the dollar altogether. Moscow stock exchange announced on Wednesday that it will stop trading dollars and euros from Thursday, June 13.

Thus, the expiration of the US-Saudi deal last weekend is emblematic of a cascading challenge from various quarters to the dollar's pre-eminence as 'reserve currency.' In particular, the end is nearing for the unfettered freedom America enjoyed to print dollar currency at will and living it up far beyond its means and imposing the US' global hegemony.

*The article was originally published by India Punchline*

# Renewable Energy

## Powering a Safer Future

Mohammad Hanief

Energy is ability or capacity to do work. The renewable energy sources are non-conventional and environmental friendly in nature. The renewable energy technology is a direct substitute of recent technology. With the help of renewable energy we can save more energy, make better environment by the replacement of fossil fuels. In the last two to three decades the environmental related problems are more created therefore the application of renewable energy technology is highly applicable for better environmental conditions.

With the increasing of population, the energy source demands are also increases. The amount of energy requirement is different between the countries around the world. The developed country need more energy compare to developing country. The present people are most concern about renewable energy sources because it is pollution free, simply available and less costly and more amounts exist in the earth.

The primary objective for deploying renewable energy in India is to advance economic development, improve energy security, improve access to energy, and mitigate climate change. Sustainable development is possible by use of sustainable energy and by ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for citizens. Strong government support and the increasingly opportune economic situation have pushed India to be one of the top leaders in the world's most attractive renewable energy markets.

As the world population increases therefore the energy consumptions are also increases day by day so that we need to move alternative source of energy. Indian renewable energy sector is the fourth most attractive renewable energy market in the world.

Keeping in mind the sustainable development goals, India's power generation mix is rapidly shifting towards a more significant share of renewable energy. Today, India is the world's third largest producer of renewable energy, with 40% of its installed electricity capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources.

Globally offshore wind is about two decades old history with the first offshore wind turbine in Denmark in 1991 which has been decommissioned in 2017. As of now, offshore wind energy projects of more than 57 GW are installed in 18 different countries, of which leading countries are UK, China, Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands.

India stands 4th globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity (including Large Hydro), 4th in Wind Power capacity & 5th in Solar Power capacity (as per REN21 Renewables 2024 Global Status Report). The country has set an enhanced target at the



COP26 of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030. This has been a key pledge under the Pancharmit. This is the world's largest expansion plan in renewable energy.

India's installed non-fossil fuel capacity has increased 396% in the last 8.5 years and stands at more than 201.75 GW (including large Hydro and nuclear), about 45.3% of the country's total capacity (as of May 2024). India saw the highest year-on-year growth in renewable energy additions of 9.83% in 2022. The installed solar energy capacity has increased by 30 times in the last 9 years and stands at 84.27 GW as of May 2024. India's solar energy potential is estimated to be 748 GW as estimated by National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE). The installed Renewable energy capacity

potential for growth and development. Therefore, most of this new energy demand must be met by low-carbon, renewable sources.

With the increased support of the government and improved economics, the sector has become attractive from an investor's perspective. As India looks to meet its energy demand on its own, which is expected to reach 15,820 TWh by 2040, renewable energy is set to play an important role.

India has always been committed to looking for more alternative energy sources for sustainable development. The beginning was made with hydropower, with major hydroelectric power projects appearing on the scene of India's energy arena. Over the years, many policy and regulatory initiatives have promoted hydropower develop-

ment and facilitated investments. Work on wind energy started in India during the 1960s when the National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL) developed windmills, primarily for supplying irrigation water. Today,

India stands 4th largest wind power capacity in the world, blessed with a constant movement of wind, especially in the Southern, Western and North Western regions. Solar energy-based applications have benefited millions of Indians by meeting their cooking, lighting and other energy needs in an environment-friendly manner. Having achieved large-scale success in solar energy solutions, India has spearheaded the International Solar Alliance (ISA) which is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies.

