

# COL-CEMCA UPDATES

September 2025



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING  
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

## NIOS and COL-CEMCA Draft Vision for Vocationalisation of Education in India

In a landmark development, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) have jointly drafted a vision statement and created a roadmap, committing to vocationalising education from 40 thousand to 40 Lakhs in India by 2030.

“By 2030, NIOS will set the benchmark for scalable, equitable, flexible, and technology-powered vocational education, preparing all learners for industry-aligned, future-ready skills for meaningful livelihoods and lifelong growth and for global placement.”

The vision statement and roadmap were developed during an envisioning workshop, which was jointly organised by NIOS and COL-CEMCA at the NIOS offices in NOIDA on 2 September 2025. The aim was to successfully scale up and implement vocational, skill-based training and the vocationalisation of education through various stakeholders, with NIOS in the lead.

The workshop, which led to the creation of the vision statement and roadmap, was chaired by

Prof Dr Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, the Principal Consultant of COL-CEMCA. Key discussions included collaborations with industry partners for course development, certifying vocational skills courses, aligning with the national framework and bridging the skills gap, and empowering India's workforce.



COL-CEMCA & NIOS team during the workshop at NIOS office, Noida

Dr B. Shadrach, Director of COL-CEMCA, congratulated the participants for drafting the vision statement, which will be “collectively owned.” Calling it a “historic day for NIOS,” he highlighted the institute's pivotal role in the national education ecosystem, as emphasised in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Credit Framework (NCrF). “You are not just tackling an NIOS problem, but a national problem,” he said.

Earlier, Prof Akhilesh Mishra, Chairman of NIOS, highlighted the need for the complete vocationalisation of education. He underscored the huge wage difference in India due to a “lack of training, recognition, and certification.”

Moving forward, a national-level stakeholder meeting will be organised. This will involve conducting a skills gap analysis and course mapping. A questionnaire survey among the stakeholders will provide valuable insights, clarifying challenges and solutions for the

### Developing a Framework of Teacher Competencies for Inclusive Education

On 9 September 2025, COL-CEMCA hosted a hybrid pre-conference workshop at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) in Botswana on the topic of "Designing a Teacher Competency Framework for Inclusive Education in Schools."

The workshop brought together high-level representatives from countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, and Malaysia, representing ministries of education, policymakers, and inclusive education experts to strengthen regional networks and advance inclusive education across South Asian Commonwealth countries.

The workshop aimed to co-develop a comprehensive teacher competency framework for inclusive education at the regional level, focusing on children with specific learning disabilities (SLD), visual impairments, and other physical disabilities. To ensure an evidence-based and regionally relevant outcome, the workshop identified challenges, shared best practices, and developed a roadmap for piloting and improving the framework across South Asian Commonwealth nations.

future. Additionally, Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs) and Regional Centres of NIOS will be engaged to gather input, with the goal of propelling vocational education forward and extending its reach to millions of learners who will be job-ready upon completion of their courses.

For details, visit:

<https://www.cemca.org/news/nios-and-col-cemca-draft-vision-vocationalisation-education-india>



*A glimpse of the hybrid pre-conference workshop from Botswana*

Building on previous initiatives, such as teacher training programs in Sri Lanka, India, and the Maldives, the workshop's main objectives were to improve accessibility, develop an evidence-based roadmap for mainstreaming students with SLD by focusing on teacher capacity development, and promote cooperation among Commonwealth nations.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director of COL-CEMCA, emphasised the organisation's mission to expand learning opportunities through technology and partnerships across 56 Commonwealth countries. He highlighted COL-CEMCA's diverse initiatives, including teacher education, open schooling, and skills development, with a focus on leveraging technology to ensure inclusive education, so that “no student is left behind.”

Ms. A. Srija, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Education, India, along with representatives from other Commonwealth nations, highlighted national and state initiatives addressing special learning disabilities. She also noted challenges such as the need for effective screening tools and urged diversification and expansion in sports and arts to improve opportunities for children with special needs.

The workshop used a double-diamond approach to identify and co-create solutions for teacher competency needs. It aimed to create regional networks, develop a teacher competency framework for mainstreaming students with disabilities, and exchange best practices in inclusive education among South Asian Commonwealth countries through collaborative discussions, expert presentations, and hands-on sessions.

### **CEMCA and GGSIPU Host FDP on Technology Enabled and Blended Learning**

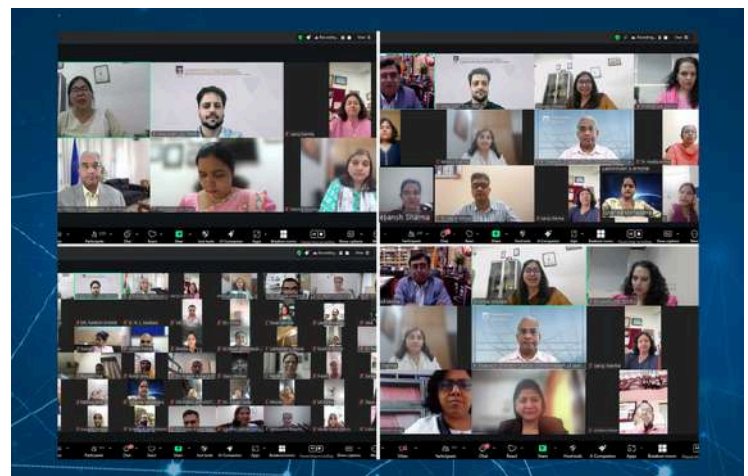
Over 300 faculty members representing higher education institutions across India participated in the five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on “Technology-Enabled and Blended Learning” from 15 to 19 September 2025. The training was jointly organised by the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), New Delhi.

