# COL-CEMCA UPDATES

## COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING
### Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

## COL-CEMCA's FDP: Empowering Faculty for 21st Century Learning

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) and the University of Lucknow, in collaboration with SWAYAM@Lkouniv, hosted a five-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Empowering Higher Education Institutions in Technology-enabled and Blended Learning" from October 29 to November 3, 2025. Over 400 faculty members from India and abroad attended the programme, which aimed to enhance digital competencies and strengthen institutional capacities for technology-integrated teaching and learning.

The FDP featured sessions on NEP 2020, educational technology tools, AI in teaching, OERs, MOOCs, and employability skills, with hands-on activities and expert guidance. Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised the importance of collaboration, continuous upskilling, and institutional support for capacity building, encouraging participants to engage with COL-CEMCA in shaping policies on technology-enabled learning and employability.

Professor Rajesh Khambayat conducted an interactive session on educational technology tools, introducing platforms such as Edcafe,

Podcats and Blogging. Dr Sonam Bansal led an engaging session on AI in teaching and learning, with participants creating digital content, including e-books and multimedia resources using AI-powered tools. Professor Jeetendra Pande addressed OERs, MOOCs, LMS features, with hands-on activities on OER discovery, licensing and submissions. Dr Ashish Awhadiya's session covered employability skills, policy frameworks, and opportunities on SWAYAM and SWAYAM Plus for industry-relevant and credit-based learning

**For details, visit:**

https://cemca.org/press-releases/col-cemca-and-university-of-lucknow-partner-to-upskill-educators-through-faculty-development-programme/



*Sceen grab of FDP in progress with University of Lucknow, and SWAYAM@Lkouniv*

## Professor Peter Scott, President & CEO, COL's Pan India Visit

Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning (COL), visited India from 11-19 November 2025, engaging in key events and partnerships to advance open, online, and distance learning. Highlights include:

- Meet-and-greet with ambassadors and government officials in New Delhi
- Open University Vice-Chancellors' Round Table in Ahmedabad
- MOU signing with NAAC to promote quality online learning
- Collaborative initiative with NAAC to transform Indian higher education
- Meet-and-greet with Telangana state leaders in Hyderabad
- MOU signing with BRAOU to launch Integrated Digital Education Academy (iDEA)
- Roundtable discussion on digital education transformation at BRAOU
- Keynote speech at IGNOU, emphasising COL's work in open education and tech adoption

### I. Meet and Greet Delhi
On 11 November 2025, Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of COL, kicked off his India visit with a 'Meet and Greet' session at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. He discussed future education plans and COL's initiatives in open schooling, teacher education, and tech-enhanced learning with ambassadors and government officials. He highlighted innovation projects leveraging AI and digitalisation, emphasising sustained collaboration and tech-driven impact.

### For details, visit:
https://cemca.org/press-releases/meet-and-greet-cols-peter-scott-engages-with-indian-education-leaders/



*Professor Peter Scott engages with Indian education leaders*

### II. Open University Vice-Chancellors' Round Table, Ahmedabad
On 12-13 November 2025, Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of COL, attended the Indian Open University Vice-Chancellors' Round Table, hosted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Ami Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor, BAOU. The event focused on leveraging technology and micro-credentials to drive innovation and equity in open and distance learning.

### III. COL & NAAC Signed an MOU, Bangalore
On 14 November 2025, Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO, COL, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Director of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Professor Ganesan Kannabiran, in Bangalore. The partnership between COL and NAAC aims to boost India's higher education system by promoting high-quality open, online, and distance learning.



*Professor Ganesan Kannabiran, Director, NAAC with Professor Peter Scott (L-R)*

## IV. COL and NAAC Announced a New Collaborative Initiative, Bangalore

On 15 November 2025, COL President & CEO Prof. Peter Scott joined over 50 Vice-Chancellors today at the VCs' Conclave as COL and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) announced a new collaborative initiative: Transforming Indian Higher Education through Online Learning. The initiative aims to build capacity, share global best practices, and support flexible online learning. COL and NAAC will deliver training, conduct research, and work with 10 universities to enhance leadership, faculty skills, and policy frameworks.