Biomass has also been an essential source of energy for India. It is renewable, widely available, carbon-neutral and has the potential to provide sig-

nificant employment in rural areas. Rapidly evolving technology has enabled thermal power plants to have more economical and energy-efficient operations. India has co-fired biomass in thermal plants across the country

to reduce its CO2 footprint in thermal power generation. Biomass power/co-generation programme since mid-nineties. Over 800 biomass power and bagasse/non-bagasse cogeneration projects have been installed in the country for feeding power to the grid. India has progressively decoupled economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. For example, the Net Zero Emissions target by 2030 by Indian Railways alone will reduce emissions by 60 million tonnes annually. Similarly, India's massive UJALA LED bulb campaign is reducing emissions by 40 million tonnes annually. To further complement these ongoing efforts, India launched the National Hydrogen Mission in 2013 to make India the world's largest hydrogen hub.

Even though it supports the second largest population in the world, India's sustained efforts have ensured that its per capita CO2 emissions are much lower than the global average. The US emits 14.7 tonnes per capita, China emits 7.6 tonnes per capita, while India's CO2 emissions amount to 1.8 tonnes per capita.

India's experience will be valuable to other developing nations as they translate their climate pledges into actions and undertake energy transitions towards a more sustainable energy future.

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X (Twitter): @haniefmha

**BIOMASS HAS ALSO BEEN AN ESSENTIAL SOURCE OF ENERGY FOR INDIA.** It is renewable, widely available, carbon-neutral and has the potential to provide significant employment in rural areas. Rapidly evolving technology has enabled thermal power plants to have more economical and energy-efficient operations

(including large hydro) has increased by around 128% since 2014.

India's energy demand is expected to increase more than that of any other country in the coming decades due to its sheer size and enormous po-

ment and facilitated investments.

Work on wind energy started in India during the 1960s when the National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL) developed windmills, primarily for supplying irrigation water. Today,

India has co-fired biomass in thermal plants across the country

# Are You an Imposter?

Susan E. Schwartz

“To the doorkeeper there comes a countryman who prays for admittance. But he is told he cannot be allowed in at the moment. Maybe later. On this the man stays until the end of his life. At that time the doorkeeper says no one else was allowed in except the man and now it will be shut.” -Franz Kafka, Before the Law

The story by Franz Kafka relates the very problem of the “as-if” person who does not realize how to manifest what is theirs and how to inhabit their existence. They do not tend to go through the door, as in the story, because they do not know it is theirs. The imposter, and what is here called the “as-if” personality, is defined by the central question: “Who am I, really?”

The answer will reflect identity with goals, purposes, and meaning in life rather than the superficial answer to the superficial question, “What is your name and where are you from?” Identity in this more encompassing sense isn't fixed, handed down, or unconscious. Rather, it is something shaped and determined over time. A person's identity is a matter of what they are about and is reflected in accessing the passions of life.

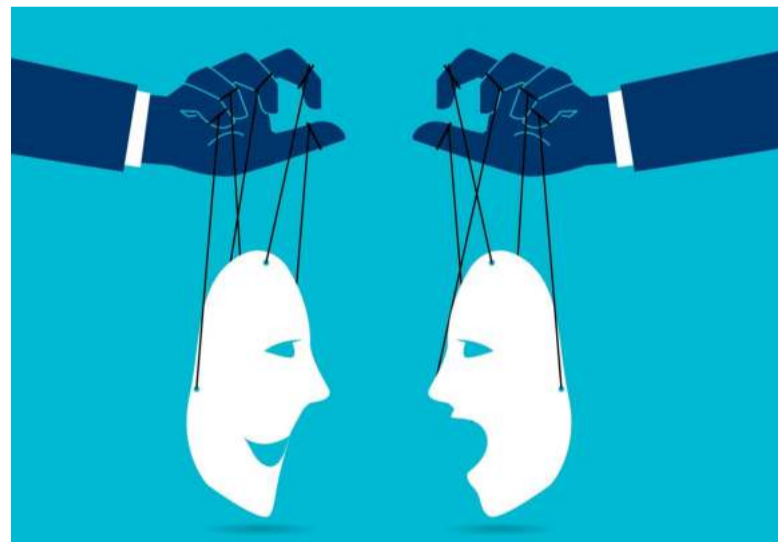
A male client commented, “The mirror was in a space I had to walk past every day. Though I did not have

to look in it, I did anyway and didn't feel good in the mirror regardless of how I looked. Every day I walked past that mirror, I looked at a man who was hurt and confused.”

This short statement is typical of the “as-if” personality. It reveals part of the complexity behind the adopted masks and illusions put forward by this personality type. The mask means hiding whoever wears it and disguising their identity as appearance and pretence establish a clear distinction between being and appearing. What is hidden and what is known? Unmasking is a metaphor for revealing an individual's identity while the attempted masking actively works to mystify and deceive oneself and others.

