COL-CEMCA UPDATES

January 2026

COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

IGNOU Hosted Capacity Building Workshop on Graduate Employability

The Commonwealth of Learning-Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) in collaboration with IGNOU, organised a "Capacity Building Workshop on Implementing Graduate Employability & Result Based Management (RBM)" at the IGNOU office, New Delhi, from 5-7 January 2026.

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised that the RBM framework aids in monitoring progress, providing timely feedback, and ensuring transparency in achieving graduate employability goals. He outlined four benefits of implementing the RBM framework, which include:

1. Clarity and alignment with market demands, defining measurable outcomes, and skilled competencies.
2. Enhanced programme effectiveness and relevance through evidence-based curriculum design.
3. Accountability and transparency in measuring and reporting university efforts.
4. A structured approach to achieving outcome based education, focusing on impact rather than just outputs.

Professor Uma Kanjilal, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, stressed the workshop as an important event focused on embedding employability skills in the curriculum, aligning with national frameworks emphasising competencies and skills.

Prof. V. Venkaiah, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, also the facilitator, emphasised the importance of OER integration and results-based management.

The workshop seeks to enhance institutional capacities by aligning graduate employability outcomes with Results-Based Management frameworks.

For details, visit:

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

Graduate Employability & RBM Workshop at IGNOU, New Delhi

KSOU's Capacity Building Training: Enhancing Employability through Course Enhancement

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) in collaboration with Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), organised a five day Faculty Development programme (FDP) Workshop on "Course Enhancement with Employability Attributes and Development of Skill-Based Courses" from 5-7 January 2026.

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, acknowledged Karnataka's significant presence of AI and software talent, but also noted that it faced skills gaps in emerging technologies. He emphasised that the university aims to address this by integrating skills and competencies into its curriculum. He highlighted the workshop's focus on embedding employability skills, crafting industry relevant courses, and tapping into vocational education and micro-credential prospects.

Prof. Sharanappa V. Halse, Vice Chancellor, KSOU, emphasised the need for programs to adapt to societal changes, highlighting the importance of integrating skills into teaching to maintain relevance. He called upon faculty members to strive towards making the university a centre for skill development and student growth, thereby securing their prospects.

Dr. O P Goel, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, highlighted the importance of integrating employability skills into KSOU's curriculum, leveraging collaborations with organisations like COL-CEMCA. He stressed that with UGC's dual course policy, KSOU can offer industry-ready courses to students across Karnataka, making them job-ready.

Prof. M. Ramanatham Naidu, Dean Academia,

Screen grabs of the FDP workshop organised by COL-CEMCA & KSOU

KSOU, expressed that the FDP will encourage outcome-based learning-centric curriculum design, promote interdisciplinary and skill-integrated courses, and enable faculty members to align academic offerings with national priorities, industry needs, and global standards.

The workshop centred on bridging employability gaps by identifying industry relevant job roles and mapping them to key competencies and future skills. Participants selected 5 existing courses for enhancement and designed 1 new skill-based course, aligning job roles and defining clear employability outcomes for each.

Dr. B Shadrach emphasised that the Graduate Employability Programme will forge industry partnerships, creating workplace learning, apprenticeships, and placements for KSOU learners.

Dr. O P Goel expressed satisfaction that, despite CEMCA's initial mandate of enhancing 5 courses and developing 1 new skill-based course, the university had received proposals for 10 courses, reflecting KSOU's commitment to driving meaningful change.

For more details:
https://cemca.org/news/ksous-capacity-building-training-enhancing-employability-through-course-enhancement/

Empowering Farmers through Lifelong Learning: A Roadmap for L3F 2.0

Commonwealth of Learning (COL) – Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), organised a "Blueprint Development Workshop for Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) 2.0" (Translating Vision into Action) on 20 January 2026 in New Delhi, Delhi. The workshop was attended by around 20 dignitaries from various fields, stakeholders representing the government, the farming community, open universities, and the development sector.

