



Classes in Distance Mode

Why in News

The Centre is planning to start the next academic year virtually.

- Many schools have been shut since early March due to the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, even before the countrywide lockdown.

Key Points

- This means that the new academic calendar will begin as usual in April for classes 9 to 12, though the last academic year may have been somewhat truncated, with examinations postponed in some cases including the CBSE exams for classes 10 and 12.
 - Recently, it has been decided that the cbse will conduct exams only for the main subjects: required for promotion or may be crucial for admission in higher educational institutions.
- The Centre plans to restart classes in the distance mode, with teaching via **dedicated TV and radio channels in English and Hindi**.
 - There is an existing program, **Swayam Prabha**, which is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.
- **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** has been asked to create a structured programme for schools class-wise. This is being done along with the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** using their syllabus.
- The material will be ready for use by schools following the NIOS or the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus.
- **For the State Boards**
 - **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) mobile app has been offered to States** as a platform to provide content in local languages.
 - If States are willing to produce the content in local languages, the Centre can give them 2-3 hours on the channel.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing

- Diksha Portal was launched by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**
- in 2017 for providing a digital platform to teachers giving them an opportunity to **learn and train themselves and connect with the teacher community**.
- It is built considering the **whole teacher's life cycle** - from the time student teachers enroll in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to after they retire as teachers.
- **States, government bodies and even private organisations**, can integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives based on their goals, needs and capabilities.
- It also provides access to NCERT textbooks and lessons, following the regular school curriculum.

National Institute of Open Schooling

- NIOS, formerly known as National Open School (NOS) was established in November, 1989 as an **autonomous organisation in pursuance of National Policy on Education 1986** by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**.
- NIOS provides a number of **Vocational, Life Enrichment and community oriented courses besides General and Academic Courses at Secondary and Senior Secondary level.**
- It also offers **Elementary level Courses** through its Open Basic Education Programmes (OBE).
- Government of India has vested NIOS with the authority to **examine and certify** learners registered with it upto pre degree level courses whether Academic, Technical or Vocational.

[Source: TH](#)

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