This person has an impoverished and uncomfortable, emotionally and physically, relationship to the world although their presentation is of shining appeal and no disorder. One is unable to bear, even momentarily, to be seen up close, beneath the skin. They might be perceived to be winners and having made it by others but often are internally empty, disillusioned, anxious, confused, alienated, and most of all, estranged from themselves.

A female client described, “Today I had a moment of feeling real. Usually, I am somewhere else. But now I caught it and could tell the difference for the first time.” The “as-if”



person narrates a story of personal and collective history composed of the secret vicissitudes with which they engage. This person exhibits an elusive, flighty, and often dramatic approach to life, but is driven by an internal abyss. The phenomenon is not uncommon as many people feel similarly, skimming on the surface and not really living. These people are internally isolated, appearing competent, creative, with quirky perspectives, but drastically insecure. The personality has a penchant for illusions and poses, an imposter based on inner distress and psycho-

logical confusion. One's soul feels wrecked from within, forming a swarm of instability and pain of existence.

Underlying is a sense of distrust and lack of confidence in one's place in the world. Filling the emptiness with people, places, and things attempts to compensate for the feeling of being unreal. The emptiness arose from early emotional wounding and lack of correct or close enough attachment with consistent caregivers. As adults, these people become performers, needing attention, and seeming superficial. The question is

posed about how to bridge the gap to access who one really is.

The way of relating to the world is through mimicry and imposter facades, while the adaptation ‘as-if’ comes at the expense of authenticity of oneself. One feels as flat as the social media screen, yet they often hide this from themselves and others. The internal division signals being trapped in unconscious personal, cultural, and historical wounds. These include unfinished mourning processes, intergenerational issues, and archetypal anxieties. The unconscious calls to be more deeply known, relationships with self and others open rather than closed, life no longer avoided with emotional distancing, compulsions, or perfectionism.

This personality type, although clever at disguise, is swamped by emotional and psychological distress, haunted by aims and aspirations not yet achieved, along with the pressure of nothing ever being enough. These people defend against aspects of reality, absence, and loss because they are assumed to be intolerable. They need the illusions and idealizations of others focused on them so life can seem other and better than it is. They construct a solid and tight package as a defense.

The masks and façades prevent being present in life and experiencing the inner world with its creati-

ty and life forces. Chasing after the perfect body, highest intellect, or most accomplishments does not lead to fulfillment for the imposter type. These only lead to more anxiety and a frenzy to perform. These are the imposters, feeling fraudulent, wishing to be known but fearing this discovery as they will be less than excellent and somehow flawed. In therapy, they tend to hide. In relationships, they anticipate rejection. Underneath is a fragile and vulnerable self waiting to be known. An imposter does not feel a definitive identity and operates in the absence of a fully knowable self.

If this is you or you are working therapeutically or in a relationship with someone of this type, be patient, stay with the discomfort, and explore the feelings. Delving into the unconscious and facing the shadows is the task of uniting the personality and leads to feeling more complete as a person. Dreams, emanations from the unconscious, bring us to life and take off the masks formerly adopted as defenses against being known by ourselves and others. We can venture beyond the barricades keeping us from being real. This is part of the process along the journey of being and expressing one's individual and precious self.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

# Plant-Based Alternatives Healthy For Your Heart Than Meat: Study

IAN5

Eating plant-based meat alternatives may have profound benefits against cardiovascular disease risk factors, such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure, according to a review of research published from 1970 to 2023.

Plant-based meat alternatives are highly processed plant-based food products that typically replace meat in the diet.

While there is substantial variability in the contents and nutritional profiles of these alternatives, the findings detailed in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, showed that the nutritional profiles tend to reflect a heart-healthy dietary pattern.

"While the plant-based meat market has experienced significant growth in recent years and more people are enjoying plant-based burgers, surprisingly little is known about how these meat alternatives may impact



health and in particular cardiovascular disease risk," said lead author Matthew Nagra, from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

"Thus, we sought to review the available literature on the topic to identify what is currently known and to provide direction for future research," he added.

The researchers reviewed

the research on plant-based meat alternatives, their contents, nutritional profiles, and impact on cardiovascular disease risk factors, such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure.

