



Central Board of Secondary Education

Shiksha Kendra, 2 Community Centre,
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Dear Friends,

31.12.2015

Today seems to be the most opportune time to holistically review the various works accomplished, those yet to be completed and to set up a roadmap together as we ring in the New Year 2016.

CBSE has 17077 affiliated schools worldwide, with 784 new schools added during this year alone. Indeed, the responsibility of the Board is manifold and multifarious. Among all the other Boards of school education in the country, CBSE is credited for being the most innovative, progressive and contemporary in its approach. The policies and programmes of the Board are designed to achieve national goals and aspirations.

CBSE has whole heartedly participated in the Hon'ble PM's flagship '**Digital India Program**' and shared data with the nodal agencies to come on board for Digital Locker, National Scholarship Portal and DGET Portal.

With the vision to improve schools' and students' performance and providing data driven decision support system, CBSE, under the guidance of Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development, developed '**SARANSH**' a tool for comprehensive self-review for schools and parents. It aims to equip schools to diagnose the scope of improvement in students, teachers and subjects. SARANSH provides school a complete snapshot and comprehensive drill down analysis to take actionable decisions. It help schools to compare the performance vis-à-vis all CBSE schools at All India, Regional and State levels and within their school category (Government, Independent, JNVs, KVs and CTSA). It is also intended to help parents to compare their ward's performance within School, State, Regional and National level.

It goes to the credit of the Board that within a short span of its launch by the Hon'ble HRM on 7th Nov 2015, *Saransh* has won three prestigious awards, **E-India 2015 Award for Best Govt. Initiative in Education, Skoch Order of Merit for Smart Technology** (selected from more than 2500 projects) and **Skoch Award** (highest independent honor, selected and voted from among 1120 projects shortlisted from 2500 projects).

In an effort to bring technology closer to students and teachers and ensure digital access and equity to all, CBSE has prepared e-learning material for students and teachers. **e-CBSE** is an endeavour to provide books of various classes and subjects (academic, vocational and support materials) through a portal and Mobile App. It is hoped that the students and teachers will make the utmost use of the services being offered.

By providing quick response services, the **online authentication of CBSE CTET Certificate** for CTET eligibility has been introduced. This is uniquely identified with a Global Document Type Identifier (GDTI) which is encoded in a GS1 QR Code.

Since 5th October 2015, online processing of applications received under RTI Act-2005 has also been activated for the public. All Regional Offices of the CBSE, Affiliation, JEE, CTET, AIPMT and Academic units have been integrated with the online RTI system. This will add to quick disposal and increased transparency.

CBSE has been conducting several national level competitive examinations such as JEE (Main), CTET, UGC-NET and AIPMT etc. besides class X and XII examinations. Total candidates appearing every year is close to 1.25 crores. CBSE examinations have established credibility and transparency as entire pre-examination system and post examination system have been made totally IT enabled. The entire pre-examination system is online including students' data capturing and generation of various reports like admit cards, attendance sheets and other lists.

CBSE has been fulfilling its role as a socially committed organisation. Two of our globally recognised flagship programmes: Psychological Counselling and Aptitude Testing are based on community outreach. The past 5 editions of CBSE Students Global Aptitude Index (SGAI) have sensitised stakeholders about the need and importance of aptitude testing of students. The government has taken this matter further and set up a Task Force to develop a proto-type aptitude test at the national level for class -IX. Similarly, CBSE Counselling programme via multiple modes continues to be popular and in regular demand for the last 17 years. Adolescent support programmes of this nature focus upon the "well-being" of students which needs to be promoted and institutionalised. This may require us to set up a permanent cell in CBSE to take up continuous work in the coming year.

All students, regardless of their differences, need to be provided access to an inclusive learning environment, in order to acquire those physical, emotional and intellectual competencies for life in an ever-changing and increasingly pluralistic, inter-dependent social and economic environment. It is expected that all institutions will turn into **inclusive schools** where students learn in a safe, supportive and disciplined environment.

Some recent incidents have accentuated the need to ensure the safety of girls. This is an issue which requires immediate attention. Teaching girls to defend themselves is useful to empower them. Self-defence activities for girls is highly desirable and should be taken up on high priority.

