

CEMCA

# ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

July-November 2023



Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia  
New Delhi, India

# Commonwealth of Learning

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was created by Commonwealth Heads of Governments during their meeting held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1987. The organisation was established to promote distance learning and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and to strengthen cooperation in education among the Member States of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) was established by COL in 1994 to respond to the needs expressed by the Commonwealth countries of the Asian region for more effective utilisation of educational media resources for Distance Education. COL and the Government of India (GoI) signed the Host Country Agreement on 31 August 1998. CEMCA was notified as a diplomatic mission under the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947 by the GoI on 10 February 2000.

For details visit: [www.col.org](http://www.col.org)

All queries, suggestions, comments may please be addressed to:

The Director

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia  
7/8 Sarv Priya Vihar, New Delhi, 110016, India  
Tel: +91-11-45871061/45771113

For details visit: [www.cemca.org](http://www.cemca.org)

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# ACRONYMS

<b>ACSI</b>	Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>AIU</b>	Association of Indian Universities
<b>AR</b>	Augmented Reality
<b>BAOU</b>	Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University
<b>BRAOU</b>	Dr B R Ambedkar Open University
<b>CIQA</b>	Centre for Internal Quality Assurance
<b>CMC 2023</b>	Community Media Challenge 2023
<b>CRS</b>	Community Radio Stations
<b>CRVC</b>	Community Radio Video Challenge
<b>FICCI</b>	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
<b>FOSS</b>	Free and Open Source Software
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technologies
<b>IGNOU</b>	Indira Gandhi National Open University
<b>JSOU</b>	Jharkhand State Open University
<b>KKHSOU</b>	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MIB</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
<b>MRU</b>	Manav Rachna University
<b>NEP 2020</b>	National Education Policy 2020
<b>NPBL</b>	National Policy on Blended Learning
<b>NSN</b>	National Skills Network
<b>ODL</b>	Open and Distance Learning
<b>OER</b>	Open Educational Resources
<b>PSD</b>	Global Pro Sport Development
<b>PwD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>RCEP</b>	Regional Center for Educational Planning
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>TEL</b>	Technology-enabled Learning
<b>TISS</b>	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
<b>TNAU</b>	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>VR</b>	Virtual Reality

# PARTNERS

AMITY UNIVERSITY - HARYANA, INDIA

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES, , INDIA

BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, INDIA

CHANGEINKK FOUNDATION, INDIA

DR B R AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY, INDIA

DR BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY, INDIA

FEDERATION OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INDIA

GLOBAL PRO SPORT DEVELOPMENT, INDIA

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, INDIA

JHARKHAND STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY, INDIA

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY, INDIA

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY, INDIA

MINISTRY OF AYUSH, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL SKILLS NETWORK, INDIA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ, INDIA

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICES COUNCIL, SRI LANKA

NPBRIDGE SOLUTIONS, INDIA

SCHOOL OF OPEN LEARNING, DELHI UNIVERSITY, INDIA

SNDT WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, INDIA

TAMIL NADU OPEN UNIVERSITY, INDIA

TERTIARY & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMISSION, SRI LANKA

TOGETHER WITH YOUTH, SRI LANKA

UNESCO, NEW DELHI, INDIA



# COL STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-27

COL developed its Strategic Plan 2021–2027 after holding wide consultations with the Board of Governors, Focal Points, partners and members of the public to identify the priorities that it needs to address. The common concerns that emerged across the regions were mitigating the impact of COVID-19; promoting quality education; integrating Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) into teaching and learning; skilling and re-skilling the workforce for livelihoods; and reaching the unreached. In light of stakeholders’ recommendations, during the period 2021-27, COL will:

- i) build on its expertise in Open and Distance Learning (ODL), Open Educational Resources (OER) and Technology-enabled Learning (TEL) to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
- ii) invest in innovations and research;
- iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
- iv) promote gender equality; and
- v) implement a rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan.

Within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, and the priorities of member states, COL programmes will promote ‘Learning for

Sustainable Development’. These will be guided by the following strategic goals:

- Quality education and lifelong learning for all
- Skills development for sustainable livelihoods
- Gender equality and inclusion

During the strategic plan period, COL will organise its work in two sectors: Education and Skills with the addition of Gender Equality and TEL as cross-cutting initiatives. The change in approach includes a greater focus on innovation, inclusion and measuring impact. COL will focus on three pathways of change to achieve impact:

- **Building National Resilience:** Work with governments to use gender-responsive ODL policies and strategies for increasing equitable access to quality learning.
- **Strengthening Institutions:** Support institutions to strengthen ODL systems and capacities for providing quality education and training.
- **Improving Lives and Livelihoods:** Provide learners, especially from disadvantaged groups, access to learning and resources for improved livelihoods.

The detailed plan can be accessed at: <https://oasis.col.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/35f37640-5507-4c43-9335-fe2360942f44/content>

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) was established to promote cooperation and collaboration in the creation and use of multiple media resources for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and skill development in eight Commonwealth countries of Asia, i. e, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. CEMCA works in two sectors – Education and Skills. In the education sector, CEMCA supports higher education and teacher education institutions to implement policies, enhance staff/ faculty knowledge and skills, and develop and offer quality ODL and online courses. This will contribute to improved institutional effectiveness and increased access to quality learning opportunities. In the skills sector, CEMCA supports governments, institutions and learners to increase access to quality skill trainings, and improve the skills and livelihoods of marginalised people, including women and Persons with Disabilities (PwD).

