

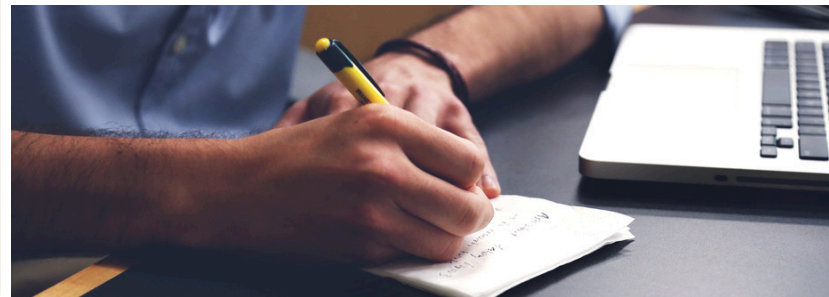
# COL-CEMCA UPDATES

January 2025



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING  
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

## EDUCATION



### Empowering Higher Education through Technology-Enabled Learning at The NorthCap University

The Commonwealth of Learning's regional centre, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA) and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) successfully conducted a five-day hybrid Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Technology-enabled and Blended Learning from 6-10 January 2025 at The NorthCap University (NCU), Gurugram, Haryana. The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which advocates continuous professional development for educators to enhance teaching practices and institutional capabilities.

The programme aimed to equip the faculty members, and administrative staff at NCU with the knowledge and tools necessary to integrate technology and blended learning into higher education effectively. Apart from sensitising them on NEP 2020, Open Educational Resources

(OER), the Graduate Employability Framework, it also included a comprehensive session on the Institutional Blended Learning Policy (IBLP) template created by COL-CEMCA, and its implementation strategies. The FDP was attended by more than 50 educators and staff from NCU. Adopting a participatory approach with group discussions and interactive activities, the programme also included baseline and feedback surveys to assess its impact on participants.



*A glimpse from the inaugural session on day 1 of the FDP.*

The inaugural session featured addresses by eminent persons, including Prof. Nupur Prakash, Vice-Chancellor, NCU; Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU; Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA; and Prof. Anjali Garg, Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education, NCU.

Dr. Shadrach highlighted the programme's alignment with NEP 2020 reforms, which emphasise multidisciplinary education, enhanced research, leveraging technology, and granting autonomy to high-performing institutions. He noted, "AIU and COL-CEMCA wish to see you perform, innovate, and enhance your research capabilities, engage in multi-disciplinary education that offers flexibility and, above all, achieve these by leveraging technology for education including Artificial Intelligence."

The five-day programme included COL-CEMCA expert-led sessions with Dr. Santosh Panda, Former Director, STRIDE, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, providing insights into the scope and role of Technology-enabled Learning (TEL) and its integration with blended learning. Ms. Sheriya Sareen, Ph. D Scholar, IIT Jammu, introduced the Institutional Blended Learning Policy (IBLP) template. Dr. Barnali Roy Choudhury from Netaji Subhas Open University explored the use of OER, MOOCs, and Learning Management Systems (LMS) in education, and Dr. Ashish Kumar Awadhya from IGNOU, discussed skilling and graduate employability in India.

The FDP was ably coordinated by Dr Satnam Singh, Coordinator, AADC-NCU, and Ms Monica Sharma, and Mr Aflaq Shah from COL-CEMCA. The event underscored COL-CEMCA and AIU's commitment to fostering transformative

learning experiences, enabling institutions like NCU to excel in delivering innovative, technology-enabled education.

### **Somaiya Vidyavihar University Concludes FDP on TEL and Blended Learning**

The Asian regional centre of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (COL-CEMCA), in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), effectively concluded the online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) and Blended Learning at Somaiya Vidyavihar University (SVU), Mumbai, Maharashtra, on 17 January 2025.

Throughout the FDP, the COL-CEMCA consultants adopted various interactive and engaging facilitation approaches, such as presentations by experts, fun activities, and breakout rooms, to train more than 80 educators on NEP 2020, Technology-enabled Learning (TEL) and Blended learning, Open Educational Resources (OER), the Graduate Employability Framework, and Institutional Blended Learning Policy (IBLP) template.

