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## CBSE Launches On-Line Labs For Students

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In yet another innovative method to enhance understanding of students and make learning of science more easy and interesting, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in association with Amrita University has decided to introduce a novel e-learning project – On-line Labs for school Experiments (OLabs), based on the concept of virtual learning environment.

OLabs works on web environment and provides experience in on-line practical science experiments. It has been developed for the students of classes IX and X, to enhance their understanding of experimentation concepts. The content is mapped and aligned to the CBSE curriculum for classes IX and X.

CBSE has recommended OLabs to all the schools affiliated to it. OLabs is a facility which is available free of cost at <http://www.olabs.co.in> to all the schools affiliated to the CBSE.

OLabs includes the study and use of mathematical techniques to demonstrate the various complex functions in diverse areas of science. The experiments are demonstrated using interactive simulations based on mathematical models, videos and rich interactive animations to create real world environments.

OLabs will help overcome the limitations faced by some students in a few schools in India due to either insufficient time or instruments in laboratories. It is also capable of assessing students' observations, procedural and reporting skills, and will allow teachers to track the student usage, thus making learning more effective.

These virtual experiments will stimulate students' interest in learning and will give them the experience of doing real lab work, by graphically resembling with laboratory equipment and simulating a virtual medium. Students can practice these experiments at their leisure and may use this for revising the concepts at the comforts of their home as many times as they wish. Teachers may specially find it very useful while demonstrating the experiments in class or in laboratory as it will provide minutest details with complete clarity. This is likely to enhance the learning of the students.

OLabs has been developed in English, however, it will be available in other local languages also, shortly.