As COL's regional centre for Asia, CEMCA's activities centre around COL Strategic Plan 2021-27. At the same time, CEMCA retains its regional focus,

keeping in view the challenges and requirements of Asian Commonwealth countries. It envisages catering to the education and training needs of people across Commonwealth Asia and reaches out to people with quality educational resources and training, using all forms of educational technologies including community media. CEMCA engages with the best academicians and professionals from academia, civil society, community media, industry, and bureaucrats from the governments of Asian Commonwealth countries. During the Strategic Plan period, CEMCA will:

- Build the capacity of institutions to transition to online and blended learning;
- Support gender-responsive skills development for livelihoods;
- Develop innovations in a range of technologies from Community Radio (CR) to Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions for reaching the last mile.

# 2. CORE PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS (JULY-NOVEMBER 2023)

## 2.1 Education

CEMCA’s activities in the education sector support formal and non-formal education from secondary school to tertiary levels across the Asian Commonwealth countries. These are oriented towards strengthening educational institutions, capacity building of educators and enhancing access to quality learning opportunities for learners, especially those from the vulnerable sections of the society, such as women, girls and people with disabilities (PwDs). Reflecting on the priorities of the stakeholders in the education sector, during 2023-24, CEMCA focuses on:

- **Adapting policies and practices to leverage ODL/online learning and OER in higher education:** Under this, CEMCA worked with higher education and teacher education

institutions to train leaders, teachers and educators in ODL, OER and online learning; provide support and technical guidance; and develop gender-responsive ODL and online learning policies and strategies as well as OER, which would then be implemented or scaled up.

- **Enhancing capacity for better teaching and learning using ODL and blended learning approaches:** Under this, CEMCA worked with higher education and teacher education institutions to enhance the capacity of staff and educators in micro-credentials, online assessment and pedagogy and to develop gender-responsive courses as OER. With CEMCA’s support, the staff and faculty improved their knowledge and skills in these areas. CEMCA also supported the development of micro-credential courses to be offered by partner institutions.

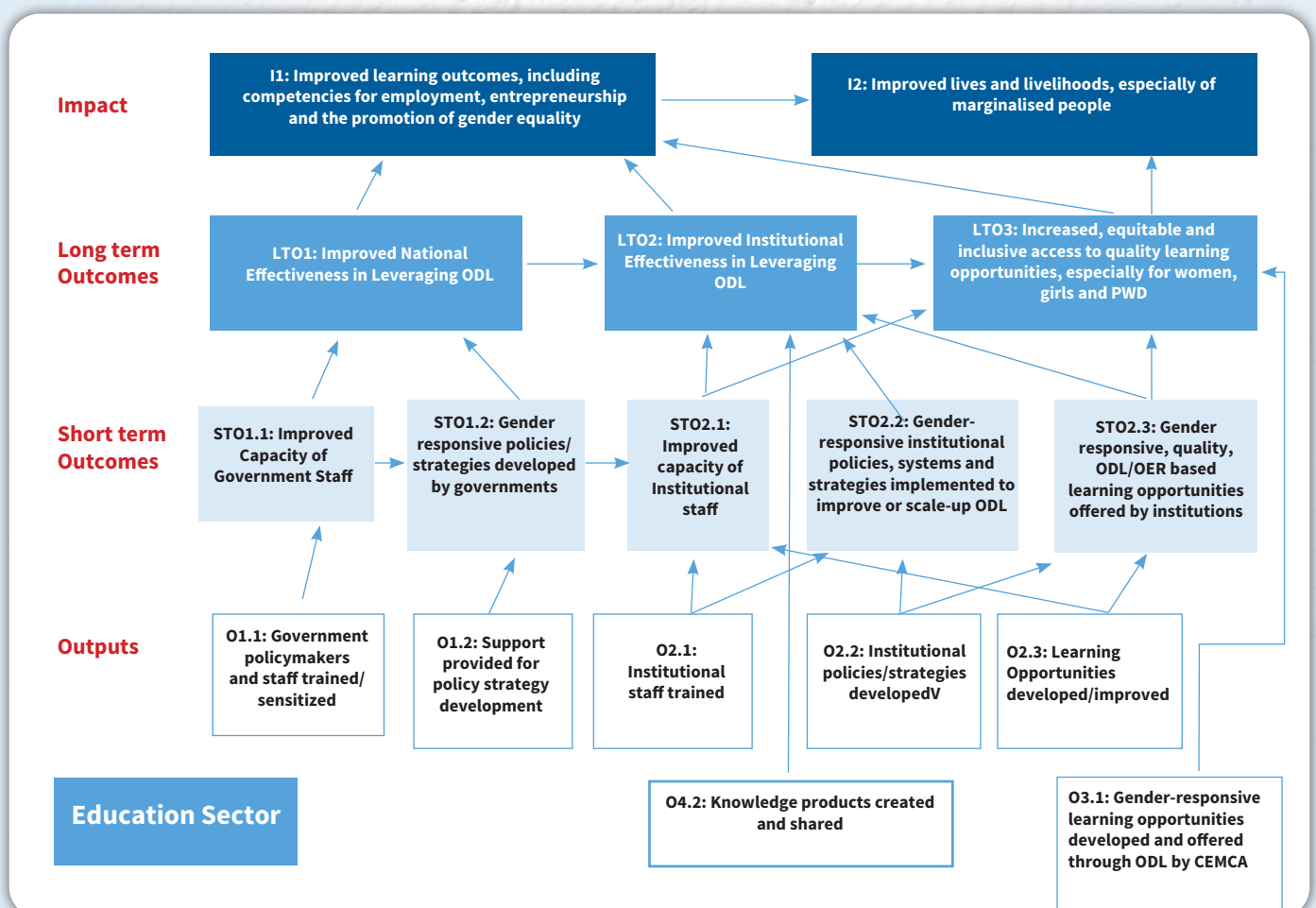


Figure 1. CEMCA Education Sector Logic Model 2023-24

- **Innovation to improve learning opportunities:** Under this, CEMCA worked with educational institutions to initiate research in OER, ODL, online and blended learning and to enhance the capacity of staff and educators in the innovative use of Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR)/Virtual Lab and their development for better learning opportunities. Figure 1 describes the Logic Model for the Education sector with expected outputs, outcomes and impact for the period 2023-24.