The Faculty Development Programme (FDP) was designed to equip tertiary education educators with the skills to implement technology-enabled blended learning practices for employability-oriented courses, specifically by harnessing Open Educational Resources (OERs), MOOCs, and microcredentials. Professor Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, GGSIPU, in his presidential address, emphasised the evolving role of educators in the digital age, remarking,

Key outcomes of the workshop included the creation and signing of the Botswana Statement as a foundational declaration committing Commonwealth Asian nations to collaborative action on inclusive education with a specific focus on dyslexia (#Act4Dyslexia), the agreement to develop a Teacher Competency Framework for inclusive education, the strengthening of regional partnerships across nations, and the commitment to launch a region-wide "Go Red" awareness campaign in October to reduce stigma and promote understanding of neurodiversity.

### **For details, visit:**

<https://www.cemca.org/news/developing-framework-teacher-competencies-inclusive-education-commonwealth-south-asian-countr-0>



*FDP in progress on Technology-Enabled and Blended Learning*

“Technology can provide information, but the teacher is the one who will provide inspiration.”

Delivering a special address, Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted the transformative power of blended learning in enhancing flexibility, accessibility, and student engagement. He stressed that technology should be viewed as an enabler to optimise resources and improve learning outcomes while at the same time helping to hone crucial digital literacy skills among students, which are highly



valued in today's job market. Professor Saroj Sharma, Dean, School of Education, GGSIPU, underscored the significance of ICT interventions in achieving NEP 2020 objectives. She noted that the collaboration with CEMCA offers great potential for fostering innovative teaching practices in Indian higher education.

The five day programme commenced with a comprehensive overview of the National Education Policy 2020's on the first day. . Dr V.P. Joshith conducted an interactive session on educational technology tools, introducing platforms such as Quizizz, Nearpod and Blooket. Dr Sushumna Rao addressed MOOCs, LMS features, online learning challenges, and OER's role in quality content creation, with hands-on activities on OER discovery, licensing and submissions. Dr Kiran Lata Dangwal led an engaging session on AI in teaching and learning, with participants creating digital content, including e-books and multimedia resources using AI-powered tools. Dr Ashish Awhadiya's session covered employability skills, policy frameworks, and opportunities on SWAYAM and

### Empowering Community Radio through Tech-Enabled Outreach

On 23 September 2025, the second capacity building workshop on "Empowering Community Radio through Tech-Enabled Outreach", was jointly organised by COL-CEMCA, Ram Lal Anand College (RLAC), University of Delhi, and Reliance Foundation at Ram Lal Anand College, New Delhi.

Mr. Senthilkumaran Krishnan, Head of Platforms, Reliance Foundation, Mumbai, welcomed participants and emphasised extending Community Radios' (CRs) impact through digital tools. He highlighted the workshop's hands-on approach, combining theory with practical exercises in content creation and audio dissemination. Mr. Krishnan

SWAYAM Plus for industry-relevant and credit-based learning.

In the valedictory session, Dr B. Shadrach urged educators to embrace their role as "architects of the next generation" aligning teaching practices with NEP 2020's vision. He encouraged participants to integrate technology meaningfully, blending traditional pedagogy with digital innovation.

The week-long 15-hour programme reflected the shared vision of COL-CEMCA and GGSIPU in preparing future-ready teachers and classrooms. The FDP empowered faculty with digital tools and pedagogical strategies, marking a significant shift from traditional teaching methods to interactive, student centred learning environments.

#### For details, visit:

<https://www.cemca.org/news/cemca-and-ggsipu-host-faculty-development-programme-technology-enabled-and-blended-learning-1>



Participants at the Community Radio workshop at Ram Lal Anand College, DU

outlined key follow-up actions over three months to boost engagement and refine community media initiatives, emphasising the importance of community-driven media for climate resilience.

Dr. B Shadrach, Director of COL-CEMCA,

delivered a special address on "Technology Enabled Futures for Community Radio," noting that as a partner to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, COL-CEMCA is actively promoting the use of community radio in rural and remote areas and has registration of over 500 community radio stations, with a target of reaching 4,000 in the near future. Dr. B Shadrach highlighted the "lab-to-lab" model, where labs such as factories and meteorological departments share content with communities via radio stations, and communities respond with needs-based messages. He emphasised that the model harnesses blockchain technology to facilitate content sharing and collaboration between community distributions and labs, fostering mutual benefits and stronger partnerships.

