COL-CEMCA UPDATES

August 2025

COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

Empowering Teachers, Enhancing Learning: TiL-AI Recognition Programme

A Virtual Recognition Programme was held on 1 August 2025, honouring more than 80 mathematics teachers who played a pivotal role in the first phase of the Teacher in the Loop AI (TiL-AI) initiative. The event was organised by the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and saw an overwhelming participation with over 700 mathematics teachers across India joining the programme via YouTube Live, reflecting the growing interest in teacher-led AI innovation.

Over four months, the participating teachers explored AI integration in Indian classrooms, focusing on grade 9 mathematics. With the support of an AI tool, they co-created and validated over 100 AI-assisted open educational resources (OERs), aligning pedagogy with AI. The recognition programme celebrated their innovation, ownership, and contributions to advancing teacher-led AI integration in Indian classrooms.

Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director (Skill Education), CBSE, called the project a "paradigm shift" in teaching and learning. He urged teachers to see themselves not only as participants but also as leaders who will carry this innovation into their schools. "The journey we began with Grade 9 must now move forward with Grade 10 and beyond," he said, assuring CBSE's continued support to scale the project.

Screengrab from the virtual recognition programme.

Dr. Bhawna Sharma Taragi, Head of Research, Development & Curriculum, CISCE, underlined the importance of teacher-driven innovation. She described the project as "a forward-looking initiative that provides teachers with both agency and tools to rethink classroom practices with AI." She further stressed that CISCE looks forward to expanding the initiative, fostering collaboration among teachers from different boards to create inclusive, tech-enabled resources.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, emphasised the importance of keeping teachers at the centre of AI integration in education. “Teachers are not just users of AI tools. They are collaborators, guides, and ethical compasses who ensure that AI in education remains transparent, contextual, and human-centred,” he noted.

The program showcased transformative need for CRSs to embrace modern technology to

Laying the Groundwork for a Tech-Enabled Future for Community Radio

A high-level brainstorming on “Empowering Community Radio through Tech-Enabled Outreach” was convened at the CEMCA office in New Delhi on 5 August 2025, laying the groundwork for digital transformation in community radio. Organised by the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) and Reliance Foundation (RF), the event marked a significant milestone in advancing technology-driven innovations for Community Radio Stations (CRSs) nationwide, bringing together thought leaders, technical experts, and practitioners to explore technology-enabled models for enhanced content delivery, engagement, and impact.

Mr Rameswaran Kailasam, Lead-Knowledge Management & Digital Solutions, RF, underscored the central role of content creation in the success of community radio and reiterated RF’s commitment to supporting CRS operations by offering platforms and building applications for content generation and management, aimed at driving rural development.

Dr B. Shadrach, Director of COL-CEMCA, emphasised that community radio is truly “by the people, for the people”. He highlighted the outcomes, with teachers reporting how TiL-AI has enhanced their teaching practices, lesson planning, cross-regional collaboration, and a paradigm shift in their perception of AI from an abstract concept to a powerful educational co-pilot. This initiative showcased AI's transformative potential in education, revolutionising teaching practices and driving student success through innovative, technology-enabled learning solutions.

Participants at the Community Radio meeting held in CEMCA Office, Delhi.

remain relevant and effective in connecting with local communities - particularly farmers, fisherfolk, and rural populations. Dr Shadrach also spoke about the potential of Interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRS), access to expert-validated content repositories, and the power of tech-enabled outreach tools to inspire and empower people on the ground.

The RF team unveiled a comprehensive suite of digital tools, featuring multilingual audio streaming platforms for seamless content broadcasting, voice-based input tools and AI-driven content generation, community engagement tools such as real-time surveys and feedback systems, pre-packaged thematic audio bundles in regional languages, and integrated outreach strategies leveraging internet radio, YouTube, and WhatsApp.

Mr Jitender Sharma, Secretary General of the Community Radio Association, encouraged all CRS representatives to act swiftly in adopting the demonstrated technologies and to collaborate proactively, laying the groundwork for future partnerships.

