

COL-CEMCA UPDATES

October 2025



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

Commonwealth Asia Countries Commit to Regional Collaboration on Blended TVET at Valedictory Session in Chennai

The three-day Consultative Meeting on Developing a Blended Learning Model for Polytechnic and ITI Institutions in Commonwealth Asia concluded on 8 October 2025, with a valedictory session that celebrated collaborative achievements and charted a clear path forward for regional TVET transformation. The closing session, held at NITTTR Chennai, brought together senior officials and education leaders from six Commonwealth nations—Bangladesh, Brunei, Maldives, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and India—who reflected on intensive deliberations, shared learning experiences, and concrete action plans developed over the course of the meeting.

The valedictory session commenced with participants sharing their reflections on the three-day journey. Delegates highlighted the value of peer learning through case studies, the depth of technical sessions on blended learning frameworks, and the practical insights gained from group work on institutional readiness, curriculum design, pedagogy, technology integration, and faculty development.

Country representatives also outlined various

priority areas on which immediate action is needed upon returning to their respective nations. Significantly, delegates expressed strong intent to collaborate not only with COL-CEMCA but also with fellow participating countries, recognising the value of South-South cooperation and peer learning in addressing common challenges and scaling successful innovations across the region.

Country delegations expressed appreciation for the collaborative spirit and the opportunity to learn from diverse TVET landscapes across the region, noting that the exposure visit to NITTTR Chennai and NIMI provided tangible examples of excellence in technical education delivery that they could adapt to their national contexts.



Consultation on Blended TVET in progress at Chennai

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, New Delhi, delivered the synthesis address, emphasising the critical importance of sustained regional collaboration in scaling blended learning across Commonwealth Asia. He commended participating countries for their active engagement and urged delegates to translate the 12-month national action plans into measurable outcomes that advance equity, quality, and flexibility in TVET delivery.

Dr. Shadrach reiterated COL-CEMCA's commitment to supporting participating nations through continued technical assistance, knowledge sharing platforms, and the development of a Regional Collaborative Framework for Blended TVET.

Prof. Usha Natesan, Director, NITTTR Chennai, delivered the closing remarks, congratulating delegates on their contributions and highlighting the significance of this consultative process in shaping the future of technical and vocational education in the region. She expressed confidence that the frameworks and strategies developed during the meeting would serve as

catalysts for systemic reform and innovation. Certificates of participation were distributed to all delegates in recognition of their engagement and commitment to advancing blended learning in TVET.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to regional collaboration, with participating countries pledging to implement their national action plans and to possibly reconvene annually to review progress, share implementation experiences, and further refine the respective National TVET systems.

The Consultative Meeting was jointly organised by the Commonwealth Educational Media

Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai, from 6-8 October 2025.

For details, visit:

<https://www.cemca.org/news/nios-and-col-cemca-draft-vision-vocationalisation-education-india>

Commonwealth Asia TVET Delegates Visit NITTTR Chennai and NIMI Facilities, Experience Cutting-Edge Technical Education Infrastructure

Participants of the three-day Consultative Meeting on Developing a Blended Learning Model for TVET concluded their intensive deliberations with an enriching exposure visit to two premier technical education institutions in Chennai.

The international delegation, comprising representatives from Bangladesh, Brunei, Maldives, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and India, visited both the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR)



Delegates exploring NITTTR and NIMI facilities

Chennai and the National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI) to gain firsthand insights into state-of-the-art instructional media development and technical education infrastructure.

At NITTTR Chennai, Prof. Usha Natesan, Director, welcomed the delegates and facilitated an extensive tour of advanced facilities including the Media Production Studio, 3D Printing Laboratory, Distance and Remote Education Development (DRED) Centre, Robotics Lab, AR/VR Technology Centre, and Electric Vehicle Technology facilities. Participants experienced hands-on demonstrations of how these technologies are being integrated into contemporary TVET pedagogy.

The delegation then proceeded to NIMI, where they were received by Shri. T.V. Rajasekar, Executive Director. During the visit, participants explored NIMI's comprehensive training media production facilities for vocational training. Shri. Rajasekar provided a detailed overview of NIMI's pivotal role in developing instructional materials at the national level, highlighting recent innovations in creating high-quality, scalable

Empowering Farmers: National Consultation Charts Path to Tech-Driven Rural Growth

The two-day National Consultation on "Advancing Lifelong Learning for Farmers: Scaling up, scaling out and scaling deep" was held from 10-11 October 2025 at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), charting an ambitious roadmap to reimagine farmer education for the next decade through artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and personalised learning approaches.

