Board Exams for Class V and Class VIII

Why in news?

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The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) nnounced that students of Class V and Class VIII studying in its affiliated schools will have to take board exams from 2018.

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What is CISCE?

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It is a Board of School education in India that conducts the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education and the Indian School Certificate examinations for Class X and Class XII respectively.

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What is the current move?

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- Officials have pointed out that these examinations would be “application-based and would not require preparation”.
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- They said that the results of the Class V and Class VIII board exams will not have any bearing on the students promotion to the next class.
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- The council’s main objective is to assess the standard of teaching and thus keep schools on track.
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- They also believe that the tests would enable children to take the board examinations in their stride in future.
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- They also announced that the board has decided to introduce three compulsory subjects -- Sanskrit, yoga and performing arts.
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- Yoga and performing arts will be compulsory between classes Class I and

VIII, while Sanskrit will be taught from Classes V to VIII.
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What should be done?

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- Examination results can never indicate the quality of school teaching accurately.
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- The focus should be on teacher training and teacher development.
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- External assessment of schools for benchmarking and self-evaluation is required.
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- But it should not be in the form of periodic board exams.
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- These tests should be optional, non-threatening and constructed by experts in the field.
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- No board examination can be stress-free and we have no right to overburden our children.
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Source: The Hindu

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