A key outcome of the discussion was the participants' unequivocal commitment to formalise a strategic partnership via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and implement these technological tools across their respective stations, effectively bridging technology with grassroots communication to amplify community impact.

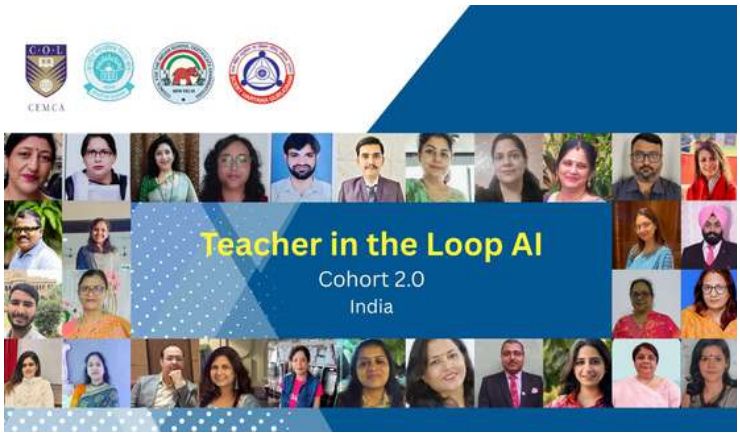
For details, visit:
https://www.cemca.org/news/tech-enabled-future-community-radio-col-cemca-and-reliance-foundation-lay-groundwork-digital-tr

COL-CEMCA Launches Phase 2 of Teacher in the Loop AI (TiL-AI) with Cohort 2.0

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), the regional office of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), proudly announces the launch of Phase 2 of the Teacher in the Loop AI (TiL-AI) project, a flagship initiative that places teachers at the centre of exploring and integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Indian classrooms.

Following the successful completion of Phase 1 (February–May 2025), implemented in partnership with CBSE, CISCE, and CIET-NCERT, which engaged over 90 mathematics teachers and resulted in the development of more than 100 AI-supported open educational resources for Grade 9, the project is now scaling its impact with Cohort 2.0 engaging over 200 secondary level mathematics teachers from different states of India.

In this new phase, COL-CEMCA is pleased to continue its collaboration with CBSE and CISCE and to announce a new institutional partnership with SCERT Haryana. This expansion underscores CEMCA's commitment to ensuring that government school teachers are actively engaged in shaping inclusive and contextually relevant approaches to AI in education.



CEMCA's TiL-AI Phase 2 focuses on Grade 10 Mathematics, engaging over 200 teachers nationwide. A National Bootcamp on 30 August 2025, in New Delhi, brought together more than 150 secondary-level mathematics teachers and kick-started the initiative, where teachers examined the NCERT Grade 10 Mathematics curriculum, identified concepts that are challenging or complex from both teaching and learning perspectives, and initiated early-stage discussions on strategies and innovative solutions to address these challenges.

By deepening institutional partnerships and broadening teacher participation, TiL-AI reaffirms its role as a pioneering initiative that demonstrates how teachers can drive innovation, ensuring that AI in education remains teacher-led, context-specific, and globally relevant.

SheLEADS: Pathways to Employment - Unlocking Opportunities for Women

SheLEADS, a new programme aimed at helping 1,000 young women in India secure employment, was launched on August 18, 2025. The initiative, a collaboration between CEMCA and Bharat Innovation Global (BIG), is designed to address the significant gender disparity in the nation's workforce, with a particular focus on young women residing in tier 2 and 3 cities and rural areas.

The programme will provide training in critical skills for the modern job market, including communication, critical thinking, and logical reasoning, and will also leverage the rise of remote work and the gig economy. It features a comprehensive curriculum with online modules, structured mentorship from 25 distinguished women, and exclusive talks on emerging career opportunities.

At the launch, Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Education, highlighted the persistent global employment gap, where women's participation in the labour force is significantly lower than that of men. He commended the two organisations for conceiving such a project.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director of COL CEMCA, emphasised that SheLEADS is about more than just skills. "It is about empowerment, opportunity, and equitable growth," he stated,

and urged women to become "agents of change" backed by the resources and support of the Commonwealth. He also noted that the learning from this pilot programme would enable CEMCA to launch a larger, scaled-up initiative next year.