The consultation, which brought together stakeholders from research institutions, cooperative banks, government departments, farmer organisations, and technology experts, focused on transforming the 20-year-old Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) initiative into a cutting-edge, AI-enabled framework responsive to modern agricultural challenges. In his valedictory address, Dr. B. Shadrach,

training media for blended learning delivery across India's vast TVET ecosystem.

The exposure visit provided concrete, real-world examples of how cutting-edge instructional media and technology infrastructure can enhance blended learning materials—directly supporting the meeting's objective of developing a Regional Collaborative Framework for Blended TVET in Commonwealth Asia.

The consultative meeting, jointly organised by COL-CEMCA and NITTTR Chennai, aims to foster regional collaboration in scaling effective blended learning models for polytechnic and ITI institutions.

For details, visit:

<https://www.cemca.org/news/developing-framework-teacher-competencies-inclusive-education-commonwealth-south-asian-countr-0>



Glimpses of the National Consultation on L3F at Chennai

Director, COL-CEMCA, outlined three critical shifts needed for L3F 2.0: moving from generalised information to precision and personalised intelligence; addressing the inadequate scale and speed for modern challenges; and creating a data-driven ecosystem that converts knowledge into real-time problem-solving.

Dr. Shadrach emphasised that while L3F has achieved significant impact over two decades—

demonstrating clear economic benefits, empowering marginalised and women farmers, and facilitating technology adoption—the initiative needs broader visibility and faster scaling to meet contemporary demands.

The consultation identified several priority areas for the future framework. These include integrating artificial intelligence-machine learning (AI-ML) models to provide real-time, location-specific, multimedia information delivered through platforms trained by artificial intelligence in formats farmers can immediately act upon. Digital and data literacy emerged as crucial, with participants calling for programs to empower farmers to collect, use, and critically evaluate digital data from sensors, drones, and satellites. The consultation highlighted the importance of personalised learning through chatbots, gamification, and micro-credentials to support farmers' career advancement. It also emphasised using AI for climate resilience, recommending climate-resilient varieties, and promoting regenerative agriculture practices.

Day two's design thinking workshop facilitated co-creation of the L3F 2.0 framework, with keynote addresses on financial inclusion, agricultural innovation systems, and digital technologies shaping the discussions.

A significant outcome of the consultation was Dr. Shadrach's recommendation to establish a

Community Radio Workshop in Itanagar Concludes with Call for Collaboration

A “Community Radio Awareness Workshop” was organised from 30-31 October 2025 at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) and Rajiv Gandhi

core team of 12-15 experts to author a comprehensive blueprint—not a report, but a practical concept note—for L3F 2.0. This blueprint will be circulated to government and private stakeholders across India and other Commonwealth regions to build partnerships and enable widespread implementation.

Mr. Vikas Kanungo, Global AI & Digital Transformation Strategist with experience at the World Bank, UN, and FAO, stressed that ICT-driven and technology-led applications are crucial for engaging youth in agriculture. Dr. R. Rengalakshmi, Executive Director (Area Operations), MSSRF, presented the closing vision statement emphasising that L3F 2.0 must address the changing agricultural landscape marked by climate risks, digital transformation, shifting gender roles, and youth aspirations.

The consultation also highlighted the critical importance of ethical data governance, with calls for farmers and communities to retain ownership of their data. In closing, Ms. Nabeela Ata, CEMCA, acknowledged the collaborative spirit that will drive the transformation of lifelong learning for India's farming communities over the next decade.

For details, visit:

<https://www.cemca.org/news/national-consultation-advancing-lifelong-learning-farmers-concludes-vision-technology-driven-ru>



Community Radio Awareness workshop in progress at Itanagar

University. Over 40 participants from five Northeastern states- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram representing various educational institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), and government departments attended the workshop.

Ms. Shilpa Rao Tanugula, Director, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, highlighted the Government's policies related to Community Radio Stations (CRS). Professor Jayadeba Sahoo, Former Vice-Chancellor In-Charge, Senior Professor, Department of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, spoke about the importance of Community Radio Stations in promoting grassroots communication. Mr. Amit Dwivedi, Project Director-CRS, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, outlined the workshop's objectives, the Community Radio Station setup process, and the 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' scheme. He highlighted the online licensing process, making it easier and more transparent.