### 2.1.1 Activities in Education Sector

#### National Policy on Blended Learning Drafting Committee meet to finalise the policy document

CEMCA and Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Delhi, India, held the third meeting of the Drafting Committee of National Policy on Blended Learning (NPBL) on 12 July 2023 at AIU Office in New Delhi, India. The meeting was presided over by Prof G D Sharma, President of AIU, and moderated by Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary-General of AIU. The Drafting Committee members - Professor M M Pant, former Pro Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Professor Marmar Mukhopadhyay, Chairman, Educational Technology and Management Academy (ETMA); Prof. Ami Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Gujarat, India; Dr B Shadrach, Director, CEMCA; and Professor Ganesh Kannabiran, Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) discussed the comments made by experts and

agreed to incorporate changes to the document for consideration by the NPBL Core Committee.

#### Indian Open University Vice Chancellors' Forum concluded with Ahmedabad Declaration on ODL

CEMCA, in collaboration with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Gujarat, India, organised the Open University Vice-Chancellors' Forum on 4-5 August 2023, at their campus in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The overarching theme of the event was "National Education Policy-2020: Opportunities and Challenges for Open and Distance Learning Universities." The forum was attended by 16 Open University Vice Chancellors, the Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), India, and several esteemed participants, including those from Malaysia, Mauritius, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates, who participated virtually.

The forum included several plenary sessions and panel discussions around the theme. These sessions explored various aspects of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) landscape, including reaching underserved learners, leveraging technology for enhanced ODL, implementing the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), internationalising higher education within ODL, establishing the National Credit Framework (NCrF), addressing recognition and acceptance issues, promoting employability, and ensuring the resilience and sustainability of Open Universities. The outcome of these discussions was the Ahmedabad Declaration, a document detailing the challenges being faced by ODL institutions in India and the best practices for adoption by them.



Indian Open University Vice Chancellors' Forum held at BAOU, Gujarat, India



**Faculty members of Dr B R Ambedkar Open University, Telangana, India, trained in creating micro-credential courses**

CEMCA partnered with Dr B R Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), Telangana, India, to conduct a capacity-building workshop on creating micro-credential courses from 8 to 10 August 2023. The workshop aimed to train the participants in developing micro-credential courses that provide opportunities for lifelong learning and enhance employability. These courses are also emerging as a new model of digital education. The workshop introduced the participants to the world of micro-credential courses, which are smaller units of study and are of shorter duration than a conventional course. CEMCA Resource Person took them through the processes and steps involved in producing such courses using Moodle learning platform or course management system, focusing on interactivity, accessibility, and content creation. Sixteen faculty members of BRAOU attended the workshop and learned the techniques of creating these courses.

**Expert Committee reviewed the draft of National Policy on Blended Learning (NPBL)**

In drafting the first NPBL for higher education in India, CEMCA and AIU, Delhi, India, are supported by an Expert Committee with members drawn from prestigious universities and institutions from India and abroad. The Drafting Committee meeting held on 12 July 2023 was followed by the

Expert Committee meeting on 24 August 2023, in New Delhi, India, to review and finalise the document. Conducted in a hybrid format, it marked a significant milestone in the development of the educational policy.

During the course of the meeting, experts underscored several critical aspects of the policy document. These included flexibility to embrace future technological advancements such as AI, while aligning with the learner- and learning-centred approach highlighted in National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020); key prerequisites for successful policy implementation; considerations regarding language, visual appeal, comprehensibility, and accessibility of the document, as well as the establishment of parameters for measuring its success. These issues would be addressed to finalise the document and the next steps in this endeavour would include the formulation of a strategy and communication plan to effectively disseminate the policy among diverse stakeholders.

**Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Assam, India, and CEMCA agree to pursue a long-term partnership**

On 26 September 2023, CEMCA signed an MOU with Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU), Assam, India. The main objectives of this MOU are to develop and share OER; create an OER repository to promote OER; promote research and development in ODL including the establishment of a research centre to carry out



*Faculty members trained in micro-credential creation at BRAOU in Telangana, India*



Expert Committee meeting held in New Delhi, India, to review the draft of National Policy on Blended Learning

research in ODL teaching learning methodologies and technologies; organise training and capacity building programmes for ODL educators and practitioners; organise training and capacity building programmes for school teachers through LMS; and plan joint conferences, seminars and workshops.

Under this MOU, KKHSOU organised a three-day workshop from 4 to 6 October 2023, focusing on Open Educational Resources (OER). The inauguration of the workshop on 4 October 2023 was graced by the presence of dignitaries, including Professor Rajendra Prasad Das and several faculty members from the University. The primary aim of this workshop was to empower KKHSOU faculty members with the essential skills required to explore, adopt, create, and seamlessly integrate OER into their teaching and learning processes. The workshop would result in the creation of an OER repository for the OER community.

### CEMCA and ChangeInkk Foundation Collaborate for Inclusive Education

CEMCA is collaborating with ChangeInkk Foundation, New Delhi, India, to develop a four-week online course on Mainstreaming Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) in the form of a MOOC that will be hosted on the MOOC4D platform. The MOOC aims to train teacher educators, policy makers and other stakeholders on the subject. A half-day roundtable on inclusive education is in the offing on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December 2023. It will include five panels on Understanding Specific Learning Disabilities; Experience Sharing

of Individuals with SLDs; Remedial Support and Accommodations; Framework for Inclusive Teaching Strategies; and Leveraging Tech in Classrooms.