## V. Meet & Greet, Hyderabad

On 17 November 2025, Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of COL, attended a meet-and-greet dinner hosted by Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) in Hyderabad. He discussed digitising higher education and collaboration opportunities with state leaders, including Dr K Keshava Rao and university representatives, reinforcing COL's commitment to advancing inclusive and future-ready education in Telangana and the Commonwealth.

## VI. COL and BRAOU Signed an MoU, Hyderabad

COL and BRAOU signed an MoU to launch the Integrated Digital Education Academy (iDEA), scaling tech-enabled learning and AI in higher education. The signing, witnessed by Telangana's Chief Minister and other dignitaries, marks a key step in advancing India's NEP 2020 goals. Professor Peter Scott emphasised collaboration, digital systems, and capacity building for inclusive, innovative education.

## VII. Roundtable at BRAOU, Hyderabad

On 18 November 2025, Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of COL, participated in a Roundtable at BRAOU, Hyderabad, discussing digital education transformation. He emphasised building digital competencies among educators to strengthen Open and Distance Digital Learning (ODDL), aligning with NEP 2020 and Digital India Mission.



*Prof. Peter Scott at Indian Open University Vice-Chancellors' Round Table, hosted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU).*

## VIII. Delivered Keynote Speech at IGNOU, New Delhi

On 19 November 2025, Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of COL, delivered a keynote at IGNOU, highlighting COL's work in expanding access to learning across 56 member states. He emphasised the importance of openness, collaboration, and responsible tech adoption, aligning with COL's Strategy 2027. He emphasised the importance of AI policy guardrails, teacher centred approaches, and micro credential frameworks for credit exchange and learner mobility, reaffirming COL's commitment to co-creation and open education.



*Prof. Peter Scott delivering a keynote address at IGNOU, New Delhi*

## Go Red for Dyslexia: Maldives Leads the Way in Inclusive Education

Students in the Maldives participated in the global Go Red for Dyslexia campaign, raising awareness about Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and promoting inclusive learning environments. This initiative follows the Maldives' participation in COL-CEMCA's workshop on inclusive education, where a regional teacher competency framework was co-developed. The campaign aims to transform the colour red into a symbol of pride and awareness, reducing stigma and building a supportive ecosystem.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised, "No student should be left behind." The Maldives' initiative echoes India's successful #Act4Dyslexia campaign, demonstrating the power of large scale mobilisation.

The campaign saw enthusiastic participation from students who wore red and took part in a range of activities to promote understanding of dyslexia and learning disabilities.

**For details, Visit:**
https://www.cemca.org/news/maldives-lights-red-following-through-inclusive-education-commitment



*Participants at the National Stakeholder Consultation on Vocationalisation Open Schooling in India*

## National Stakeholder Consultation on Vocationalisation Open Schooling in India

COL, through its Asia regional centre, CEMCA, and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), organised a National Stakeholder Consultation on the Business Plan 2030 for Vocationalisation of Open Schooling in India on 20 November 2025. The event aimed to create a cohesive national ecosystem for vocational and skill education, leveraging technology, industry partnerships, and State Open Schools. Discussions were also held around Best Practices of Open Schooling in India and Challenges of Vocationalisation; Institutional and Industry Linkages for Open Schooling in India; and Online Technologies and Blended Learning Opportunities for Open Schooling and Vocationalisation of Open Schooling in India.

Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO, COL, emphasised the importance of collaboration to drive progress, stating, "We look forward to working with you to get that way forward delivered for all of the learners of India." Professor N S Kalsi, Former Chairperson, NCVET and Principal Consultant, COL-CEMCA, presented the proposed approach for vocationalising open schooling in India, aligning with NCF SE, NSQF, and NCrF. A six-pillar implementation framework was presented, focusing on curriculum architecture, credit pathways, vocational qualifications, blended learning, industry linkages, and quality assurance. Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised the collective effort needed to transform India's education landscape and c

**For details, visit:**
https://cemca.org/press-releases/transforming-indias-education-landscape-national-stakeholder-consultation-on-business-plan-2030/

## Three Workshops Successfully Organised on Graduate Employability

COL-CEMCA organised workshops on Graduate Employability under Results-Based Management (RBM) framework in collaboration with Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), K K Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU), and Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU) on 12-14 November, 25-26 November, and 26-27 November 2025, respectively. The workshops, facilitated by Dr. Soni Agrawal, Consultant, CEMCA, and Dr. O.P Goel, aim to enhance learner employability by equipping faculty members with skills to develop and refine courses, ensuring quality assurance and gender rubrics, and improving institutional effectiveness in using Open and Distance Learning (ODL). Dr B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted the importance of integrating RBM in higher education, especially in ODL institutions.