The FDP employed interactive methods, including expert-led presentations, breakout sessions, and engaging activities to provide insights into TEL, Blended Learning, OER, the Graduate Employability Framework, and the IBLP template.

During the inauguration of the FDP, Professor Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, SVU, emphasised the importance of educators' capacity building in specific technologies to ensure effective adoption of TEL and blended

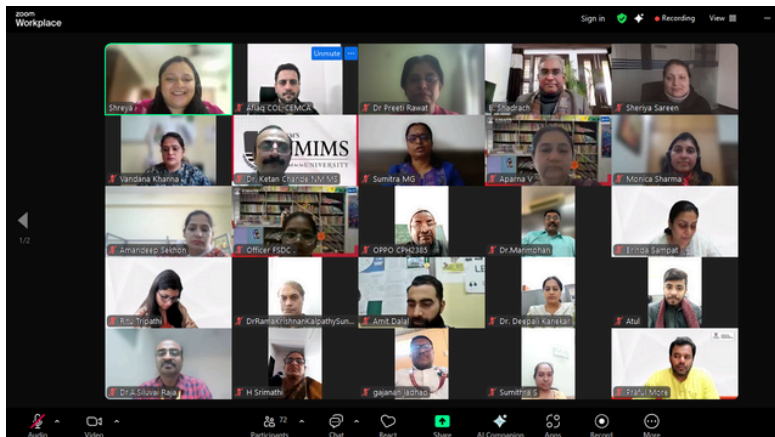
learning. Professor Pillai thanked COL-CEMCA for its support, envisioning this partnership as the foundation for many more future innovations and collaborations.

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, provided a detailed programme overview, highlighting the five key transformations advocated by NEP 2020 i.e., multi-disciplinary education and flexibility, increased focus on research, leveraging technology for education, and greater autonomy for HEIs performing well.

Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU, in her remarks, expressed gratitude to SVU and CEMCA for organising the programme, especially during AIU's centenary celebrations. She discussed AIU's efforts in teacher training, including creating e-content and incorporating AI into teaching-learning practices. Dr Mittal elaborated on the prospects of technology in revolutionising problem-solving and personalised learning in education.



Dr B Shadrach Director COL-CEMCA, Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai VC-SVU and Dr Pankaj Mittal Secretary General AIU during the inaugural session.



A screengrab from the final session of the FDP.

# COL-CEMCA Participation in Regional Events

**2nd Foundation Day celebration of Jharkhand State Open University (JSOU), Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi, India, 24 January, 2025**

Director, COL-CEMCA, participated in the second Foundation Day celebration of the JSOU on 24 January 2025 at Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi. He highlighted JSOU's pivotal role in providing education to marginalised tribal communities in the state. He emphasised the importance of skilling, reskilling, and upskilling in the era of digital, green, and AI revolutions sweeping the educational and skilling landscape in India. [Read more](#)



A glimpse from the inauguration of the event.

