COVID RESPONSE INITIATIVES BY THE CENTRE

The pandemic has led to disruption in the formal school education system in the entire country. Approximately 26.45 crores children, 96.87 lakhs teachers and 15.07 lakhs schools are impacted. While children are learning to study from home or in open spaces, through devices, or TV, or radio, or even worksheets and with the help of volunteers and peers, due to the closure of schools, drop outs and out of school children have become a large area of concern. Concern areas also include, teaching and learning for children who have no access to digital devices, continuing learning for disabled children, maintaining the balance between physical and mental health and well-being, teachers' reach, access to engaging learning material, and generally learning in an environment of social distancing.

The 'new normal' may also have a huge impact on the learning levels for almost all children; learning loss may be a reality for many children. This disruption has required us to build capacities of schools, teachers, educational administrators, and other stakeholders in a big way - capacity, not only for teaching with the help of devices, but also for ensuring that learning is taking place in the most challenging circumstances. Teaching children without devices, teaching in remote and hilly areas, teaching disabled children, reaching the girl child, ensuring health and nutrition, preventing drop outs, locating and mainstreaming out of school children, enrolling migrant children, etc. have required us to innovate on a constant basis and literally reinvent the way we teach and learn.

The Ministry of Education has come out with several interventions to help states and schools mitigate the effects of the pandemic. These include among others, a series of guidelines on various aspects of teaching, learning, educational planning, and governance, online and offline resources for students and teachers, online modules for teacher training, revamped provisions in Samagra Shiksha and Mid-Day meals schemes, initiatives for disabled children, mental health and well-being of children. Similarly, the states/UTs have also undertaken several initiatives to combat the effects of the pandemic and to ensure continuity in learning for the children. This document narrates a majority of such initiatives by the centre and the states/UTs, though briefly to give the larger picture of how the school education system of India responded to this unprecedented challenge in the year 2020-21.

1.1. Guidelines by DOSEL

Sl.	Guideline	Details
1.	Guidelines For Children of Migrant Labourers	• Focuses on providing admission to the in-migrant children in the nearby government schools without the requirement of submitting any document except an identity card. • As per these guidelines, the residential school students should also be provided temporary admission in schools nearby their homes, as they may not go back to their residential schools during COVID19. • These guidelines can be accessed at: https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Migrant%20labour%20guideline.pdf
2.	Guidelines For Out of School Children and Mitigation of Loss of Learning	• To ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, these guidelines lay down the steps to be taken by the States and UTs. • The link of the guidelines is https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/guidelines_oosc.pdf. • The Guidelines, among others, include identification of out of school children from age16-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued education for Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

3.	PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education	- Focus on the methodology, time spent, etc. for online/blended/digital education for students who are presently at home due to the closure of schools. - The guidelines recommend screen time for different categories of students. - It also provides sufficient Do's and Don'ts regarding ergonomics and cyber safety. - There are info graphics on how to use devices and have proper posture during the online classes. - The guidelines can be accessed at: https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf
4.	Learning Enhancement Guidelines for Continuous Learning	- The guidelines for Learning Enhancement (LE) focus on the following: - LE during COVID-19 for students without digital devices - LE during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices - LE during COVID-19 for students with digital devices - The guidelines can be accessed at: https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Learning_%20Enhancement_Guidelines.pdf
5.	Covid-19 Related Health and Safety Sop/Guidelines for School Re-Opening	- After issue of MHA guidelines for unlock-5, on 5th October, 2020, this Department has issued detailed SOP/guidelines regarding health and safety precautions for reopening of schools. - Part I of these guidelines refers to the health and safety aspects for reopening schools. These are based on the prevailing instructions of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Education with regard to health and safety protocols, and are to be implemented by adopting/adapting in accordance with the local situation in all states/UTs. - Part-II of the Guidelines mentioned at Serial number 7 above refers to learning with physical/social distancing and the academic aspects that are to be taken care of with regard to the delivery of education, such as, curriculum transactions, instructional load, timetables, assessment, etc. after schools reopen. - These guidelines can be accessed at: https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/SOP_Guidelines_for_reopening_schools.pdf
6.	Covid Action Plan for School Education:	- The Department of School Education and Literacy vide letter dated 4th May, 2021 has shared the Covid Action plan with States/UTs and other stakeholders for mitigating the loss of learning. Various focus areas and interventions for implementing this roadmap include: - Preventing drop outs, locating Out of School Children and mainstreaming them - Tracking children and their learning levels - Mitigating learning loss - Developing effective home-learning programmes and tracking learning - Helping teachers reach the last child in the last mile using multiple modes - portal, apps, telecast/broadcast, online/offline etc. - Teacher capacity building - Support to schools - Systematic involvement of parents, community, local self-governments, volunteers, etc. - Health and safety of teachers and students should be of paramount importance while designing any intervention
7.	Guidelines For JNV – Residential Schools	- The Department along with NVS has also developed a SOP for re-opening of residential school incorporating the residential components in alignment with the SOP of MoE and guidelines of MHA. - These guidelines are available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LAc4iKQTqTJkNVDGc5glEDsrDGdAXwC8/view
8.	Guidelines for parents	Guidelines for parents to support learning of their children issued.
9.	Guidelines for orphaned Children	The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India have taken cognizance of the current Covid-19 pandemic situation due to which many children have lost one, and in some cases, both parents to the deadly virus and are determined to work towards providing necessary support to such children in distress and are in need of

