Assessing Students in International Standard

Why in news?

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The Ministry of Human Resource Development decided to re-enter the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

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What is PISA?

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- Programme for International Student Assessment PISA is a global evaluation of 15-year-olds conducted by the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development** to test mathematical, scientific and reading skills of school students.
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- A major goal of PISA is to untangle the factors that are associated with educational outcomes and to guide governments in constructing policies that improve these outcomes.
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- During the UPA government, India had quit the test, complaining about questions being set “out of context” in relation to the Indian socio-cultural background.
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Is PISA out of Indian context?

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- Indian student may find it more comfortable to do sums using mangoes rather than avocados for units.
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- But it is to be understood that the context of math and science is the universe and its contents.
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- But Shanghai’s students succeeded in test involving European motifs.
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- This suggests that the problem lies in India.
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Why PISA can be significant?

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- India lost out by boycotting PISA in 2012 and 2015, when Asian countries like China, South Korea and Singapore surged ahead.
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- It should be understood that PISA is not a contest.
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- It is a research exercise generating data which can be compared across borders.
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- Finishing last should be seen as an opportunity to improve teaching methods and school systems by intelligent comparison.
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- As result of this, International Standards can be adopted by Indian school boards for betterment.
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- It is also a reliable indicator of the future intellectual capital of participating countries**.**
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- It is a function of projected GDP, a reflection of the future wealth of nations.
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- A country hoping to win the global GDP race should regard PISA as a target.
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- The present government has done well to seek to return to PISA’s global testing system.
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- But the crucial reform still lies ahead.
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- PISA data must be used to improve the structural imbalance and the school system.

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Source: Indian Express

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