Ms. Monica Sharma from the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, India, also shared her insights on managing and running CRSs. Participants visited a local CRS, engaging in activities on sustainability, management, and operations and shared experiences, highlighting community radio's potential for local communication, education, and development.

B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, in his Valedictory speech, emphasised the importance of community radio in empowering local communities and bridging the gap between governance and grassroots realities. He highlighted its potential to foster two-way engagement, enabling communities to both receive and contribute value. He concluded with

a call for collaboration and expansion of community radio to drive positive change.

The workshop raised awareness about community radio's role in community engagement and development, demystified policies, setting the stage for increased collaboration and positive change in the region.

For details, visit:

<https://www.cemca.org/news/community-radio-workshop-itanagar-concludes-call-collaboration>

COL-CEMCA Participation in Regional Events

Lisbon Forum 2025 Explores Inclusive AI for Global Governance, Lisbon, Portugal, 29 October 2025

Dr. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA participated in the Lisbon Forum 2025 on "AI and Global Governance: Rights, Representativity and Readiness". He participated in a discussion on "Inclusive and Multicultural AI: Perspectives from Global Dialogue", where discussants explored inclusive AI development, focusing on multilingual and multicultural ecosystems to boost Europe-Global South cooperation, also contributing to the upcoming India AI Impact Summit 2026, under its "Social Good" track.

In Lisbon, Dr Shadrach undertook initial consultations to explore the scope of a new project in India with the Executive Directors of the GPAI Expert Support Centres: Ms Sophia Fallaha (Montreal), Ms Aurélie Simmad (Paris), and Prof. Yuko Harayama (Tokyo).



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

CEMCA Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

Enhancing Higher Education Teachers' AI Competencies: Prelude to the Development of an Inclusive Teachers' Professional Development Model for Low- Internet Regions

Dr. Sayantan Mandal

Principal Investigator | Faculty, IIT Jammu
and

Research Team

Sheriya Sareen, Adina Ara, Sparklin
Pradhan, Shubham Choudhary, Priyanka,
Avantika Bakshi

07 MAY 2025

This study addresses the gap in AI integration in higher education for teachers in remote and rural areas. It proposes an inclusive Teacher Professional Development (TPD) model tailored to their unique needs, aiming to bridge the digital divide and foster equitable access to education. The study provides recommendations for effective AI-TPDs in rural contexts, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020's vision for quality and inclusivity.

For more details, visit:

<https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Enhancing%20Higher%20Education%20Teachers%E2%80%99%20AI%20Competencies.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS



Department of Distance and Continuing Education
School of Open Learning, Campus of Open Learning
University of Delhi

*International Conference on Emerging Trends and Challenges in
Open, Distance, Digital and Blended Learning (ODDBL)
January 29-31, 2026*

IMPORTANT DATES

- 15 September, 2025 Abstract Submission Deadline
- 30 September, 2025 Notification of Acceptance
- 30 November, 2025 Last Date for Full Paper Submission
- 15 October, 2025 Early Bird Registration Deadline
- 15 November, 2025 Last Date for Registration
- 15 November, 2025 Last Date for Registration for Pre-Conference Workshops
- 28 January, 2026 Pre-Conference Workshops
- 29-31 January, 2026 Conference Dates

	Early Bird Registration	Late Registration	SAARC Countries Early Bird Registration	SAARC Countries Late Registration	International Early Bird Registration	Late International Registration
Students & Research Scholars	2000 INR	3000 INR	75 USD	100 USD	150 USD	200 USD
Delegates	4000 INR	5000 INR	175 USD	250 USD	300 USD	350 USD

The registration amount will include Conference kit, Conference booklet, Lunch and Refreshments on Conference Days, Cultural Event, Conference Dinner and Delhi Sightseeing.



FOR FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT:
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Professor Peter Scott, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Visit to India.

Date: 10-20 November 2025

Pan India Visit

National Consultation on Open Schooling

Date: 20 November 2025

Venue: Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi

Developing L3F 2.0 Blueprint

Date: December 2025

International Conference on Open, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning (ODDBL)

Date: 29-31 January 2026

Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

COL-CEMCA, a Regional Office of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Vancouver, Canada, is an international agency.

COL-CEMCA's mission is to promote meaningful, relevant and appropriate use of ICTs to serve the educational and training needs of Commonwealth Member States of Asia.

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