

Sahodaya, conceptualized by CBSE in 1986, has materialized in the form of *Sankalp Sahodaya South West Delhi*. The first meeting was held on May 21, 2007 at St. Mary's School, Dwarka. The aim is to get together and rise together. The Sahodaya Movement launched by the CBSE, is a coming together of like-minded heads of educational institutions and teachers with a consistent desire and will to make the educative process an enriching, expanding and lifelong process for the child. The Principals of the member schools meet, plan activities and participate wholeheartedly in workshops, athletic meets and other games, thereby involving the students and teachers of all the member schools. Though it was initially planned for the South West Delhi Schools, we welcome any CBSE affiliated school that wish to join hands with us, in case of absence of CBSE Sahodaya in their region.

### **OFFICE BEARERS - 2020-21**



Ms. Sudha Acharya President Principal, ITL Public School, Dwarka



Ms. Archana Narain Secretary Principal, The Indian Heights school, Dwarka



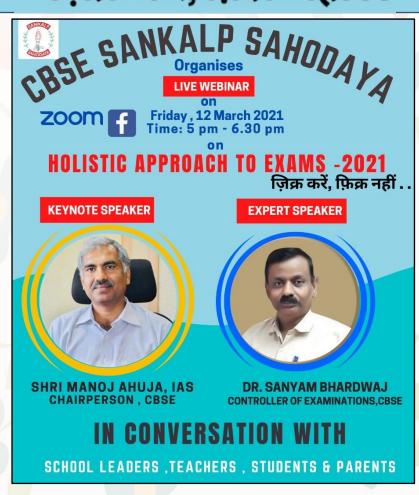
Ms. Nita Arora Vice President Principal, Sri Venkateshwar International School, Dwarka



Ms. Monika Mehan Treasurer Principal, M L Khanna DAV Public School, Dwarka

## **Report on the Webinar** Holistic Approach to Exams -2021





A webinar on Holistic Approach to Exam-2021 was hosted by *Sankalp Sahodaya South West* chapter on Friday March 12, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The webinar was attended by 10,000 participants along with around 1000 visionary Principals of various institutions across India and abroad. *Shri Manoj Ahuja*, IAS, Chairperson CBSE and **Dr Sanyam Bhardwaj** Controller of Examinations, CBSE were the keynote speakers of the webinar.

**Ms. Sudha Acharya**, President Sankalp Sahodaya accorded a warm welcome to the distinguished guests.

**Ms. Archana Narain,** Secretary, Sankalp Sahodaya moderated the session and introduced the esteemed guest speakers.

**Mr Manoj Ahuja** greeted the office bearers of Sankalp Sahodaya, parents, teachers and students. He felt glad to address a significant concern that is stress for the approaching board examination.

The key points of his address included

- Each stakeholder should work together and devise effective strategies to deal with this pertinent issue.
- He assured that all decisions taken by the CBSE are in the interest of students. In the same vein he congratulated the Principals and educators for efficiently and effectively conducting the online classes during the academic year 2020 -2021.
- He opined that it was a Herculean task to hold the students' attention during online classes and commended the teachers for their efficacious effort.
- His chief concern was the learning gaps that arose due to the pandemic which in some cases could transform to permanent gaps if not addressed promptly.
- He exhorted that CBSE has scheduled the examination in the month of May to ensure bridging the learning gaps and put the system in place.
- He informed the attendees that CBSE is planning to standardise the examinations so that the CBSE certifications are accepted globally.
- To keep stress and anxiety at bay, teachers and parents must work as a team and create stress free environment inducing learning. In this regard, he informed, CBSE will also start its counselling services.
- He emphasised the need to practice writing and follow a timetable to take the board examination confidently.
- Due to the unprecedented challenge, conducting the board examination has become a huge exercise since the number of centres have been increased so as to adhere to the Covid protocols.
- The increase in number of centres have also been done so that students do not have to travel long distances.
- The year being challenging for students some decisions were taken in their favour as, if a child falls sick/ is affected with Covid or is willing to take Improvement Tests he/she may sit for the Compartment Exams. However, he clarified that a student can sit for Improvement Test in one subject only.
- He also emphasized that each learner should register for 'परीक्षा पे चर्चा' so that they don't miss out on the valuable insights shared by honourable Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi.
- He concluded by wishing the students success for their upcoming board examination.

The e-newsletter was then released in the presence of all dignitaries which showcased the hard work, motivation and dedication of students and teachers who worked tirelessly during the testing time.