		care and protection.
		• In this regard, a joint DO letter No. 13-5/2021-IS-11 dated 16.06.2021 (copy enclosed) from Secretary DoSEL, MoE and Secretary, MWCD has been issued to all States and UTs.
		• As per this letter, States and UTs have been requested to take various initiatives under SamagraShiksha, such as admission to children in Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalayas and NetajiSubash Chandra Bose residential schools, reimbursement against section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, Mid-Day Meal etc., identifying and mainstreaming of Out of School Children and children of migrant persons particularly orphan & out of schools children due to pandemic, mobilizing psychosocial support for Mental Health and well-being of such Students. These steps would ensure continuity of education of children in distress.
		• Further, States and UTs have been advised to orient teachers to keep track of students who have lost one or both of their parents due to pandemic and provide guidance for collecting and furnishing information of such children to CHILDLINE, an NGO maintained by MWCD.
10.	E-content for CWSN	Guidelines for e-content for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) have been prepared and issued.
11.	CBSE competency-based assessment framework	• CBSE in collaboration with British Council has prepared a competency-based assessment framework for class X. • This is based on recommendations of NEP 2020 and will help in reducing the stress of exams and aims to develop competencies in students rather than content knowledge alone.
12.	NCTE Guidelines for TEIs	• NCTE has issued Guidelines to Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) to cope up with Covid-19 Pandemic situation. • These Guidelines are available at: https://ncte.gov.in/WebAdminFiles/RecentAnnouncement/0_20_08_2020_6373353206 72297662.pdf

1.2. Tracking Out of School Children (OoSC)

- The Ministry of Education has launched a new online system to capture the Out of School Children (missing children) on PRABANDH portal of the Department.
- The main features of the system are as under:

   o Unique Id is generated by the system to track the child until they are main-steamed to regular school.
   o The User Manual has been prepared and uploaded on PRABANDH portal to facilitate State/UTs in uploading the data.
   o Activated for State (36) / District (744 users) for Viewing and Validating Data and at Block level (approx. 8000 users) for uploading the OOSc data.
   o Identification of **Special Training Center (STC)** and assigning of Unique IDs to the STC to help the State to identify the capacity and trends of the OoSC coverage by a particular STC.
   o Mapping of **OoSC** with**Special Training Center** based on duration & type of the training, etc.
   o The module to capture various Quarterly progress reports such as Children mainstreamed after Training through Special Training Center etc.
   o Instruction has been issued to States/UTs for uploading the data on PRABANDH portal.

- As on 5.7.21, sates/UTs have uploaded data on the portal and identified 350021 (at block level) in elementary and 104650 (at block level) in secondary level out of school children for mainstreaming.

Just as states/UTs were advised to conduct surveys to establish the accessibility or not to digital devices for continuing learning during the pandemic, the schools of the Ministry of Education, that is, KendriyaVidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas also undertook a similar survey.

Navodaya Vidyalaya

In Navodaya Vidyalayas it was found that 7.47% children had no access to devices. Details are given in the two tables below:

OVERALL ANALYSIS OF DEVICES AVAILABLE WITH STUDENTS		
	Numbers	Analysis for NVS (in %)
Total students	258254	100
Smart Phones	240036	92.95
Tablet	7726	2.99
Laptop	14888	5.76
Desktop	10719	4.15
Own	126843	49.12
Shared	113193	43.83
Not available	19280	7.47
Internet connectivity	236917	91.47
Availability of TV (with cable/dish connection)	175208	67.84
Availability of Radio	33148	12.84

- Navodaya Vidyalaya has arranged for teacher contact for such children and is also regularly sending supplementary material to these children in the form of worksheets, competency-based assessment items, etc. with close follow up.

Kendriya Vidyalaya

- The details regarding the device availability with the students is collected from the schools periodically and compiled at HQ.

- As per the latest data collected from the schools, more than 98% of the students are having full or partial access to some digital device.

- In this academic session, that is, 2021-22, regions have been directed to take up the task of detailed mapping such as the kind of device available, time for which it is available, internet connectivity, etc. to plan teaching process.

- At present, there are only 224 enrolled children who could not be contacted by the schools. The number was initially much larger; but with constant efforts at school level, it has reduced. It is hoped that all these students also eventually would be connected and join the system soon.

- Children without access to any device are being contacted by teachers directly and are being guided for learning with the help of worksheets/supplementary material; similarly those with devices are also tracked and guided through social media groups, e-content on DIKSHA, supplementary material, etc.

1.4. Offline Resources for students and teachers by DOSEL

I. Alternative Academic Calendar:

- A week-wise activity-based learning plan for grades 1 to 12, covering all subjects, has been developed in three languages by NCERT, keeping in view the choice of availability of tools with the teachers and students. This was initially developed for 12 weeks and later extended to four more weeks.

- The week-wise plan consists of interesting activities and challenges, with reference to chapter/theme from the textbook. The activities are suggestive in nature, not prescriptive, nor is the sequence mandatory.

- Teachers and parents may opt to do the activities that the student shows interest in, irrespective of the sequence. In the case of children in the same family studying in different classes, siblings may jointly be involved in the same activity; if the activities cater to different cognitive levels, the elder sibling can guide the younger.

- Most importantly, it maps the themes with the learning outcomes.