As I said in the beginning, we must also take stock of works which needs to gain momentum. The current 40 vocational courses at the senior secondary level in 98 subjects have been adopted by only 552 CBSE affiliated schools in India and abroad, with coverage of approximately 40,128 students. While at the secondary level, about 1,54,742 students are enrolled for Retail, Security, Information Technology, Automobile Technology, Travel and Tourism and Financial Market Management from 1445 affiliated schools. The success of the national framework for vocational education needs to get fillip from our schools with increase in numbers. The Board has also signed an MOU with the *Central Institute of Technology, Perth, Australia* and introduced skill based courses on Music Production, Business Administration, Beauty Therapy and Design to broad base the structure. In another interesting development, the Board has started to closely work with Indian Banker's Association to implement the School Bank Champ project, wherein, one Bank will adopt one affiliated school and train the students of Classes IX and X in Financial Literacy. The Board has also empaneled 17 Skill Knowledge Providers (industry linked organizations) for effectively assisting schools to offer the skill based courses.

Physical Education and Sports have always been a priority area for the Board. The competitions were held across the country in 24 disciplines at 172 venues at the cluster/zonal and national level. Close to 1.5 Lakh students participated in these events.

CBSE Reward Scheme for Meritorious Students of Class XII from government schools is an initiative to promote access and equity amongst deserving students and bring them to the mainstream. For meritorious students, whose family income is below the ₹6 lakh, Board is disbursing 6854 scholarships per year, under the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship (CSSS) sponsored by MHRD for undergraduate study.

The Single Girl Child Merit Scholarship Scheme for pursuing XI and XII in CBSE affiliated schools entitles the single girl child an amount of ₹6000 per year. Board's Merit Scholarship Scheme for SC/ST students at ₹250 per month to 23 toppers of Class X and ₹500 per month to 25 toppers of Class XII are all earnest efforts to reduce the disparity.

CBSE launched Udaan, a comprehensive platform to provide guidance and training to deserving girl students especially from economically and disadvantaged backgrounds, to help them to prepare for the professional engineering entrance examinations while studying in Classes XI and XII. 359 girl students of Class XII from different schools were selected for this project in 2014-15. 341 girls appeared in JEE (Main). Out of these, 114 girls have been selected for JEE (Advanced) from 47 cities and towns of India.

Motivation plays an important role in the success of the students. It has been the constant endeavor of the Board to provide appropriate forums to students to hone their latent skills and also engage them in socially meaningful activities. Campaigns for important causes were organized through competitions. Such activities help students gain insights into citizenship, politics, government, public services, heritage, history, socio-economic issues, besides encouraging them to read, write and express themselves. In sync with these objectives, the Board arranged for the School *Swachhta* Campaign, Celebration of the Constitution Day, Cryptic Crossword Puzzles, GANIT Week (Growing Aptitude in Numeric Innovation and Training) and shall continue the effort. Total 1,87,851 students showcased their skills under the Expression Series in 2015. I hope to see the number to increase in the time to come.

Quality in teaching and learning is of prime importance. The Board has set up the Centres of *Excellence* in different parts of the country to build capacity of teachers by providing regular training. They would also undertake Training *Need Analysis* and develop material/resources for future training. They would monitor training program of master trainer and trainer to create resource pool of trainer and conduct *seminars, webinars and conferences* for teachers and Heads of schools on educational issues. The positive outcome will be utilized for strengthening the quality of classroom interactions. Based on the evidences of assessment, CBSE in the recent past has organized workshops for schools, whose scores were found very low in Term I and Term II, 2014-15.

CBSE is in continuous dialogue with its stakeholders in an effort to make education relevant and productive. Feedback was invited online from School Heads, Teachers, Managers, Parents and Students of all affiliated schools recently. The data thus compiled has been shared with the Indian Statistical Institute which will derive and identify significant areas for further research and recommendations for improvement.

If the schools and students have any sort of grievances, feedback or queries, they may use the online support available through the link <http://cbseacademic.in/feedback.html> or *Interact with Chairman* to voice their genuine concerns and enable us to work better. After all, the collective aim is to eventually create conducive learning eco-systems for our students.

I wish to thank all the Heads of schools, managements, teachers and staff for extending their wholehearted support for successful and smooth conduct of examinations, academic activities and sports activities etc, thus making Board successful in all its endeavours. I also extend my best wishes to all students for giving their best performance in all spheres through hard work and perseverance. My best wishes for the New Year to all parents.

I wish you and your families a happy, prosperous, healthy and eventful year ahead.



Y.S.K. Seshu Kumar
Chairman