



CBCI Office for Education and Culture

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Newsletter from the CBCI Office for Education and Culture for July 2020

Pope stresses link between education, ecology for World Environment Day

On June 5, 2020 World Environment Day, Pope Francis joined other religious leaders, nine first ladies from Latin America and the Caribbean, and young people from over 170 cities to trumpet the importance of education in caring for the environment. "Education listens, or it doesn't educate," the pope said. "If you don't listen, you don't educate. Education creates culture, or it doesn't educate. Education teaches us to celebrate, or it doesn't educate."



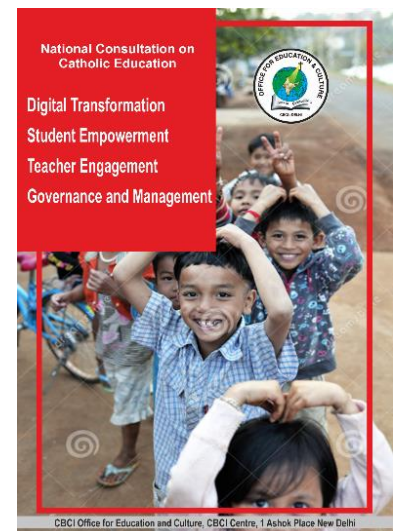
"In this new crisis that humanity is facing today, where culture has been shown to have lost its vitality, I want to celebrate that Scholas, as a community that educates, as an intuition that grows, opens the doors of the 'University of Senses', because educating is seeking the sense of things, is to teach to look for the meaning of things," the pope said.

Scholas Occurrentes is an international papally recognized organization that claims a presence in 190 countries on five continents, bringing together half a million educational institutions. Its mission is to respond to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter, bringing young people together as part of an education that generates meaning.¹

National Consultation on Catholic Education

A Series of Four online consultation on "**Catholic Education in Pandemic and Post-COVID Era: Challenges and Possibilities**" will be organized by the CBCI Office for Education and Culture together with Don Bosco Higher Education Network on four important issues:

Digital Transformation
Student Empowerment
Teacher Engagement
Governance and Management

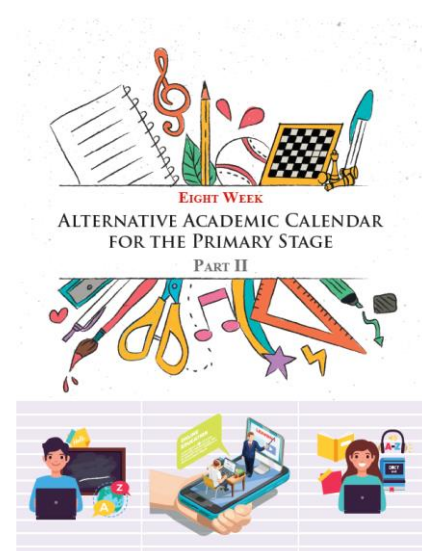


¹ <https://cruxnow.com/church-in-the-americas/2020/06/pope-stresses-link-between-education-ecology-for-world-environment-day/>

Starting from **Friday, 17th of July**, from **11.30 am to 01.00 pm**, this series will be held on each of the topics on subsequent Fridays. Information will be sent to all the Bishops, Regional Secretaries and Diocesan Secretaries. You are most welcome to participate. High profile resource persons will guide the sessions and there will be time for open discussion as well. Reports of each of this consultation will be shared with all the Bishops. Registration link will be sent to you soon.

Union HRD Minister releases 8 weeks' alternative academic calendar for Primary stage and also for Higher Secondary stage (New Delhi, 02nd July 2020)

In order to engage students meaningfully during their stay at home due to COVID-19 through educational activities at home with the help of their parents and teachers, the Alternative Academic Calendars for students, parents and teachers at primary and upper primary stage have been developed by the NCERT under the guidance of the MHRD. This Alternative Academic Calendar is for 8 weeks for primary stage from July 2020. If you like to read the Eight Week Alternative Academic Calendar for the Primary Stage -English, please click the link below.