### Empowering Educators to Achieve Global Standards through Capacity Building in OER and Moodle

Thirty-eight Faculty members from six Indian universities, i. e., Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Uttarakhand Open University, MP Bhoj Open University, and Amity University Haryana (AUH), India, participated in a comprehensive faculty development programme in Open Educational Resources (OER) and Moodle at AUH campus from 20 to 24 November 2023. The workshop was organised by CEMCA in collaboration with AUH.

The workshop's objective was to enhance faculty capacity in various aspects of OER, including identifying high-quality resources, adapting them to specific needs, creating new content with appropriate licensing, devising assessment and certification methods, uploading content on MoodleCloud, and launching content as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

## 2.2 SKILLS

In the Skills sector, CEMCA works with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and educators from the secondary school to tertiary levels to increase equitable and

inclusive access to skill development opportunities for all in the Asian Commonwealth countries. It strives to increase access to good-quality digital content to develop vocational skills of the youth and people from marginalised communities, especially women, girls and PWDs, to enhance their employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities, leading to improved lives and livelihoods. Reflecting on the priorities of the stakeholders in the skills sector, during 2023-24, CEMCA focuses on:

- **Capacity-building programme for vocational trainers:** Under this, CEMCA worked with governments, civil societies, schools and TVET institutions to train vocational trainers in ODL and online learning, which led to improved knowledge and skills among these trainers. It also supported skill institutions in implementing foundational courses, policies and strategies in ODL and online teaching, quality and assessment.
- **Skill development for livelihood enhancement:** CEMCA provided training in

job-related skills directly to learners, supported the recognition of learners' existing skills through adequate assessment techniques and established partnerships with the labour market. This led to increased access to quality learning opportunities and improved learning outcomes, specifically in employable skills areas, which, in turn, led to improved livelihoods.

- **Listeners to learners:** CEMCA is adopting an integrated approach to Community Radio for non-formal learning to support the establishment and capacity development of Community Radio Stations (CRS). This led to improved knowledge and skills among media professionals to use community radio as a gender-responsive and inclusive strategy for reaching marginalised communities and converting listeners into learners.

Figure 2 describes the Logic Model for the Skills sector with expected outputs, outcomes and impact for the period 2023-24:

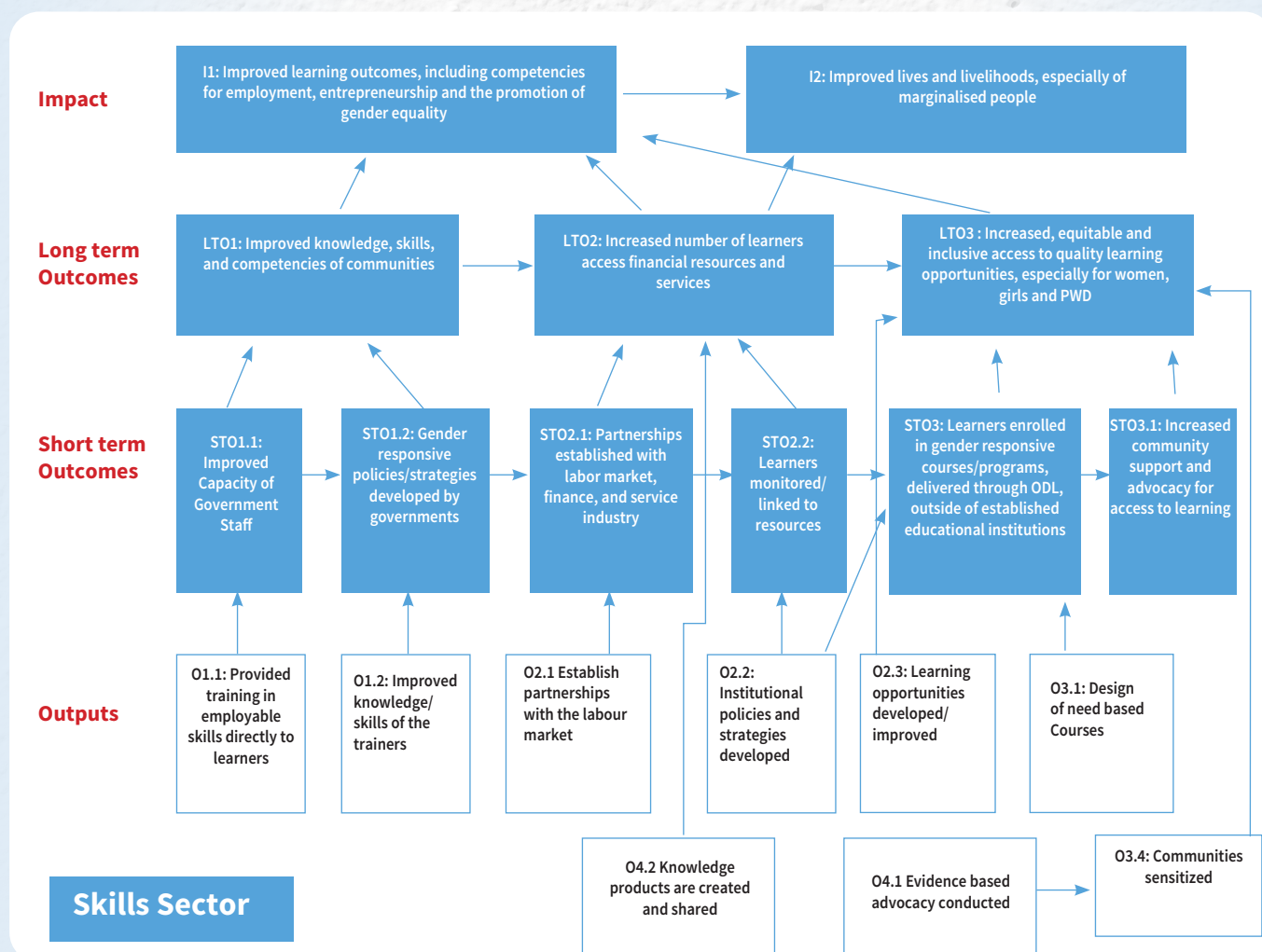


Figure 2. CEMCA Skills Sector Logic Model 2023-24

## 2.2.1 Activities in Skills Sector

### Skillfest 2023 results in the creation of TVET OER repository

CEMCA and National Skills Network (NSN), Telangana, India, came together to organise the first Skillfest 2023, which was open to participants from eight Asian Commonwealth countries – Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. This exciting competition, designed as an online festival of skills, offered participants the opportunity to showcase their talents through short five-minute videos.

The response to the online skills competition was overwhelming, with multiple entries from enthusiastic participants. Skillfest 2023 witnessed a diverse range of skills in various fields, such as Green Jobs, Agriculture, Media and Entertainment, Food Processing, Beauty and Wellness, Fashion and Apparel, Woodwork and Carpentry, Welding, and Handicraft. An esteemed panel of judges evaluated each participants' performance against fixed parameters, like demonstration of skills, outcome or final result, compliance with submission instructions, and overall presentation, and the results were announced on 15 July 2023. The list of winners in different categories can be viewed at: <https://www.nationalskillsnetwork.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CEMCA-NSN-Skillfest-online-skills-competition-results.pdf>. All the selected content generated during Skillfest 2023 will be featured in CEMCA's OER repository for TVET.

### Developing multimedia modules to train Sri Lankan youth in soft skills and spoken English

To support the National Youth Service Council of Sri Lanka, CEMCA partnered with Together with Youth (TWY), Sri Lanka, to enhance the soft skills and spoken English proficiency of Sri Lankan youth, thereby enhancing their employability. To lay the groundwork for this initiative, a comprehensive baseline survey was conducted among youth, enabling the identification of key areas for course development. In addition to content creation, this initiative aims to train

the NYSC trainers in the areas of soft skills and spoken English. The Training of Trainers (TOTs) is scheduled to commence in December 2023.

### CEMCA's skills sector initiatives deliberated at the 14th Global Skills Summit 2023

CEMCA collaborated with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Delhi, India, as a Learning Partner during the fourteenth edition of the Global Skills Summit 2023 (GSS 2023) with the theme, 'Building Skills| Empowering Youth| Creating Future', held on 20-21 September 2023 in Delhi, India. Dr B. Shadrach, Director of CEMCA, delivered opening remarks during Session 1, titled 'Education & Skills: Pillars for making India the Skill Capital of the World'. Acknowledging NEP 2020's ground breaking convergence of the skills and education sectors, he underscored the pivotal role that Open, Online, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning approaches, championed by COL and CEMCA, can play.

In another enlightening session, 'Skilling Initiatives in India: Sharing of Best Practices', CEMCA expert Mr. George C Varughese delved into the potential of blended learning in engineering and ITI courses to elevate their efficacy and learning outcomes. On the side-lines of GSS 2023, CEMCA also demonstrated the Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument (ACSI) developed for CBSE. The students enthusiastically participated in creating their skills profiles through the ACSI.



CEMCA representative at Global Skills Summit 2023 held in New Delhi, India

### AI-Powered Learner Support System launched for 'Skills for Work' programme on Coursera

COL- CEMCA and NPBridge Solutions, Karnataka, India, collaborated to create an AI-Powered Learner Support System for the 'Skills for Work' programme on Coursera. They have successfully developed a Web-Based Chat Interface and an Intelligent Help Desk Interface. The system has been deployed and access to the Chat Interface (<https://skills.npbridge.com>) has been extended to country coordinators and their helpdesk members in Eastern Africa, South Asia, the Western Pacific, West Africa, and the Caribbean. Additionally, two webinars were conducted to introduce the system to the country coordinators. COL- CEMCA and NPBridge teams have also commenced providing email support to the country coordinators.

### Community Radio Compendium 2023 and documentary on Indian Community Radio movement released by MIB Minister

Supported by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), Government of India, CEMCA facilitated the compilation of Community Radio Compendium 2023. It was formally released by Mr Anurag Thakur, Honourable Minister of MIB and Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, during the two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelan (North) held at the Indian Institute of

Mass Communication, New Delhi, India. A host of CRS representatives gathered on the occasion to celebrate the work and achievements of CRS across the country. The Honourable Union Minister also conferred the Eighth and Ninth Community Radio Awards and released a documentary film on the Community Radio Movement in India, which was developed by CEMCA and MIB.