Shri Praveen Prakash, IAS, a former Principal Secretary of School Education, also attended the event and praised the programme's potential.
He was quoted as saying, "This initiative is a true testament to the power of collaboration in addressing a critical national challenge. Empowering our young women is not just a social cause; it is a strategic imperative for India's progress."

The programme aligns with India's National Education Policy 2020 and, if successful, may be scaled up across the entire Commonwealth. By investing in young women, SheLEADS is poised to not only transform individual lives but also to contribute to a more inclusive and dynamic national economy. This initiative has the potential to be a beacon of hope, demonstrating a commitment to unlocking the full potential of India's female workforce and fostering future-oriented, skill-driven education.

For details, visit:
https://www.cemca.org/news/sheleads-pathways-employment-unlocking-opportunities-women

A glimpse from the session at the workshop

COL-CEMCA and AVINUTY Host FDP on Technology-Enabled and Blended Learning

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) and the Academic and Administrative Development Centre of Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (AVINUTY), Coimbatore, recently hosted a five-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) from 18–22 August 2025, focused on Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) and Blended Learning and was attended by 100 faculty members from higher education institutions in India and abroad.

Dr Bharathi Harishankar, Vice Chancellor of AVINUTY, commended the collaboration with COL-CEMCA and highlighted the programme's importance in strengthening faculty capabilities while also urging them to foster greater collaboration and resource sharing to ensure equitable access to education.

Dr B. Shadrach, Director of COL-CEMCA, emphasised the need for institutions to adopt the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He also stressed the importance of embracing multidisciplinary approaches and integrating technology to drive academic transformation.

Dr Ranjana Parihar, Joint Secretary of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), outlined the objectives of the AADC initiative, highlighting the overwhelming response to the initiative's collaboration with COL-CEMCA.

A glimpse from the session at the workshop

Screengrab from the FDP event.

Experts from COL-CEMCA delivered insightful sessions on key areas of contemporary education. The first session provided a comprehensive overview of the salient features of NEP 2020, setting the context for educational transformation. Following this, Dr Rajesh P. Khambayat introduced the concept and scope of TEL and its pivotal role in blended learning approaches. Dr Sheriya Sareen guided participants through the finer details of the institutional blended learning policy template, offering practical insights for its implementation. Dr Papiya Upadhaya shared valuable perspectives on the effective use of Open Educational Resources (OERs), Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and Learning Management Systems (LMSs) to enhance teaching and learning. The final session, led by Professor Nilesh K. Modi, briefed participants on the COL-CEMCA Graduate Employability Project, emphasising its relevance in aligning education with industry needs.

Dr B. Shadrach concluded the FDP by encouraging participants to: foster collaboration and peer learning; seek stronger institutional support for capacity building; prioritise the needs of 21st-century learners through dynamic teaching methods; and engage with COL-CEMCA to develop policies on OERs, TEL, blended learning, and employability. The FDP reaffirmed that the future of Indian higher education lies in

creating technology-empowered, inclusive, and flexible learning ecosystems. Faculty must take the lead in this transformation by embracing digital fluency, lifelong learning, and innovative teaching practices to prepare 21st-century students for a rapidly evolving world.

For details, visit:
https://www.cemca.org/news/col-cemca-and-avinuty-host-fdp-technology-enabled-and-blended-learning

COL-CEMCA and SCERT Haryana Join Forces to Drive Teacher-led AI Innovation

The regional office of the Commonwealth of Learning, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCO), collaborated with the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Haryana, to advance the Teacher in the Loop AI (TiL-AI) initiative. Mathematics teachers from 50 government schools in Haryana joined their peers from CBSE and CISCE in Cohort 2.0 of the TiL-AI project, marking an important milestone in bringing government teachers to the forefront of AI-driven educational innovation.

The partnership reflects SCERT Haryana's

Dr. Sunil Bajaj, Additional Director, SCERT Haryana (Left) with Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA at the TiLAI National Bootcamp.

commitment to empowering teachers with the skills and platforms needed to experiment with AI in classrooms, co-create AI-assisted open educational resources (OERs), and address real teaching–learning challenges in teaching and learning.

