

COL-CEMCA

UPDATES

February 2026



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

COL-CEMCA and SGOU Collaborate on Course Enhancement with Employability Attributes and Development of Skill-based Courses

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.

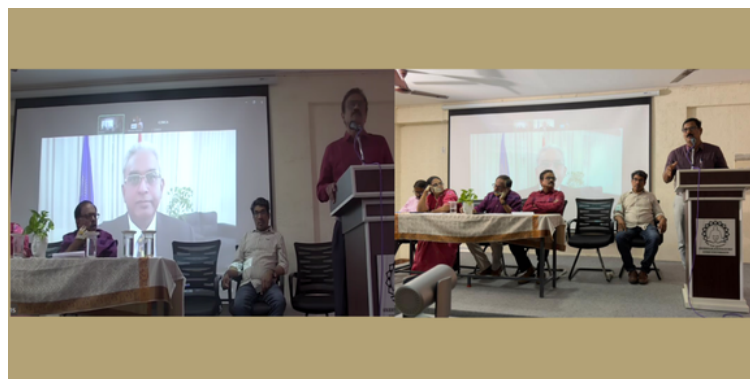
Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted that Kerala’s growth is poised to be knowledge-led, driven by its high literacy rate and skilled workforce. He outlined SGOU’s crucial role in this growth story and emphasised that with breakthrough technologies like AI, robotics, and advanced materials,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

Prof. (Dr.) Jagathy Raj V.P, Vice Chancellor, SGOU, emphasised that in the 21st century, education must prioritise employability and



Graduate Employability & RBM Workshop at SGOU

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 will map competencies, match courses with graduate attributes, and create 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/>

Global Partnership on AI: Empowering Students for AI Governance

The Commonwealth of Learning – Commonwealth of Learning – Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) in collaboration with the GPAI experts centres- CEIMIA (Canada), Inria (France) and NICT (Japan) and the Council of Europe organised the GPAI-associated India Student Community Convergence Workshop as part of preparatory engagements for the India AI Impact Summit 2026, focused on empowering structured and sustained student participation in global AI governance.



Students with Dr B Shadrach at CEMCA Office.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, opened the session by welcoming participants and introducing the purpose of the workshop to mobilise the next generation to lead the charge for ethical AI. He emphasised that students are no longer mere users but future architects of AI governance, now gaining a “seat at the world’s most important table.”

Dr. Yuko Harayama, Secretary General, GPAI Tokyo Expert Support Center and Ms. Aurélie Simard, Ph.D., Executive Director, INRIA – Center of expertise for the international cooperation on AI affiliated to the GPAI, introduced the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) and its Network of Centres (NoC), CEIMIA (Canada), Inria, (France) and NICT (Japan), highlighting the student community initiative as a way to place students “at the center” of AI governance, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration across psychology, social science, economics, and engineering.

Ms. Rocio Cervera Crespo, Deputy Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, highlighted the organisation’s work in promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law across Europe and beyond. She emphasised the importance of youth participation in AI governance, drawing from the Council of Europe’s experience with a co-management system for youth policy.

Ms. Tanvi Thomas, Lead- Tech Policy (International Innovation Corps, U Chicago) highlighted India's demographic advantage and initiatives like the Yuva AI program to empower youth in AI development and adoption.

Mr. Rentaro Iida, (NICT- Japan) together with Ms. Marie-Fleur SIMMET and Ms. Chelza INZOUDDINE (Inria- France), introduced the concept of Innovation Workshops, GPAI's signature collaborative format that transforms discussions into actionable projects.

The workshop concluded with an orientation on engagement pathways and next steps led by Mr. Khalid T, (COL-CEMCA).

The deliberations and insights generated through this workshop will directly inform the design of upcoming engagements, including the Innovation Workshop, and contribute to the evolving framework for long-term student participation in global AI governance.

For more details:

<https://cemca.org/news/global-partnership-on-ai-empowering-students-for-ai-governance/>

COL-CEMCA and UOU Partner for Result-Based Management Framework

The Commonwealth of Learning – Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) and Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), Haldwani, organised a three-day workshop from 2-4 February 2026, on “Graduate Employability and Result-Based Management (RBM) Framework.” The workshop aimed to design skill-based courses that enhance employability and integrate skills into UOU's academic programmes.



