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Now, do experiments online

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A group of students from SCS Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chromepet meditate as it would help keep them healthy during government examinations. $-\mathsf{DC}$

Chennai: Students, who don't have access to laboratories in schools covered by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), can now tap into the virtual world for the same experience. Thanks to a new facility - OLabs - they can now do the experiments online and gain the same knowledge.

The facility, which has been thrown open by the CBSE to students of classes IX and X, allows them to do lab experiments at their convenience with the help of three-dimensional graphics on the website.

CBSE chairman, Vineet Joshi, has in a circular to principals of all schools, explained that the OLabs were capable of assessing the students' observational, procedural and reporting skills, and also allowed teachers to keep track of their use of the website, making learning more effective.

A joint venture of CDAC and Amrita University, OLabs, also allows study and use of mathematical techniques to demonstrate the various complex functions in diverse areas of science.

Sheela, a science teacher with a CBSE school in the city, feels the web facility will help take science to a student's doorstep. "We can now make the teaching-learning process much more interactive and interesting as students will now be able to understand the concepts better doing the experiments several times on the online platform provided," she said.