- The purpose of mapping of themes with learning outcomes is to facilitate teachers/parents to assess the progress in students' learning. This may be done in a variety of ways i.e., asking questions, encouraging interaction, suggesting another activity of a similar kind, observing children's interest and participation in the activity, etc.

- Further, teachers may design activities on more themes (if required) based on the given learning outcomes. However, the focus remains on learning, rather than testing for scores.

- Links for e-resources have been provided along with the activities.

- Yet, if it is not possible for students to access these resources, the teacher may guide them through tele-contact to other reference sources such as dictionary, atlas, news headlines, storybooks, and other commonly available non-digital resources at homes.

- The Alternative Academic Calendars for classes 1 to 12 are available athttps://ncert.nic.in/alternative-academic-calendar.php

- NCERT undertook a massive telecast drive of 4 hours 30 minutes to 8 hours and 30 minutes duration on the themes given in Alternative Academic Calendar for students and teachers

- This calendar is now being updated by adding assessment items.

II. Worksheet by NIOS for Secondary and Senior Secondary Level Learners:

- The learners enrolled at the secondary and senior secondary levels at NIOS study through distance mode, with only occasional contact with the subject teachers at their Study Centers (Accredited Institutes). The contact sessions at the AI provide these learners with the academic support in the form of problem-solving sessions. The learners have the flexibility to attend the contact sessions as per their need.

- During the pandemic, the NIOS learners were not able to attend the contact sessions.

- To provide academic support to learners and keep them academically engaged through constant practice, NIOS developed worksheets in 44 subjects at secondary and senior secondary level.

- These worksheets have open-ended questions only.

- These are exploratory in nature and help in developing problem solving skills/creative thinking/life skills; in the form of project work that engages learners in some activity, etc.

- These worksheets are also available at:

  https://www.nios.ac.in/online-course-material/secondary-courses.aspx

  https://www.nios.ac.in/online-course-material/sr-secondary-courses.aspx

III.   Special Resources for Teachers: Learning Outcomes Mapped to Curriculum:

- For promoting innovative teaching and learning during these difficult times, in the learning Enhancement Guidelines, states/UTs were advised that the curriculum and syllabus need to be analysed at the school level for mapping them with learning outcomes. Rather than following textbook content with rigidity, the learning of children at homes needs to be mapped with learning outcomes and to the themes given in syllabus, and children are to be assessed accordingly.

- CBSE has mapped each Learning Outcomes for all subjects and all grades, with the topics in the prescribed textbooks to facilitate teachers to further their understanding of competency-based education and apply the same to their efforts during the pandemic.

- This document of mapped Learning Outcomes to the curriculum is available at

  http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Manuals/TeachersResource_LODoc.pdf

IV.   Special Resources for Teachers: Teacher Energized Resource Material (TERM):

- Focus on achieving learning outcomes and on developing competencies in students by promoting innovative teaching and learning during these difficult times.
- The CBSE developed Teacher Energized Resource Material (TERM) handbooks to aid teachers in aligning their classroom transaction to a competency framework.
- These handbooks have been developed for two subjects – science and mathematics – covering entire syllabus of grades 6 to 10.
- Every chapter has a set of assessment items to enable teachers to assess if the learner has acquired the related competency.

1.5.   Digital Resources by DOSEL

I.   PM e-VIDYA:

- As a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Programme, a comprehensive initiative for using Technology with Equity, called PM e-VIDYA has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education.

- PM e-Vidya has following components:

  - **DIKSHA** – One nation, one digital education platform

  - **One class, one TV channel –** Swayam Prabha

  - **E-content for Open School**

  - **Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and podcast**

- o **E-content for visually and hearing-impaired students**
- Each of the above components is developed in such a manner that the same e-content available on one digital mode is also available on other digital modes.

II. DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) for School Education:

- 35 states and UTs have their own vertical on DIKSHA along with those of NCERT, CBSE and NIOS of central government.

- Can be accessed through a web-portalhttps://diksha.gov.in and mobile application.

- Consists of e-learning content for students of grades 1 to 12

- Content for students available in 31 Indian languages namely Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Bhojpuri, Lepcha, Halbi, Tamil, Bodo, Konkani, Urdu, Sanskrit, Gujarati, Mythili, Sargujia, Kannada, Brij, Odia, Awadhi, Khaasi, Chhattisgarhi, Punjabi, Telugu, Gondi-Dantewada, Gondi-Kanker, Bundelkhandi, Manipuri, Kudukh, Bhutia, English, Bangla and Mizo.

- It also contains modules for capacity building of teachers uploaded in different languages by the states and centre.

- At present the platform houses has more than 1,78,368 pieces of e-content live on DIKSHA.

- **E-Resources for Students**: This consists of language wise, class wise, subject wise and topic wise content such as textbook chapter wise, explanation video by teacher for the given topic, videos on hard spots, slides, concept maps, additional resources for extra learning, test items, worksheets, etc. including e-content for Energized Textbooks,

- **QR coded textbooks** for students and teachers (Energized Textbooks or ETBs): All States have QR coded their prescribed textbooks at relevant places and tagged e-content to the QR code. So far 4147textbooks of states and NCERT have been QR coded and tagged with e-content. This includes 357 textbooks of NCERT. Over 450 million ETBs were printed and distributed to students by states/UTs and NCERT during this period.

