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Schools in smaller towns face additional challenges due to limited training access and heavy administrative workload teachers. To bridge this gap, CBSE has mandated 50 hours of annual teacher training, with a focus on application-based STEM and teaching methods. Whether the new exam format succeeds may depend more on teacher readiness than student adaptation.

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CBSE SHIFTS FROM ROTE:

ARE TEACHERS READY?

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is changing its class 10 exam pattern, moving away from memory-based questions. Under the new system, 80% of questions will test understanding, real-life application and critical thinking, marking a major departure from rote learning.



However, a recent study by the Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA) shows that many teachers may not be fully prepared. The report revealed that average teacher competency in key areas such as concept teaching and assessment design is between 50% and 62%, falling short of the 75% proficiency level considered ideal for implementing the reform.

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Nation's news



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BEGIN ACROSS SEVERAL STATES

Schools in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar have begun holiday breaks this October, with closures linked to both administrative work and festive celebrations.

In Karnataka, schools will remain closed from October 8 to 18 to support teachers involved in the state's ongoing social and educational survey, commonly re ferred to as the caste survey. The schedule was extended after delays in some districts.

Rajasthan schools have started their 12-day Diwali vacation from October 13, while those in Uttar Pradesh will close between October 20 and 23, giving students a five-day festive break, including the weekend. Bihar schools will also shut from October 20, accommodating both Diwali and Chhath Puja celebrations.



33 LAKH STUDENTS HAVE-ONLY ONE TEACHER



New data shows that over 1.04 lakh schools in India are run by just one teacher, serving more than 33 lakh students across the country. These are mostly small government schools in remote areas where teacher shortage remains a major challenge.

Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of such schools, while Uttar Pradesh records the most student enrolments in them. In many cases, one teacher is responsible for teaching multiple classes and all subjects, handling attendance, midday meal supervision and administration work as well.

Experts warn that this situation affects learning quality and puts pressure on both students and teachers. They say better teacher recruitment and proper school planning are urgently needed to solve this long-standing issue.

The numbers reveal a bigger truth: access to school is improving, but access to quality teaching is still unequal across India.

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HOW RAVANA'S FLAWS MIRROR EVERYDAY

CHALLENGES

Every year in autumn, people in India celebrate Dussehra by burning the effigy of Ravan. On the outside, it looks like a festival celebrating Shri Ram's victory. But it also has a deeper meaning—Ravan's defeat is not just a story, it is about us too. His ten heads show the bad qualities we all fight inside-like anger, pride, or greed. The real war is not in Lanka, but in our own hearts and minds. The Ramayana teaches us how to win over these weaknesses. Ravan was not only a villain. He was the son of a wise sage and was very powerful and learned. He knew the Vedas and Shastras, but his pride and desire took over his wisdom. His worst act, kidnapping Sita, came from his ego and greed. This shows us that knowledge without values can lead to failure.

The Inner Demons Within Us Ravan's ten heads can be seen as human weaknesse Lust (Kama) Anger (Krodh) Attachment (Moha) Greed (Lobha) • Pride (Mada) Envy (Maatsarya)Ego (Ahamkara) Insensitivity Hatred (Ghrina) • Fear (Bhaya)

Dussehra is about transformation, not destruction. Our flaws can be turned into strengths—desire into purpose, fear into foresight. Like Shri Ram, we grow through awareness and discipline. Ravan's ten heads remind us not just what to defeat, but who we can become.

FINARKA'S Recommendation Hub

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS TO INCULCATE GOOD QUALITIES OF RAM



Truthfulness & Honesty-Role-play stories where honesty wins over lies.

Respect & Obedience- Daily practice of greeting teachers and elders.

Compassion & Kindness-Encourage helping peers in classwork.

Patience & Discipline-Simple activities like silent reading or meditation.

Leadership with Humility-Give class monitor duties to students who show humility.