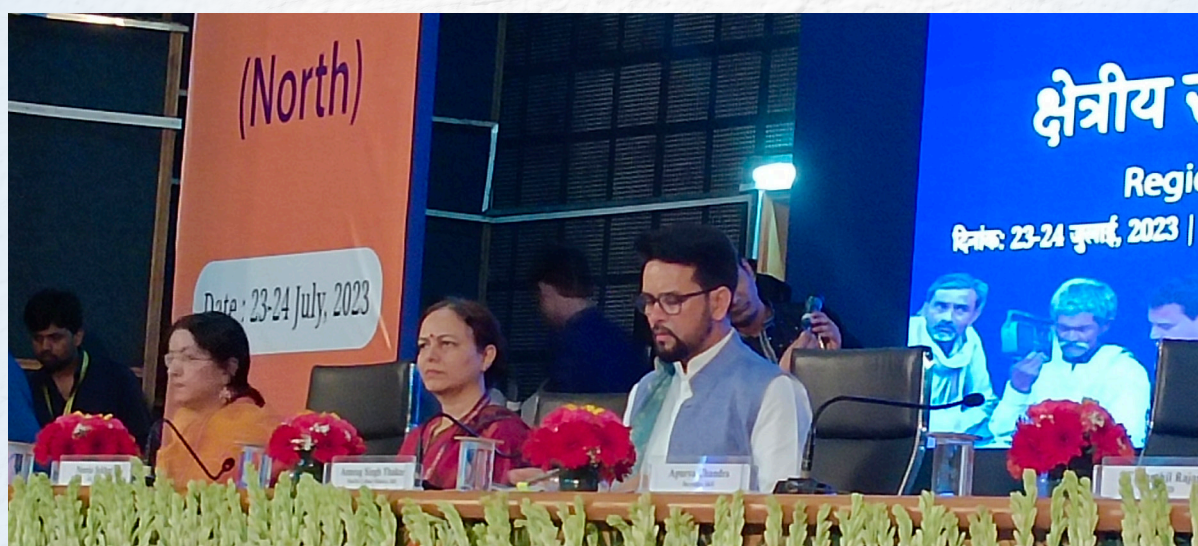
CEMCA, being the knowledge partner of MIB for the creation of the CRS Compendium 2023, collected and collated the information provided by the CRS in a homogenised manner to produce the Compendium.

### First Cycle of MOOC on Lean Six Sigma Foundation launched by MRU, Haryana, India

CEMCA, in partnership with Manav Rachna University, Haryana, India, launched the first cycle of a MOOC on Lean Six Sigma Foundation on 7 November 2023. The course includes both theoretical and application based components, enabling students and professionals to apply their knowledge effectively in real-world situations. One hundred and ten learners from MRU have enrolled in the first cycle of the MOOC.

### Developing 21st Century Skills through sports

CEMCA is actively engaged in supporting Vocational Training Institutions and government agencies in



Community Radio Compendium released by MIB Minister in New Delhi, India



Launch of MOOC on Lean Six Sigma Foundation at MRU, Haryana, India

the development of courses aimed at upskilling the knowledge and skillsets of youths. As part of this initiative CEMCA had entered into an agreement with Global Pro Sport Development, Delhi, India, for the second phase of developing course content for modules of an online self-learning course titled “Developing 21st Century Skills through Sports”. All modules have been developed and the process of developing multimedia content and packaging the courseware as a MOOC has started.

### Imparting value-based education through sports

CEMCA, UNESCO New Delhi and WordsWork LLP, Delhi, India, are creating multimedia content for imparting value-based education through sports. The specific focus of the collaboration is on utilising sports as a medium to instill 21st century skills and values such as respect, equity, and inclusion. UNESCO’s Toolkit, which comprehensively covers these values, serves as the foundational framework for the development of the modules. These modules will be instrumental in integrating valuable life skills and ethical considerations into the sports education curriculum. This collaborative endeavor underscores a commitment to harnessing the power of sports not only for physical development but also as a vehicle for instilling crucial skills and values that are pertinent in the 21st century.

### Assessing and strengthening NIRDPR AV resource

CEMCA is actively involved in supporting the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) in a significant initiative. The focus of this collaboration is to assess and enhance the online and digital materials created for the training and certification of 2,50,000 Gram Rozgar Sevaks. Gram Rozgar Sevaks play a crucial role in rural development, and the training materials are essential for equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Thirty-five modules of the digital content developed by NIRDPR were critically reviewed for technical, aesthetic and content improvements. The suggestions were incorporated to enhance the modules.

### Readapting the Elderly Caregiver multimedia content as per Indian context

CEMCA is reviewing and repurposing 180 minutes of multimedia content originally developed for the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), Sri Lanka, and tailoring it for application in India. The multimedia content was reviewed and assessed, leading to the development of a

framework outlining the structure of a skill-based Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) intended for the Indian audience, adhering to the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) guidelines. This MOOC is currently in the developmental phase.

### **MOOC for vocational educators in India**

CEMCA organised several consultations with experts following the stakeholders' consultative meeting for validation of Skill Pedagogy Curriculum for Vocational Educators of Indian universities, held on 10-11 November 2022 in partnership with Bhartiya Skill Development University, Rajasthan, India. Thereafter, it engaged five experts for developing a 40-hour MOOC for vocational educators designed to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and professional attitude necessary to excel in their teaching and training practice and inspire their learners for educational excellence. The modules were reviewed by an expert from Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, for further enhancing the content. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge, practical skills, reflective practices, and supporting multimedia content, the participants will enhance their instructional effectiveness, engage students more effectively, and contribute to the overall improvement of vocational teaching and training practices.

### **CEMCA Held Community Radio Awareness Workshop in Guwahati, Assam, India**

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), Government of India, CEMCA organised a Community Radio Awareness Workshop in partnership with Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU) at Guwahati in Assam, India, on 30-31 October 2023. The primary aim of this workshop was to raise awareness about community radio, its advantages, and the process of establishing a community radio station.

The event, inaugurated by Shri C. Senthil Rajan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, attracted 45 participants from community based organisations and educational institutions in Assam, West Bengal,



*Group activity during documentary and film-making workshop held in Delhi, India*

Sikkim, Tripura, and Mizoram. The workshop also showcased a poster exhibition by five community radio stations from the region. On the second day of the workshop, participants visited the KKHSOU radio station to gain a practical understanding of how a radio station functions.