  From 1.4.20 to 30.6.21

  - o Total Learning sessions on DIKSHA: 317+ crores
  - o Total Learning in minutes on DIKSHA: 3,805+ crore minutes
  - o Page hits on DIKSHA from 01.04.2020: 2,245+ crores
  - o Average daily page hits: 5.3+ crores

- **Teacher Toolkit on DIKSHA**: This consists of Learning Outcomes, Learning Outcomes mapped to curriculum, Pedagogies suggested by NCERT/SCERT, Hard spots identification and remediation, Teacher Energized Textbooks, manuals, etc.

- **Teacher Professional Development on DIKSHA:** This consists of teacher training modules contributed by the Centre (18 modules of NISHTHA for elementary teachers), States and other partners authorized by DIKSHA.

- **Specialized resources for teachers and learners**: These include resources related to PISA, items related to Creativity and Critical thinking, etc.

- **Multiple use cases of DIKSHA**: DIKSHA is also being used innovatively by different States; such as, for assessment by Andhra Pradesh, for parental engagement by Tamil Nadu, for national quiz programmes by CBSE and NCERT, for data capture and analytics for planning by Gujarat, for training of corona warriors by iGOT and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, teacher training with certification in States like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, learn at home in Maharashtra etc. States/UTs are encouraged to use DIKSHA platform innovatively through their PMUs.

- **Chat Bot:** The TARA (Technology Aided Responses and Answers) Chat Bot can be used by States/UTs for a smooth navigation, interesting user experience and for ease of discovery of content.

- **Vidyadaan:** In April 2020 VidyaDaan was launched as a national content contribution program that leverages the DIKSHA platform and tools to seek and allow contribution/donation of e-learning resources for school education by educational bodies, private bodies, and individual experts. Total number of content pieces contributed on VidyaDaan as on date is 38,206 of which 29,069 content pieces have been approved and live.

- **Energized Schooling:** This facilitates state, school and class level monitoring of progress of individualized students through customization of courses and assessments to be completed by the students.

- **Role of JNV on DIKSHA:** 1140 JNV teachers were involved in creating E- content for DIKSHA. So far, 377 videos created by NVS teachers have been uploaded on DIKSHA portal.

- **Role of KVS on DIKSHA:** KVS has uploaded and published CCT practice (Creative and Critical Thinking Practice) items and videos on Math& Science for classes VII to X on DIKSHA portal under the project 'KVS- CCT Practice Items & CCL Videos'.

III.   Swayam Prabha PM e Vidya channels - One Class One TV channel

- In the Ministry of Education, a total of 34 channels are devoted to telecast high quality educational programmes.

- Of these, 12 TV channels are earmarked for the one class, one TV channel under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Programme for the Department of School Education and Literacy.

- These 12 PM eVIDYA DTH TV Channels started functioning for School Education on w.e.f. 01.09.2020.

- All the videos based on chapters have been QR coded and can be found on DIKSHA portal with a feature of coherence. Since launch, telecasts of chapter-wise programmes are being done on each channel.

- Channel 1 to 10 (Class 1 to 10): 2 hours fresh slot with 11 times repeat. The slot starts at 12 O' Clock night.

- Channel 11 and 12 (Class 11 & 12): 3 hours fresh slot with 8 times repeat. The slot starts at 12 O' Clock night.

- Along with telecast of recorded programmes, live interactive sessions, webinar on ICT tools and SAHYOG are also being telecast on a daily basis.

- Class 1 to 10 Live programmes are slotted in sessions of 30 minutes each, which are being telecast on class-based channels.

- For classes 11 and 12, live programmes are slotted in sessions of 60 minutes and being telecast on class-based channels.

- CIET-NCERT has signed MoU with ISLRTC for development of Sign language videos. Till 25 February, 2021 about 300 videos have been recorded on NCERT curriculum from classes 1 to 5. These are being shared on DIKSHA and telecast on PMeVIDYA DTH TV channels.

IV.   E-Content for Open School by NIOS: on DIKSHA, MOOCS on SWAYAM and Swayam Prabha:

- Online MOOC courses relating to NIOS (grades 9 to 12 of open schooling) are uploaded on SWAYAM portal. Students and teachers can access all the course modules - text, videos and assessment questions etc.

- Around 92 courses have started, and 1.5 crore students are enrolled.

- Till date 1,125 content of NIOS is mapped class wise and chapter wise with NCERT textbooks for the subjects Science, Social Science, Languages, Mathematics, Accountancy & Business Studies, History etc. and 626 e-Content from NIOS is uploaded on DIKSHA.

- NIOS has also started imparting daily 8 hours live programme of 4 hours each onPM-eVidyachannels, for classes 10 and 12 for providing continued learning support for learners at Secondary and Senior Secondary level including Vocational Courses and Indian Sign Language-based content w.e.f. 01.09.2020. Till now, more than

370 live sessions are already broadcast for learners of Instill now, more than 1064 live sessions are already broadcast for learners of NIOS.

- Earlier, from 7th April to 31st August 2020, NIOS imparted 8 hours live sessions every day including holidays, Saturdays and Sundays for secondary and senior secondary level on Swayam Prabha – Panini (Secondary) and Sharda (Senior Secondary) channels. During this period, 570 live sessions were telecast to provide continued learning support to learners. NIOS guidance and counselling sessions through live video programme were also organised where students interacted with experts. Special sessions on Yoga, Music and Painting were also held to destress the learners and engage them in co-curricular activities.