## RBM Framework: Graduate Employability at BRAOU

COL-CEMCA and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), Hyderabad, successfully organised a two day workshop on Results-Based Management (RBM) for Graduate Employability from 02-03 December 2025. The initiative focused on enhancing graduate employability through training faculty, reviewing courses for employability skills, partnering with industry for relevant courses, and promoting the initiative through webinars and information sharing.

Prof. V. Venkaiah, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, in his welcome address, emphasised that the university has developed an employability framework with COL-CEMCA's support and aimed to embed employability skills in the curriculum. He laid out the goal for the workshop, which was to understand the framework, implementation, and monitoring.

Dr B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, expresses gratitude to BRAOU, for their leadership in graduate employability. He highlighted that the RBM framework would enhance programme effectiveness, accountability, and transparency and help the university focus on outcomes, engage stakeholders, and allocate resources efficiently.

Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor, BRAOU, emphasised the importance of implementing the RBM approach to enhance employability skills and achieve tangible results.

The RBM framework for Graduate Employability is designed to enhance learning and livelihood opportunities through open, distance, and technology based approaches and contribute to India's skilled workforce development.

**For details, visit:**
https://www.cemca.org/news/community-radio-workshop-itanagar-concludes-call-collaboration



*Screen grab of the workshop in progress ar BRAOU*

## COL-CEMCA and YCMOU Collaborate to Advance Graduate Employability

COL and CEMCA entered a contribution agreement with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) on 05 December 2025, to participate in COL-CEMCA's Graduate Employability Project.

This initiative aims to enhance learners' employability skills, building on YCMOU's existing Employability Framework. The programme is part of a broader effort to improve graduate employability in India, with COL-CEMCA working with 17 open universities to develop institution-specific frameworks and skill-based courses.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, and Professor Sanjeev Sonawane, Vice Chancellor, YCMOU, discussed various topics, including enhancing agricultural education and empowering farmers through technology. The meeting explored collaborations to create a more integrated system, focusing on digital universities, blended learning, and farmer training programmes.

Efforts are underway to enhance collaborations, promote vocationalisation of open learning, and improve enrollment and graduation rates, aiming to make open education more relevant and effective.

**For details, visit:**
https://cemca.org/press-releases/col-cemca-and-ycmou-collaborate-to-advance-graduate-employability/



*Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, and Professor Sanjeev Sonawane, Vice Chancellor, YCMOU (L-R)*

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Aizawl, Mizoram, India, organised a "Community Radio Awareness Workshop" from 04-05 December 2025 at Aizawl, Mizoram. Over 40 participants from three Northeastern states-Assam, Mizoram and Tripura, representing various educational institutions, government departments, non-governmental organisations, and community-based organisations, attended the workshop.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted community radio as a powerful tool for social development, peer learning, and entertainment, emphasising that it is "operated by the people, of the people, and owned by the people themselves." He stressed its role in disseminating crucial government information and amplifying community needs, encouraging participants to leverage the training for technical and functional knowledge.

The workshop covered community radio's concept, policy, technical aspects, sustainability, and management, with expert insights from operational stations like Dibrugarh, Guwahati University, and Jadavpur University's Radio JU. A field visit to Apna Radio, IIMC Aizawl, and team building activities complemented the learning experience, aiming to equip participants with skills to establish and run successful community radio stations.

The workshop raised awareness about community radio's role in community engagement and development, and encouraged eligible organisations to apply for licenses,

setting the stage for increased collaboration and positive change in the region.