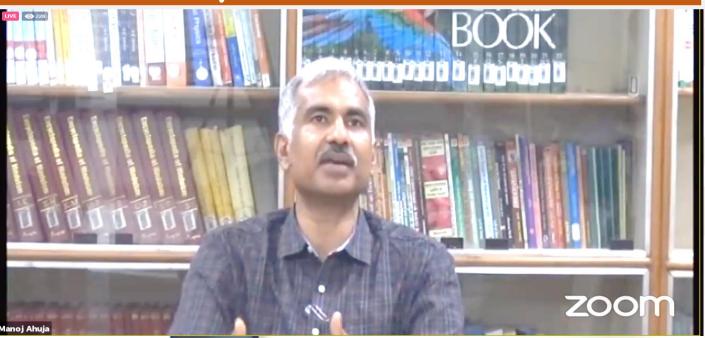
Ms. Sudha Acharya then welcomed Dr Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examination, CBSE. Mr Bhardwaj termed these examinations as special examinations and so special efforts are to be made jointly to create a stress-free environment for the examinees. In his address:

- He complimented the teachers for trying to reach the last child. However, he opined that some students remained untouched because of certain circumstances beyond their control.
- > He briefly talked about the NEP which aims at making examinations stress free.
- He informed that from this academic year, CBSE has initiated improvement examinations of a subject that can be taken within two months after the declaration of the board result.. Also, now duplicating certificates will be much simpler seeking only an application and a photo ID proof.
- Migration and Passing certificate cum Mark Sheet will be issued and delivered to school within 7 to 10 working days after declaration of the result.
- He added that several IT related initiatives are in the pipeline to make the CBSE office paperless.
- He delved on the importance of students taking 'Sankalp' and gearing up for the examination. He showed confidence in students and hoped that they will leave no stone unturned to ace the boards.
- He put the doubts of the students at rest stating that there shall be no more changes in the syllabus, sample question papers or the date sheet.
- He emphasized that the date sheet was set after much deliberation as there are 35000 combination of subjects. which led to the inclusion of the second shift of Examination. This, he mentioned was done to minimise disturbance in the normal functioning of the school or commencement of the new academic session.
- He also mentioned that the date sheet of Board Exams of the next academic session will be released as soon as the registration process of IX and XI will be over.
- He reiterated that loss of time will mar the preparation and time management should be a necessary skill to get success in the examination.
- Giving prime importance to the interest of students, CBSE, now being a robust organisation, is working in tandem with other organizations like AICTE, KVS, NTA and has categorically stated that the date sheet once issued will not be changed.

- He added that students must use time judiciously and should complete and revise the course multiple times and for this he suggested to divide time in a manner wherein students prepare three subjects from Monday to Friday and the other two subjects on the remaining days.
- With just a month and a half remaining, he expects that there has to be a paradigm shift in the preparation.
- Students must be grateful to God for providing them strong and effective guidance of school, teachers and parents.
- > He also urged the teachers and parents to respect the needs of the students.
- He went on to advise students on how to prepare for the boards. He suggested to revise the content and then to test the knowledge in writing.
- > He reiterated that school Principal, teachers, parents, CBSE are a single entity.
- He feels that it is significant to send students to school because the focussed and effective guidance from the teachers can help them to hone their preparation and reflect on their mistakes.
- He averred that all policies of CBSE are in favour of students and discouraged student to resort to social media agitation in case of minor anomalies.
- He mandated that students to adhere strictly to Covid protocols during their Examination.
- He advised the students to be mindful of their health and the diet they take. He wanted them to remain positive and avoid self-criticism as the board examinations are not the last resort but the first.
- Deep breathing, listening to light music, candid discussion with parents and teachers can yield miraculous results.
- Considering the fact, that that electronic gadgets are the biggest time robbers, students must dissuade themselves from using them to ensure optimum utilisation of time.
- He urged the parents to create a conducive, Himalaya- like tranquil atmosphere at home, to enhance the learning of the examinees.
- He proposed the imposition of Section 144 during the examination so as to create disturbance free environment for the students.
- > He guided the students to prepare for the best and forget the rest.

He confided to the student community that not only the CBSE but also the Prime Minister of the Nation is concerned about their welfare and will interact and guide them through his experience.

# Glimpses of the Webinar

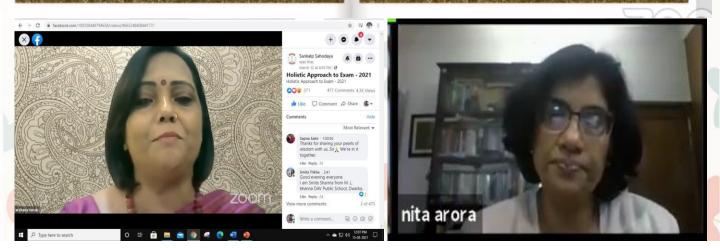






# Glimpses of the Webinar







Q1. What steps are to be taken if a student or his family member tests positive for Corona during the practical exams?

Ans. CBSE has extended the window period of the Practical Examination from 1<sup>st</sup> March to June 11,2021. So, the student can appear after recovering. The school authorities need to inform the Regional office regarding the same to conduct the examination. For further clarifications on this issue, a circular will be uploaded on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Q2. There is a lot of stress in Gulf countries due to job-loss and deportation. Is it possible for CBSE to depute an official to deal with students appearing for Board examinations of such affected families?

Ans. Looking sympathetically at this issue, CBSE has notified that up to a particular point, a student can take examination from India provided the student takes both the theory and practical examination from one city only.

Q3. Eid is a five- day long celebration and it will be a serious challenge to procure question paper from the government agencies during a gazetted holiday period. What should be the course of action as there are two exams slated during this period?

Ans. Since it is confidential, the platform is not suitable to discuss but promised to do the needful.

Q4. Mathematics examination is followed by Arabic, without any gap, which is taken up by majority of students in the Gulf countries. Since there are huge representations from the parents and many Principals have already mailed to CBSE, how can the matter can be dealt with urgency?

Ans. He suggested that students are aware of the date sheet and should plan and prepare accordingly. The date sheet has been prepared in such a manner that even if a student has to appear for two exams on consecutive days, one exam is relatively easy to revise. CBSE also has a deadline to meet, to declare the result and students also have to appear for examinations to Higher educational institutions. So, there is limited scope for any further changes in the date sheet.



Q5. CBSE has provided a clear set of instructions for the theory examination that there has to be 12 students in a classroom but there are no clear instructions of this kind of arrangement for the practical examination .Also the circular that has been issued has the same set of instructions as that of the last year. Should the group photographs be with mask or without mask?

Ans. In most schools the laboratories are big enough to accommodate 25 students. However, in schools which have laboratories that cannot accommodate 25 students, the practical can be taken in 2 batches(one batch writing the theory and the other performing the practical).

Photographs of both the batches are to be taken separately. In photographs students are not to wear the masks. Marks and photographs of both the batches should be uploaded together on the same day and at the same time after the practical examinations of both the batches are over.

Practical examination in 3 batches are also permitted and it can start at 8:00 a m and be taken till early evening.

# Q6. CBSE has tried heaven and hell to disband the coaching centres. Will the new initiative of conducting entrance examination to colleges lead to mushrooming of a new breed of coaching centres?

Ans. Issue to be addressed by the Government of India. Further the school, parents, teachers and government should work together towards rooting this out.

### Q7. The process of introduction of a new subject in class XI is tedious. Can it be made simpler?

Ans. CBSE is working on it and within a week a new policy with respect to introduction of new subjects in class XI and affiliation will be notified. With the new set of guidelines, there will be no need to visit the office and permission will be granted for all the subjects except the practical subjects that is Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

### Q8. Can a child attempt the practical examination from some other centre if he misses the examination on the scheduled day?

Ans. As stated in the first circular, if for any reason the child is missing the practical examination, the school should try to reconduct the examination before the last date. The student can also take the examination in some other school . However, in all cases the examination can be conducted only after bringing it to the knowledge of the CBSE Regional Office.



#### **Q9.Since NCERT books are concise. should CBSE come out with few quality books?**

Ans. NCERT books are recommended because they are comprehensive, provide additional information and as per the NCF. NCERT books are sufficient enough to qualify the entrance exams. Techers and Principals of different schools can collaborate and prepare quality study material for the benefit of student community.

#### Q10. When will the NEET examination be conducted?

Ans. It will be conducted when Class XII examinations are over. Students should prepare for the board examination earnestly because this will aid them to clear their NEET too.

#### Q 11. What protocols should be followed for the scribes for CWSN?

Ans. Guidelines are being prepared and schools will receive monetary help for the arrangement to ensure the safety and comfort of CWSN candidates. Examination Rooms for such candidates should be on the ground floor.

While responding to the questions he further stated that he envisions better opportunities for children with special needs and also invited volunteers to approach him on his email id.

### Q12. The last session was on online mode, there was a big learning gap especially for the EWS students. How can that be bridged?

Ans. Extend additional help to these students as there is still time at hand. Children can be encouraged to come to school and in certain cases even teachers can visit them with all safety and precaution to provide the desired academic support. He requested schools to put extra efforts.

### Q13. Shouldn't there be a differentiation between the students taking Compartment Exam and those who're absent due to exigencies?

Ans. Since these examinations are qualifying in nature so there is only one special category that is Compartment.

#### Q.14 Should the photographs be uploaded with masks or without masks?

Ans. It should be without mask to identify the candidates and delete unreliability factor. CBSE will take serious note of any unfair practices related to practical examination.



Q.15 External examiners and Observers are reluctant to come to border areas due to pandemic. The host schools have to pay more for conveyance charges .What should be the course of action?

Ans. It has been notified by CBSE that External Examiner and Observer will be from the same city. It was categorically stated that all payments shall be made by CBSE and even for the previous pending remunerations, all bills are to be sent to CBSE which will be cleared within 10 working days. Assurance of creating a better system to resolve the problem in future was given.

Q.16 Parents are reluctant to give their consent to send their wards to school. Is it possible for CBSE to issue any guidelines to address the same ?

Ans. These instructions and guidelines are issued by the Government of India and CBSE has no say in this .The school authorities were advised to convince the parents to send their wards to school as it is for the welfare of the students.

After the interactive question answer session Dr. Sanyam Bhardwaj shared his email id for further interaction, suggestions and queries.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Ms Anju Tandon. She expressed gratitude to the honourable guests for their invaluable perspective and motivating words on crucial issues pertaining to Board Examination.



Report prepared by the team from M L Khanna DAV Public School, Dwarka under the guidance of Dr. (Mrs) Sudha Acharya and Ms. Monika Mehan