- Till date 4147 contents (videos+pdfs+e-textbooks) have been uploaded for Secondary level. As a convergence effort, 59 Teachers of NVS broadcasted **284** online classes in SWAYAMPRABHA channel.

V. Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and podcast

- As on 30.6.21, 1,418 pieces of curriculum-based radio programmes (Classes 1 -8) and 06 for class 10 were produced by CIET-NCERT for its dissemination/ broadcast on 88 Radio Stations (12 Gyan Vani FM Radio Stations, 76 Community Radio Stations), Podcasts, and on iRadio and JioSaavn Mobile apps.

- Radio broadcasting is being used for children in remote areas who are not online. Community Radio Stations have also been used to broadcast content for NIOS for grades 9 to 12.

- A Podcast called ShikshaVani by CBSE is being effectively used by learners of grades 9 to12.

VI. E-content for visually and hearing-impaired students

- NIOS is using One DTH channel specifically for hearing impaired students in sign language. For visually and hearing-impaired students, study material has been developed in Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language; both are available on NIOS website/ YouTube.

- 82 sign language videos for CWSN are uploaded on DIKSHA portal by NIOS. One hour programme in sign language for secondary and senior secondary level content of NIOS are being broadcast on PM eVidya channel 10 from September 1, 2020.

- NCERT has recorded 317 textbook chapters of different grades as audio books and have uploaded on DIKSHA.

- Course material in 20 subjects at secondary level and 5 subjects at senior secondary level are already uploaded on DIKSHA Portal by NIOS

- 141 sign language videos for CWSN are uploaded on DIKSHA portal by NIOS.

VII. E-textbooks AND E-content on NATIONAL REPOSITORY OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (NROER) by NCERT:

- In the wake of the pandemic the NROER e-resources are being converged on DIKSHA through a systematic taxonomy and user-friendly search systems, to give shape to one nation, one digital education platform.These e-content are also available at: https://nroer.gov.in/home/e-library/

- During the pandemic period, the e-textbooks are also converged on DIKSHA to give a seamless experience to the user through a single platform.

- The NCERT e-textbooks can be accessed using DIKSHA, e-Pathshala (https://epathshala.nic.in/) web portal or mobile app (Android and iOS).

- More than 696 digital books including 377 e-textbooks (grades 1 to 12) and 3,500 pieces of audio and video content of NCERT are available in the public domain in various languages (Hindi, English, Sanskrit and Urdu).

- NROER is an open storehouse of e-content. Nearly 19,277 pieces of e-content are available for all grades for various school subjects. These include 700 collections, 5935 documents, 1453 interactives, 2885 audios, 6421

videos and 2583 images. All the NCERT textbooks on NROER are QR Coded and are mapped to various e-resources for a holistic teaching learning experience.

VIII.   OLABS:

- Through a tie-up with Online Virtual Labs (OLabs), practicals related e-content has been made available for senior students.

- It is based on the idea that lab experiments can be taught using the Internet, more efficiently and less expensively. The experiments can be accessed anytime and anywhere, overcoming the constraints on time felt when having access to the physical lab for only a short period of time. These are available at http://www.olabs.edu.in/

- The features include:

  o Content aligned to NCERT/CBSE and State Board Syllabus.
  o Physics, Chemistry, Biology Labs from Class 9 to Class 12; English and Maths lessons for Class 9 and 10.
  o Interactive simulations, animations, and lab videos.
  o The concepts and understanding of the experiment.
  o The ability to perform, record and learn experiments - anywhere, anytime, and individualised practice in all areas of experimentation.

- CBSE also organised virtual training for the Mathematics, Biology, Physics and Chemistry teachers of its affiliated schools on Olabs in which 22,000 teachers participated.

IX.   Special resources for teachers: MOOCs modules on experiential learning and competency-based education:

- Activity-based and highly engaging modules focusing upon experiential learning and competency-based educationprepared by CBSE and uploaded on DIKSHA.

X.   Cyber safety and cyber bullying:

- A Student-friendly Handbook on Cyber Safety – for students of secondary and senior secondary schools, has been prepared by CBSE.

- This handbook contains content in very engaging and simple formats, with e-content tagged to QR codes at several places to augment the understanding of the student further.

- This Handbook is available at:

  http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Manuals/Cyber_Safety_Manual.pdf .

- NCERT has also come out with a set of brochures and booklets to tackle cyber-bullying.

- These are available at-

  https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Safetolearn_English.pdf

  https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Safetolearn_Hindi.pdf

  https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=booklet-on-cyber-safetysecurity&ln=en

  https://ciet.nic.in/upload/cyber%20safety%20and%20security.pdf

  https://diksha.gov.in/resources/play/content/do_31313818793322086411621

- In order to bring awareness on these issues, online training on Cyber Safety was organised by NVS for 702 Teachers during the COVID period.