For Primary and Upper Primary stage from July 2020²

https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Eight_Weeks_AAC_Primary_%28English%29%5B1%5D_0.pdf

For Higher Secondary Second stage from June 2020

https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/aac_hrd_0.pdf

Three books prepared by the CBSE which could be value to the Educators:

'Cyber safety: A Handbook for Students of Secondary & Senior Secondary Schools' is prepared to create awareness about cyber security among the students from class IX to XII. He said that the booklet will be a perfect guide for teenagers

² https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pr_aac_0.pdf

who use internet and other digital platforms frequently may face variety of security risks.

Click here to see the link of Cyber Security Handbook:

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

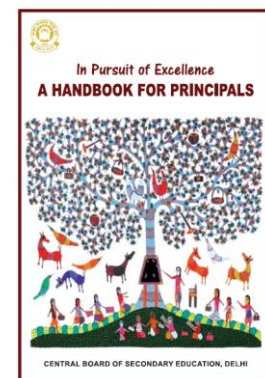
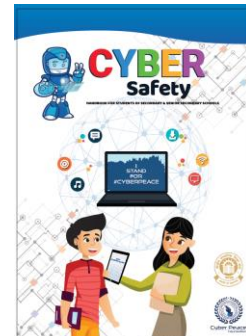
Through the booklet '**In Pursuit of Excellence- A Handbook for Principals**', the Principals of schools will be made aware of the Board's systems and other useful information. It will ensure better coordination between schools and CBSE administration.

Click here to see the link of Principal Handbook:

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

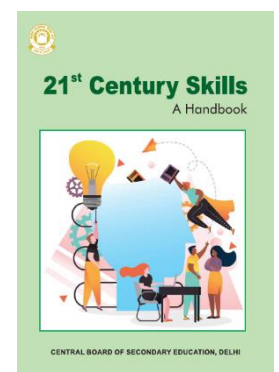
The third booklet '**21st Century Skills: A Handbook**' will help to make everyone aware of 21st century skills and motivate them to use them in their daily life.

Click here to see the link of 21st Century Skills Handbook:



http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Manuals/21st_Century_Skill_Handbook.pdf

Following this calendar, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister for Human Resource Development, Government of India, says, students of all classes can receive school education systematically at home with the help of their teachers through available technological and social media tools till their schools get open. Parents of primary and upper primary students will be guided by teachers about the activities to be conducted with children using mobile phone, SMS, radio, television or various social media.



Higher Education Institutions are officially closed till 31st July 2020

MHA vide order no. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29.06.2020 has issued guidelines on Unlock 2, whereby it has been directed that colleges and educational institutions will remain closed till 31.07.2020. It has been further stated that online/distance learning shall continue to be permitted and shall be encouraged. Amit Khare, the Secretary for Ministry of Human Resources Development, in his order dated 30th June 2020 has

asked the Faculty members/Teachers/Researchers to utilize this period for academic activities.³

National Awards for Innovation in Education

Pallikkutam: The Education Observer and a well-known Education Magazine has announced a National award for Innovation in Education. You can go through the message and for further information, you can visit their website: www.pallikkutam.com



Union HRD Minister virtually launches World's first-ever Online B.Sc. Degree in Programming and Data Science First-ever online degree by an IIT to democratize quality education

The Union Minister of HRD Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on 30th June 2020, virtually launched World's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science in the presence of Minister of State for HRD, Shri Sanjay Dhotre. The programme has been prepared and offered by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), which is ranked No.1 in India Rankings 2020 by NIRF. This programme is open to anyone who has passed Class XII, with English and Maths at the Class X level, and enrolled in any on-campus UG course. Applicants can be from any discipline.⁴

G20 Education Ministers discuss on disruptions in Education caused by pandemic!

On the 27th of June 2020, G20 Education Ministers share best practices, express commitment for collaborative efforts to promote teaching and learning in times of crisis. This online meeting called for all the G20 nations to collaboratively address the widespread disruptions caused by the pandemic in the education sector.

Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' informed all members about India's efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on all sectors including education. Government of India has also announced an unprecedented economic package worth around 10% of India's GDP with substantial financial allocations to reinvigorate the

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https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/DO%20from%20Secy%28HE%29%20on%20MHA%20Guidelines_0.pdf

⁴ https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pr_iitm_0.pdf

education and health sectors of our country. He further said that the Government of India recognizes that there are many students who do not have adequate access to digital means of education. To address the digital divide, HRD ministry has initiated extensive use of TV channels, SWAYAM PRABHA, a group of 34 DTH channels, and Radio including Community Radio in providing education 24x7 to students in the remote areas. Let us hope that this initiative reaches to the students in remote parts of the country!

“India Rankings 2020” for Higher Educational Institutions in India released by the HRD

Union HRD Minister virtually released “**India Rankings 2020**” for Higher Educational Institutions in New Delhi on the 11th of June 2020. In the category of Colleges, two of our Catholic Colleges have been recognized. **Loyola College of Chennai** has ranked 6th and **St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata** has ranked 7th in India. It may also be noted that our Christian institutions, **St. Stephen’s College, Delhi** has ranked 4th in the category of Colleges and **Christian Medical College of Vellore** has ranked 3rd in the Category of Medical Colleges in the country. Congratulations to the Management, Staff and Students of these Higher Education Institutes.⁵

Court verdicts relating to Education Issues in India:

Cancellation of CBSE Board Exams:

The Supreme Court on 25 June 2020, had issued orders to CBSE to release the notice for cancellation of Board exams that were to be conducted from July 1-15. Supreme Court bench led by J AM Khanwilkar heard the plea seeking cancellation of remaining CBSE exams due to COVID19. CBSE had clarified that Class 10 exams were cancelled and the marks awarded based on criterion specified by CBSE would be final. CBSE Class 12 students would have the option to appear for the exams at a later date.⁶

ICSE Board (CISCE) has also decided to follow CBSE's decision and would cancel the ICSE, ISC Exams scheduled in July. The board, however, unlike CBSE, would not give an option to the Class 12 students to appear for the exams later. The ICSE, ISC exams 2020 are hence concluded and no exams would be conducted later.

⁵ https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pr_nirf_0.pdf

⁶ <https://www.timesnownews.com/education/article/sc-decision-on-cbse-cancelled-cbse-not-to-conduct-remaining-12th-10th-exams-in-july/611798>

Tuition fees of schools should not be exempted: Delhi High Court

Providing e-education is no-child's play and efforts made by a teacher giving online classes are more than those required in the physical classroom, the Delhi High Court has observed while refusing to direct private schools not to charge tuition fees during the lockdown period. The court said it requires extensive infrastructural adjustments, including all incidental expenses in arranging access to online platforms over which education could be provided and to suggest that, having made all these arrangements, schools should not be permitted to charge tuition fees, would be bordering on absurdity .

HC allows Punjab schools to charge tuition fee even if they do not conduct online classes

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on 30 June 2020 allowed private schools in Punjab to collect tuition fee, annual charges and admission fee from students even while the schools are closed following the Covid-19 lockdown. The judgment also says schools can charge tuition fees even if they have not conducted any online class for their students during the lockdown period. In her detailed ruling, the judge said the management of each school shall work out actual expenditure incurred under the annual charges for the period the school remained closed and recover only such genuine expenditure incurred by them, including actual transport charges and actual building charges, but shall not recover any charge for this period for any activity or facility towards which no expenditure was incurred.

Is it safe to reopen schools?

Administrators in both Central and state governments are taking stock of the current Covid-19 situation on a daily basis on the issue of reopening of closed schools either by July-end or by the beginning of August 2020. Haryana has resolved to open schools in phases from July 2020.

Recently, Beijing reopened schools but closed them again in the backdrop of the second wave of Covid-19 in the city. The Beijing authorities restarted schools after taking all possible precautions and brought the whole situation under full control, but all these ended up being futile. The Beijing experience will be a lesson to the Indian authorities on the issue of reopening of schools, be it in July, August or

September 2020. Similar cases were reported from countries like France and Israel when they had decided to restart schools after lockdown. In the absence of a life-saving vaccine, all stakeholders of Indian school education should seriously have a second thought about the safety of children.

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