Mr. Rameswaran Kailasam from Reliance Foundation emphasised that the programme leverages technology to reach rural populations, rather than for commercial gain. While highlighting challenges, he reaffirmed the

organisation's commitment to supporting non-profit community radio stations by providing "cloud-based solutions to reduce costs, facilitate content sharing and promote collaborative broadcasting", ultimately amplifying impact while upholding cultural values of shared knowledge and resources.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks from Ms. Monica Sharma of COL-CEMCA, who also facilitated the discussion during the workshop. A key outcome was the commitment to strengthen collaboration and leverage emerging technologies to amplify community radio's impact, enhance content, and expand outreach, ultimately driving meaningful social change and empowering communities. Moving forward, a three-month action plan was outlined to boost engagement and promote content dissemination via digital tools.

**For details, visit:**

<https://www.cemca.org/news/empowering-community-radio-through-tech-enabled-outreach-workshop>



*Community Radio workshop in progress at Ram Lal Anand College, DU*



*Participants at the Community Radio workshop at Ram Lal Anand College, DU*



**COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING**

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

## **Enhancing Higher Education Teachers' AI Competencies: Prelude to the Development of an Inclusive Teachers' Professional Development Model for Low- Internet Regions**

**Dr. Sayantan Mandal**

Principal Investigator | Faculty, IIT Jammu  
and

**Research Team**

Sheriya Sareen, Adina Ara, Sparklin  
Pradhan, Shubham Choudhary, Priyanka,  
Avantika Bakshi

**07 MAY 2025**

This study addresses the gap in AI integration in higher education for teachers in remote and rural areas. It proposes an inclusive Teacher Professional Development (TPD) model tailored to their unique needs, aiming to bridge the digital divide and foster equitable access to education. The study provides recommendations for effective AI-TPDs in rural contexts, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020's vision for quality and inclusivity.

**For more details, visit:**

<https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Enhancing%20Higher%20Education%20Teachers%E2%80%99AI%20Competencies.pdf>



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Department of Distance and Continuing Education  
School of Open Learning, Campus of Open Learning  
University of Delhi

*International Conference on Emerging Trends and Challenges in  
Open, Distance, Digital and Blended Learning (ODDBL)  
January 29-31, 2026*

## IMPORTANT DATES

15 September, 2025

Abstract Submission Deadline

30 September, 2025

Notification of Acceptance

30 November, 2025

Last Date for Full Paper Submission

15 October, 2025

Early Bird Registration Deadline

15 November, 2025

Last Date for Registration

15 November, 2025

Last Date for Registration for Pre-Conference Workshops

28 January, 2026

Pre-Conference Workshops

29-31 January, 2026

Conference Dates

|                              | Early Bird Registration | Late Registration | SAARC Countries Early Bird Registration | SAARC Countries Late Registration | International Early Bird Registration | Late International Registration |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Students & Research Scholars | 2000 INR                | 3000 INR          | 75 USD                                  | 100 USD                           | 150 USD                               | 200 USD                         |
| Delegates                    | 4000 INR                | 5000 INR          | 175 USD                                 | 250 USD                           | 300 USD                               | 350 USD                         |

The registration amount will include Conference kit, Conference booklet, Lunch and Refreshments on Conference Days, Cultural Event, Conference Dinner and Delhi Sightseeing.

SCAN HERE



FOR FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT:

Phone Number: +91 9318355909 / Email ID: sec\_conference@col.du.ac.in

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **National Webinar Series: Innovating Skills and Learning for Mathematics Educators**

**Date:** 30 September to 3 October 2025

**Venue:** Delhi Association of Mathematics Teachers, New Delhi, India | Online Mode

### **Consultative Meeting on Blended Learning in TVET (Asia)**

**Date:** 6-8 October 2025

**Venue:** NITTTR Campus, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

### **Consultative Workshop: Reframing Lifelong Learning for Farmers**

**Date:** 10-11 October 2025

**Venue:** MSSRF Campus, Chennai, India

### **FDP: Empowering Higher Education Institutions in Technology-enabled and Blended Learning**

**Date:** 29 October - 3 November 2025

**Venue:** University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India | Online Mode

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.

*visit us at:*

7/8, Sarv Priya Vihar  
New Delhi - 110 016, India

*please call us at:*

Tel: +91-11-45871061/45771113

*Visit our website:*

<https://www.cemca.org>

e-mail: [admin\[at\]cemca\[dot\]org](mailto:admin[at]cemca[dot]org)

*Director, COL-CEMCA:*

Dr. B. Shadrach

*Editorial and designing team:*

Mr. Jim Wungramyao Kasom

Mr. Aflaq Ahmad Shah

You are welcome to reproduce or translate any material the CEMCA Updates. Please credit us appropriately and send a copy of the reproduced material for our information. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors. Products mentioned in the CEMCA Updates are only for information and do not mean endorsement by CEMCA or COL.