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

# International Conference on Emerging Trends and Challenges in Open, Distance, Digital and Blended Learning

## ODDBL: REIMAGINING EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Date: 29 – 31 January 2026
Venue: Vigyan Bhawan
New Delhi, India

# About DDCE, SOL, COL, DU

Staying true to our social mission, the Department of Distance and Continuing Education (DDCE), School of Open Learning (SOL), Campus of Open Learning (COL), University of Delhi (DU) is driven by a keen desire to help bridge the knowledge accessibility gap to help individuals, especially those from the deprived sections, to unlock their true potential and allow them to contribute to India's growth story meaningfully. The first University in the country to offer distance education programmes, the University of Delhi proposes to organise this international conference to engage in dialogue presentations on the emerging trends, innovations, and challenges in open, distance, digital, and blended learning, with a focus on enhancing quality, accessibility, and the future-readiness of education systems.

# About the Conference

In the rapidly evolving landscape of education, the need for advancement and innovation in open and distance learning has never been more critical. This conference on distance and digital education has been designed to explore the recent developments in open, distance, digital and blended learning globally, and the challenges faced by various stakeholders in their business models and sustainability in the future.

This conference seeks to highlight emerging trends in digital learning environments, including the integration of adaptive learning technologies, skill enhancement and immersive virtual experiences. It further aims to facilitate networking among educators, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to examine, debate, and cooperate in creating the future of distance and digital learning, in response to the fast-paced advancements in technology, pedagogical methods, and societal shifts.

Aligned with the vision of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which emphasises on expanding access, equity, and quality through the integration of technology and flexible learning models, this conference actively contributes to fostering innovation in open and distance education. It supports NEP's goals of promoting lifelong learning, inclusive education, and the effective use of online platforms to transform the Indian education system into a holistic, learner-centric, and future-ready framework, at par with the global scenario.

The conference will bring together international and national experts, leaders and researchers of open, distance, digital and blended learning to achieve the conference goals.

# Objectives of the Conference

This conference aims to critically examine the evolving landscape of Open, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning (ODDBL) by addressing various contemporary trends and innovations, educational advancements, and significant challenges that will shape the future of education.

The key objective is to bridge the divide between traditional face-to-face methods and emerging modes such as digital, blended and self-directed learning by offering a platform for educators, scholars, policymakers, business executives, and others to collaborate in transforming the educational experience across all levels, and reimagining the educational landscape for higher education. The conference aims to advance education by fostering cross-border collaborations, encouraging academic partnerships, joint research, and the exchange of best practices. It supports the creation of a more interconnected and inclusive educational ecosystem aligned with global standards and the Indian national vision of NEP 2020.

The conference emphasises on equitable access, continuous education, skill enhancement, and technological integration as envisaged in the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Key areas of focus include:
- Utilisation of artificial intelligence for personalised and flexible learning trajectories
- Automated evaluation and feedback
- Ethical and policy considerations in ODDBL
- The role of blended learning in enhancing student engagement and employability.

The conference will address a range of critical themes, including mobile learning, innovative assessment methodologies, digital literacy, infrastructural challenges, and cross-cultural collaborations to ensure equitable and sustainable educational delivery. In keeping with the goals of NEP, the conference aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building, thereby empowering all participants—teachers, scholars, students, and institutional leaders—to collaboratively develop a resilient, future-oriented educational framework.

# Key Themes

## Technology, Innovations & Ethics in ODDBL

- Adaptive Learning Technologies and AI Integration
- AI for Automating Assessment and Feedback
- Use of Artificial Intelligence in Skill Development through ODDBL
- Learning Management System (LMS) and EdTech Platforms

- Digital Literacy and Skill Development
- Mobile Learning and Accessibility
- Learning Analytics and Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Data Privacy and Digital Rights
- Legal Frameworks Governing Online Education
- Surveillance, Autonomy, and Freedom in Digital Learning
- Virtual and Augmented Technology Applications

