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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

CHARTING A ROADMAP FOR INTEGRATING DIGITAL
TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING IN
HIGHER EDUCATION

By

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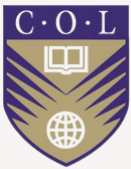
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Dear colleagues

First of all, I would like to thank Dr Sayantan Mandal and Ms Sheriya Sareen for inviting me to be a part of this EdTech Conclave 2025, organised by IIT Jammu on 5-7 February 2025. Although I missed out on the rich discussions regarding the integration of technology in higher education, with a special emphasis on the regions of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, I am pleased to be here to join the deliberations on the same topic looking at PAN India, rather than at global level together with key thinkers and policymakers. Tomorrow, I shall be joining the early career researchers' colloquium to encourage our budding scholars in the field of education.

Focusing on today's key topic, Charting a Roadmap for Integrating Digital Technologies in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, I would like to leave some thoughts with you.

First, when it comes to charting a roadmap, it is essential for us to undertake certain steps in order to achieve the desired objectives. In a roadmap development process, it is important for us to i) assess and analyse the present; ii) envision a future; iii) develop certain strategies for realising the vision; and iv) implement those strategies before evaluating one's own progress and eventually its success.

We are here to develop a roadmap for integrating digital technologies in teaching and learning in Higher Education!

Let me delve into the first step that I mentioned – Assessing and analysing the present.

The Present

- Where are we with the Higher Education Landscape?
 - What are the challenges that prevail and what are we missing out?
 - Current goals
 - Access disparities and mistrust
 - Graduate employability and skills gap
 - Current measures to enhance 'access' to 'success.'
 - Role of the regulator



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- **Where are we with digital readiness**
 - Infrastructure and funding
 - Faculty skills, student access
 - Technology currently in use and the support systems that prevail
 - Can we do an environmental scan at micro, meso and macro levels within India and around the world?
- **How do we assess the landscape?**
 - Stakeholder consultation – students, faculty, community, industry, government
 - Digital skill gap analysis
 - Performance against certain parameters
 - Partnership with the industry
- **What are the current trends that prevail?**
 - Digital trends and innovation in EdTech
 - Pedagogical approaches
 - Online learning platforms and partnership with the industry
- **How do we collect data** on all the above and analyse for gaining a clear understanding of our current status vis-à-vis the use of digital technologies and integration of the same in our higher education system?
 - SWOT analysis and other data collection methods

The vision

- What is our Vision Statement? Rather the digital vision statement!
- What does the NEP 2020 say?
 - **School education**
 - Early childcare – Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
 - Curtailing drop-out rates and ensuring universal access to education
 - Pedagogical reform – holistic, integrated, enjoyable and engaging learning
 - Focus on teachers
 - Equitable and Inclusive education for all
 - Effective governance
 - Standard setting and accreditation in schools



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- **Higher education**

- Quality HEIs
- Institutional restructuring and consolidation
- Holistic and multi-disciplinary education
- Optimal Learning Environments and support for students
- Faculty that is motivated, energised, and capable faculty
- Equity and inclusion in HE sector
- Teacher Education
- Reimagining vocational education
- Research focus
- Reforms in regulation

- **Online and digital learning**

- **What are our strategic goals?**

- Based on the SWOT analysis, how do we define our goals?
- Is it short-term or long-term?
- How SMART are these?
 - Increase the percentage of courses that incorporate blended or online learning components.
 - Improve student learning outcomes through the use of digital tools and personalised learning platforms.
 - Enhance faculty digital literacy and pedagogical skills.
 - Expand access to quality higher education through online and distance learning programmes.

- **What are the guiding principles for decision making?**

- Equity and Access: Ensuring that all students have access to the technology and support they need.
- Quality and Effectiveness: Prioritising the use of technology that enhances teaching and learning quality.
- Innovation and Experimentation: Encouraging the exploration of new digital tools and pedagogical approaches.
- Sustainability: Investing in sustainable digital infrastructure and support systems.

- **How do we ensure that our vision is aligned to our organisational, regional, national and global aspirations?**



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The Future: strategies and action planning

- What are the strategic initiatives you would like to place towards realising your vision and achieving your institutional, regional, national and global goals?
 - Develop a faculty development programme focused on digital pedagogy.
 - Invest in learning management systems (LMS) and other digital learning platforms.
 - Create digital learning resources and content.
 - Establish a digital learning support centre for faculty and students.
 - Pilot innovative digital learning projects.
- What kind of timelines are we looking at in order to realise the vision?
 - SMART timelines
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Resource requirements
- What are the activities or the action items that you propose for achieving your goals and the vision?
- What are success metrics and key performance indicators and how will you track progress?
- What kind of resource allocation – financial, human, technological – that we are looking at to support the implementation of the action plan

The Future: Implementation and Evaluation (Ongoing)

- **Implementation:** Put the action plan into action, ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and engaged.
- **Pilot before scale-up?** Or are we to be entangled in the Pilot Syndrome?
- **Support Systems** – required towards implementation
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regularly monitor progress towards the strategic goals and evaluate the effectiveness of the initiatives. Use the defined metrics to track performance.
- **Adaptation and Adjustment:** Be prepared to adapt and adjust the roadmap as needed, based on feedback, changing circumstances, and new opportunities. Roadmaps are not set in stone; they should be living documents.
- **Communication:** Communicate regularly with stakeholders about progress, challenges, and any changes to the roadmap. Transparency and open communication are essential for building trust and support.



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Key Considerations:

- **Collaboration:** The development of a higher education roadmap should be a collaborative process involving all stakeholders.
- **Data-Driven:** The roadmap should be based on data and evidence, not just opinions or assumptions.
- **Future-Focused:** The roadmap should anticipate future trends and prepare the institution for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.
- **Agility:** The roadmap should be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances.
- **Sustainability:** The roadmap should consider the long-term sustainability of the institution, both financially and environmentally.

By following this roadmap, institutions of higher education can develop a clear and strategic plan for achieving their goals and preparing students for success in the 21st century.