The workshop aimed to develop an action roadmap for L3F 2.0, outlining governance, coordination, and scaling pathways. It sought to create a blueprint for strengthening and scaling L3F 2.0, leveraging technologies to advance lifelong learning for farmers.

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, Dr. B highlighted three key strategies: Microlearning, which involves short-term training programs that can be monetised and credited; Blended Learning, combining formal and informal learning while recognising peer learning and leveraging technology; and utilising the Academic Bank of Credit, a platform allowing farmers to accumulate credits and access education. He called for collaboration among stakeholders and leveraging existing networks such as Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), the Open University, and Open Schooling. He emphasised recognising the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in the "ecosystem of learning."

Mr Mrutyunjay Behera, Economic Advisor, Department of Higher Education, GOI, stressed teaching farmers in simple, local languages, avoiding jargon and emphasised leveraging existing platforms like Open Universities and Swayam to effectively reach farmers.

Participants at L3F 2.0 Worshop in New Delhi

Dr. Nikhil Raj, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, and Nabeela Ata, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, led the sessions. Key discussions included institutional anchoring with universities, funding through financial institutions and partnerships, digital governance with credible information and taxonomy, and personalised learning through AI-driven responses.

Key Outcomes of the Workshop:
- Learner centric approach: Farmers should have the choice to learn what they want, rather than being forced into a particular system.
- Microlearning and credits: Implementing microlearning courses and awarding credits can encourage learning and skill development.
- Incentivisation: Linking credits to subsidies, loans, or other benefits can motivate farmers to participate.
- Collective learning: Encouraging collective learning and peer-to-peer learning can enhance outcomes.
- Institutional support: Academic institutions and organisations can play a crucial role in standardising and accrediting learning.

For more details:
https://cemca.org/news/empowering-farmers-through-lifelong-learning-a-roadmap-for-l3f-2-0/

COL–CEMCA and MANUU Successfully Conducted Five-Day FDP

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) – Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), in collaboration with Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, and its UGC–Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), successfully conducted a five-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) from 19–23 January 2026. The programme, titled "Empowering Higher Education Institutions in Technology-enabled and Blended Learning," witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 200 faculty members representing higher education institutions across India.

The FDP commenced with Opening Remarks by Prof. Saneem Fatima, Director, UGC-MMTTC, MANUU, followed by the Welcome Address delivered by Prof. M. Vanaja, Dean, School of Education & Training, MANUU.

Delivering the presidential address, Professor Syed Ainul Hasan, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MANUU, emphasised the university's commitment to implementing the National Education Policy 2020. He stressed the importance of this Faculty Development Program as a crucial step toward equipping educators with the necessary skills and competencies to deliver quality education in the 21st century.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, stressed equipping learners with 21st-century skills and competencies. He outlined how technology-enabled learning environments can foster critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity—the essential skills required for success in the modern workforce. He emphasised that education must transcend traditional knowledge transmission to prepare

Screen grabs of the FDP workshop organised by COL-CEMCA & MANUU

students for entrepreneurship and adaptability in rapidly changing professional landscapes.

Prof. Jeetendra Pande led a session on technology-enabled learning and its scope in blended learning, introducing participants to Game Based Learning. 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. Ms Sushumna Rao 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.

The week-long, 15-hour FDP reflected the shared vision of COL-CEMCA and MANUU, Hyderabad in preparing future-ready teachers and classrooms by empowering faculty with digital tools and contemporary pedagogical strategies.

For more details:
https://cemca.org/news/col-cemca-and-manuu-successfully-conducted-five-day-fdp-on-technology-enabled-blended-learning/

ODDBL 2026: Redefining Education through Innovation and Inclusivity

The "International Conference on Emerging Trends and Challenges in Open, Distance, Digital and Blended Learning (ODDBL)" was organised from 29-31 January 2026 by the Department of Distance and Continuing Education, School of Open Learning, Campus of Open Learning University of Delhi, in association with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and British Council, along with support from Commonwealth of Learning-Commonwealth Educational Media Centre (COL-CEMCA) and International Association of Technology and Management (IATM).