## Recent Trends in Teaching Pedagogy

- Adapting New Pedagogical Trends and Models
- Innovative Assessment Strategies in ODDBL
- Student Engagement and Motivation in ODDBL Classrooms
- Personalised Learning
- Employability and Industry Acceptance of ODDBL

- Blended Learning Models: Best Practices and Case Studies
- Blended Learning for Skill Development
- Research on Effective ODDBL Strategies
- Impact of Vocational Training and Certification Programmes in ODDBL

## Policy, Management & Infrastructure

- Equity, Access, Inclusion and Quality
- Policy and Regulation in ODDBL E-Learning Policy Framework
- Management and Leadership in ODDBL and Business Models

- Career Guidance and Workforce Preparedness
- Cyber-Security in E-Learning
- Digital Infrastructure Development
- Partnerships for Sustainable E-Learning

## Learning Design, Innovative Pedagogies & Assessment

- Innovative Online Course Design and Delivery
- Blended and Hybrid Learning Models
- Personalised and Adaptive Learning Environments
- Game-based Learning, Simulations, and Virtual Reality

- Collaborative and Peer-to-Peer Learning Strategies
- Assessment and Evaluation in Online Environments: Challenges and Innovations
- Measuring Learning Outcomes and Impact
- Innovations in ODDBL Pedagogies

# Key Themes

## Curriculum, Employability & Industry

- Digital Skills for the Future Workforce
- Industry-Academia Partnerships
- Micro-Credentials and Lifelong Learning
- Industry-Academia Partnership for Skill Development
- Reskilling and Upskilling

- Preparing Students for the Digital Economy
- Global Collaboration and a Cross-Border Learning Environment
- Learning Pathways for Adult and Non-Traditional Learners
- Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit Transfer

## Equity, Access, Quality & Inclusion

- Ensuring Quality and Best Practices in Education
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Strategies
- Addressing Special Needs and Cultural Considerations
- Bridging the Urban-Rural Digital Divide

- Gender, Disability, and Marginalised Learner Inclusion
- Multi-Lingual and Multi-Cultural Content Delivery
- Policies for Equitable Access to Digital Education
- Academic Integrity

## Learner Support & Professional Development

- Supporting Educators' Professional Development
- Virtual Student Support Services
- Community Building in an Online Classroom
- Leadership Development

- Role of Feedback and Communication Tools in ODDBL
- Motivation, Retention and Learner Satisfaction
- Professional Learning and Academic Development
- Enhancing Engagement, Well-Being, and Sense of Belonging

## Future Scope in ODDBL

- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy in Online and Distance Education
- Ethical Considerations and Bias in AI-Enhanced ODDBL
- Challenges and Solutions in Delivering Hands-on Skills in ODDBL
- Future Skills

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Through ODDBL Skill Programmes
- Changing Trends from Face to Face to ODDBL
- Visualising Changing Patterns in Teaching-Learning Practices
- Understanding Deliverables for Effective ODDBL
- Sustainable Business Models for ODDBL

# Registration Details & Dates to Remember

| | 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.

Online Registration at: <https://sol.du.ac.in/icoddbl.php>

## IMPORTANT DATES AND EXTENDED DEADLINES

Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 November 2025

Notification of Acceptance: 30 November 2025

Last Date for Full Paper Submission: 15 December 2025

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 30 October 2025

Last Date for Registration  with Late Fee: 15 December 2025

Last Date for Registration for Pre-Conference Workshops: 15 December 2025

Pre-Conference Workshops: 28 January 2026 (Details are given on pages 11–13 )

Conference Dates: 29-31 January 2026

## FOR FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT:

Phone Number: +91 9318355909
Email ID: sec_conference@col.du.ac.in

# Who should attend the conference?

This conference is ideal for **educators**, **researchers**, **policymakers**, **institutional leaders**, **instructional designers**, **EdTech professionals, and students** who are engaged in or passionate about the future of Open, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning (ODDBL). It also welcomes school and higher education faculty, administrators, regulatory bodies, and industry experts involved in digital education and skill development. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the event fosters meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in alignment with the goals of NEP 2020 and global educational trends.