**For details, visit:**

*Participants of the Community Radio Awareness Workshop at Aizawl.*

## Enhancing Graduate Employability through Curriculum Redesign at TNOU

A Curriculum Redesign and Enhancement Workshop for Graduate Employability was organised from 15-17 December 2025, jointly organised by the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) and Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU).

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, stressed embedding skills and competencies in the Open University curriculum to enhance graduate employability and the need for "skilling, reskilling, and upskilling." He advocated for a backward design approach, defining end competencies, crafting authentic assessments, and implementing innovative instructional strategies that incorporated active learning, experiential opportunities, and ongoing feedback to refine the curriculum.

Professor Dr. S. Arumugam, Vice Chancellor,

TNOU, emphasised aligning higher education with industry needs, highlighting the importance of graduate employability, skill development, and industry and institution linkages.

Dr. S. Suresh Babuji, Director of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of India (MSME), Development Institute, Government of India, the chief guest for the workshop, emphasised the importance of skill development, employability, and industry-institution linkages.

Dr. M Jayaprakashan, CEO of the Naan Mudhalvan, Skill Initiative under the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), underscored the importance of embedding skills into education, making it industry-relevant and accessible to all.

The expert trainer for the workshop, Dr O.P. Goel, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, set the goal for the workshop, focusing on reverse engineering industry expectations, exploring curriculum design, teaching methods, industry tie-ups, practical learning, and online support, to enhance graduate employability.

Mr T. V. Rajsekar, Executive Director of National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI), Chennai, emphasised skill development in India's growth, assuring NIMI's collaboration and support with TNOU on pedagogy, content development, and assessment support, stressing industry and academia collaboration and teachers' training programmes.

The workshop outcome included a proposed employability framework to enhance the curriculum in six courses at TNOU.

**For details, visit:**

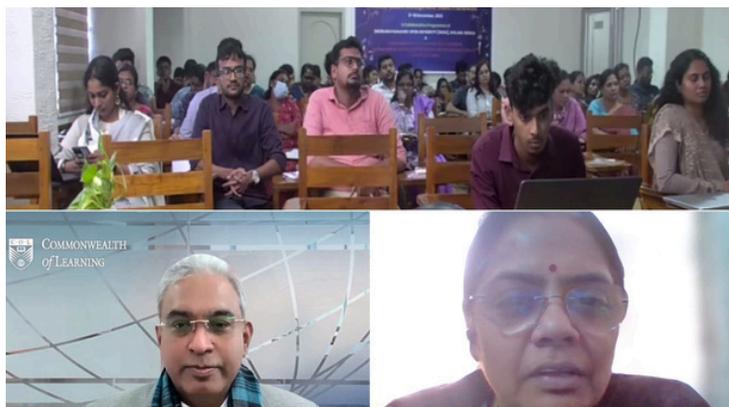## Enhancing Employability through RBM at Sreenarayanaguru Open University

COL-CEMCA, along with Sreenarayanaguru Open University (SGOU) organised a two-day Online Capacity Building Workshop on Employability Enhancement using Results-Based Management (RBM) Framework from 17 – 18 December 2025.

Prof. (Dr.) Jagathy Raj V.P, Vice Chancellor, SGOU, appreciated the capacity building workshop which would empower the university's staff to develop a Results-Based Management (RBM) framework, ultimately boosting student employability. Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, underscored that RBM ensures programmes align with labour market needs, enhancing employability and entrepreneurship. Dr Vidya Iyer, Consultant, CEMCA, also the expert trainer for the workshop, guided participants in developing an RBM framework, focusing on outcome oriented education.
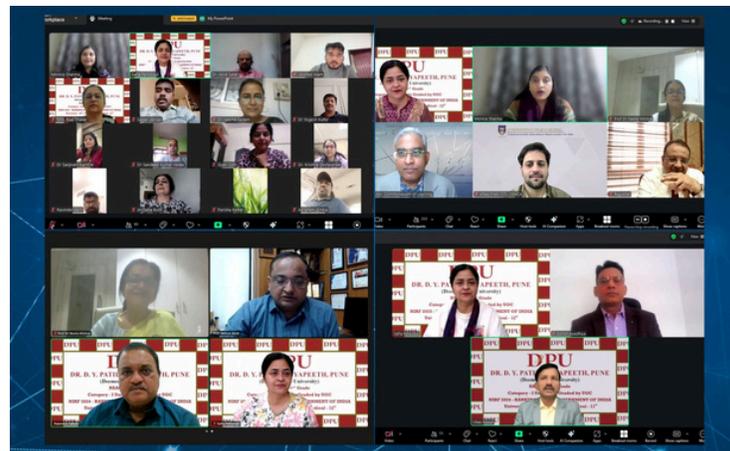
RBM framework framework benefits OUs by enhancing course relevance and effectiveness, improving student-facilitator relationships and fostering employability and entrepreneurship.