Workshop in progress at UOU

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised the strength of the Graduate Employability Project, which focuses on skilling, reskilling, and upskilling learners. He emphasised that UOU's strength lies in addressing the state's unique economic industrial hubs in plains and micro-enterprises in hills. He addressed the issue of migration in the state and outlined that UOU can make a difference by reimagining academic delivery with competency-based learning, partnering with sector skill councils and agricultural universities, leveraging flexible education models and recognition of prior learning and focusing on digital literacy, employability skills, and industry exposure.

Prof. Rajesh P. Khambayat, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, and the expert trainer, noted a growing demand for employability-focused education, highlighting the need for practical skills, workplace competencies, and modular curricula. He highlighted that the workshop would enable participants to revise existing curricula or develop new course outlines for implementation in UOU's academic programmes.

Prof. Naveen Chandra Lohani, Vice-Chancellor, UOU, presided over the programme and highlighted that the workshop will equip faculty members with practical

insights into outcomes-based education, employability attributes, and industry-driven curriculum development. He emphasised the focus on designing modular, flexible, and skill-oriented courses aligned with national frameworks like NCrF and NSQF, strengthening UOU's mission of providing quality, employment-focused education through ODL mode.

Prof. Rajesh P. Khambayat led an in-depth discussion on designing employment-oriented courses, covering objectives, learning outcomes, skills, and models. He addressed participant queries, emphasising how universities can craft courses that equip students with employability skills for jobs and entrepreneurship, alongside their degrees.

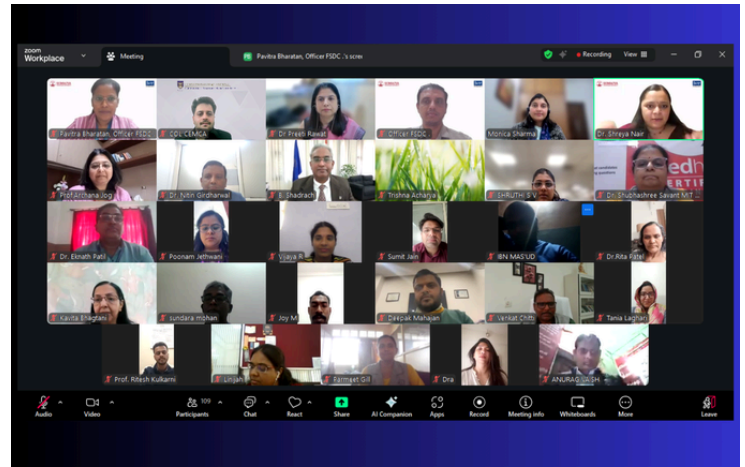
Dr B. Shadrach, in his valedictory speech, emphasised shifting the focus from a degree-centric model to a competency based one, defining learning outcomes, and scaffolding skills across levels. He urged participants to innovate, diversify assessments, and integrate work-based learning

For more details:

<https://cemca.org/news/col-cemca-and-uou-partner-for-result-based-management-framework/>

COL-CEMCA and Somaiya Vidyavihar University Conclude FDP on Designing & Creating MOOCs

COL-CEMCA, in collaboration with the Faculty & Staff Development Centre, Somaiya Vidyavihar University of Somaiya Vidyavihar University, organised a five-day free online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled “Going Digital: Designing & Creating MOOCs” from 2-6 February 2026. The programme witnessed participation from over 100 faculty members and educators from institutions across the -



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

country.

The FDP aimed to strengthen digital teaching capacities by equipping higher education faculty members with pedagogical, technical, and strategic competencies required to design, develop, and deliver high-quality MOOCs and online courses aligned with national quality benchmarks and leading platforms such as SWAYAM, Coursera, and institutional learning management systems.

Participants engaged in hands-on learning across key areas, including MOOCs and e-tutorial design, e-content development, discussion forums for learner engagement, assessment design, research visibility and journal selection, and creating courses for platforms such as SWAYAM, Coursera, and YouTube.