Prof. Payal Mago, Director, Campus of Open Learning, University of Delhi, in her opening remarks, set the tone for the conference. She outlined that the School of Open Learning (SOL) embodies the motto "Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktai" (Knowledge which liberates), empowering students from diverse backgrounds through flexible distance learning.

Shri Ashish Sood, Hon'ble Education Minister, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, and the chief guest of the conference, called to co create a global framework for ethical education, guided by "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- the world is one family", making knowledge accessible and learning humane.

Prof. Yogesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi, stressed the School of Open Learning (SOL) as a platform for those who couldn't access traditional education, offering dignity and possibilities. With technology and passionate teachers, he said, SOL is shaping the future of Open, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning, aligning with NEP 2020's vision. He called it a moral architecture enabling dreams and leadership.

Panelists at the keynote session 2 during ODDBL 2026

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, presided over the session on "Quality Concerns in Distance and Digital Learning: Experiences of Different Countries and Institutions" and highlighted that quality issues in open and distance learning are multifaceted, encompassing academic and pedagogical integration, technical infrastructure, student support, and faculty readiness. He stressed that by taking ownership of pedagogical weaknesses, enhancing interactivity, and partnering with industry, we can produce employable, future-ready graduates and address issues of disability and social disadvantage.

Dr. Tony Mays, Director-Education, COL, in his keynote address, emphasised that Quality assurance in open and distance learning is contextual and collaborative, not just about standards and checklists. He stressed closing the quality feedback loop at the program level, addressing institutional inhibitors, and working with national and international partners to create a culture of continuous improvement, not just compliance.

For more details:

https://cemca.org/news/oddbl-2026-redefining-education-through-innovation-and-inclusivity/

COL-CEMCA and SGOU Collaborated on Course Enhancement

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)-Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and Sreenarayanaguru Open University (SGOU) organised a three day workshop on "Course Enhancement with Employability Attributes and Development of Skill-based Courses" from 27-29 January 2026.

The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen SGOU's academic and institutional capacity to enhance programmes and courses with employability attributes and to develop skill-based courses aligned with the SGOU Graduate Employability Framework and COL guidelines.

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted that Kerala's growth is poised to be knowledge-led, driven by its high literacy rate and skilled workforce. He outlined SGOU's crucial role in this growth story and emphasised that with breakthrough technologies like AI, robotics, and advanced materials, Kerala is poised to excel in aerospace, defence, space tech, and graphene.

Highlighting key sectors driving growth, including health sciences, sustainable energy, manufacturing, logistics and maritime, and tourism and hospitality, he said SGOU can bridge these gaps by offering industry integrated microcredentials, focusing on working professionals and rural youth, and leveraging blended learning and online platforms.

Dr B. Shadrach set the goal for the workshop, which was to focus on reimagining SGOU's curriculum and role in Kerala's growth story. He called to "Create a university that stands shoulder to shoulder with Kerala's industrial policy and vision for a knowledge-led economy."

Workshop on Course Enhancement in progress at SGOU

Prof. (Dr.) Jagathy Raj V.P, Vice Chancellor, SGOU, emphasised that in the 21st century, education must prioritise employability and skills over mere degree attainment. He emphasised that we're living in a world where knowledge is always faster than degrees, where jobs are always faster than education. He highlighted a study which showed that 50% of Indian graduates are deemed unemployable due to skills gaps, communication issues, and a lack of work readiness. He called for a shift in higher education, focusing on skills, communication, and work readiness to make degrees more valuable and employment oriented.