Attending this conference offers a unique opportunity to engage with the most pressing trends, innovations, and challenges in open, distance, digital, and blended learning . It serves as a vibrant platform for ODDBL stakeholders to exchange ideas, showcase research, and collaborate on future-ready educational strategies. With focused discussions on NEP 2020, AI integration, inclusive pedagogy, skill development, and quality assurance, participants will gain valuable insights and contribute meaningfully into transforming teaching and learning in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Whether you are looking to enhance your professional knowledge, expand your network, contribute to policy dialogue, or stay ahead of educational innovation, this conference promises enriching experiences and meaningful connections for all stakeholders.

# Conference Inaugural and Keynotes

The Inaugural and Valedictory sessions will be addressed by senior policy makers, and administrators concerned with the theme of the conference.

Keynote sessions will be delivered by eminent distance educators, policy makers, and technology experts from institutions and regulatory bodies of national and international repute.

# Call for Proposals

## Paper Presentations

The conference invites presentation of original work in the form of Research Papers, Practitioner Papers, Empirical Studies, Case Studies, and Critical Literature Reviews.
Each Participant shall be given 15-20 minutes to present their work.

## Poster Presentations

The conference invites participation for poster presentations. The participants shall display their posters in a designated area. During the 60-minute poster presentation session, the judges will evaluate their work for assessment and feedback.

## Panel Discussions

Proposals are invited for panel discussions; each session will be of 45 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A, where 2-3 experts will present their views facilitated by a moderator. Terms and conditions pertaining to Panel Discussions are given in the registration form.

## Demonstration of Educational & Instructional Tools

Organizations and Start-Ups are invited for the Demonstration of Educational and Instructional Tools in the field of Open, Distance, Digital and Blended Learning areas. A dedicated time would be provided to them to display and demonstrate their product to the audience and to engage in one-on-one business communications.

# Guidelines for Submission and Plan for Publication

**HOW TO SUBMIT**
Proposals are to be submitted online at <https://sol.du.ac.in/icoddbl.php>

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FULL PAPER SUBMISSION**
Each participant for their paper presentation or poster presentation must submit their full papers for the conference. Article files must be provided in Microsoft Word or pdf format only.

Articles/Papers should be between 5000 and 8000 words in length, and posters between 2000-3000 words. This includes all text, tables, figures and graphs. The title provided should be concise and related to the area of the conference.

The names of all contributing authors should be added to the submission; it must be in the order in which you would like them to be published. ORCID ID must be mentioned in the submission. The following details must also be included while submitting:
- **Author email address** (preferably institutional address).
- **Author name**. We will reproduce it exactly, so any middle names and/or initials they want featured must be included.
- **Author affiliation**. The affiliation of the author should either be where they are currently based or where the research was conducted.

In multi-authored papers, all authors who have made a significant contribution to the paper must be listed. Those who have provided support but have not contributed to the research should be featured in an acknowledgements section. All submissions must include a structured abstract, following the format outlined below. The following sub-headings and their accompanying explanations must be included:
- Abstract
- Purpose and Framework
- Design/Methodology/Approach
- Findings
- Implications for Policy and Practice
- References

**Scan for Registration**

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# Guidelines for Submission and Plan for Publication

The abstract, including keywords must not exceed 250 words. Please refer to the following link for the required abstract format: <https://shorturl.at/HYJRd>

All submitted abstracts will undergo double blind peer review by an expert committee.
Please note that each author must register individually to attend the conference and receive a participation certificate.