XI.   BOUQUET OF E-CONTENT

- Aside from the above, the NCERT and CBSE also prepared the following and uploaded on DIKSHA:

  o   Comic books for students for imbibing 21st century skills

  o   Practice book on Mathematical Literacy by CBSE

  o   Worksheet by NIOS for Secondary and senior secondary level learners

  o   Continuing PISA related capacity building through online modes

  o   Cyber Safety and Cyber Bullying

  o   CBSE Expression Series for Students

- Several quiz competitions were also conducted online with participation in lakhs by school students. These included:

  o   Writing Competition for Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav on MyGov.in and DIKSHA

  o   Aryabhatta Ganit Challenge 2020

  o   National Constitution Quiz with Law Ministry

  o   National Yoga Quiz

  o   Discover Gandhi Quiz

  o   Know our Constitution Quiz\ Independence Day Essay writing

  o   Republic Day 2021 Online Contests

1.6.   Teacher Training by DOSEL

I.   NISHTHA (National Initiative For School Heads And Teachers For Their Holistic Advancement) ONLINE:

- This is an online capacity building programme for covering all 42,00,000 elementary school teachers and school heads of the country.

- This programme was conducted face to face before the pandemic. However, in its wake, this programme was contextualised to the needs of teaching and learning during the pandemic and made 100% online.

- In order to facilitate teachers to undertake online NISHTHA training, financial support up to Rs 1000 per teacher for procuring pen-drives, printing of modules and high-speed data-pack has been provided at elementary level on reimbursement basis and subject to successful completion of the training course.

- There are 18 modules in this programme: 12 for teachers, 5 for school heads and one specialised module on teaching and learning during COVID-19 times.

- Each module consists of guidelines, primers, training package with QR coded e-content, videos on each module, and other e-resources.

- NISHTHA Online for elementary teachers was launched on 6th October 2020 and at present all 18 Modules are live on DIKSHA.

- Key usage Metrics of NISHTHA courses on DIKSHA platform as on June, 2021 are as follows:

  o   18 courses in 10 languages were developed and 3 courses were made Live on a fortnightly basis on each State/UT/Central Organization tenant in Hindi/English/Regional languages.

  o   30 States/UTs and 7 Autonomous bodies under MoE and MoD (CBSE, KVS, NVS, CTSA, ICSE, AEES, Sainik Schools) have rolled out NISHTHA online on DIKSHA which was launched on 6th Oct 2021 by Hon'ble Minister of Education. 26 States/UTs and 7 autonomous organisations have completed all the 18 courses at least in one language. (It may be noted that few states/UTs had already completed NISHTHA in face-to-face mode by this time).

- o Approximately 23 lakh Teachers covered in online mode (approximately 19 lakhs teachers covered in face-to-face mode pre-pandemic).
- o 5.17 Crore enrolments
- o 4.61 Crore teachers have completed, and 1.9 Crore Digital Certificates have been issued to the teachers for completing the courses.

II. Special capacity building of teachers on how to conduct online classes:

- CIET-NCERT organized a series of Webinar starting from 07 April 2020 for the enrichment and professional development of students, teachers, teacher educators and researchers.
- The webinar intends to cover topics related to creation and dissemination of e-contents, Content-Pedagogy-Technology integration, use of ICT in teaching-learning and assessment, OER, use of various ICT tools, creation of AR/VR contents, cyber safety and security, mobile app and AI based platforms etc.
- Till 25 February 2021, about 265 episodes have been conducted and simulcast through NCERT official YouTubechannel, PMeVIDYADTH TV channels and Jio TV mobile app.
- CBSE has trained 4,80,000 teachers (during April-September 2020), KVS trained 15855 and JNV trained 9085 teachers all India. Training was also imparted by NVS to teachers regarding online assessment and GeoGebra.

1.7.   Initiatives for disabled children by DOSEL

I.   Initiatives under Samagra Shiksha

- The scheme has two components under which the funds are provided to all the states and UTs across the country: 1) Student Oriented Component (SOC) and 2) Resource Support - Financial support for special educators and resource persons
- The revamped Samagra Shiksha scheme includes the following provisions:
  - o **Recurring Grant** of Rs 3500 per year per child for children with special needs, including aids and appliances, teaching material, etc. (Student Oriented Component-SOC)
  - o **New provision**: Above component to include pre-school children
  - o **New provision**: Separate provision of stipend of Rs 200 per month (for 10 months) for CWSN girls in addition to student component from pre-primary to senior secondary level. (Earlier it was part of SOC only for girls)
  - o **New provision**: Rs 10000 per camp at block level for holding Identification camps at block level for early identification of disabilities for all categories of disabilities defined under the PwD Act.
  - o **New provision**: Provision for Home-based education (linked to NIOS/SIOS, where possible) will be available for children with severe and profound disabilities who are unable to go to schools.
  - o **New provision**: Non-Recurring Grant for equipping Resource centres at Block level with equipment for rehabilitation and special training of CWSN.
  - o **New provision**: Up to Rs 500 per day of training for special educators and Block resource persons as per in-service teacher training norms.
- NISHTHA has a dedicated module on Inclusive Education.

II.   Curriculum related initiatives for CWSN:

- NCERT has developed a very detailed set of guidelines for states/UTs to guide them in developing e-content for Disabled children.

- The issues and concerns related to inclusion and various aspects of accessibility for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) have been integrated into the regular chapters in the NCERT textbooks in a natural and integrated manner.

- Also, NCERT has developed curricular and resource materials for students, teachers and other stakeholders for promoting inclusive education. NCERT has developed e-books for Class I-XII with embedded UNICODE font which enables them as talking books. Users can download any text to speech (TTS) software and use the digital books as audio books.

- Besides these 53 books have been developed as audio books, 11 video programmes in Science, Business Studies and other subjects are available in sign language.

III.   Digital initiatives for children with disabilities by NIOS:

- **NIOS** is using One DTH channel specifically for hearing impaired students in sign language.