The workshop aimed to equip faculty members with skills to revamp their programmes, focusing on employability and competency based learning. In order to create blended learning courses that incorporate openly licensed resources and gender responsive principles, participants mapped competencies, matched courses with graduate attributes, and created draft course outputs for submission and refinement.
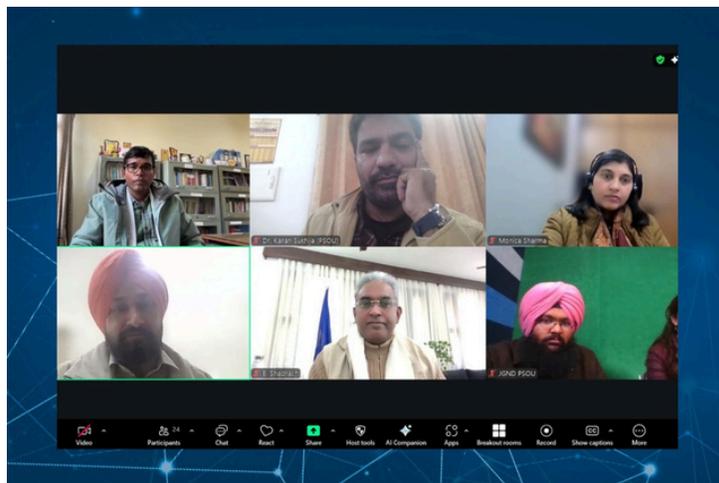
For more details:

https://cemca.org/news/col-cemca-and-sgou-collaborate-on-course-enhancement-with-employability-attributes-and-development-of-skill-based-courses/

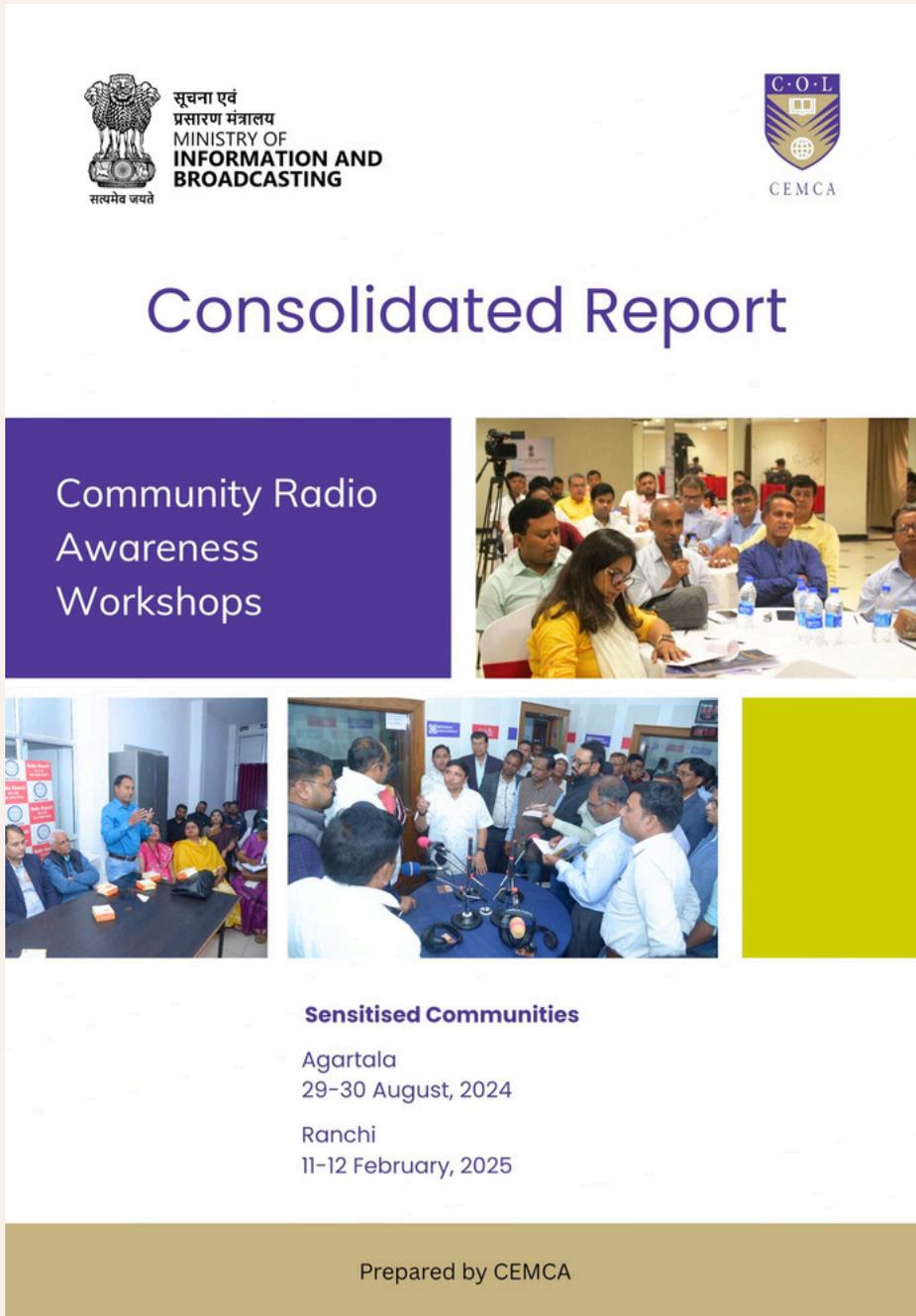## COL-CEMCA and PSOU Collaborated to Enhance Graduate Employability

