



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## EMPOWERING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN TECHNOLOGY ENABLED AND BLENDED LEARNING

By

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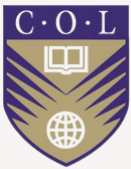
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### A FIVE-DAY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Organised by

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA), New Delhi  
in collaboration with Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai

13-17 January, 2025  
10 AM to 12 Noon IST



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Ladies and Gentlemen!

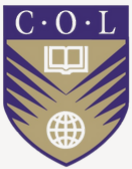
Dear Professor Rajasekharan Pillai, Professor Pankaj Mittal and all the faculty members who have joined us today, kindly accept my best regards!

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), the Asian Regional Centre of Commonwealth of Learning (COL), is pleased to be a partner of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in advancing the cause of Open Education for 'all.' In this effort, COL-CEMCA's recent partnership with AIU is aimed at equipping all dual mode institutions in India to embrace blended learning in letter and spirit and to ensure that each of the faculty members in these institutions are supported with the training that they require to apply blended learning techniques in their daily lives while delivering the best of education and skills to their learners.

Our series of workshops began last week when we organised a similar programme at The NorthCap University, Gurugram, Haryana. Our second five-day workshop in the series is at the Somaiya Vidyavihar University, under the leadership of Professor Rajasekharan Pillai. Professor Pillai has pioneered many novel and innovative programmes and it is our privilege to join hands with him in support of his quest to make Somaiya Vidyavihar University one of the nation's best in delivering education face-to-face, online and through open and distance mode.

This five-day training workshop is centred around the concepts of technology-enabled learning and blended learning, leading to the provision of high quality education and the way we equip our learners for the 21st century world and its workforce.

To begin with, we are likely to espouse upon the most important educational reform happening in our times, steered by the Indian National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The policy, as you would find out today soon after this inaugural session, advocates numerous impactful steps that are aimed at transforming Indian educational landscape, right from the early childhood education to the tertiary level. You will learn more about the five key transformations advocated by NEP 2020. These are:



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- **Multidisciplinary Education and Flexibility** promoted by NEP 2020, which encourages institutions to offer flexible curricula, mainly to see our learners receive holistic and well-rounded education. The policy encourages institutions to provide students with broad-based education and multiple entry and exit options with appropriate certifications.
- **Increased Focus on Research** promoted by NEP 2020 emphasises the importance of research and innovation. Through the National Research Foundation (NRF), there will be a strong research culture in Indian HEIs.
- **Leveraging technology for education**, promoted by NEP 2020, shall help institutions to enhance learning opportunities and the experience of their lifetime through online and digital platforms, especially to those in rural, remote and underserved areas. This calls for the establishment of virtual labs, digital repositories and Open Educational Resources. There will be a multimodal approach to education and training where multimedia resources will be at the helm.
- **Greater autonomy for higher education institutions** is also promoted by NEP 2020, only to those institutions that perform. The proposed graded autonomy systems will allow institutions to innovate and deliver education and skills to learners to help them become employable with skills and competencies necessary for the 21st Century. This would result in HEIs determining the mode of educational delivery, their ability to innovate the way assessments and certifications are carried out, and to prepare their students to become lifelong learners by assuming full responsibility for their professional growth thereon.

Keeping the above reforms in mind, the AIU and COL-CEMCA have agreed to build the capacity of the faculty and non-teaching staff in HEIs to capitalise on the autonomy being provided to them, with a rider. Autonomy to only those who perform! And AIU and COL-CEMCA wish to see you perform, innovate, and enhance your research capabilities, engage in multi-disciplinary education that offers flexibility, and above all, achieve all these by leveraging technology for education. When it comes to technology, it is inevitable that we also deal with blended learning.



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When it comes to Blended Learning, we have a lot to achieve. These can be highlighted as the following:

- Designing the ideal experience for our students
- Rethinking the role of the teacher as one who engages
- Redesigning our institution for 21st century learners
- Prototyping innovation in course design, delivery, assessment and sharing
- Embedding skills, competencies and attitudes for the 21st century
- Living NEP 2020 true to its letter and spirit

We believe that the five-day programme will introduce you to various components of technology-enabled learning and blended learning, thus, making you capable of exploiting technologies, including the latest avatar in the form of Artificial Intelligence and to strengthen your educational institution as one that performs and benefits from greater autonomy!

I am thankful to each one of you for the time spared, and to Professor Rajasekharan Pillai, Professor Preeti Rawat and her colleagues for this partnership with the AIU and COL-CEMCA. Special thanks to all those who are coordinating this effort from the three institutions – SVU, AIU and COL-CEMCA.