
Today's Headlines:

A dangerous route to Europe

Safety concerns for Mumbai's sewer workers

Bad news for some British school pupils

To the deserts of North Africa now where many start their journey to Europe in search of a better life. As the EU **cracks down** on people arriving in Greece from Turkey more and more people are risking their lives on the **merciless** route across the Sahara to Libya. Then over the Mediterranean to reach Europe. The International Office for Migration estimates 100,000 people pass through there last year alone.

In India it's sewers – they run beneath the streets and they are an essential part of **infrastructure**. Keeping them free from blockages is not just a hard and unpleasant job but it can also be dangerous because workers are employed on a day-by-day basis, often without safety gear.

The children of white British parents do worse in their GCSEs [exams] than those who speak English as a second language. This is according to an education **think tank**. It's The Centre Forum, which also says many primary school pupils are falling behind the world's leading countries in education such as Finland and Canada.

Words and phrases and definitions:

cracks down

starts to deal with a situation in a more severe way

merciless

unforgiving / very hard

infrastructure

system that enables something to run smoothly

think tank

group of experts who together develop ideas on a certain subject

Watch the video online: <http://bbc.in/28OMsWp>

Exercise:

Use one of the words or phrases from Lingohack to complete each of these sentences. Note that you may have to change the form of a word or phrase to complete the sentence correctly.

cracks down / merciless / infrastructure / think tank

1. The teachers are _____ on pupils who bring mobile phones to school.
2. Schools should consider flexible working to tackle a teacher supply crisis, a _____ has said ahead of a teachers' conference.
3. The huge storm has destroyed the city's _____ and it will cost millions of dollars to repair.
4. Our trek up the mountain was _____ but views from the top were worth all the pain.

Answers:

1. The teachers are **cracking down** on pupils who bring mobile phones to school.
2. Schools should consider flexible working to tackle a teacher supply crisis, a **think tank** has said ahead of a teachers' conference.
3. The huge storm has destroyed the city's **infrastructure** and it will cost millions of dollars to repair.
4. Our trek up the mountain was **merciless** but views from the top were worth all the pain.