The sessions were led by facilitators, including Dr. Jeetendra Pande, Professor and Director, School of Computer Science & IT, Uttarakhand Open University; Dr. Indira Koneru Yalavarthi, International eLearning Consultant and former Associate Dean & Head (eLearning), IBS; and Sushumna Rao Tadinada, EdTech Consultant, Moodle Certified Educator and Founder of h5pcatalogue.in.

The FDP enabled participants to conceptualise

and design institution-specific online courses and MOOCs aligned with national and international platform requirements, contributing to the broader goal of strengthening digital and blended learning capacities across higher education institutions in India and beyond.

CIET-NCERT and COL-CEMCA's Organised a Workshop on OER Initiatives

The Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) – National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning – Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA), organised a two-day workshop on the 'Development of Online Course on Open Educational Resources (OER)' from 05–06 February 2026 at CIET-NCERT, New Delhi. The workshop aimed to develop an online course on OER for teachers and teacher educators across India, focusing on finalising the list of modules and module outlines.

The initiative was led under the guidance of Prof. Amarendra P. Behera, Joint Director, CIET-NCERT, and Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, with Prof. Indu Kumar, Head, DICT, CIET-NCERT, providing advisory and operational support for the activity and course development. The valedictory session was graced by all three dignitaries, during which Dr. B. Shadrach appreciated the organising team's collaborative efforts and highlighted the course's global potential, while Prof. Behera emphasised alignment with the guiding principles of NEP-2020 and NDEAR-2021 through federated, inclusive, interoperable, and open-source platforms. Prof. Indu Kumar underscored the importance of adopting a "read to reel" pedagogical approach in the design and delivery of the course.



Workshop photographs from CIET-NCERT

The workshop was led and facilitated by Dr. Angel Rathnabai from CIET-NCERT while Ms. Nabeela Ata, represented and participated in the workshop from COL-CEMCA.

Dr. B. Shadrach called for a shift in attitudes towards sharing OER and highlighted the necessity of recognising and supporting contributions from educators. He emphasised that the course has global potential and could be broken into smaller modules or nano-credentials.

For more details:

<https://cemca.org/news/ciet-ncert-and-col-cemcas-organised-a-workshop-on-oer-initiatives/>

World Radio Day 2026 Unites Community Radio Stations for a Stronger Voice

Community Radio Association (CRA), India, in partnership with Commonwealth of Learning – Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA), organised a programme to observe World Radio Day. The virtual event has brought together Community Radio Stations (CRS) representatives from across the region to mark the significance of radio as a powerful medium of communication and social change.

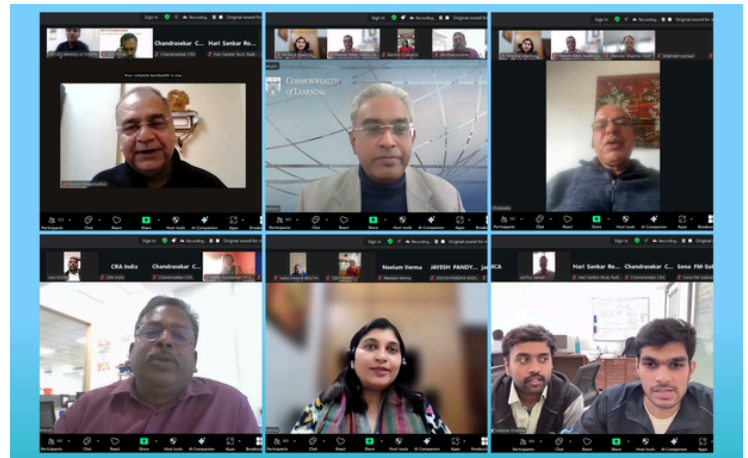
Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Vice President, CRA, facilitated the session. Mr. Sandeep Parmar, President, CRA, welcomed participants and emphasised the need to responsibly integrate AI with radio, highlighting the importance of collaboration to harness AI's potential while mitigating its risks.

Mr. Mahendra Kumar Meena, Under Secretary (CRS), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), shared the impact of CRS in empowering local voices. He emphasised that AI could enhance CRS capabilities, but cautioned against irresponsible use, ensuring human oversight and ethical practices. He urged CRA and stakeholders to explore innovative initiatives, enhancing capacity and sustainability.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, congratulated all radio stations on World Radio Day, appreciating the stellar service in resource constrained areas. He reminded that community radio is 'by the people, for the people, of the people'. He highlighted MIB's plans for content collation and distribution, enabling peer learning and AI-based tools for micro programming and offered COL-CEMCA's support nationwide. He also thanked the Reliance Foundation, National Disaster Management Authority, and others for their support.