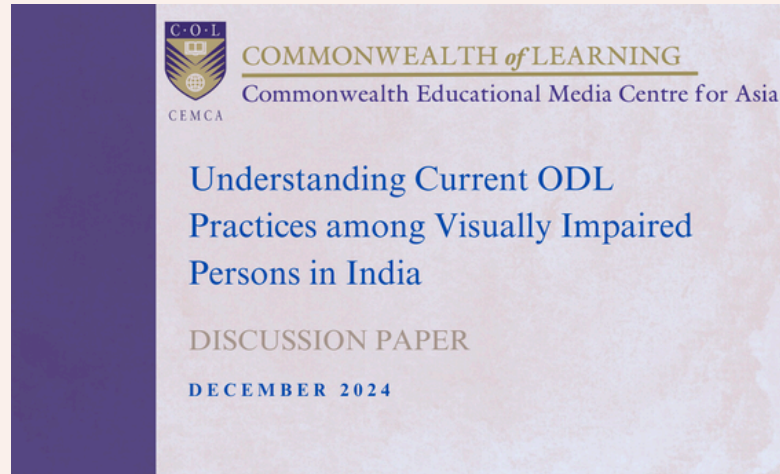
# Resources

## Course: AI for Informal Sector Workers



This course is designed to familiarise farmers and informal sector workers with the game-changing possibilities of AI in agriculture and related fields. Spanning nine interactive modules, the programme covers the basics of AI, its practical applications in everyday activities, and the role of generative AI in farming. Participants will gain hands-on knowledge about using AI tools for tasks like data collection, market evaluation, and ethical decision-making. The course equips learners with strategies to incorporate AI into farming practices, enhancing efficiency, productivity, and sustainability. Additionally, it provides practical guidance on adopting AI solutions and links participants to essential resources and support networks. The course will be formally launched in the last week of February 2025.

## Discussion Paper : Understanding Current ODL Practices among Visually Impaired Persons in India



The research conducted by COL-CEMCA and Score Foundation highlights the opportunities and challenges for visually impaired individuals in India's Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. Despite the barriers, such as limited information and financial constraints, the study reveals a growing appreciation for ODL's flexibility and cost-effectiveness among those who have enrolled. Importantly, participants reported significant improvements in their knowledge and skills, with many expressing a willingness to recommend ODL to others. The study underscores the potential of ODL to empower visually impaired learners, and it offers valuable recommendations to make these opportunities even more accessible and inclusive.

<https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Understanding-Current-ODL-Practices-among-Visually-Impaired-Persons-in-India.pdf>



10–12 September 2025



# Innovative Open Education: Fostering Resilient Societies for Sustainable Economic Development

[www.pcf11.org](http://www.pcf11.org) | [info@pcf11.org](mailto:info@pcf11.org)

GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Join PCF11 to discuss how Open Education drives equity, resilience and innovation across the Commonwealth.

[www.col.org](http://www.col.org)

[www.bou.ac.bw](http://www.bou.ac.bw)

PCF11 promotes open education to address key challenges such as educational inequity, stratification, and barriers to access. It fosters collaboration, innovative models, and solutions that build social resilience and adapt to global changes.

The theme of PCF11 is **Innovative Open Education: Fostering Resilient Societies for Sustainable Economic Development** and is accompanied by the following sub-themes and special focus areas:

## Sub-Themes:

- Changing mindsets for innovative open education
- Gender, technology and innovation in innovative open education
- Skills development through innovative open education
- Sustaining communities of learning and practice in innovative open education

## Special Focus:

- Emerging technologies for education and training
- Education for girls and women
- Youth

## Important Dates

**10 October 2024** — Call for abstracts and proposals

**30 January 2025** — Last date for submission of abstracts and proposals

**01 March 2025** — Notification of abstract/proposal approval

**15 April 2025** — Last date for full paper submission

**01 May 2025** — Notification for full paper submission

**10 September 2025** — PCF11 commences

Contact: [info@pcf11.org](mailto:info@pcf11.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Name:** Teacher-in-the-Loop AI Bootcamp

**Date:** 8 February 2025

**Venue:** CIET NCERT, New Delhi, India

**Name:** Community Radio Awareness Workshop

**Date:** 11-12 February 2025

**Venue:** Ranchi, Jharkhand, India

**FDP:** Empowering Higher Education Institutions Through Technology Enabled and Blended Learning

**Venue:** Apeejay Stya University, Gurugram, Haryana, India (Online)

**Date:** 20-25 February 2025

**Name:** Workshop for developing Graduate Employability Framework in OUs

**Venue:** Region-wise Open Universities, North, South, East and West, India

**Date:** February - March 2025



The team at the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia extends our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May 2025 bring success, happiness, and innovation in all our endeavours. Together, let's continue to transform education and empower communities through collaborative efforts and impactful initiatives.

Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership. Let's make this year extraordinary!

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)

*Editorial team:*

Dr. B. Shadrach  
Ms. Shipra Sharma  
Mr. Aflaq Ahmad Shah

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