Their analysis shows that on average, the plant-based alternatives tend to have a more heart-healthy nutritional profile than meat, although the high sodium content of some

products may be of concern.

However, these alternatives do not raise blood pressure, but instead improve some cardiovascular risk factors, including cholesterol levels, in several randomised controlled trials.

"There is currently a lack of long-term research evaluating how these alternatives may affect the risk of developing a heart attack or stroke," the researchers said.

"For those looking to reduce their meat intake, especially red meat, replacing that with plant-based alternatives is likely a heart-healthy choice," said Professor Ehud Ur from the varsity.

"For those who already limit their meat intake, the alternatives can be incorporated into a healthy dietary pattern as an excellent protein source. However, it may be beneficial to choose options that are lower in saturated fat and sodium if consuming them regularly," Ur said.

# Scientists Develop Speech Recognition Tool To Predict Alzheimer's Onset

Press Trust Of India

A new AI-based model could predict the onset of Alzheimer's disease by analysing an individual's speech, the developers said.

Trained on audio recordings of patients with mild cognitive impairment - early stages of memory loss, the model achieved 78.5 per cent accuracy in forecasting whether patients would remain stable or progress to dementia within six years, according to the researchers.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and impacts one's everyday activities by impairing memory and thinking.

The researchers at Boston University, US, used recordings of initial interviews of 166 patients aged 63-97 and trained the model using machine learning to discern patterns between speech, demographics, diagnosis, and how their condition was worsening.

The model analyses interview content such as spoken words and sentence structure, rather than speech features such as enunciation or speed, showed the study published in the journal Al-

zheimer's and Dementia.

"We combine the information we extract from the audio recordings with some very basic demographics - age, gender, and so on - and we get the final score," said Ioannis C. Paschalidis, a professor of engineering and the study's corresponding author.

"You can think of the score as the likelihood, the probability, that someone will remain stable or transition to dementia. It had significant predictive ability," said Paschalidis.

The researchers said that the model was able to perform well, despite challenges like low-quality recordings and background noise.

The researchers emphasised that early prediction is crucial as current diagnostic tests often identify Alzheimer's disease only after significant cognitive decline has occurred such as memories starting to slip away and personality traits beginning to shift.

The team aims to make their model accessible through an app to make it accessible for patients in remote areas, potentially increasing the number of people getting screened.

# Study Explores Adolescents At Risk Of Depression From Social Media Use

IAN5

Social media use does not raise the risk of depression in all adolescents, revealed a study on Wednesday which found parental hostility and peer bullying as major risk factors driving teenagers to mental health conditions.

Early social media use has previously been linked with an increased risk of depression among teenagers and young adults.

The findings, published in the Journal of Adolescence, suggest that social media use does not impact all adolescents in the same way.

Researchers from Brigham Young University in the US found

certain factors may make social media more risky or protective regarding depression. These include greater parental hostility, peer bullying, anxiety, reactivity to stressors, and lower parental media monitoring.

"If the teenager is already in a vulnerable position (being bullied or having hostile parents or parents who don't monitor their teenager's media), then social media is much more likely to be harmful," said corresponding author W. Justin Dyer, from the varsity.

Dyer said, "This is especially true if there is more than 3 hours of use a day."

On the contrary, warm and

supportive friends and parents and "moderate amounts of social media use (less than 3 hours a day) may be a good thing."

They stressed individualised approaches to determine the benefits and harms of social media on young people's mental health.

Dyer noted that adolescents can greatly benefit if parents guide them "as they navigate social media. That guidance may make all the difference."

The study is based on 488 adolescents living in the US who were surveyed once a year for 8 years (beginning in 2010 when the average age for participants was 13 years old).