Mr. Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, Retd. Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau and Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, emphasised that AI can aid data collection, storage, and analysis, but human oversight is important. He urged participants to use AI to facilitate community-based communication, leveraging local languages and participants.

Ms. Monica Sharma, Coordinator, COL-CEMCA, reflected on her long association with community radio and the contribution of



Screen grab from the online workshop

community radio to the communities over the years. She shared COL-CEMCA's commitment to support with capacity building and resources.

Mr. S. Senthilkumaran, Reliance Foundation, emphasised that community radio can leverage AI tools to produce predictive intelligence programmes, enhancing livelihood opportunities and government scheme outreach. He said that AI isn't replacing humans, but rather acting as a co-pilot. He also highlighted that AI can analyse, give feedback, generate regional language content, and extract audio from videos. He urged for collaboration and also sharing available tools with the interested community, also supporting capacity building and resources.

Mr. Vaibhav Sharma, MS (Research), Department of Electrical Engineering (Computer Technology Group), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi and Mr. Shashwat Bhardwaj, MS (Research) Yardi School of AI, IIT-Delhi, demonstrated Adivani, India's first AI translator tool for tribal languages. The App was developed by IIT Delhi, BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, and IIIT Naya Raipur, with tribal research institutes, covering languages like Gondi, Kui, Santali, Mundari, and Garo. The team addressed challenges like data scarcity, script issues, and acoustic sensitivity, and involved community volunteers in

workshops to curate data. The App uses a human-feedback loop to improve accuracy, setting it apart from other translation tools. Adivani marks a significant step in promoting tribal languages digitally, making them accessible alongside high-resource languages.

For more details:

<https://cemca.org/news/world-radio-day-2026-unites-community-radio-stations-for-a-stronger-voice/>

COL-CEMCA and UPRTOU Collaborated to Enhance Graduate Employability

COL-CEMCA and Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Prayagraj, successfully organised a two day workshop on Graduate Employability & Result Based Management (RBM) Approach for Graduate Employability on 11 and 17 February 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. 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.

India GPAI Student Community Launched: Empowering Youth in AI Governance

India has officially joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) community, marking a significant milestone. Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, alongside GPAI



Launch of the Indian student community.

community directors, launched the GPAI India chapter, welcoming the Indian student community as its newest members at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 on 16 February 2026.

The event was organised by the Commonwealth of Learning-Commonwealth Education Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA), in collaboration with GPAI experts' centres CEIMIA (Canada), Inria (France) and NICT (Japan) and the Council of Europe, on the theme. The event brought together students, academic leaders, and international experts from around the world at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, to discuss the theme, "Empowering youth in AI global governance." Marie-Fleur SIMMET, from Inria, moderated the session.

The opening reflections by Aurélie Simard, Sophie Fallaha, and Yuko Harayama situated youth engagement within GPAI's broader mandate, emphasising that responsible AI governance must incorporate structured student participation.

Ms. Sophie Fallaha, CEIMIA, introduced the three GPAI centres and the aim to develop practical tools for responsible AI, focusing on trustworthiness, safety, and inclusion. She emphasised it's support for high-impact projects anchored in science, international collaboration, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, working

with 44 member countries' AI ecosystems. She highlighted that the focus is on practicality, delivering tools to support responsible AI through GPA-associated projects.

Dr. Yuko Harayama, NICT, emphasised putting students at the centre, hailing them as future leaders with valuable insights to shape AI's future. She highlighted the student community, launched in 2021, which gives students a voice in policymaking, offering real-world experience and influencing AI's direction. She shared how the programme has expanded to three centres – Seattle, Tokyo, and others; covering diverse communities.

Ms. Aurélie Simard, Inria, shared practical GPAI project examples, highlighting student involvement in AI discussions with experts and professors. Initiatives include Japanese students researching AI adoption, Mongolian students simulating government negotiations, and Parisian students addressing AI's education impact.