- For visually and hearing-impaired students, study material has been developed in Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language; both are available on NIOS website/ YouTube.

- 141 sign language videos for CWSN are uploaded on DIKSHA portal by NIOS. One hour programme in sign language for secondary and senior secondary level content of NIOS are being broadcast on PM e-Vidya channel 10, from September 1, 2020.

- Course material in 20 subjects at secondary level and 5 subjects at senior secondary level are uploaded on DIKSHA Portal by NIOS

- Guidelines for development of e-content for CWSN has been issued.

1.8.   Initiatives for mental well-being and psychosocial support by DOSEL

I.   MANODARPAN for psychosocial support

- The 'Manodarpan' initiative is included in the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, as a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity and efficient reform for the Education sector.

- '**MANODARPAN**' covers a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing during the COVID outbreak and beyond.

- A Working Group, having experts from the fields of education, mental health and psychosocial issues as its members, has been set up to monitor and promote the mental health issues and concerns of students and to facilitate providing of support to address the mental health and psychosocial aspects during and after COVID-19 lockdown, through counselling services, online resources and helpline.

- The aim of Manodarpan is to help students to live their lives happily, effectively and productively and become resilient over time with the help of life skills even in the face of challenges and roadblocks. Under the initiative, students from Schools/University/Colleges/Institutions of Higher Education are being covered.

- The following components are included in the Manodarpan initiative:

  o **Advisory Guidelines** for students, teachers and faculty of School systems and Universities along with families.

  o **Web page** on the Ministry of Education's website, which carries advisory, practical tips, posters, videos, dos and don'ts for psychosocial support, FAQs, and online query system.

  o **The webpage is available at:** https://manodarpan.education.gov.in

- o **National Toll-free Helpline** (8448440632) by the Ministry of Education for a country wide outreach to students from school, universities, and colleges. This unique helpline is managed by a pool of experienced counsellors/ Psychologists and other mental health professionals and will continue beyond the COVID-19 situation.

  - o **Handbook on Psychosocial Support:** Enriching Life skills and Wellbeing of Students

  - o **Webinars, audio-visual resources** including videos, posters, flyers, comics, and short films are also being uploaded as additional resource materials on the webpage. Crowd sourcing from students all over the country will be encouraged as peer support.

  - o **National level database and directory of counsellors** at School and University level whose services can be offered voluntarily for Tele-Counselling Service on the National Helpline is being prepared.

  - o **Interactive Online Chat Platform** for contact, counselling and guidance by psychologists and other mental health professionals is being developed for students, teachers, and families during COVID-19 and beyond is under preparation.

- A total of about 16673 calls for detailed counselling have been received on IVRS from 21st July 2020 to 9th June, 2021.

- In addition to the Manodarpan, the following activities have also been initiated for mental health and well-being of students:

  - o International Adolescent summit on Life Skills, Health, Safety and Well-being was held on 18[th]December 2020. About 17000 students participated in the summit.

  - o National Book Trust (NBT) has published a series of seven (07) booklets related to the psychological impact of the pandemic and how to cope with it.

- Psychological support is being provided by engaging counsellors to all the students of JNV and their parents for mental health and wellbeing through NVS toll free number 1800-180-7992.

- In JNVs, 200 teachers trained by NCERT on Guidance and Counselling are also engaged in providing counselling to students.

- CBSE vide Circular No. Acad-51/2020 dated July 22, 2020 has requested the heads of all its affiliated schools to disseminate information about this facility to students, parents and teachers.

II. Mental health and well-being manual:

- This manual prepared by CBSE emphasizes the importance of Mental Health and Well Being and encapsulates the role of school, family and community while covering other significant aspects related to Health conditions, risk factors and challenges in adolescent period.
- There is a dedicated chapter on psychological support amidst COVID-19 covering Self Care, positivity, dealing with fear and anxiety, dealing with stigma, importance of social support and staying connected.
- This Manual is available at:https://cbse.nic.in/newsite/attach/CBSE%20MH%20Manual.pdf

III. NCERT counselling services for school children:

- 'NCERT Counselling Services for School Children' was started in April 2020 on phone/email through its trained counsellors. This service is provided free of charge by about 270 counsellors across different regions of the country.

- Live interactive sessions 'SAHYOG: Guidance for Mental Well-Being of Children' are telecast to deal with providing guidance on handling stress and related concerns of students.

- These sessions are being held by school counsellors and Experts on SwayamPrabha channel daily from 5.00pm to 5.30pm. So far, 210 live interactive SAHYOG sessions (105 hours) have been transmitted on DTV-TV Channels.

IV. Tele-counselling by CBSE related to pre-board exam, post-result period, and students of residential schools

- CBSE arranged pre-exam and during pandemic it also arranged post-result toll-free tele-counselling for its students in its 22nd edition.

- 75 counsellors and principals in India and 22 in other countries such as Japan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Kuwait provided voluntary service and continued to do so during the pandemic as well.

- CBSE also provided assistance and psychological counselling to 14000 students of boarding schools affiliated with the Board till 15th April 2020, by establishing contact with the residential schools and their school management. Tele-counselling numbers were informed to all schools and given to each child who had stayed back in hostel.

- Due to the corona pandemic, CBSE started an additional Toll-Free Tele Helpline on CORONA VIRUS safeguards for students as well as general public and provided guidance on preventive care and counselled them about their fears and concerns.