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
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S. No	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.'s	No of Shares	Address
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Sd/-  
(Mohammad Shafi Mir)  
Company Secretary

Place: Srinagar  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

DIPK-NB-660/24  
DATED: 28-06-2024

**Oasis Educational Institute**  
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In Co-Ordination With University Of Cambridge, London  
oasischool.net    oasisglobalschool@gmail.com

**New Managing Body**

S.NO	NAME/ Parentage/Address	QUALIFICATION	Post Held in the MD
01	Ashiq Hussain Masoodi S/o Late Mohammad Yousuf Masoodi R/O L.D colony Sanat Nagar P. No 9419000055	B.Sc DBA	Chairman
02	Mehraj Ahmad Kakroo S/O Ghulam Rasool Kakroo R/O Hyder pora Bypass House No.16 Lane No 2Ibrahim colony P. No 9419180542	B.Sc.LLB	Member
03	Mukhtar Ahmad Jaloo S/O Ghulam Qadir Jaloo R/O Peer Bagh P. NO 9419998880	MA LLB	Member
04	Sameer Ahmad Mir S/O Abdul Gani Mir R/O Raj Bagh P. No 7006638596	Ph.D	Principal of the school
05	Javeed Iqbal Farooqi S/O M.S Farooqi R/O Gogji Bagh P. No	M.A	Member
06	Sameena Wani D/O Ghulam Rasool Wani Gogji Bagh P. No 9796731150	M.A MED	Member
07	Romana W/O Arshid Nizaam R/O Sanat Nagar P. No 9796731277	B.A B.Ed	Member
08	Mohammad Yaseen Dar S/O Ghulam Ahmad Dar R/O Padshahi Bagh Srinadar P. No 7006128118	Graduate	Member (Parent)

**Sd/ Principal**

Media Line Advt 7006539377

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07	Nisar Ahmad Pandit S/O Ghulam Mohi ud Din Pandit R/O LD Colony Rawalpura P.NO.	10+2	Member
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**Sd/ Principal**

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## T20 WC Final: Last Dance For Rohit, Virat As India Take On South Africa



**Press Trust of India**

**NEW DELHI:** This Saturday afternoon in Barbados, no Indian fan would want Rohit Sharma to drag his jaded body towards the dug-out trying to hide a tear welling up at the corner of his eye.

No Indian fan would want to revisit Virat Kohli's blank stare towards the podium where the coveted ODI World Cup trophy rested exactly seven months and 10 days back.

What they would surely want is to see the two greats do a memorable tango in probably their 'last dance' in the game's shortest format, at least in Indian colours.

To prepare for any global trophy, the core needs to be finalised two years in advance and in 2026, a 39-year-old Rohit or a nearly 38-year-old Kohli or even Jadeja are unlikely to fit in.

At this point, with the focus firmly on the final, no one wants

to use the sensitive 'R' word as far as T20s are concerned but it is believed that if India can beat South Africa in Barbados on Saturday, both skipper Rohit and Kohli would know that in this format, they have nothing more left to achieve.

For Kohli, it will be the completion of a cycle with all three ICC white-ball trophies (2011 ODI World Cup, 2013 Champions Trophy) in his cabinet.

Kohli and Rohit, the two generational talents with 8,334 T20I runs, six centuries, 69 fifties and 119 catches between them are the last bridge between the old and new and they both deserve to be in the same frame with that trophy in hand.

Thankfully for Rohit and Kohli, there is nothing more to prove.

If Saturday indeed is their 'last dance' in T20Is, the void will be difficult to fill not just in terms of quality but also, and perhaps more so, emotionally.



### Subroto Mukerjee Cup: RPS Shines In U-14, HSS Dailgam In U-17



**Observer News Service**

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag on Friday concluded a journey of four days in completing the Subroto Mukherjee Cup for Boys at HSS Dailgam Sports Ground.

In an exhilarating display of football talent and sportsmanship, Radiant Public School clinched the title in the Under-14 age category by defeating HS Mir Danter with a narrow yet decisive 2-1 victory. The match was a nail-biting encounter,

showcasing the exceptional skills and teamwork of both teams.

In the U/17 age category, HSS Dailgam emerged victorious with an impressive 3-0 win over DPS Anantnag. The HSS Dailgam team dominated the match, exhibiting superior coordination and tactical prowess.

The event was graced by the presence of Principal Rukhsana Parveen, who was the Chief Guest. Principal Akhter praised the efforts of all the participants and emphasized the importance of sports in the holistic development of students.

### Baramulla Ignites Young Talent In Inter-School Sports Competitions

**Observer News Service**

**BARAMULLA:** The Youth Services and Sports Department Baramulla held several inter-school zonal level competitions. These events, designed for under-14 and under-17 boys and girls, encompass various disciplines, including volleyball, kho-kho, kabaddi and football.

The competitions were held across several zones in the district, including Wagoora, Sopore, Baramulla, Singpora Pattan, Dangiawacha, Fatehgarh, Tangmar, Chandoosa and Nehalpora, under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Baramulla.