This was followed by presentations from existing international student initiatives:

Mr. Rentaro Iida, NICT, GPAI Tokyo centre, shared the Japan component of the student community project, 'student-led field research'. Students explore AI's real-world impact, reshaping work and organisation. He highlighted that the role of the centre in connecting Japanese students with global peers, fostering discussions on responsible AI.

Ms. Chelza Inzouddine (Inria) presented the Paris Centre's AI Grand Challenge, empowering students to co-design AI's role in higher education. She highlighted that the interdisciplinary teams will analyse AI's impact, propose recommendations, and shape AI governance.

Ms. Paulina Karla Garcia Ventura (Mexican student community), shared a chatbot project with UNAM and Northeastern University, supporting Latin American workers using regional data. She represented Mexican women engineers, highlighting the collaboration's cultural impact.

Ms. Clara Merhab represented the Council of Europe's student community and highlighted the student community's focus on AI and human rights. She stressed that the initiative empowers youth to promote rights and the rule of law, with AI work featured in the Lisbon Forum Declaration, advocating inclusive, ethical AI.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director COL-CEMCA, presented the rationale and objectives of the GPAI India Student Community: to amplify Indian student voices, strengthen Global North–Global South collaboration, and foster interdisciplinary engagement on inclusive and responsible AI. He emphasised the importance of students in shaping the future of AI and making it humane.

The session concluded with Indian student representatives, Muskan Joshi, Immanuel David, Nancy Gupta articulating their expectations, responsibilities, and long-term vision for engagement in global AI discourse.

The launch marks the beginning of a sustained engagement, ensuring that youth participation in AI governance is structured, international, and action-oriented.

For more details:

<https://cemca.org/news/india-gpai-student-community-launched-empowering-youth-in-ai-governance/>

Teacher-Led, Localised AI for Equitable Education | India AI Impact Summit 2026

COL's session at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 on 17 February, 2026 brought together leaders in AI education from India, Kenya, Fiji, and Mauritius to explore how frugal, inclusive, and teacher-led AI can transform education across diverse Commonwealth contexts.

Convened by Professor Peter Scott, President of the Commonwealth of Learning, the session highlighted perspectives on ethically leveraging Frugal AI to strengthen education systems while ensuring sovereignty, inclusivity, and building local capacity.

Framing the discussion in the Summit's three foundational sutras of people, planet, and progress, the panel shared insights across technology, skills development, policymaking, quality assurance, and higher education. Panelists also focused on the importance of expanding access, strengthening education systems, and reaching even the most remote communities through inclusive and innovative approaches to Frugal AI:

- Dr Sumit Kalra, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur
- Professor Ganesan Kannabiran, Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India
- Professor Ami Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Gujarat, India
- Dr Edwin Tarno, CEO, Kenya School of Technical and Vocational Training, Kenya
- Dr Sawkut Rojid, Special Adviser to the Minister for Tertiary Education and Research, Mauritius
- Dr Rajni Kaushal Chand, Director, Centre for Flexible Learning, University of the South Pacific, Fiji



Prof Peter Scott addressing the audience at the Summit.

Leaders also had the opportunity to endorse the Gaborone to Delhi Compact on teacher-led, localised AI at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

Read more details:

<https://www.col.org/news/beyond-the-classroom-frugal-ai-in-tvet-as-a-roadmap-in-skills-training/>

Empowering Youth in AI Global Governance | Official Satellite Event of the AI Impact Summit 2026 | The GPAI India Student Community

On 18 February 2026, following the formal launch of the GPAI India Student Community on 16 February at the Bharat Mandapam, The Commonwealth educational media centre for Asia (CEMCA) In collaboration with the GPAI experts centres- CEIMIA (France) and NICT (Japan) and the Council of Europe) organised a workshop with the theme 'Empowering youth in AI Global Governance' as an Official Satellite Event of the AI Impact Summit 2026.

Bringing together over 60 students from India, France, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Kenya and Lebanon, the workshop was designed as a structured working session to examine how locally grounded AI solutions can inform and contribute to global governance frameworks.

An international student roundtable followed, featuring student representatives from France, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Kenya, and India. The discussion reflected on existing GPAI-associated student initiatives and explored pathways for sustained cross-national collaboration.