- The Board started IVRS facility on Toll free number to enable public to access information anytime, anywhere and even multiple times. The students/parents/stakeholders could listen to pre-recorded useful information on COVID-19.

- With a view to promote coping skills, Audio-visual presentations on issues affecting mental health during this crisis were available for masses on Aggression, Internet Addiction Disorder, Depression, Exam Anxiety, Substance Use Disorder, Life Skills on official YouTube and Face book handles of CBSE.

V. Observation Of Mental Health Week (From 4th To 10th October 2020):

- The CBSE affiliated schools observed Mental Health Week from 4th to 10th October 2020 on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on 10th October, 2020.
- During the Mental Health Week, following competitions were organised by the schools in an online mode to create awareness on mental health and well-being amongst the students:
  - Story Telling by Teachers
  - Poster Making and Slogan Writing by Students
- 89228 students participated in poster making competition, 773080 students participated in slogan writing competition and 10,055 teachers participated in story telling competition.

VI. MENTAL HEALTH WEBINAR:

- International Adolescent summit on Life Skills, Health, Safety and Well-being was held on 18th December 2020. About 17000 students participated in the summit.
- A Webinar for students, teachers and parents was organised on "Dealing with Examination Stress and Anxiety" on 22nd February 2021.

VII. MID-DAY MEAL:

- The Central Government decided to provide Mid-Day Meal to meet the nutritional requirements of the eligible children under Mid-Day Meal Scheme to safeguard their immunity.

- The State Governments and Union Territories are advised to provide to every eligible child, hot cooked Mid-Day Meal or Food Security Allowance, consisting of quantity of the food grains as per entitlement of the child and cooking cost prevailing in the State, whichever is feasible, till such time their schools are closed due to Novel COVID-19 (Corona) Virus and during summer vacation in2020-21.

- The most suitable modalities in accordance with the prevailing circumstances for this purpose, are to be decided by the respective States and UTs. The ad-hoc grant released, and food grains already allocated to the States and UTs are to be utilized for this purpose. States and UTs have also been advised that all the precautionary measures to face the situation arising out of Novel COVID-19 (Corona) virus, as advised by the Central and State Governments are to be followed.

VIII.   FOCUS ON FITNESS AND HEALTH

- CBSE partnered with FIT INDIA movement to engage students in various online live sessions of physical activities arranged for their physical wellbeing.

- Most of these live sessions were conducted by popular sportspersons of national and international repute to inspire children to inculcate a discipline of physical fitness even while confined to their homes during the lockdown.

- These videos can be accessed at: **Fit India Movement You Tube Channel.**

- CBSE also introduced a new subject at secondary level in class IX from the present academic session viz. Physical Activity Trainer.

- Sports teachers of all 645 JNVs conduct live sessions and regularly give exercises and practice schedule to students for their fitness.

- In KVS, online sessions on fitness training and Yoga were conducted to instill the importance of physical fitness in students.

- Students of Kendriya Vidyalayas actively participated in all the online activities under FIT India programme viz -Quiz, Freedom run, Plogging etc.

IX.   SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME(S) FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS:

- CBSE conducted multiple Sensitization Programme(s) for parents and teachers on the need for ensuring continuous learning and skill promotion for their child/wards/students during this period.

- Awareness programme were conducted for Principals, teachers, and members of School Management on the new subject introduced by CBSE at secondary level (in class IX) viz. Physical Activity Trainer on 19th August 2020.

- Sensitization Programme on 'Importance of Physical Fitness in a student's life' with Mr. Pulela Gopichand was conducted on 4th September 2020.

- Second sensitization programme on 'Importance of Physical Fitness in a student's life' is scheduled on 30th October 2020 with Arjuna Awardee Table Tennis player, Ms. Monalisa Barua.

1.9.   Alignment of Samagra Shiksha to NEP, 2020, and focus on Access, Teacher Training, TLM, Learning Outcomes, OOSC, etc.

The Department of School Education & Literacy launched an Integrated centrally sponsored scheme Scheme for School Education, Samagra Shiksha in 2018 by subsuming the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-

school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. The thrust of the Scheme is to support States and UTs to improve the quality of school education across all levels. The Scheme is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4) and has now been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in order to ensure inclusive and equitable, quality and holistic school education.   Further, there will be greater emphasis on equity and inclusiveness for areas with significant population of Socially & Economically Disadvantaged Groups, such as SC, ST, Minorities and Inclusive education for Divyang Children.

The major recommendations of NEP which are included in revamped Samagra Shiksha are as follows:

- Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

- Provision for Holistic Progress Card (HPC),

- Introduction of tracking of learning outcomes as well as transition of children,

- Induction of qualified counsellors at secondary and senior secondary level in a phased manner,

- Provision of Language Teachers for non-Hindi speaking states

- Provision of Capacity building of teachers (50 hrs CPD),

- Provision for Bagless days and internships,

- Support for OOSC in age group of 16- 19 years,

- Provision for Activities of PARAKH,

- Provision for Separate stipend for CWSN girl child.

- Provision for identification of CWSN and Resource Centre at block level,

- Expansion of schooling facilities including Residential Hostels, KGBVs etc.,

- Provision for Hub and Spoke model in vocational education,

- Provision for Smart classroom and support for DIKSHA,

- Support for Assessment Cells in SCERT etc.