

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

65% school teachers in India overloaded with work, while at least 44% of teachers did not have an adequate workspace, according to the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021, conducted by Union Education Ministry. The survey further showed that only 58% of school teachers participated in discussions around the latest National Education Policy.

48% students who commute to school by foot in India, while only 9% use school transport, according to the National Achievement Survey (NAS), 2021. The survey also pointed out that in at least 25% of schools, there is lack of parental support in students' learning. The NAS was conducted throughout the country for government, government aided and private schools. This nationwide survey was administered by the CBSE and was managed through the technology platform developed by National Informatics Centre.

The first year of COVID19 lockdown saw the highest incidence of deaths from respiratory illnesses in a decade, the 2020 report on medical certification of cause of death (MCCD) compiled by the Registrar-General of India (RGI) says. As many as 1,81,160 deaths were due to respiratory diseases such as pneumonia, asthma and bronchitis, higher than the 1,52,311 in 2019 from those causes. The certified deaths are other than those caused by COVID19, also a respiratory disease that has been separately recorded in the report as "Deaths reported under Codes for Special Purposes (COVID19 Deaths)".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that India will continue to stand with the people of Sri Lanka and support democracy, stability and economic recovery in the neighbouring country. Noting Sri Lanka was passing through difficult times, Mr. Modi, who was in Chennai to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for several schemes involving an investment of over ₹31,000 crore.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India, which is among the countries with the longest school closures during the COVID19 pandemic, will see the highest decline in South Asia due to learning losses for the young, a new working paper published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

### NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME

1.The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) said that no funds were released by the Centre in FY 2021-22 for the functioning of creches under the National Creche Scheme. Launched in 2006, the scheme was previously known as the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for The Children of Working Mothers.

2.It was launched to primarily nurture children from mothers belonging to low-income groups who go to work at least 15 days in a month. While BPL families pay Rs. 20 per child per month, the fee ranges from Rs.100 to Rs. 200 for others. Implementation - This centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD). Features of the National Creche Scheme Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.

3.Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children. Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced) Growth Monitoring Health Check-up and Immunization The guidelines provide that The Crèches shall be open for 26 days in a month and for seven and half (7-1/2) hours per day.

4.The number of children in the crèche should not be more than 25 per crèche. User charges will be levied to bring in an element of community ownership. Target Group - The scheme focuses on children of 6 months to 6 years, of working women in rural and urban areas who are employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month, or six months in a year.

### BUFFALOPOX

1.The recent spread of monkeypox to non-endemic countries has put spotlight on reemerging viruses such as buffalopox, which was first isolated in India. Buffalopox is recognized by the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Zoonosis as an important viral zoonotic disease. It is an emerging contagious viral zoonotic disease infecting milkers with high morbidity among affected domestic buffalo and cattle.

2.It is caused by the Buffalopox virus (BPXV), which is a member of the genus Orthopoxvirus and a close variant of the vaccinia virus (VACV). BPXV shares a most recent common ancestor of VACV Lister strain, which is used to inoculate buffalo calves to produce a Smallpox vaccine. 3.Over time, VACV evolved into BPXV by establishing itself in buffaloes to be increasingly pathogenic to this host and to make infections in cattle and humans. Distribution - Buffalopox is endemic in India and has been reported from many other areas where buffaloes are farmed for milk or draught, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Egypt.

### OBESOGENS

1.A study has found that the toxic levels of a class of chemicals called obesogens in the environment may be accelerating the worldwide obesity pandemic. Obesity has nearly tripled across the world since 1975. It is found that obesogens can alter the balance between energy intake and energy expenditure. Obesogens are a subset of environmental chemicals that disrupt the body's normal homeostatic controls in such a way as to promote adipogenesis and lipid accumulation.

2.These are endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), which influence the development and progression of obesity. These chemicals are in every single place - water, dirt, food packaging, private hygiene products, house cleaners, furnishings and electronics. These include bisphenol A, phthalates, which are broadly added to plastics. Other obesogens are pesticides, perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) which are present in meals packaging, cookware and furnishings.

3.Working - Obesogen upsets the body's metabolic thermostat. The body's balance of energy intake and expenditure through activity relies on the interplay of various hormones from fat tissue, gut, pancreas, liver and brain. Impacts - The pollutants can directly affect the number and size of fat cells, alter the signals that make people feel full, change thyroid function and

has reckoned. Starting with a \$10.5 billion dent in 2023, the country's economy could take a nearly \$99 billion hit by 2030, translating into a 3.19% reduction in GDP from the baseline growth trends, according to the paper on 'Potential Economic Impact of COVID19 related School Closures'.

Moody's Investors Service has lowered India's growth forecast for calendar year 2022 to 8.8%, from 9.1% projected in March, citing the rise in crude oil, food and fertilizer prices that will weigh on household finances and spending even as interest rate increases to curb inflation will slow the demand recovery momentum.