AWARDS FOR BEST PAPERS
- Best Paper National and International
- Best Poster National and International
- Young Researcher Scholarships

PUBLICATION PLAN
The proceedings of the abstracts will be published online on the IATM (International Association of Technology and Management) website.
Selected papers from the conference will be published in the SCOPUS Indexed Book Series on "Advances in Digital Technology and Data-Driven Business Practices" published by Emerald Publishing, UK.
**For queries, contact the organizers at: sec_conference@col.du.ac.in**

# Key Takeaways from the Conference

**Academic Networking at International Level**

**Business Communications**

**Interactions with Policy Makers**

**Face to Face Interactions**

# Pre-Conference Workshops

**Pre Conference Workshops on:**

1. Holistic and Authentic Assessment in Online Learning
2. Learner Engagement in Distance and Online Learning
3. Teaching Reimagined: Disruptive Technologies as Catalysts for Academic Excellence
4. Design and Development of Self Learning Materials (SLMs) for Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning

**Date & Venue**
**To be held on Wednesday, 28th January, 2026 (10:00 – 17:00 hrs) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, India**

**Note:** As seats are limited for Pre-conference workshops, principle of first cum first serve, will be followed. Organisers will have the final say on the inclusion and exclusion of themes/topics for the Pre-Conference workshops, if the situation arises.

**For queries regarding Pre-Conference Workshops, contact:**
Prof. C.R.K. Murthy: +91 9868888040
Dr. Nupur Gosain: +91 9818282648

# Pre-Conference Workshops

## Holistic and Authentic Assessment in Online Learning

**Objectives:** At the end of one day workshop the participants will be able to:

- Discuss the foundations and benefits of holistic and authentic assessment, particularly in digital learning contexts.
- Present effective approaches and tools for designing learner-centered digital assessments that promote academic integrity, engagement, and deep learning.
- Examine issues such as fostering academic integrity, accommodating human diversity and overcoming technical and institutional barriers in online assessment.

**Who can participate?**
Educators/Teachers, Education Administrators, Instructional Designers who are involved in developing online programmes/courses.

**Registration Fees: (The fee includes workshop kit, refreshments and lunch)**
**Indian Participant: Rs. 1500/-**
**SAARC Countries Participant: 80/- USD**
**International Participant: 100/- USD**

**Resource Persons:**
**Dr. Linda Amrane-Cooper,** Director, Centre for Online and Distance Education, University of London
**Prof. Madhu Parhar**, Former Director, Centre for Online Learning, IGNOU, New Delhi
**Dr. G. Mythili,** Additional Director, STRIDE, IGNOU, New Delhi

**Coordinator:** Mr. Deekshant Awasthi, Academic Coordinator, OLDC

## Learner Engagement in Distance and Online Learning

**Objectives:** At the end of the one-day workshop, the participants will be able to

- Gain a deeper understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of learner engagement (behavioural, cognitive, and emotional).
- Highlight the importance of building a sense of belonging and community through peer-to-peer and learner-to-instructor interactions, which are critical for reducing isolation and increasing motivation in distance and online environments.
- Discuss the role of technology, course design and instructor presence in promoting sustained engagement.

**Who can participate?**
Educators/Teachers, Education Administrators, Instructional Designers who are involved in developing online programmes/courses.

**Registration Fees: (The fee includes workshop kit, refreshments and lunch)**
**Indian Participant:** Rs. 1500/-
**SAARC Countries Participant:** 80/- USD
**International Participant:** 100/- USD

**Resource Persons:**

**Dr. Linda Amrane-Cooper,** Director, Centre for Online and Distance Education, University of London
**Prof. N.K. Chadha**, Former Professor (Psychology), University of Delhi;
Professor Emeritus, SGT University & KR Mangalam University
**Dr. G Mythili**, Additional Director, STRIDE, IGNOU, New Delhi

**Coordinator:** Dr. Nupur Gosain, Assistant Professor, SOL, DU

# Pre-Conference Workshops

## Teaching Reimagined: Disruptive Technologies as Catalysts for Academic Excellence

**Objectives:** At the end of the one-day workshop, the participants will be able to

- Explore the concept and scope of disruptive technologies in the context of higher education; and
- Examine innovative teaching and learning models enabled by technologies such as AI, VR/AR and learning Analytics.

**Who can participate?**
Faculty from universities, colleges, ODL institutions, researchers, practitioners and others who are keen to explore and adopt disruptive technologies to enhance teaching-learning practices in higher education.