COL-CEMCA and Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University (SGOU), Patiala, successfully organised a two day workshop on Graduate Employability & Result Based Management (RBM) Approach for Graduate Employability from 29-30 January 2026. 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.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA emphasised the importance of collaboration between academic institutions and industry bodies, particularly through initiatives like the RBM model and outcome-based education frameworks.

Sreen grabs of the Workshop organised by COL-CEMCA and SGOU in progress

Dr. Pradeep K. Chaudhary, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, led the sessions, guiding participants through a review of graduate employability frameworks and introducing them to the core concepts of RBM. RBM framework benefits OUs by enhancing course relevance and effectiveness, improving student-facilitator relationships and fostering employability and entrepreneurship.

COL-CEMCA organised two-day Community Radio (CR) Awareness workshops in Agartala, Tripura, India, on 29-30 August 2024 and in Ranchi, Jharkhand on 11-12 February, 2025. Both workshops were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB, Government of India). The primary aim of the workshops was to introduce participants to the concept of community radio and equip them with the necessary knowledge to establish their own community radio stations.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Going Digital: Designing and Creating MOOCs
Date: 2-6 February 2026
A five-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) jointly organised by COL-CEMCA in collaboration with Somaiya Vidyavihar University (SVU), Mumbai

Strengthening student engagement in global AI governance: GPAI Associated India Student Community Convergence Session
Date: 3 February 2026
Venue: New Delhi
India AI Impact Summit 2026- Pre- Summit Event, COL-CEMCA Office, New Delhi

Pre-Summit on AI & Inclusive Education
Date: 10 February 2026

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with ChangeInkk Foundation

Mini- Innovation Workshop- GPAI Associated India Student Community | India AI Impact Summit 2026
Date: 18 February 2026
Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Saket, New Delhi

C3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access
Date: 2-6 February 2026
Venue: Bengaluru
Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA will deliver an opening statement at the 3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access

IOER Course Workshop
Date: 5-6 February 2026
Venue: CIET-NCERT Campus, Delhi

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with the Central Institute of Educational Technology NCERT at CIET-NCERT Campus, Delhi

Session on: TeacherLed, Localised and Frugal AI for Equitable Education in the Commonwealth
Date: 17 February 2026|3:30:00 to 4:25:00 PM
Venue: West Wing Room 4 B, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
India AI Impact Summit 2026,

Round Table Conference of the Vice Chancellors of the Open Universities from the Commonwealth Nations of Asian Regions
Date: 23-25 February 2026
COL-CEMCA in collaboration with SGOU