**For details, visit:**

https://cemca.org/press-releases/enhancing-employability-through-results-based-management-at-sreenarayanaguru-open-university/



*Screen grab of the Graduate Employability in progress with SGOU*



*Screen grab of the FDP in progress with D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth*

## COL-CEMCA and Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth Organise FDP

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University) and its Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), successfully organised a five-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) from 16–20 December 2025 on "Empowering Higher Education Institutions in Technology-enabled and Blended Learning." The programme witnessed the participation of over 100 faculty members from higher education institutions across India.

The FDP opened with opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Safia Farooqui, Director, Centre for Online Learning, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, followed by the welcome address delivered by Dr. A. N. Suryakar, Director (Administration), Dr D Y Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune. He highlighted that in the rapidly evolving educational landscape, technology is no longer a choice but a catalyst for transformation.

Delivering the presidential address, Dr. J. S. Bhawalkar, Registrar, Dr D Y Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, underlined the importance of enabling faculty to understand and leverage technology-driven digital platforms and their expanding role in the Indian education system.

In his special address, Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, stressed that blended learning becomes meaningful only when courses and programmes are intentionally designed to provide rich learning experiences for students. He also called for rethinking the role of teachers as facilitators who actively engage learners and for redesigning institutions to meet the needs of 21st-century learners through effective blended learning models.

Professor Nilesh Modi led a session on technology-enabled learning and its scope in blended learning, introducing participants to various educational technology tools. Dr. V. V. Subrahmanyam conducted an engaging, hands-on session on AI in teaching and learning, demonstrating tools such as ChatGPT, NotebookLM, Edcafe, and prompt-generation techniques. Dr. Papiya Upadhyay focused on Open Educational Resources (OERs), MOOCs, and LMS features, including hands-on activities on OER discovery, licensing, and submissions. Dr. Ashish Awhadiya addressed employability skills, policy frameworks, and opportunities available through SWAYAM and SWAYAM Plus for industry-relevant and credit-based learning.

**For details, visit:**

https://cemca.org/press-releases/col-cemca-and-dr-d-y-patil-vidyapeeth-organise-fdp-on-technology-enabled-and-blended-learning/

## COL-CEMCA and UOU Collaborate to Strengthen Education in Uttarakhand

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA and Prof Navin Chandra Lohani, Vice Chancellor, Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), met on 19 December 2025, at the COL-CEMCA office, New Delhi to discuss collaborative initiatives, such as reducing open distance learning (ODL) dropout rates, launching National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) recognised skill courses, and forming a Community Radio platform in Uttarakhand. The discussion encompasses three key areas of collaboration:

1. Learners' Dropout Project in the ODL System: A Pilot Project at UOU
2. Launching NCVET recognised NSQF aligned skill based courses at UOU
3. Launching a platform of Functional Community Radio Stations in Uttarakhand

The meeting paved the way for collaborative initiatives enhancing ODL in Uttarakhand. These efforts aim to promote inclusive, quality education and boost employability, strengthening UOU's impact.

**For details, visit:**

https://cemca.org/press-releases/col-cemca-and-uou-collaborate-to-strengthen-education-in-uttarakhand/



*Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA and Prof Navin Chandra Lohani, Vice Chancellor, UOU at CEMCA office, New Delhi*

## COL-CEMCA and NSOU unite for an Employability-Focused Course Revamp

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in collaboration with Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) jointly organised a three-Day Workshop on Course Enhancement for Graduate Employability, from 22–24 December

to address the pressing concern of graduate employability in India. Nine faculty members, comprising faculty members from the five Schools of Studies at NSOU, participated in the workshop. They engaged in technical sessions on course enhancement and employability skills integration.