Responding to taxpayers' allegations about the use of force and coercion to 'recover' GST dues during searches and probes by revenue officials, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued instructions for Chief GST Commissioners to examine such complaints and take strict disciplinary action against errant tax officials.

Two months into harsh COVID19 lockdowns that have choked global supply chains, China's economy is staggering back to its feet, but businesses from retailers to chipmakers are warning of slow sales as consumers in the country slam the brakes on spending.

India and Japan have agreed to work together on assisting crisis hit Sri Lanka, the Japanese government said, following a recent meeting between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Fumio Kishida in Tokyo.

Philippine President elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Thursday he would uphold an international ruling against Beijing over the disputed South China Sea, insisting he would not let China trample on Manila's maritime rights.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday the Biden administration aims to lead the international bloc opposed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine into a broader coalition to counter what it sees as a more serious, long term threat to global order from China.

Diabetics who have a low body mass index (BMI) have a unique metabolic profile compared with other groups of diabetics, and could be a distinct entity warranting further

the dopamine reward system.

4.They can also affect the microbiome in the gut and cause weight gain by making the uptake of calories from the intestines more efficient. The most sensitive time for obesogen action is in utero and early childhood, in part via epigenetic programming that can be transmitted to future generations.

### INDIAN GREY WOLVES

1.The Indian grey wolves are a subspecies of grey wolf. They are one of the oldest wolf lineages in the world. They are smaller and leaner compared to their European and American counterparts. They are highly adapted to the hot, arid plains of the subcontinent. They live in open grasslands, thorn forests, and scrublands.

2.They inhabit the dry grassland regions of Deccan Plateau in pockets and prey on blackbucks and other herbivores. In India, wolves are in the same category of endangerment as tigers.

3.Threats - **Habitat loss is a primary threat to this species. Wolves' native habitat is barren wastelands that are now actively prioritised for development activities. Also, there is no wildlife sanctuary dedicated to the preservation** of Indian wolves. Wolves are under threat from another unlikely source: dogs.

4.Wolves and dogs have an uneasy love-hate relationship. If a wolf is unable to find a partner, then it may mate with a dog, resulting in wolf-dog hybrids. This genetic dilution of wild genes may eventually result in an evolutionary disadvantage for the wolf. It could be robbed of its ability to hunt prey. In turn, dogs may also pass on deadly diseases to wolves.

5.Solution - The survival of the Indian wolf depends on nomadic pastoralist communities. Wolves can be saved by protecting their natural habitat and by recognizing the connection between humans and these animals.

### U.S. RAMPS UP EFFORTS TO BRING INDIA ON BOARD WITH SANCTIONS

1.USA has sent another senior official to discuss India's oil purchases and plans to use the rupee-rouble payment mechanism to circumvent sanctions against Russia.

2.India's dependence and Russia India is heavily dependent on oil imports, the bulk of which comes from the Middle East, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and South-East Asia. Russia's oil-related exports to India are only about \$1 billion. Russia is keen to scale this up even as the US has announced a ban on oil imports from the country and the UK has adopted a more gradual reduction.

3.This offers the opportunity for a lucrative supply deal with the second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia. The Rupee-Rouble payment system is crucial for bilateral non-oil trade. This would allow Indian exporters to be paid in rupees.

4.Financial Action Task Force (FATF) An inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris. It assesses the strength of a country's anti-money laundering and anti-terror financing frameworks. It sets standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

5.**Its Secretariat is located at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris. The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organizations - the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council. India is a member of the FATF.**

### KERALA EMPOWERS LOCAL BODIES TO CULL WILD BOARS

1.Kerala government has empowered local bodies to cull wild boars that pose a threat to agriculture crops or human life. The secretaries of the local bodies concerned will act as the delegated officers.

2.Local Bodies: Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) was constitutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 to build democracy at the grassroots level This act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G.

**investigation, a recent article in Diabetes Care has argued. The study looked at the metabolic factors in subjects who were recruited at the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, against control groups comprising individuals with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, and similar BMI subjects without diabetes. It was conducted with the Global Diabetes Institute, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, U.S.**

**The Union government has made capturing of attendance through its app, National Mobile Monitoring System, compulsory at worksites where 20 or more workers are employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The decision comes despite many problems, including patchy Internet connectivity in rural areas and little or no technical support.**

**3. Urban Local Governments:** There are eight types of urban local governments in India – Municipal Corporation, Municipality, Notified Area Committee, Town Area Committee, Cantonment Board, township, port trust, special purpose agency. 74th Amendment Act of 1992 added Part IX -A and consists of provisions from articles 243-P to 243-ZG. It added the 12th Schedule to the Constitution. It contains 18 functional items of Municipalities and deals with Article 243 W.

**4. Wild boar: Also known as the wild swine The species is now one of the widest-ranging mammals in the world, as well as the most widespread suiform. IUCN Red List- least concern It has become an invasive species in part of its introduced range.** Indian boar, also known as the Andamanese pig or Moupin pig, is a subspecies of wild boar native to India.