Teacher in the Loop AI National Bootcamp: Teachers' Lay Foundation for AI Integration in Indian Classrooms

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA), in collaboration with CBSE, CISCE and SCERT Haryana, organised the Teacher in the Loop AI National Bootcamp (Cohort 2.0) on 30 August 2025 at New Delhi. The one-day programme brought together over 130 secondary-level mathematics teachers from across the country.

The programme opened with welcome remarks by Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, setting the tone for the day. This was followed by a keynote address delivered virtually by Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director, Skill Education, CBSE. The occasion was further enriched with the

Teachers participating in an activity at the TiLAI National Bootcamp.

presence of Dr. Sunil Bajaj, Additional Director, SCERT Haryana, as the Guest of Honour, and special remarks by Dr. Pooja Akshay, Assistant Secretary, Skill Education, CBSE.

The bootcamp served as a platform for inter-board collaboration, the exchange of classroom practices, and collective problem-solving.

Secretary, Skill Education, CBSE. Guided by subject expert Dr. R. C. Srivastava, teachers engaged in group discussions and activities to identify challenging concepts in the Grade 10 Mathematics curriculum, analyse teaching–learning gaps, and highlight common student misconceptions. They further worked in teams to propose practical approaches, classroom strategies, and assessment methods to address these challenges.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted AI's potential in education, particularly in routine tasks. He emphasised three key aspects to leverage AI effectively: "learning to think" - developing critical thinking skills to complement AI's capabilities; "thinking within a discipline"- engaging deeply with subjects like mathematics, understanding its standards, and participating in ongoing dialogues; "applying to real-world challenges"- using AI to tackle practical problems and think collectively. Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director, Skill Education at CBSE, emphasised, "transforming math learning into a joyful and effective experience" through AI and new technologies. He stressed that "adaptive learning, diagnosing learning gaps, and real-life problem integration" can bridge the policy-implementation gap, ensuring foundational literacy and math skills for all. He advocated for a collaborative approach to leverage technology, enhancing teaching capabilities and making math learning more engaging. Dr. Sunil Bajaj, Additional Director, SCERT Haryana, stressed AI's role in fostering learning and critical thinking by creating "tailored problems and assessing challenges", enabling educators to better understand and support student needs. Dr. Pooja Akshay, Assistant Secretary, Skill Education, CBSE, urged teachers to push the envelope of "student imagination and problem-solving" by using AI effectively.

Dr. B. Shadrach encouraged teachers to link classroom learning to real-life applications by discussing problems with students. This program aims to empower educators to harness AI, making learning more engaging, accessible, and impactful, driving deeper understanding and transformative student outcomes.

Resources

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) teamed up to transform vocational education in India by empowering educators, integrating practical skills, and drawing from global best practices. Leveraging the NEP 2020 framework, the programme proactively aims to position vocational education as a standard route to thriving careers.

For more details, visit:
https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/CapacityBuildingTrainingProgrammeonDevelopingFuture-ReadyVocationalEducatorsMay2025.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

	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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Envisioning And Consultation Workshop: NIOS 2030 Vocational Education Business Plan
Date: 2 September 2025
Venue: National Institute of Open Schooling, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Eleventh Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF11)
Date: 9-12 September 2025
Venue: Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC), Botswana

Consultative Meeting on Blended Learning in TVET (Asia)
Date: 6-8 October 2025
Venue: NITTTR Campus, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Pre-Conference Workshop: Designing a Teacher Competency Framework for Inclusive Education in Schools
Date: 9 September 2025
Venue: Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC), Botswana | Hybrid Mode

FDP: Empowering Higher Education Institutions in Technology-enabled and Blended Learning
Date: 15-19 September 2025
Venue: Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi | Online Mode

Consultative Workshop: Reframing Lifelong Learning for Farmers
Date: 10-11 October 2025
Venue: MSSRF Campus, Chennai, India

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

Director, COL-CEMCA:
Dr. B. Shadrach

Editorial and designing team:
Mr. Jim Wungramyao Kasom
Mr. Aflaq Ahmad Shah

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