The workshop kicked off with an inaugural session, where Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Project Coordinator, NSOU, highlighted NSOU's commitment to embedding employability attributes.

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised West Bengal's MSME sector as the backbone of the state's industrial output and employment. For West Bengal HEIs, he stressed "Hyper-Local Integration" – applying global tech to local MSMEs and advocated that Vice Chancellors should foster "Transversal Skills", blending digital competency with diverse disciplines to preserve local heritage digitally

Dr. Soni Agarwal, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, highlighted India's youth power and the huge scope for impact, bridging skill gaps with an enhanced curriculum and ensuring learners get job opportunities – a win-win for MSMEs and learners.

Prof. Jane Frances Agbu, Adviser, Higher Education, COL, emphasised that employability-focused education is crucial for inclusive and sustainable development. Prof. Agbu proposed organising webinars to disseminate activities and outcomes with stakeholders, including learners, faculty, university leadership, and policymakers. She stressed the need for similar collaborations to improve learner outcomes.

The technical sessions focused on conceptual clarity and practical approaches to course enhancement for employability.

The workshop's most significant outcome was the identification and revamping of six skill-based courses from NSOU's existing Four-Year Undergraduate (FYUG) programmes. These include five Skill Enhancement Courses (SECs) and one Vocational Course. All six course outlines are to be completed and submitted to COL-CEMCA by 15 January 2026.

**For details, visit:**

https://cemca.org/press-releases/col-cemca-and-nsou-unite-for-an-employability-focused-course-revamp/



*Screen grab of the Graduate Employability worshop in progress at NSOU*

## COL-CEMCA, Reliance Foundation and Chitkara University Trained CR Managers

COL-CEMCA, in collaboration with the Reliance Foundation and Chitkara University, Chitkara Radio, Punjab, organised a Tech-based Demonstration Training for Community Radio Station (CRS) Managers on 26 December 2025, bringing together participants to explore digital tools and platforms aimed at enhancing the impact of community radio stations through technology-enabled content production and dissemination.

Prof. Dr. Ashutosh Mishra, Dean and Director, Chitkara Radio, Chitkara University, Punjab, delivered the welcome address, and Ms. Monica Sharma, COL-CEMCA, set the agenda for the sessions.

Mr. S Senthilkumaran, Program Head at Reliance Foundation, highlighted the importance of implementing technology to boost community radio effectiveness, particularly in rural transformation and addressing information asymmetry among farmers and rural communities.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, delivered the special address on "Technology Enabled Futures for Community Radio" and emphasised the potential of AI and technology to enhance community radio programming, drawing parallels to the Green Revolution's success

The Reliance Foundation Platforms & Applications Team demonstrated content access and dissemination tools, which included:

- Internet Radio Platform, covering aspects such as uploading, playlists, streaming, analytics, and file transfers.
- Orientation on WebKMS, focusing on accessing audio content related to agriculture, livestock, and marine resources in multiple Indian languages.
- IVRS dissemination, featuring a live dial-in demonstration for broadcasting and feedback collection.

Additionally, sessions were conducted on multi-location audio conferencing, featuring live recording, transcription, and broadcast capabilities. The session culminated with a presentation on text-to-audio conversion, wherein scripts are transformed into ready-to-broadcast audio content. their impact and reach.

**For details, visit:**

https://cemca.org/press-releases/col-cemca-reliance-foundation-and-chitkara-university-organised-tech-based-demonstration-training-for-crs-managers/



*Screen grab of the Community Radio Station (CRS) Managers's training*

## COL-CEMCA Participation in Regional Events

### COL-CEMCA at the International Conference on Libraries Empowering Communities

COL-CEMCA on 2 November 2025, participated in the International Conference on Libraries Empowering Communities: A Global Perspective, in Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, delivered the Keynote Address, highlighting libraries' evolving role as community knowledge hubs, bridging digital divides, and fostering lifelong learning. He emphasised embracing open educational resources, digital inclusivity, and AI-driven innovations while retaining libraries' core mission. Mr. T Khalid, Project Consultant, COL-CEMCA, led a session on integrating AI tools into libraries, reimagining them as innovation hubs. The event showcased COL-CEMCA's commitment to advancing digital technologies, open education, and capacity building to empower communities across the Commonwealth.

