

# COL-CEMCA UPDATES

April 2026



## COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

### **COL-CEMCA and BAOU Advances Employability Agenda through RBM-Focused Faculty Development Programme**

The Commonwealth of Learning-Commonwealth Educational Media Centre (COL-CEMCA), in collaboration with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Ahmedabad, conducted a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Result-Based Management (RBM), Curriculum Review and Enhancement on 4 April 2026 and 6-8 April 2026 under the Graduate Employability Project. The programme marks a key step in the second phase of the initiative, focusing on strengthening institutional capacity and embedding outcome-based education practices across Open Universities (OUs) in India.

The workshops explored RBM as a transformative approach, emphasising measurable learning outcomes, accountability, and continuous improvement in curriculum design and delivery. The initiative builds on earlier stakeholder consultations and employability assessments, which provided insights into institutional readiness and the need to align higher education with emerging skills and workforce demands.

In his address, Dr. B. Shadrach, Director COL-CEMCA, highlighted the shifting higher education landscape under flexible credit frameworks and emphasised the transition from a narrow “graduate employability” focus to a broader, lifelong “employability” approach. He urged institutions to embed employability attributes across curricula and adopt innovative pedagogies, noting the widening gap between academic outputs and industry requirements, particularly in emerging technology domains and workplace skills. Detailing the major and emerging industries and the job roles in various sectors in the state of Gujarat, Dr Shadrach discussed how BAOU can equip learners in high-tech shifts and compliment its role from being a content provider to a skills integrator.



*Glimpses from the workshop,*

The programme focused on equipping faculty with tools to design employability-oriented, skill-based courses aligned with industry needs. It also reinforced the importance of curriculum redesign, micro-credentials, apprenticeship models, and continuous monitoring of student outcomes. BAOU and COL-CEMCA reaffirmed its commitment to fostering collaboration, quality, and innovation, ensuring that learners are better prepared to meet the evolving demands of the workforce.

[Click here to read more](#)

### **Empowering Community Radio Through Digital Innovation: CEMCA and Reliance Foundation Conduct Capacity-Building Programme for CRS**

On 10 April 2026, a significant capacity-building programme for Community Radio Stations (CRS) was organised by Commonwealth of Learning-Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) in collaboration with Reliance Foundation, at New Delhi, bringing together sector stakeholders to explore how digital innovation can strengthen the future of community radio in India. The programme served as a strategic platform to discuss practical, scalable, and inclusive technology solutions that can enhance the operations, outreach, and impact of community radio stations.

The session focused on how AI-enabled systems, digital content repositories, internet radio, listener feedback tools, learning platforms, and GIS-based planning can support CRS in addressing local community needs more effectively. Rather than presenting technology as a generic solution, the programme emphasised that each community radio station has its own unique identity, audience, geography, language, and thematic priorities. Accordingly, the



*Proceedings during the workshop,*

proposed digital systems were introduced as customisable and demand-responsive solutions designed to align with real ground-level workflows.

During the programme, Reliance Foundation demonstrated a structured Content Management Repository that can help radio stations digitally organise and archive audio, video, images, scripts, and metadata in a searchable format. This is expected to support easier retrieval, long-term preservation, and more efficient reuse of valuable community content.

In his address, Dr. B. Shadrach, Director COL-CEMCA, highlighted the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the radio sector, noting that while global examples demonstrate its ability to automate content and optimise programming, excessive reliance on AI can distance radio from its core community focus.

The partnership between COL-CEMCA and Reliance Foundation was recognised as a key enabler in this effort, supporting community radio stations in enhancing content storage, broadcasting, capacity building, feedback collection, and long-term sustainability, while fostering innovation and growth in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

[Click here to read more](#)

## COL-CEMCA Hosts Working Session to Strengthen India Student Community for AI

The India Student Community for AI, an initiative under the GPAI Student Project launched during the India AI Impact Summit 2026, convened its Student Working Session titled “Voices of Youth for the Future of AI” on 11 April 2026 in New Delhi.

The session was organised by COL-CEMCA, brought together student members to collectively define the community's identity, align individual motivations, and translate these into structured pathways for action. The programme followed a clear WHAT-WHY-HOW framework, enabling participants to move from shared understanding to individual intent and, ultimately, to collaborative action.

Working collaboratively, students identified six thematic areas and self-organised into groups to develop well-defined action plans for 2026–2027, covering community governance, digital infrastructure, student-led projects, knowledge products, international collaboration, and capacity building.

In his opening remarks, Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA underscored the importance of student ownership, emphasising that the session was designed to be driven by students, with their perspectives shaping the direction and priorities of the community. Dr. Aurelie Simard, Executive Director, INRIA- Center of expertise for the international cooperation on AI affiliated to the GPAI, France and Dr. Yuko Harayama, Secretary General, GPAI Tokyo Expert Support Center, NICT, Japan highlighted the clarity, professionalism, and strong sense of shared ambition demonstrated by the students, while underscoring the importance of collaboration across global student communities.



*Workshop in progress at YCMOU*

The session also featured a student presentation by Ms. Dia Khurana, a member of the India Student Community for AI, who shared key insights and outcomes from the innovation workshop report. The programme was moderated by Mr. T. Khalid (CEMCA), ensuring a structured and participatory flow throughout.

The session marks an important step in strengthening a student-led platform that contributes meaningfully to the global discourse on responsible AI, with a clear focus on sustained engagement, collaboration, and impact.

[Click here to read more](#)



*A student building the idea wall during a workshop.*

## COL-CEMCA and JGND-PSOU Organise a Three-Day Workshop on Course Enhancement for Graduate Employability

Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University (JGND-PSOU), Patiala, in collaboration with the COL-CEMCA, conducted a three-day workshop on “Course Enhancement for Graduate Employability” to address the critical need for industry-aligned education at the PSOU Campus on 15-17 April 2026. The event, under COL’s Graduate Employability, focused on developing a roadmap for skill-oriented curriculum development to enhance the professional competencies of graduates.