A thematic dialogue with Professor Bertrand Monthubert along with B. Lakshmi Priya (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India) and Masafumi Nakano (Japan) examined the translation of local AI realities into mechanisms that strengthen global governance, particularly in contexts marked by inequality and asymmetry.



Group photograph of the participants and stakeholders.

contribute distinct strengths to this growing international framework.



Photographs from the workshop.

The core of the workshop consisted of a structured three-phase innovation process — Discover, Define, Develop — across five thematic areas: AI & Education; Training and Empowerment; Multiculturalism & Multilingualism; Access to Resources; and Mechanisms for Sharing Best Practices.

A Directors' Panel convened Dr. Yuko Harayama (NICT, Japan), Sophie Fallaha (CEIMIA, Canada), Dr. Aurélie Simard (Inria, France), and Dr. B Shadrach (COL-CEMCA, India), examined the evolving role of youth within global AI governance, highlighting how the student communities can complement one another structurally and methodologically, and outlining how the Indian student community will

Followed by a public policy reactions, including reflections from Daniel Pap, Legal Advisor, Digital Development Unit, Council of Europe, Prof. Peter Scott, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning and Axel Froissart, Advisor for Digital and Emerging Technologies (Permanent Representation of France to the OECD), bridging student insights with governance practice.

This Official Satellite Event strengthened coordination across GPAI-associated Centres and reinforced the integration of the Indian student community within the existing GPAI Framework.

For more details:

<https://cemca.org/news/empowering-youth-in-ai-global-governance-official-satellite-event-of-the-ai-impact-summit-2026-the-gpai-india-student-community/>

Public Open Universities Chart National Roadmap for ODL Collaboration & Employability

Vice-Chancellors of public open universities from across India convened in Thiruvananthapuram to chart a national roadmap for collaboration, credit mobility, and graduate employability—marking a significant step towards strengthening India’s Open and Distance Learning (ODL) ecosystem.

The Fifth All India Public Open University Vice-Chancellors’ Round Table Conference was hosted by Sreenarayanaguru Open University (SGOU), Kerala in collaboration with Commonwealth of Learning and Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia from 23 to 25 February 2026. The Conference brought together institutional leaders to deliberate on strengthening inter-university cooperation and aligning ODL systems with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Inaugurating the Conference, Dr. R. Bindu, Kerala’s Honorable Higher Education Minister, called for a robust national framework for credit transfer and deeper collaboration among open universities. She observed that open universities are “not peripheral, but pivotal” in a rapidly transforming higher education landscape shaped by technology, learner mobility, and the growing demand for lifelong learning. Education, she added, must remain “open, accessible, flexible and transformative,” while highlighting how institutions such as Indira Gandhi National Open University and SGOU have reshaped higher education by expanding opportunities beyond conventional systems.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Rajan Gurukkal, Vice-Chairperson of the Higher Education Council, Kerala, urged the teaching community to reinvent themselves as critical



Photographs from the roundtable organised by COL-CEMCA and SGOU

intermediaries in an era increasingly shaped by generative AI tools. He cautioned that while such platforms democratise learning, they are also prone to errors, biases, and superficial engagement.

Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of COL, addressed the Conference via video conference and urged universities worldwide to overhaul their business models and pedagogy as they transition to multi-mode education. He called on institutions to “reimagine learning,” beginning with innovative learning design that integrates interaction, assessment as learning, and social elements to enhance student engagement.

In his Special Address, Dr. B. Shadrach, Director of CEMCA, provided a strategic and historical framing of the Open University movement’s collective journey. He described the present Round Table as marking the fourth and most critical stage in the evolution of Public Open Universities -transitioning from “Forming, Storming, and Norming” to “Performing.”

During the Conference, SGOU unveiled its Graduate Employability Framework, aimed at strengthening the link between academic programmes and the evolving needs of the labour market. The Framework focuses on embedding employability skills, digital

competencies, experiential learning, and work-readiness into undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered through the ODL mode. It also emphasises industry linkages, career guidance, micro-credentials, and structured pathways for skill integration within degree programmes.

Deliberations underscored the growing strategic role of public open universities in expanding equitable access to higher education – especially for working professionals, women re-entering education, rural learners, and first-generation students. Participants reaffirmed that ODL institutions are central to achieving NEP 2020 objectives on flexibility, multidisciplinary education, credit portability, and lifelong learning.