**For details, visit:**

https://cemca.org/press-releases/col-cemca-at-the-international-conference-on-libraries-empowering-communities-a-global-perspective/

## Connecting Regions for Ethical AI Governance: Strasbourg 2025

Dr B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, moderated a session on "Connecting Asia, the Global South and Europe for responsible AI in the public sector" at Strasbourg, France, on 4 November 2025. The event was organised by the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI). The event brings together experts and policymakers to discuss AI's role in public services, ethics, governance, and human rights. It'll showcase national strategies, regulatory approaches, and lessons learned, fostering collaboration and good practices, aligning with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

## Roundtable on Community and Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Resilience

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, participated and contributed to the "Roundtable on Community and Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Resilience," organised by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Delhi on 1 December 2025. The roundtable aimed to spark dialogue on advancing participatory and decolonised research approaches to address the climate crisis, exploring ways to support community-led research, integrate Indigenous knowledge, and foster collaboration for epistemic justice and sustainability.

## Doing Research, Becoming Researcher: A Quest Towards Transdisciplinarity,

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, contributed as a Resource Person in a One-Day National Seminar "Doing Research, Becoming Researcher: A Quest Towards Transdisciplinarity", organised by the R&D Cell and Central Library of Derozio Memorial College
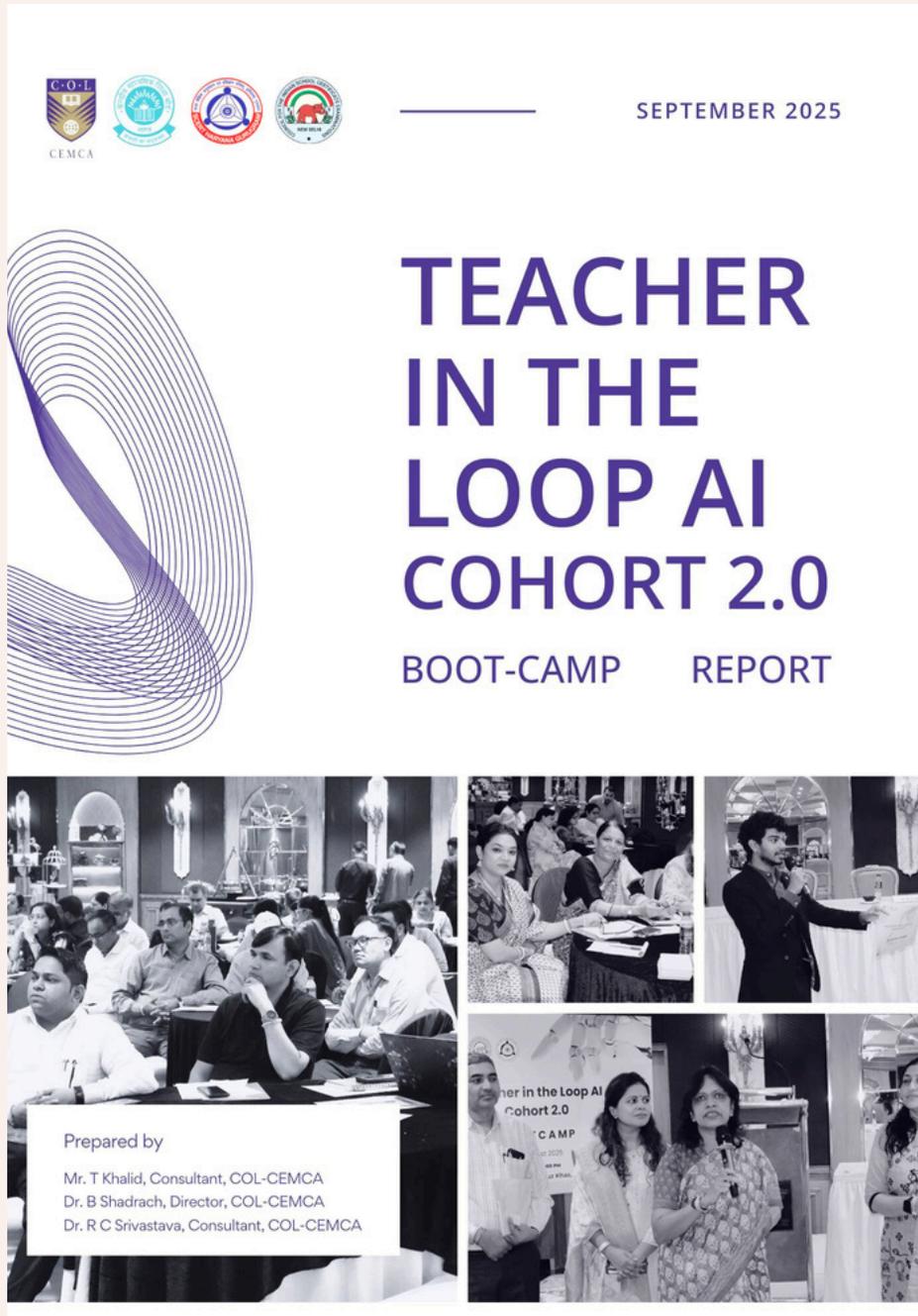
in collaboration with IQAC on 13 December 2025. He delivered an online lecture focusing on transdisciplinary research and scientific writing, sharing insights on contemporary research practices and approaches that enrich scholarly inquiry and interdisciplinary understanding among faculty members and researchers.

## AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2025-26

Dr. B Shadrach, Director COL-CEMCA was invited at the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2025-26 from 22-23 Dec, 2025 under the theme, 'Promoting Sustainability and Social Responsibility in HEIs" hosted by Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna, Bihar. Speaking on "Futuristic digital and technological pathways to sustainability" he highlighted Commonwealth of Learning's initiatives supporting India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on future-ready minds, a greener India, and seamless learning. He underscored the importance of creating graduates with skills such as adaptability, intrapreneurship, and digital literacy.

## Advisory Committee Meeting, BAOU, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 26 December 2025

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, was nominated as a Member of the Advisory Committee for Online Education at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Ahmedabad, and attended the Advisory Committee Meeting on 26 December 2025, contributing his expert insights to discussions on strategic planning and strengthening the University's online education initiatives.

This report synthesises key findings and strategic insights from the Teacher in the Loop AI Cohort 2.0- National Bootcamp conducted in New Delhi, India, facilitated by the Regional Asian Centre of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and State Council of Educational Research and Training Haryana (SCERT).

**For details, visit:**
https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Enhancing%20Higher%20Education%20Teachers%E2%80%99%20AI%20Competencies.pdf

**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

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 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 |

**SCAN HERE**

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:
Phone Number: +91 9318355909 / Email ID: sec_conference@col.du.ac.in

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**FDP: Empowering Higher Education Institutions in Technology-enabled and Blended Learning**
**Date**: 19-23 January 2026

*A five-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) jointly organised by COL-CEMCA in collaboration with Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad*

**Teacher in the loop AI- Workshop on Introduction to the TiL-AI tool**
**Date**: January 2026
**Mode:** Online

**Pre-Conference Workshops:**
**Date**: 29–31 January 2026
**Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

*Bringing together educators, policymakers, EdTech experts, researchers, and institutional leaders, the conference will foster dialogue and collaboration aligned with NEP 2020 and global educational priorities.*

**Consultative Workshop for finalising the Blueprint for COL's Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F)**
**Date:** 20 November 2025
**Venue:** The Park, 15, Sansad Marg, Hanuman Road Area, Connaught Place, New Delhi, India

**International Conference on Open, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning (ODDBL)**
**Date**: 29-31 January 2026

*COL-CEMCA is proud to serve as the Knowledge Partner for the upcoming International Conference on Open, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning (ODDBL), hosted by the Department of Distance and Continuing Education (DDCE), School of Open Learning (SOL), University of Delhi. This major event will explore key trends, innovations, and challenges shaping the future of technology-enabled education.*