*Photographs from the workshop.*

Delivering the special address online, Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted insights from the Economic Survey of Punjab, pointing out the existing gap between available skills and industry requirements. He stressed that open universities are uniquely positioned to bridge this gap through flexible and relevant programming.

The workshop saw active participation from faculty members and academic planners across disciplines, who engaged in group work, peer review and expert consultations over the three days.

The workshop concluded with the formulation of a preliminary action plan outlining priority

courses for enhancement, timelines for curriculum revision, and strategies for industry engagement. Participants also identified the need for continuous capacity building of faculty and the integration of digital and blended learning approaches to support skill delivery.

JGND-PSOU and COL-CEMCA reaffirmed their commitment to sustained collaboration in advancing the graduate employability agenda.

[Click here to read more](#)

## COL-CEMCA Convenes National Consultative Meeting of State Open Schools to Advance Vocationalisation Agenda

COL-CEMCA convened a two-day National Consultative Meeting of State Open Schools in New Delhi (23–24 April 2026), bringing together leaders from 10 states along with key national stakeholders including NIOS, NCVET, Textile Sector Skill Council, and the Directorate General of Training.

At the heart of the discussions was a shared recognition: while open schooling has immense potential to serve millions of out-of-school learners, it is currently reaching less than 10% of its target population.



*Glimpses from the workshop.*

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised the urgent need to strengthen trust, expand vocational pathways, and address systemic barriers such as stigma, digital exclusion, and institutional gaps.

Across two days, participants along with experts:

- Mapped key challenges shaping the State Open School ecosystem
- Explored regulatory and skilling integration pathways
- Co-developed actionable strategies on visibility, RPL, industry alignment, learner segmentation, and blended learning

*"We have policies, frameworks, and infrastructure in place. What is needed now is activation — and a shared national commitment to ensure that millions of learners outside the formal system are not left behind," Dr Shadrach said in his closing remarks.*

The consultation brought into sharp focus the urgent need to activate India's existing policy frameworks and scale vocational open schooling from its current 40,000 learners to millions.

It concluded with a shared understanding of the implementation architecture needed — spanning Digital Public Infrastructure, governance reforms, learner segmentation, and industry partnerships — and a common resolve to engage both national and state governments to build momentum.

COL-CEMCA will take forward the Business Plan 2030, with the states as partners in making the case for sustained national investment in open schooling.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Empowering Teachers in AI Content Creation: COL-CEMCA-CBSE Workshop Advances Class 10 Mathematics Learning through the Teacher in the Loop Approach

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with the Central Board of School Education (CBSE), concluded the two-day workshop titled "AI-Driven Content for Class 10 Math Success" under the Phase 2 of the Teacher in the Loop AI (TiL-AI) initiative on 27-28 April 2026 at the CBSE HQ, Dwarka, New Delhi. The workshop brought together 50 mathematics teachers for hands-on co-creation of AI-supported educational resources for Class 10.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, opened the workshop highlighting the tool's core principles, Sovereign AI, Frugal AI, and Teacher in the Loop AI, reinforcing that teacher expertise drives the quality of every resource generated.



Photographs from the workshop.

Dr. Biswajit Saha, Professor & Director, Skill Education, CBSE, contextualised the initiative within India's mathematics education landscape, stressing the urgent need to make mathematics more engaging at the secondary level. Dr. Saha also held an interactive session with participating teachers.

Working individually and as groups, participating teachers engaged in a structured three-stage workflow of creating, curating, and peer-reviewing AI-supported educational resources for Class 10 mathematics. Each teacher selected a challenging topic from the Class 10 NCERT syllabus, generated a draft resource using the COL's AI tool, and then systematically enriched it to ensure curriculum alignment, classroom relevance, and contextual appropriateness.

The workshop reinforced that the teachers should be active participants, collaborators, and decision-makers in AI-assisted content development, rather than passive recipients of technology-generated materials.

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## COL-CEMCA Participation in Regional Events

**Graduation Day, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, 18 April 2026**

Dr B Shadrach, Director COL-CEMCA was invited as the Chief Guest to deliver the Graduation Day Address and present the degrees to the new graduates at Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli on 18 April 2026



Technical Note: Reframing Lifelong Learning for Farmer (L3F)  
Programmatic Directions for Lifelong Learning for Farmers

**Access the full resource here:**

<https://cemca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Technical-Note-L3F.pdf>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**9 May 2026**

## **Workshop: Women Shaping AI in STEM Classrooms (SHAPE-AI STEM)**

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur and the School of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, IIT Jodhpur are organising a one-day participatory workshop for women STEM teachers from colleges and universities across Rajasthan, fostering dialogue, collaboration, and co-creation at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and STEM education.

**14-16 May 2026**

## **Three-day Workshop on Curriculum Design and Elder Courseware Adaptation**

COL-CEMCA and AIOU are organising a Three-day Workshop to train AIOU, Pakistan faculty and course development team on curriculum design and elder courseware adaptation at AIOU Pakistan.

**13 May 2026**

## **Stakeholder Consultation for Needs Assessment and Curriculum Design of 3 blended learning courses in TVET**

COL-CEMCA and BOU are organising a Stakeholder Consultation for Needs Assessment and Curriculum Design of 3 blended learning courses in TVET at BOU, Bangladesh

**27-28 May 2026**

## **2nd COL-CEMCA NAAC Workshop on Quality Assurance in Online Education**

COL-CEMCA and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), are organising a 2nd workshop on Quality Assurance in Online Education at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad.

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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