### **Students trained on using AI for documentary and film making**

CEMCA partnered with Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) to organise a workshop on 'Documentary and Film-making' for students from several Indian institutions and Universities on 23 November 2023 at New Delhi, India. During the workshop, students received hands-on training on various aspects of documentary and film making and how to integrate artificial intelligence in the process including fact-checking and social media monitoring, enhanced search, and information retrieval.

### **CMC 2023 and Community Radio Excellence Award Ceremony**

Eight winners of Community Media Challenge 2023 (CMC 2023) and 20 radio stations that excelled in the International Yoga Day 2023 celebrations, were felicitated during a award ceremony hosted by CEMCA in partnership with UNESCO New Delhi. The event was held at UNESCO office in Delhi, India on 24 November 2023.

This year, CMC 2023 expanded its horizons to include all forms of media under the theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (AKAM), symbolising the celebration of freedom. The call for entries for



*CMC 2023 award winners and dignitaries at the ceremony held in Delhi, India*

CMC 2023 resonated strongly with students at all levels and a total of 45 entries were received by CEMCA and UNESCO. The submissions underwent meticulous review by a prestigious panel of jury chaired by Professor Ashok Ogra, Advisor (Mass Communication), Apeejay Educational Society. The award winning videos can be viewed at <https://www.cemca.org/crvc/result.php>.

The award ceremony was organised in the presence of representatives from CEMCA, UNESCO New Delhi, Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, and the award winners from various Indian states. After the award ceremony, award winning CR stations shared their experiences of empowering local communities through the medium of community radio.



### 3. CEMCA PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS

- 1) Participation in the Inclusive Lifelong Learning Conference organised by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Bali, Indonesia, on 3-6 July 2023.
- 2) Speech at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Convocation for ODL Learners organised by TNAU in Tamil Nadu, India, on 11 July 2023.
- 3) Participation in the meeting on CRS Policy Guidelines and the Central Sector Scheme, 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' organised under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary (I&B), by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's CRS Cell in New Delhi, India, on 18 July 2023.
- 4) Participation in the 'Future of ODL and Online Education: Reality Check and Preparing Roadmap and System-based Research in ODL Methods and Strategies', event organised by Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University at Guwahati in Assam, India, on 11 August 2023.
- 5) Delivered EdTech Talk 4 on 'Day of AI and AI Curriculum Development in Primary Education: Opportunities and Challenges', organised by the Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India, on 22 September 2023.
- 6) Speech at international Symposium on Empowering Lifelong Learners: Education's Role in Building a Dynamic Learning



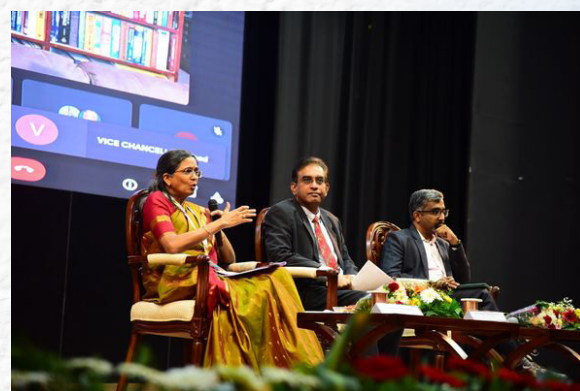
CEMCA representative at the TNAU convocation held in Tamil Nadu, India

- 7) Participated as an Expert at Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence's (GPAI) Working Group on the Future of Work on 25-26 September in Montreal, Canada.
- 8) Panellist in the ALL IN 2023 session on 'The Future of Work in the Age of AI', held on 28 September 2023 in Montreal, Canada.
- 9) Panellist in Technical Session 1: The future of credentialing: Digital badges, Micro-Credentialing & Online Degree during South Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet at Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Karnataka, India, held on 26-27 October 2023 and organised by AIU.

Ecosystem, organised by RCEP-UNESCO, Dubai, on 26 September 2023.



CEMCA representative at GPAI Working Group on the Future of Work meeting held in Montreal, Canada