The Conference also featured perspectives from national regulatory and policy leadership, including Prof. Ashok Kumar Gaba (Executive Member, National Council for Vocational Education and Training), Prof. Ganesh Kannabiran (Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council), and Shri Anandrao V. Patil (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India), who underscored the importance of quality assurance, skills integration, and policy coherence for strengthening ODL systems.

The Conference established a clear direction for collective action. Discussions emphasised that collaboration must replace fragmentation, interoperability must replace isolation, and structured governance must replace informal coordination. The proceedings underscored that credit transfer reform is not merely administrative but structural; digital transformation must be human-centred; skill integration must be strategically embedded; and policy advocacy must be unified and evidence-based.

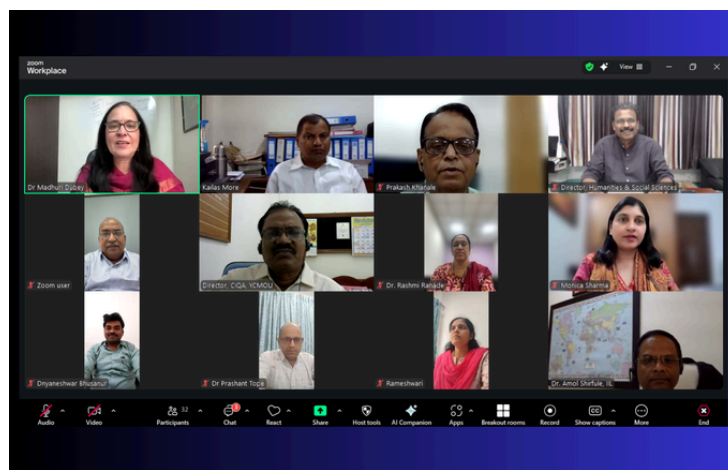
For more details:

<https://cemca.org/news/public-open-universities-chart-national-roadmap-for-odl-collaboration-employability/>

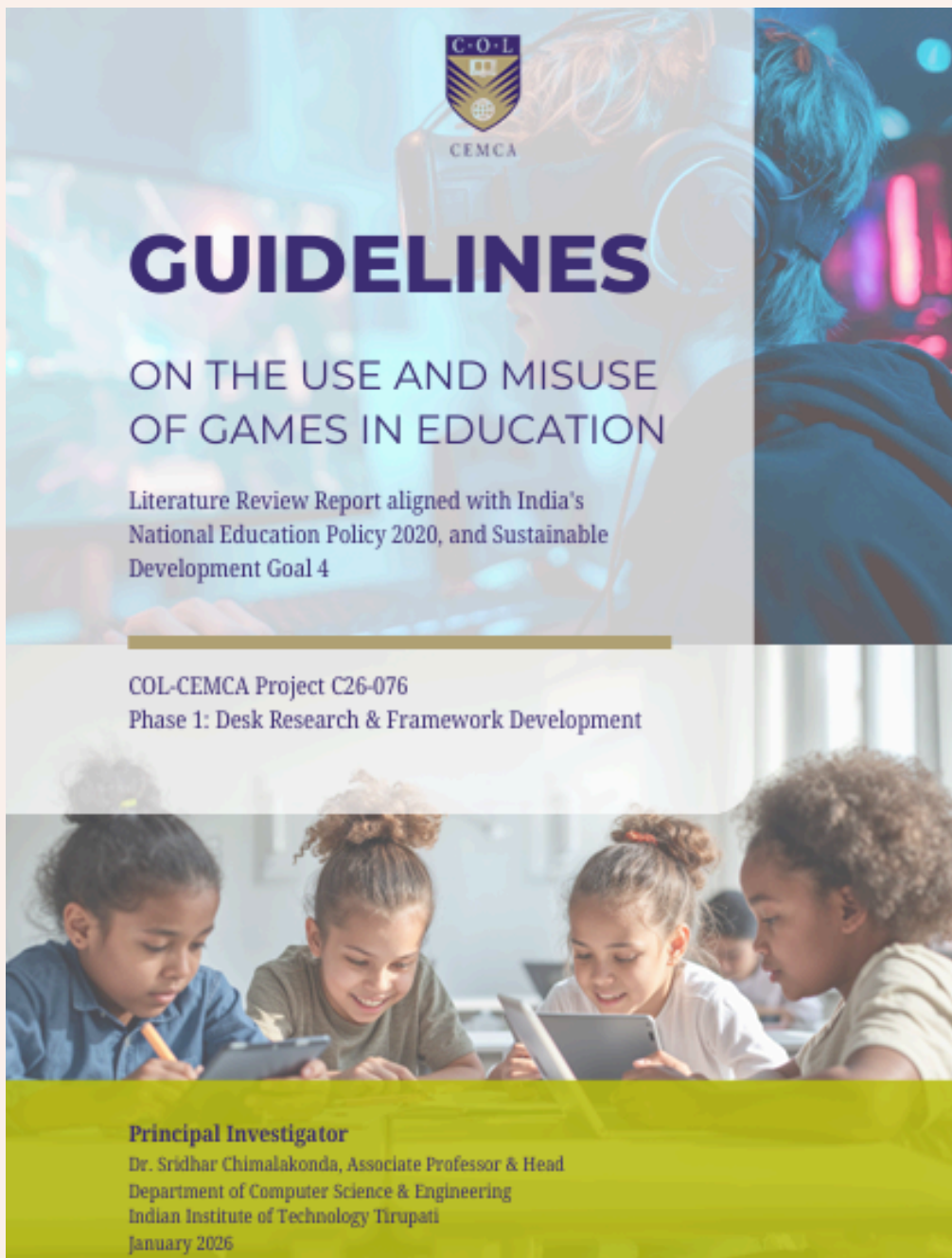
COL-CEMCA and YCMOU Collaborated to Enhance Graduate Employability