These events saw enthusiastic participation from hundreds of students representing various higher secondary and high schools within the district.



In addition to the competitions, coaching camps were organized for selected boys and girls to prepare them for upcoming inter-zonal district-level competitions. These camps are aimed at enhancing the skills and performance of the young athletes, ensuring they are well-prepared for future challenges.

## #DoItForDravid Trends Ahead Of T20 WC Final, But Dravid Wants To Do It For Team

**Press Trust of India**

**NEW DELHI:** A stickler when it comes to keeping time, Rahul Dravid was once unusually late to a reading session at a bookstore in Bengaluru. But Dravid settled in the back row with other invitees for the entire duration of the event without any fuss.

He politely declined the organisers' request to move up the row. Dravid never really wished for the front seat or the glare of the world. It's just not his zone.

But on Saturday, irrespective of the outcome, the India head coach will have to stand in full view of the cricketing world when his side takes on South Africa in the T20 World Cup final at Bridgetown in Barbados.

The 51-year-old has already got a prelude to it as the host broadcasters are running a #DoItForDravid trend on social media.

But it is as un-Rahul Dravid as anything one can ever think of.

For Dravid, winning the World Cup is not a personal glory moment but he would certainly broaden it out to the team effort and to Rohit Sharma's inspired leadership.

The man himself made it clear, and the words reflected his sagacity.

"I just want to play good cricket and yeah, doing it for someone is totally against who I am as a person and what I believe in. So, I don't want to talk about it and discuss it," Dravid said.

He was emphatic while



slipping in a reminder about the ethos which he followed so diligently over the years.

"I don't really believe in 'Do it for somebody'. I love that quote about somebody asking somebody else, 'Why do you want to climb Mount Everest?' and he says 'I want to climb Mount Everest because it's there'."

"I want to win this World Cup because it's there. It's not for anyone, it's not for anybody, it's just there to win," Dravid asserted.

Bookmark these sentences as a study material for endearing simplicity and selflessness.

If one needs further validation, there was this one instance well over a decade ago.

Dravid was in blazing form during India's tour to England in 2011, emerging as their leading run-scorer even as the visitors sank without a trace in the Tests.

The retirement question was hanging directly over his head but the Bengaluru man scoffed at it, saying his focus

was on the year-end trip to Australia, a country where he made a truckload of runs.

But Dravid was quick to ward off any personal motivation behind his desire to travel to Australia.

"We need a series win in Australia. Personally, I thought I owe it to the team," he would say then.

That is his zone.

Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman could immerse in their incandescent shot-making in the comfort that Dravid was there to absorb the blows and pressure.

Twelve years down the line, Dravid is in a similar situation and he is not complaining.

If India lift the World Cup at the Kensington Oval, a lot of credit will go to Rohit and his wards, and if they don't, bricks will be flying in the direction of Dravid as well.

Mobbed by jubilant team members and fans or a lonely walk back, Dravid, rest assured, will treat both with equanimity.

### Short TAKES

#### Downtown Heroes Beat Solina FC In JKFA Spring Legacy Tournament



In Friday's game of the first edition JKFA Spring Legacy Knockout Football Tournament 2024, Downtown Heroes FC took on Solina FC at Polo Ground, Srinagar.

The Heroes emerged victorious, 5-1. Mehran scored a hat trick for Downtown, while Asrar Rehbar scored two. For Solina, Sheikh Aqib Mushtaq was the lone goal scorer. The player of the match was awarded to Mehran of Downtown Heroes FC by Ghulam Hassan Wani and Manzoor Ahmad Wani.

#### Shafali Shatters Records With Fastest Women's Test Double Century

In a historic performance, Indian opener Shafali Verma shattered the record for the fastest double-century in women's Test cricket. Verma, only 20 years old, achieved this remarkable milestone during the one-off Test against South Africa on Friday, surpassing the previous record set by Australia's Annabel Sutherland.

Verma's dazzling innings saw her score 205 runs off just 194 balls, eclipsing Sutherland's mark of 248 balls. She also became the second Indian woman to hit a double century in Test cricket, following Mithali Raj's achievement 22 years ago.

#### India Pushes for Yoga's Inclusion In Asian Games

Indian Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has expressed support for the Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha's initiative to include yoga in the Asian Games. Mandaviya emphasized that yoga, with its widespread popularity, deserves recognition as a competitive sport.