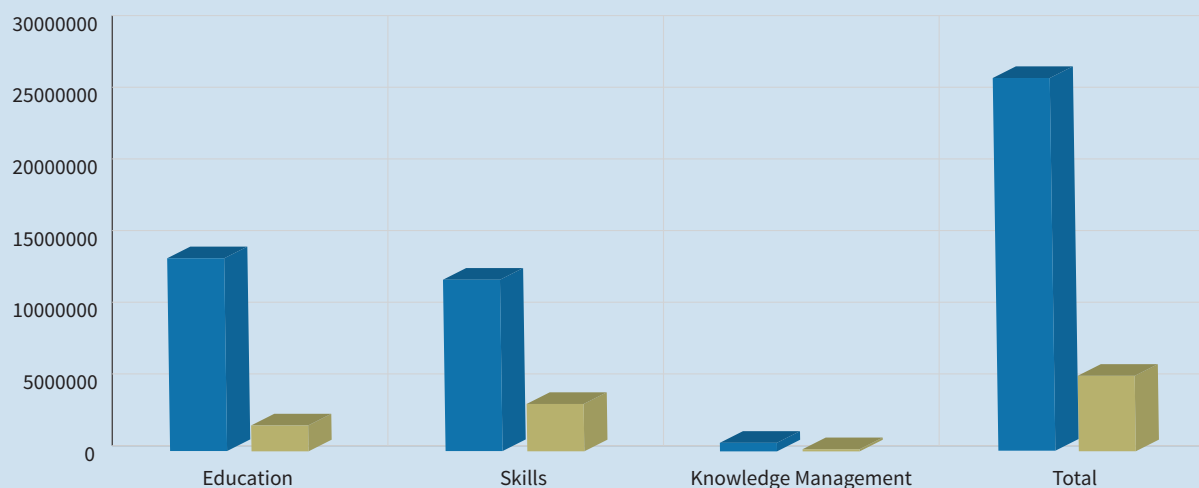


South Zone VCs meeting held in Karnataka, India

## 4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

S.No	Programme Activity 2023-24	Approved Budget 2023-24		Actual Expenditure upto November, 2023		Committed Expenditure upto November, 2023		Total Percentage of Commitment upto November, 2023
1	Education	INR	13,500,000	INR	2,327,795	INR	6,318,557	47%
		CAD	225,000	CAD	38,797	CAD	105,309	
2	Skills	INR	12,000,000	INR	3,798,817	INR	9,302,091	78%
		CAD	200,000	CAD	63,314	CAD	155,035	
3	Knowledge Management	INR	600,000	INR	227,000	INR	429,000	72%
		CAD	10,000	CAD	3,783	CAD	7,150	
<b>Total Amount</b>		INR	26,100,000	INR	6,353,612	INR	16,049,648	<b>61%</b>
		CAD	435,000	CAD	105,894	<b>CAD</b>	<b>267,494</b>	

### APPROVED BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURE



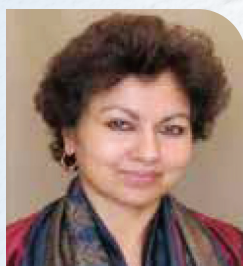
### Externally Funded Activity

S.No	Particulars	Sanction Amount	
1	International Yoga Day Celebration, Ministry of Ayush, Gol	INR	10,602,020
		CAD	1,76,700
2	CR Awareness Workshops, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Gol	INR	3,470,852
		CAD	5,7,848
<b>Total Amount</b>		INR	14,072,872
		CAD	234,548

## 5. ADVISORY COUNCIL

CEMCA's Advisory Council functions as an advisory body of COL on CEMCA's affairs and is responsible for broad policy formulation in the programme areas. Besides, the Council provides informed guidance, monitors and evaluates CEMCA's progress, and suggests ways and means for improving its performance. The Advisory Council meets once a year keeping in view the exigencies of the business. The membership is rotated among the members in the region.

### COL



**Prof. Asha Kanwar**  
(Chairperson)  
President and CEO



**Dr Venkataraman Balaji**  
(Deputy Chairperson)  
Vice President

### BANGLADESH



**Prof. (Dr) Syed Humayun Akhter**  
(Member)  
Vice Chancellor,  
Bangladesh Open University,  
Bangladesh



**Mst. Rokhsana Begum**  
(Member)  
Deputy Secretary  
Scholarship & Engineering  
University Section, Ministry of  
Education, Govt. of People's  
Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

### INDIA



**Mr. Mrutyunjay Behera**  
(Member)  
Economic Advisor  
Department of Higher Education,  
Ministry of Education,  
Government of India,  
New Delhi, India



**Prof. K. Seetharama Rao**  
(Member)  
Vice Chancellor  
Dr. B R Ambedkar Open University  
Road No 46, Jubilee Hills,  
Hyderabad  
Telangana 500033, India



**Prof. Saroj Sharma**  
(Member)  
Chairperson, National Institute of  
Open Schooling  
A-24/25, Institutional Area,  
Sector - 62, NOIDA  
Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar,  
Uttar Pradesh - 201 309, India

## MALAYSIA



**YBhg. Datin Noorazah  
Binti Omar**

(Member)  
Under Secretary,  
Department of Higher  
Education,  
Malaysia

## MALDIVES



**Mr. Ahmed Mausoom**

(Member)  
Education Development  
Professional  
Ministry of Education  
Male, Maldives

## SRI LANKA



**Ms. Hasini Thalagala**

(Member)  
Director of Education (Foreign  
Agencies & External Affairs)  
Ministry of Education,  
Isurupaya, Battaramulla,  
Sri Lanka

## CEMCA



**Dr. B. Shadrach**

(Member)  
Director



**Mr. Amit Jain**

(Secretary)  
Head, Administration &  
Finance

## 6. MEDIA COVERAGE

### Two-day Community Radio Workshop inaugurated in Guwahati



by [Prithvi Raj](#) — October 30, 2023 in News 2 min read



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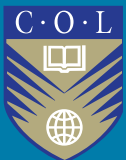
To increase awareness about setting up of Community Radio stations, a two-day Community Radio awareness workshop was inaugurated by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in collaboration with Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, New Delhi and Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, in Guwahati today. The workshop saw participation from the states of Assam, Sikkim, Tripura, Mizoram and West Bengal. About 45 grassroots community-based organizations and educational institutions working on social and developmental issues in these states, took part in the workshop.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Das, Vice Chancellor of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, highlighted the role played by community radio in publicizing various news and information to the community at large. He said that the efficiency and effectiveness of the teaching-learning process has been made easy through the use of media more specifically community media. The community radio serves as a resource for education and awareness, disseminating important information on different issues.

The inaugural address of the workshop was delivered by Shri C. Senthil Rajan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. He discussed about the exponential growth of the community radio scenario in the country. He stated that the medium of community radio enables individuals, groups and communities narrate their own stories, share experiences and become content creators, specifically on issues popular and relevant to a local audience. He said that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India had come up with two main initiatives in order to strengthen the community radio sector in the country – (i) Identifying lead community radio stations which would act as a guide or mentor to other CR stations in functioning without any hassles and (ii) Special scheme for providing finance for the setting up of community radio stations.







CEMCA

**Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia**

7/8, Sarva Priya Vihar, New Delhi 110016, India

Tel: +91-11-45871061/45771113

Web: [www.cemca.org](http://www.cemca.org)