**Registration Fees: (The fee includes workshop kit, refreshments and lunch)**
**Indian Participant: Rs. 1500/-**
**SAARC Countries Participant: 80/- USD**
**International Participant: 100/- USD**

**Resource Persons:**
**Prof. V.V. Subrahamanyam**, Professor of Computer Science, SOCIS, IGNOU, New Delhi
**Prof. S.S. Rawat**, Director, SOCIS, IGNOU, New Delhi

**Coordinator:** Ms. Aishwarya Anand, Assistant Professor, SOL, University of Delhi

## Design and Development of Self Learning Materials (SLMs) for Distance, Digital and Blended Learning

**Objectives:** At the end of a one-day workshop, the participants will be able to

- Describe the origin and evolution of open, distance and digital learning and characteristics and features of SLMs.
- Apply the features of SLMs into course material for distance and digital learning along with technology integration into SLMs (increasingly followed by many distance teaching institutions).

**Who can participate?**
Open to faculty members who are involved in the design and development of SLMs for distance and digital learning at various distance and online institutions. Faculty members from regular institutions who wish to collaborate with distance and online institutions in the development of course materials.

**Registration Fees: (The fee includes workshop kit, refreshments and lunch)**
**Indian Participant: Rs. 1500/-**
**SAARC Countries Participant: 80/- USD**
**International Participant: 100/- USD**

**Resource Persons:**
**Prof. Santosh Panda,** Former Director, STRIDE, IGNOU  and Former Chairperson, NCTE
**Prof. C.R.K. Murthy,** Former Director, STRIDE, IGNOU and  Academic Consultant, SOL, University of Delhi

**Coordinator**: Dr. Anjali Sain, Assistant Professor, SOL, University of Delhi

# Conference Management

## Steering Committee

**Chief Patron:** Prof. Yogesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi
**Patron:** Prof. Payal Mago, Director, Campus of Open Learning, University of Delhi
**Co-Patron:** Prof. Ajay Jaiswal, Principal, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
**Convenor:** Prof. Pramod Tiwari, Joint Director, Campus of Open Learning, University of Delhi
**Co-Convenor:** Mr. Deekshant Awasthi, Open Learning Development Centre, COL, University of Delhi
**Treasurer:** Prof. Projes Roy, Joint Director, Campus of Open Learning, University of Delhi
**Joint Treasurer:** Dr. O.P. Sharma, Deputy Registrar, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
**Conference Director:** Prof. C.R.K. Murthy, Retd. Professor of Distance Education, Former Director STRIDE, IGNOU, New Delhi; Academic Consultant-ODL, Campus of Open Learning, University of Delhi
**Conference Secretary:** Dr. Nupur Gosain, Assistant Professor, Psychology, SOL, University of Delhi

## International Advisory Board

Prof. Payal Mago, Director, Campus of Open Learning, University of Delhi (Chairperson)
Sir John Daniel, Chancellor, Acsenda School of Management, Vancouver, BC, Canada (Ex-President, COL, Canada)
Prof. Femi Peters, Vice-Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria
Dr. Tony Mays, Director, Education, Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada
Dr. Ahmed Tlili, Director, Education, Beijing Normal University, China
Dr. Linda Amrane-Cooper, Director, Centre for Online and Distance Education, University of London
Ms. Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director of Education, British Council, India
Prof. Nripendra Singh, President, IATM, Professor, Pennsylvania Western University
Prof. Ami Upadhyaya, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad
Prof Sanjeev Sonawane, Vice-Chancellor, Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik
Prof. G. Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad
Prof. Madhu Parhar, Vice-Chancellor, Starex University, Gurugram
Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Vice-Chancellor, H.N Bahuguna Garhwal University, Uttarakhand
Prof. Santosh Panda, National Fellow, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (Former Chairperson, NCTE, Government of India)
Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, University of Delhi
Prof. K. Ratnabali, Dean Academics, University of Delhi
Prof. Anu G. Aggarwal, Department of Operational Research, University of Delhi
Prof. Sameer Anand, Department of Operational Research, University of Delhi
Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi
Prof. Anupama Vohra, Faculty (English), Center for Distance and Online Education, University of Jammu
Dr. G. Mythili, Additional Director, STRIDE, IGNOU, New Delhi
Prof. Harsh Gandhar, Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh

## Organising Team

Dr. Deepak Sharma, Associate Director, Campus of Open Learning, University of Delhi
Dr. Abhilasha, Assistant Professor, Management, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
Dr. Anjali Sain, Assistant Professor, Commerce, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
Dr. Himani Kapoor, Assistant Professor, English, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
Dr. Kancharkuntala Praveen Reddy, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science, School of Open Learning
Mr. Shaitan Singh, Assistant Professor, Political Science, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
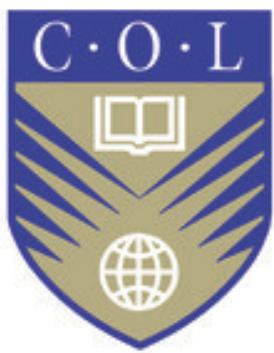Mr. Chhitij Awasthi, Assistant Registrar, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
Mr. Rajesh Kalia, Assistant Registrar, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
Mr. Ashish Bhardwaj, Consultant-Procurement, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
Mr. Pratyush Aggarwal, Senior Assistant, OLDC, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi

# Knowledge Partners



Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)
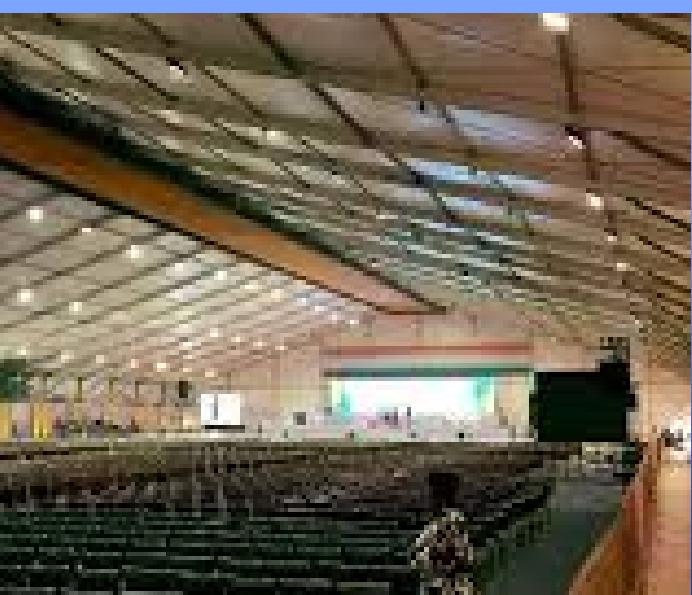New Delhi, India.



British Council, India



International Association of Technology and Management

# Conference Venue

# Vigyan Bhawan

**Kartavya Path, Rajpath Area, Central Secretariat,
New Delhi, Delhi 110001
INDIA**

# Local Sightseeing

On Day Two of the conference, a guided cultural visit will be organized to the Akshardham Temple, offering participants an opportunity to experience its architectural grandeur and spiritual heritage.
Delegates can also visit some other iconic cultural and historical landmarks of the city.