COL-CEMCA, in collaboration with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik, successfully conducted a two-day workshop on Graduate Employability and the Results-Based Management (RBM) approach from 23–24 February 2026. The workshop aimed to strengthen graduate employability by building faculty capacity, aligning courses with employability skills, fostering industry partnerships for relevant programme design, and amplifying outreach through webinars and knowledge-sharing platforms.

The sessions were facilitated by Dr. Madhuri Dubey, Consultant, COL-CEMCA, who guided participants through a review of graduate employability frameworks and introduced the core principles of RBM. The RBM approach was highlighted as a strategic tool for Open Universities to enhance course relevance and effectiveness, strengthen learner–facilitator engagement, and support pathways to employability and entrepreneurship.



Sreen grab of the Workshop organised by COL-CEMCA and YCMOU in progress



This literature review synthesises global evidence on game-based learning (GBL) and gamification in education, drawing from 30+ systematic reviews and meta-analyses published between 2012 and 2025. The review directly supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) - ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education while addressing India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 objectives for experiential, play-based, and technology-integrated learning.

For details, visit:

<https://cemca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Guidelines-on-the-Use-and-Misuse-of-Games-in-Education-Edited.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

6-7 March 2026

Workshop on Quality Assurance in Online Education in India

COL and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) are organising a two-day workshop on Quality Assurance in Online Education at IGNOU, New Delhi

11- 13 March 2026

Graduate Employability and RBM Framework Workshop

COL and YCMOU are organising a Face-to-Face workshop on Enhancement of Skill based courses at YCMOU, Nashik, Maharashtra

25 March 2026

Workshop on NCVET Dual Recognition, New Delhi

COL-CEMCA is organising a one-day handholding workshop on 25 March 2026 to support Open Universities in securing NCVET dual recognition through targeted guidance and technical assistance.

7 March 2026

Establishment , Management and Sustainability of CRS

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with P N Pannicker Foundation is organising a session on Establishment , Management and Sustainability of CRS

23-27 March 2026

Faculty Development Programme on Technology Enabled Learning and Blended Learning

A Five-day Faculty Development Programme, with Manav Rachna Educational Institute.

26-27 March 2026,

Graduate Employability (GE) Champions Training, New Delhi

COL-CEMCA is organising a two-day workshop (26-27 March 2026) at New Delhi, to equip at least staff members from each university as Lead Trainers, who will be mentored over 12 months to deliver Graduate Employability Training to campus-based Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

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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