In a recent communication, the IOA President appealed to the Olympic Council of Asia consider the inclusion of yoga in the Games' roster. Mandaviya also highlighted India's pioneering role in promoting yoga, citing its success in the Khelo India Youth Games.

#### Max Verstappen Leads Austrian GP Practice Despite Engine Woes

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was quickest in sole practice for the Austrian Grand Prix on Friday despite stopping on the main straight with an engine sensor issue and briefly halting the session.

Championship leader Verstappen lapped the Red Bull Ring with a fastest time of one minute 05.685 seconds with McLaren's Oscar Piastri, a new front wing on his car, 0.276 slower. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was third quickest, 0.370 off the pace, with team mate Carlos Sainz fourth and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton fifth.

#### Uruguay Routs Bolivia 5-0 At Copa America As Núñez Keeps Scoring

Darwin Núñez and his Uruguayan teammates romped through Bolivia's defense as if it were a training game.

Núñez scored in his seventh straight international match, a 5-0 rout on Thursday night that moved Uruguay to the verge of a Copa America quarterfinal.

Facundo Pellistri put the Uruguayans ahead in the eighth minute and Núñez doubled the lead in the 21st with his 10th goal in his last seven games for Uruguay and 13th in 25 matches overall.

## Lamine Yamal: Balancing Football Stardom & Academic Success

**Reuters**

Lamine Yamal may have helped Spain cruise into the knockout stages of Euro 2024 but the 16-year-old has not neglected his schoolwork, with the Barcelona winger announcing that he had passed his secondary education exams. Yamal, who broke into the Barcelona and Spain starting lineups this season, became the youngest player to appear at a European Championship when Spain beat Croatia in their group opener earlier this month.

The teenager has clearly been putting in the hard work both on and off the pitch. "I passed the exams and I have the ESO title now," Yamal told Spanish radio station Onda Cero.

"The last grades I've seen? If I'm honest, I saw them on my phone and it



said I had passed so I just closed the app, called my mum and told her." Spain are one of the favourites after becoming the only team to win all three of their games in the group stage, where they beat defending champions Italy and Croatia.

They play Georgia in the last 16 and may face hosts Germany in the quarter-finals. "Everything we've done in the group stage will be worthless if they knock us out on Sunday. We've already played against them

(in the qualifiers), but we know it won't be the same game," Yamal added.

As Spain seek a record fourth Euros title, Yamal will hope they can go all the way with his 17th birthday falling on the eve of the final.

## Phil Foden's Return: Balancing Family & Football During Euro 2024

**Associated Press**

England forward Phil Foden is back with the team after taking urgent leave to be with his family during Euro 2024.

Foden left England's camp in Germany on Wednesday for what the team called a "pressing family matter," reportedly the birth of his third child.

England alluded to that with a welcome back post Friday that included an emoji of a baby.

"Congratulations and welcome back," the team posted on X, formerly Twitter, alongside a video showing Foden walking toward a training field with teammate Jarrod Bowen.

The Premier League's player of the season started all three of the games in the group stage of the Euros and was expected to be in the starting lineup for the



round of 16 game against Slovakia in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday.

Having emerged through the club's youth ranks, the 24-year-old has racked up

270 senior appearances for Pep Guardiola's side in all competitions.

In his previous season with City, the midfielder ended up being named the Premier League Player of the Season after scoring 19 goals and delivering eight assists in 35 appearances, ultimately helping his side with their sixth league trophy in seven years.

When asked to sum up Foden, Aston Villa striker Ollie Watkins used the word "silky" to describe the midfielder. Declan Rice said earlier this month that the midfielder is the definition of "elegance" on the pitch.

Having started all three group games for the Three Lions, the midfielder has the joint-second-highest total of shot-creating actions (7) and carries into the final third of the pitch (6) in the England squad.



# Iran elections show 'robust' voter turnout: Iranian interim president

Agenceis

Iran's Interim President Mohammad Mokhber said on Friday that the voter turnout in the presidential election is "robust", according to initial reports from polling stations.

"My observations from visits to different stations confirm that there is robust participation in the electoral process," he said.

The elections are being held due to the tragic death of former President Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash that occurred in Iran's East Azarbaijan Province on May 19.