India Gate

Lotus Temple

Qutub Minar

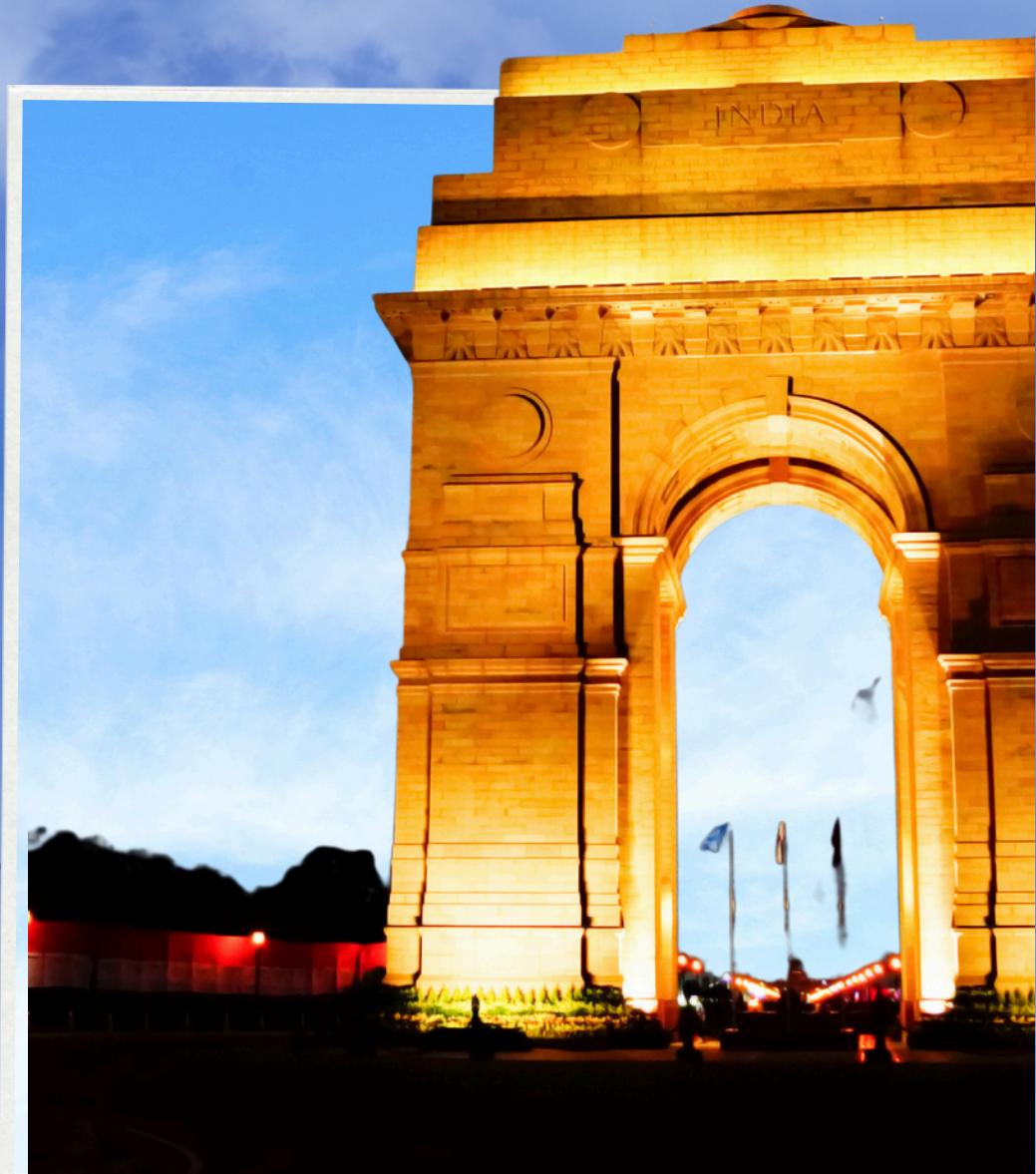Akshardham Temple

Garden of Five Senses

Dilli Haat

Connaught Place

Khan Market

Chandni Chowk

ISKCON Temple

# INDULGE IN DELHI'S HERITAGE AND CULTURE WITH US

Delhi, where ancient heritage meets modern vibrance, offers a rich cultural tapestry of historic monuments, diverse traditions, and dynamic city life.

School of Open Learning, 5, Cavalry Lane, University of Delhi, Near University Metro Station, Delhi-110007

**Website** : https://sol.du.ac.in

**Conference Website**

https://web.sol.du.ac.in/misc/international/conference/index.php

Phone No. : +91 9318355909

Email ID: sec_conference@col.du.ac.in

For more details, scan here: