

Samvaad

Chandigarh's Monthly CCT Newsletter
September 2020

Leader Speak

"It is heartening to go through the inspiring work each of you is putting in towards preparations for PISA 2022. I congratulate you on yet another successful edition of SAMVAAD and am looking forward to reading more about the innovative ideas you are putting in practice towards this opportunity we have received. I hope we keep up the momentum in the coming months and continue innovating, creating and collaborating."

Mr. Rubinderjit Singh Brar - PCS
Director, School and Higher Education, Chandigarh

Did you Know?

79 countries participated in the last PISA

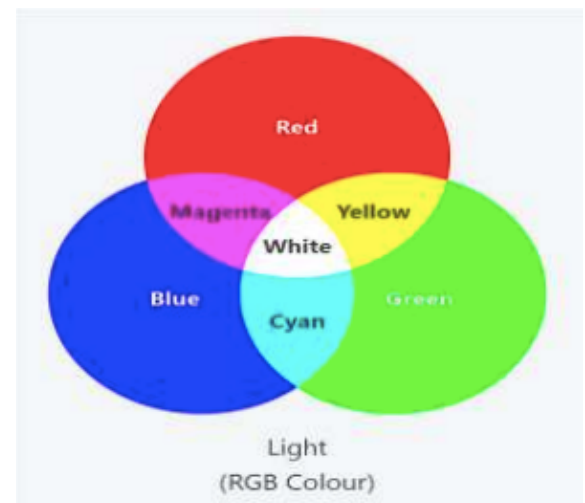
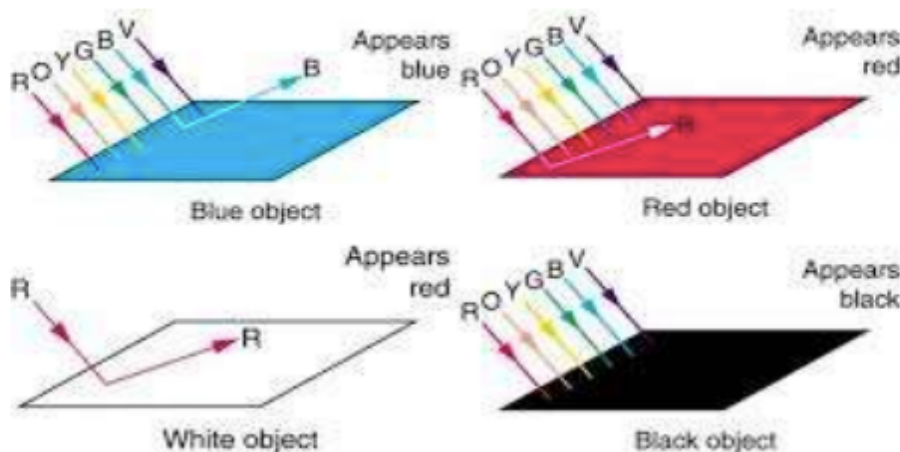
Initiatives led by SCERT

- SCERT, in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS), conducted a webinar on 'Features of National Education Policy' for URCCs, CRCs and SCERT faculty on 4th September, 2020 and all the Subject Expert Groups on 7th September, 2020
- 'Fun with Science' was launched to contribute e-content on activities given in NCERT books for classes 3-8 in EVS and Science at Vidya Daan on 22nd September 2020

- In association with CBSE, a 3-day webinar was organised around creating parent awareness on Creative and Critical Thinking skills
- All the teachers and students of class 6th to 12th were directed to register in 30-30 STEM, a series of 30 one-hour online programs focusing on basic conceptual understanding of mathematics and science, by IIT Gandhinagar in association with CBSE

CCT Torchbearers!

Colour Splash!



The team at Government Model High School, Manimajra focused on the scientific literacy competency of students being able to use **scientific knowledge and draw evidence-based conclusions**.

Using a generic topic of 'colours' students were taught to observe connections across curricula and indulge in synthesis of knowledge through critical and creative thinking. Through this exercise, students learnt how to synthesize knowledge and then connect it to real world experiences, besides indulging in interdisciplinary understanding (English, Maths, Arts,

Psychology, Social Science, Science, in this case) while problem-solving. Asking students to analyse presented information by making use of higher order thinking skills (answering Aaliya's query in relation to stage light changing the appearance of actor's clothes) shall serve to guide students to think using a different mental skill set.

This assignment was designed keeping in mind students of VIII class, but given the generic nature of the topic, it can be used for VI to X alike. Every topic offers opportunities for exercising HOTS – lifeline of PISA. By giving students a chance to exercise these life skills, by placing such assignments in the domain of every lesson plan, the team hopes to see critical and creative thinking as a culture rather than just an activity.

Please click below link for more information on this initiative.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QyhJ_rhSdaoyjJUa5iji-Wx9vQssFWbw/view?usp=sharing

The Letter Creature: Art and Speech Integration



Learning can become boring when you are sitting at home due to the Covid 19 lockdown. The team at Carmel Convent School decided it need not be so. In the first week of September, students were encouraged to add an element of fun and creativity to the learning process. In order to support students on all 3 competencies of Reading Comprehension,

The team facilitated an art and craft integration for Classes VI-VIII where students were asked to create an imaginary creature out of letters cut out from newspapers and magazines. Students selected any two alphabets to work with and cut a pile of these letters from newspapers and magazines, and then put these letters together to create an imaginary creature of their own. When they were satisfied with the way the creature looked, they gave these creatures a name and introduced them to the rest of the class through a short video.

Through this exercise students were introduced to new ways of **interpreting text**, enhancing their reading and research skills, thinking creatively and employing critical thought to bring together several elements, and **time management** was reinforced as they learnt to present within 1 minute.

Considering our students will have to attempt 60 questions in 2 hours time in PISA assessment, time management is also a crucial skill we are supporting our students to now develop.

More resources and details of this initiative can be found at the below link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KNb9HUOtZpiHx58vcrl2H6ocpKvWF2pC?usp=sharing>

Reading Meets Technology

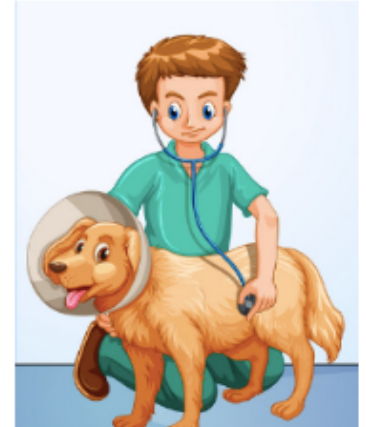
Government High School, Sector 53, initiated an activity to develop reading enrichment, use of technology for creative expression and Integrating poetry teaching with the CCT practice worksheet of continuous reading 'Ball Poem'.

This activity gave a broader perspective and in-depth knowledge to students which would help them to express their creativity.

The team intends to develop multiple skills and **vocabulary enrichment** along with integrating text with routine activities in the near future.



Triumph of Surgery



You can find details of this initiative [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tm457EM5VrEbHnFnFG8EkAyy0VwHBdcN)

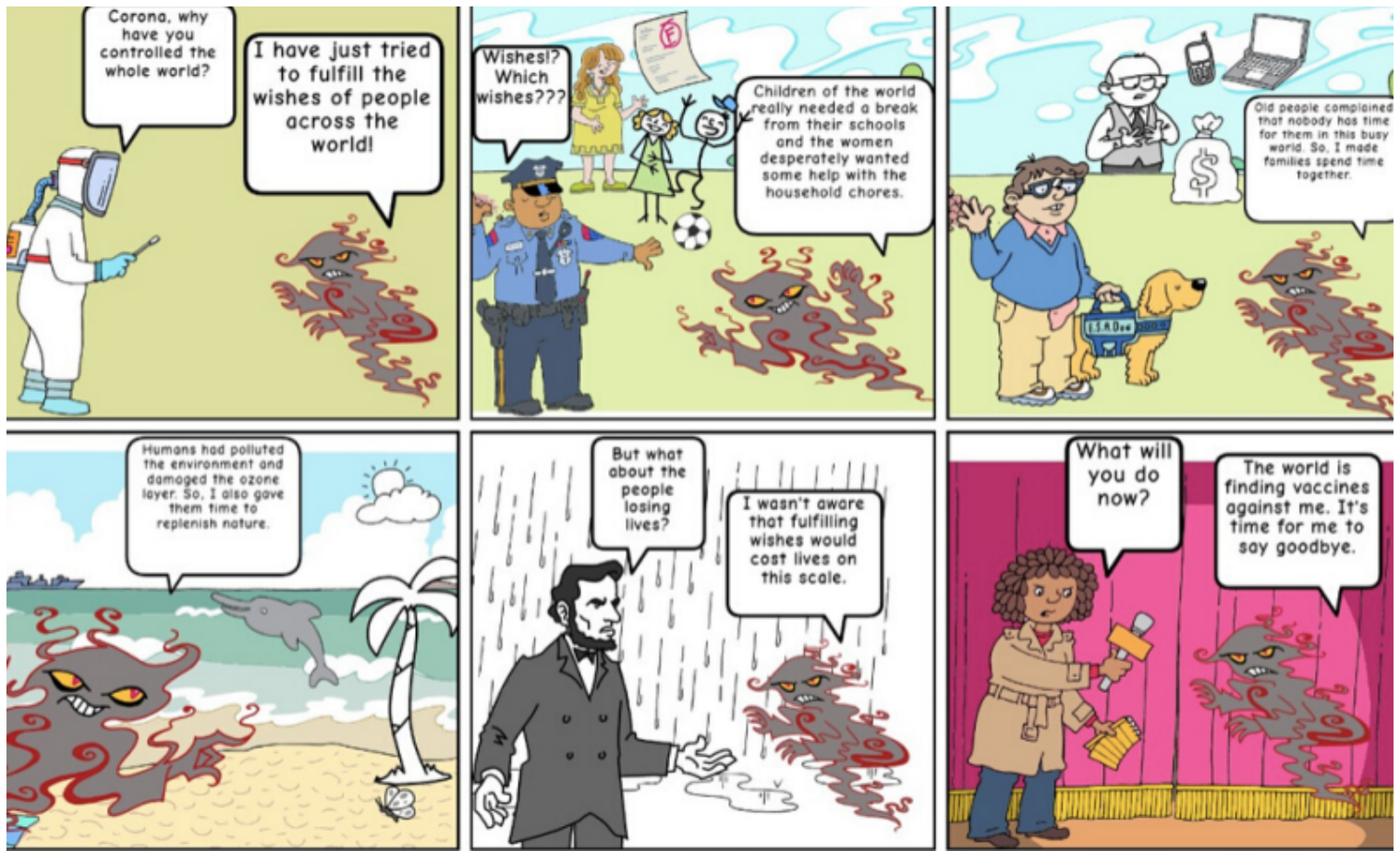
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tm457EM5VrEbHnFnFG8EkAyy0VwHBdcN>

Comic Strip Creation Activity

The team at Bhavan Vidyalaya School facilitated a comic creation exercise for their students to enhance the PISA competencies for Reading literacy. Students learnt to convert active voice sentences into reported speech which will help them formulate a variety of sentences in their assessments.

You can check out some sample comic strips at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qOhNTrCz9RO9qOuVT8bPMjF4U7YfcmSz/view?usp=sharing>



Non-Continuous Text and Writing Skills



To encourage students to comprehend and write effectively, the team at Shishu Niketan School, Sector 43 facilitated an exercise where students were

asked to study the data given in a survey and answer the questions based on it. A diary entry based on the chapter 'The Fun they Had' was also given to improve their writing skills. As a result of this activity, students will now be able to **interpret and analyze information** given in the PISA assessment better and will be able to answer the questions asked aiming for full credit.

You can read more about the initiative on this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_G2-sP-h3LB_Y0S2EaUztMuiEHN5NAEv?usp=sharing

Minimise your footprint

Your Carbon Footprint

Based on the Carbon Footprint Survey, color the rings around the footprint (start from the center) to estimate the relative size of your family's carbon footprint. What can you and your family do to reduce the size of your carbon footprint?



The team at DAV Model School, Sector 15 facilitated an exercise for their students, integrating the PISA competencies for Reading Literacy, Mathematical Literacy and Scientific Literacy on the theme of environmental consciousness. Students understood the primary reasons of pollution, how every individual footprint is counted and what steps we at our personal level can take to minimise the loss of carbon and water footprints

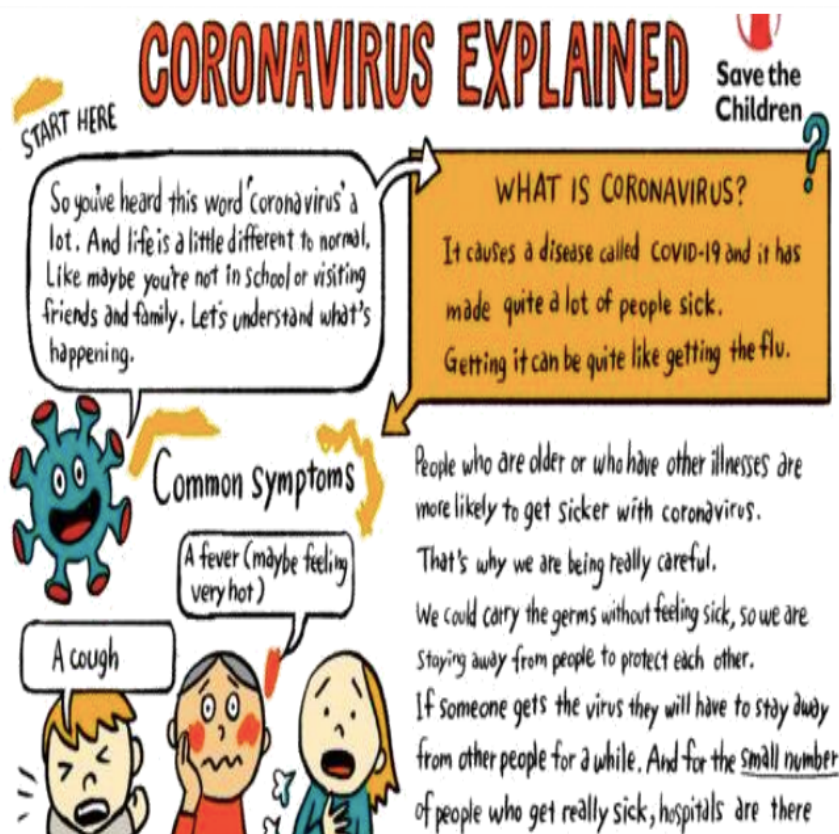
Students also enhanced their skill of **comprehending graphs** depicting pollution levels. Students learnt to draw interconnections via this exercise and understood that to solve real life problems, they have to apply **multi-disciplinary learning**.

The team is now encouraging students to keep a track of their own carbon and water footprint affecting the environment and eventually creating spaces where students can share their innovative ideas of reducing the footprints by shifting to alternative ways.

You can access some ready to use resources at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11a77GerFmRP1xj8C9WnDBvyS5YlaSTMa?usp=sharing>

The Creative & Critical Thinking Hub



A strong believer of **Together Everyone Achieves More**, St. John's School, in their capacity as the Lead Collaborator school under the Hub and Spoke model of CBSE, amalgamated the ongoing focus on CCT with their role and initiated the Critical & Creative Thinking Hub. The CCT Hub has been made to provide a common platform aimed at embedding CCT

practices in school communities and to encourage the professional development of teachers, **mobilize teachers, parents, students and other community partners**, bring together expertise for the improvement of all stakeholders, experience joyful learning, and create educational leadership that collaborates at all levels to accelerate improvement.

All schools in a given group are expected to be 'givers' as well as 'receivers' of support, generate fresh ideas to prepare new interesting CCT resources, create opportunities for student and for teacher learning, collaborate in other joint activities etc. Thus, this hub will ensure: **Academic collaboration, Resource Sharing and Professional Development of Teachers/Staff etc. with the focus on PISA 2022.**

In this regard, St. John's High School, Chandigarh organized an online training session on 29th August 2020 to discuss some of the latest developments in the field of education. This session was the introductory and pre-training session for the upcoming CCT Hub work starting from the month of September.

Integrated Mathematics Fun Weekly Challenge was introduced to the Hubs of learning schools. It was an activity-based learning challenge using the game of basketball, which helped in making a significant contribution to students' mathematical performance and attitude. This challenge is based on involving learners in reading, discussion, and practical activities, as well as engaging them in solving problems after analysis of the given situation. The process of such resource creation was explained to the hubs of learning schools in the following steps: CREATION OF RESOURCE; MAIN FOCUS OF RESOURCE; WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED; HOW WILL IT HELP STUDENTS PERFORM BETTER IN PISA

Though this initiative falls under the category of Teacher Training, yet, its ultimate aim is to develop PISA competencies in our students, helping them to evolve into individuals who possess problem solving ability along with

decision making skills and are ready to face the real world. The CCT Hub or as rightly it should be called, CCT Community Hub, approach has also been shown to improve attendance rates, parent engagement and encourage different ways to meet the sometimes complex and changing needs of students. In this light, a common topic for making CCT resources has been assigned to the schools (e.g. Environment). Each school has been assigned a specific grade but the topic remains the same. The resource will be shared with all the members and a brainstorming session will be conducted to get inputs from them to improvise and create an innovative CCT resource. The resulting CCT resource will have a fun element along with being multidisciplinary. In future, different schools will be creating more such weekly challenges with new, innovative ideas to cater to the needs of every learner and also sharing with others. This will also support the New Education Policy and help in developing all aspects and capabilities of the learners and make education more well-rounded, useful and fulfilling to the learner. The start was great and the journey so far has been extremely worthwhile and lucrative for everyone. St John's High School would continue to strengthen the bond with the CCT Hub so that students can flourish and make India proud in the PISA exam 2022. To share is to give strength and uplift others, while elevating yourself to a higher dimension.

You can access this link to understand more details about this initiative:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dMag3cOLG3Tjg_PWm9F8_F94UX1USgGT?usp=sharing

Life before COVID

Creative and Critical Thinking - Awareness Video




To continue to apprise the parents about steps initiated by the school for fostering **Creative and Critical Thinking** among students, the team at Delhi Public School shot a video in the school while the students were engaged in hands-on activities. Post the circulation of this video parents became very supportive in encouraging the students in taking up the practice sheets and the joyful learning modules seriously. Such interactive initiatives are a great way to bring the parents on same page as the school with regards to their children gearing towards PISA 2022

The full video is available at this link -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MyE4RSob9BO7jUFIPYu2GMNwvoJvKwKH/view?usp=sharing>

Two-minute Reading Practice

In an age when browsing the Internet, playing games on cell phones and sending an SMS seem to be the order of the day, reading a book has taken a backseat for most of the people. To look at written words and derive meaning, make sense or understand the idea behind the content can happen, only if one can read properly. The ability to **read a paragraph and understand** what it is trying to convey forms the most important link between the student's ability to attempt a question and his performance in any kind of examination. St John's High School undertook the initiative of promoting reading skills among the students. A two minutes supervised reading was incorporated in each subject and every period in the curriculum on a daily basis. When the academic period began and students settled down, the subject facilitators prompted the students to read for two minutes from their respective subject textbooks. The facilitator kept a check on the time after which the students kept a record in the school diaries.


SUBJECT	NUMBER OF WORDS READ	HOW'S THE JOSH? 	NEW WORDS THAT I READ TODAY :
ENGLISH			
HINDI			
MATH			
SCIENCE			
SOCIAL SCIENCE			
FRENCH/PUNJABI			

The initiative has been applauded by parents and teachers alike as it has been regarded as an effective tool to develop reading habits in students, thereby improving their comprehension abilities.

The present day student is smart, logical and a quick decision maker. The area that he lacks in, is his inability to focus and remain patient. This practice has proven to improve upon the above mentioned areas. If taken up by all schools, we will have an aware and informed young generation ready to take upon any challenges. In the new session, the same practice has been followed online. It has been implemented in all classes from 1 to 12. A printed format has been put in the school diary for ease of daily record maintenance.

Please refer to below link for more details

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eFeIWWNYNvV4LjtEtD9c9f9sIie7FIEG?usp=sharing>



Poll of the Month

How often do you use DIKSHA to access CCT resources?

Which CCT resources have you found useful/interesting on DIKSHA and why?

Submit your responses at -

<https://forms.gle/Zb7YveSYZvjHX6te6>

Resource in focus

PISA Primer for Parents



For our students to embrace PISA and work towards preparing for it with enthusiasm, it is crucial that their parents understand the importance of PISA and support their children in this journey. Bearing that in mind, here's introducing the **PISA Primer for Parents!**

The primer has been designed to sensitise parents on PISA, and

how studying for it can benefit their children and how they can contribute to it.

The first section talks about how studying for PISA can help children gain important **competencies and 21st century skills** that can greatly improve their children's future prospects.

The second section talks about the various initiatives that have been introduced in schools with a view to enhance students' **creative and critical thinking** abilities, and move to a new, **experiential way of learning**.

The last section goes on to explain the ways in which parents can contribute to their children's PISA preparation, and how little steps like **encouraging a reading habit, watching educational programmes** with their children etc. can go a long way in a child's learning and development.

The primer also has two QR codes - one having content for parents, and the other hosts the weekly CCT practice questions.



Parent resource for
home learning techniques

For Further Information or Inquiries:

- 1 Write to us at support.pisa@teamdiksha.org
- 2 Contact your school principal or class teacher



Weekly CCT Practice
Five questions a week

School principals and teachers must ensure that this primer reaches all of the parents in their school once it is released. There must also be follow-up conversations with parents regarding the primer to supplement their understanding of PISA, and clear misconceptions, if any. The primer will be available in English and Hindi.

Teacher Talk!

Role of Parents in enhancing Critical and Creative Thinking of children

It has been rightly said that the mother is the first teacher of a child. Parents can play a significant role in enhancing critical and creative thinking



skills of their children. Parents often do not ask questions that facilitate richer forms of critical thought. But now it is the need of the hour that **teachers and parents join their hands** to develop the thinking skills of our young ones in a free environment.

Children are learning everywhere and all the time. While they are in the playground, in the company of friends or family, watching their favourite TV show or playing games. But it is the utmost responsibility of the parents to ask them simple questions like how did you feel when your opponent won the game? Which character of their favourite show is liked the most by them and why?

Here are some more simple practices that can be adopted at home -

- While helping the child in doing homework, encourage them to suggest their own ideas and explain why
- While correcting mistakes, instead of telling the correct answer, help them reach the correct answers
- Give them opportunities to make their own decisions. For example, let them compare the cost of their favourite bicycle before buying it. Let them sort out the issues with siblings without your interference.
- Mathematical skills of children can be enhanced by involving them in home budgeting, comparing discounts and offers on their favourite clothes, measuring the area of their study room for getting the floor tiled, finding angles on the walls of the house, comparing the weight and cost of their favourite chocolates etc.

- While helping in the kitchen, children can learn many scientific principles and enhance their scientific literacy. Why steam comes out when water is boiled for making tea, why do we see water vapour on the surface of glass filled with cold water?

Parents can do a great job in making the upcoming generations critically rich and help bring rote learning to an end. If parents and teachers join hands, learning will surely become fun for children.

Rama Garg

PGT Mathematics

St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School

New Approach To Learning

PISA will bring a paradigm shift in teaching methods to make our students globally competitive



The pace of development and progress around the world is changing the way we need to think, perceive, interpret and analyse. Many education reformers believe that the industrial model of education, which shuttles children through an assembly line of subjects and then wants them to reproduce the information, needs to change.

PISA could be a catalyst in initiating this change. The arrival of PISA is the beginning of a new journey, which is all set to bring the knowledge out of the books to real-life situations.

PISA is not all about assessing students. In fact, it is a **tool to assess the education systems of the various participating countries**. The outcomes of such a standardised tool not only point out the inherent defects of the prevailing education scenario, but also help in policy making and improving the education standards. Simply put, PISA will help us modify our old system and frame new policies, but, most importantly, it will make our students ready for global competition. **PISA marks a paradigm shift from the content-based learning to competencies-based learning**, which is the need of the hour. In this age of artificial intelligence and robotics, the knowledge of content has taken a backseat. It is the application of knowledge that holds the key. This is what PISA focuses on. Laying stress on creative and critical thinking and problem solving, it has the potential to produce a generation of students who will be equipped to cope with the demands of the future and handle the present as well. Our current system of education is producing great engineers, doctors, lawyers who no doubt are experts in their specific fields, but unfortunately they fail miserably when it comes to handling situations outside their fields. PISA preparation has brought a shift in focus, which aims at producing competent individuals fit to face any situation.

PISA is already intruding into our education and evaluation system as the CBSE is already set to introduce PISA-like questions in the Board exams. These questions will require the students not only to reproduce what they have already learnt, but also to **reflect on the given text, interpret it, evaluate it and even analyse it critically**. This does not mean that PISA does not test the knowledge at all — it tests the application of knowledge in real-life situations. PISA is not here for a short span. It is here to stay and very soon, it is going to overhaul our entire educational scenario.

Students, prepared the PISA-way, will be far more competent and successful. It is not only learning-oriented. It is a step higher and aims to develop certain skills and competencies.

In this age of globalisation, it is high time our education system moved a step higher, and produced students who not only aim at cracking state or national-level competitive exams but also feel confident to take on international challenges. **Chandigarh is going to be the face of India in PISA in 2022** and the City Beautiful has already geared up for this as all the stakeholders - from the high officials of the Education Department, principals, teachers and even the students - are putting in their best efforts together to make it a success. A lot of detailing is being done, strategies are being evolved, various agencies are being roped in and training is being imparted to the educators to equip the students to tread the PISA path smoothly. But the journey won't end there. PISA or no PISA, the outcomes of this new approach of learning will remain with us, promising a bright future.

Satinder Kaur

TGT Social Science

GMSSS 37

Your Opinion Matters!

Please share your feedback on this edition of Samvaad - Chandigarh's
Monthly CCT Newsletter by visiting the link below

<https://forms.gle/m62KVUKeGurquqxEA>