"People have always recognized the responsibility and have demonstrated large participation on different occasions, including elections," said Mokhber on his visit to Lorzadeh Mosque in Tehran, attributing the successful turnout to the government's preparedness.

Polling stations across Iran opened on Friday morning for the 14th presidential election. The voting period began at 8 am local



time, and the polls are expected to close at 6 pm, with the Interior Ministry having the option to extend voting if necessary.

### Who are the candidates?

The remaining candidates are Saeed Jalili, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Mostafa Pour Mohammedi, and Masoud Pezeshkian.

Earlier, two candidates had withdrawn from the race at different times, the latest of which

was Alireza Zakani, the current mayor of Tehran. Zakani called on either Qalibaf or Jalili to leave the race and secure victory for Iran's Revolutionary Front.

The second candidate to withdraw was Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, who withdrew on Wednesday.

Early projections of the election results are expected by Saturday morning, while the official results will be announced on Sunday.

# Over 625,000 Gaza children out of school for months amid Israel war: Unrwa

Agenceis

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees says over 625,000 children in Gaza have not attended school for more than eight months as the Israeli regime continues its brutal war on the densely-populated territory.

In a social post, the UN agency said there were 300,000 UNRWA students before the war.

"Play and learning activities provided by UNRWA teams are critical in preparing children to get back to school and restore their right to education," the UN agency said, posting photos of UNRWA staff training Gaza kids.

The regime has been attacking the densely-populated region non-stop for nearly nine months now, killing at least 15 thousand children, in defiance of a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire.

The regime has also imposed a total blockade on the strip that has cut the flow of food, clean water, and medicine to the region.

Israel is accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice,



whose latest ruling ordered the regime to halt its offensive in Rafah immediately.

Last Saturday, the Gaza Government's Media Office said in a statement that at least 800,000 students of various educational levels have been deprived of their right to education in the region.

It said about 40,000 high school students will not be able to take this year's exams, which endangers their opportunities

in local and international higher education.

"40,000 high school students from various branches will not be able to participate in this year's session of the high school exams, representing an unprecedented violation that threatens their future and undermines their chances of enrolling in local and international universities and colleges," the media office added.

The media office said, "85 per cent of educational facilities are out of service due to direct and deliberate targeting, posing a significant challenge to efforts to resume the educational process after the war ends."

It said plans have been implemented to make up for the academic year for students to ensure that the academic year is not lost and that they possess the essential concepts and skills necessary for their continued learning.

# UAE cuts Friday sermons at mosques over sizzling heat

Agenceis

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates has shortened Friday sermons at mosques to protect worshippers from severe heat, amid rising summer temperatures linked to climate change.

The General Authority of Islamic Affairs, in a statement on Thursday, ordered preachers to limit Friday sermons to 10 minutes from June to October, when temperatures cool.

The sermons usually last for 20 minutes for the main weekly prayers on Fridays but can run even longer, with large crowds gathering outside mosques at midday.

The decision was aimed at ensuring "the safety of worshippers... especially during the summer months," the statement said. It coincides with UAE authorities' efforts to avoid heat strokes and other complications as temperatures approach 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in parts of the country.

From June until September, the UAE prohibits work under direct sunlight and in open-air areas between noon and 3:00 p.m. as part of a longstanding "midday break" policy widely adopted across the Gulf.

The desert region, already one of the world's hottest, faces rising threats from high temperatures at

# A 'disaster': Biden's shaky start in debate with Trump rattles Democrats



Agenceis

US President Joe Biden's supporters had hoped Thursday night's debate would erase worries that the 81-year-old was too old to serve another term, but his hoarse voice and at times tentative performance against Republican rival Donald Trump did the opposite.

Biden and Trump, 78, both have faced concerns about their age and fitness in the run-up to the Nov. 5 election, but they have weighed more heavily on Biden.

On Thursday, with his voice hoarse from a cold, Biden hur-

ried through some of his talking points on the debate stage, stumbled over some answers and trailed off during others.

About halfway through the debate, a Democratic strategist who worked on Biden's 2020 campaign called it a "disaster." Trump unleashed a barrage of criticisms including well-worn falsehoods like migrants carrying out a crime wave and that Democrats support infanticide.

Early in the debate, Biden paused as he was making a point about Medicare and tax reform and seemed to lose his train of thought.

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