Department of Distance and Continuing Education
School of Open Learning, Campus of Open Learning
University of Delhi
In association with
National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) & British Council

Knowledge Partner: Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia **(CEMCA)**
Academic Partner: International Association of Technology and Management **(IATM)**

ODDBL

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

The Vision

The idea for this conference grew out of a shared recognition that higher education is changing in fundamental ways. In today's rapidly evolving digital age, educators are finding it both necessary and challenging to respond to shifting learning environments and changing learner behaviours. Teaching and learning are being reshaped by new technologies, demanding greater flexibility and responsiveness from institutions & teachers. These shifts call for thoughtful reflection rather than quick solutions.

The School of Open Learning (SOL), University of Delhi, guided by its vision of access and inclusion, has consistently been at the forefront of serving diverse learners across different stages of life. Its experience with open and distance education provides a strong foundation for engaging with these ongoing changes. At its heart, the conference is an invitation to rethink education in more holistic terms.

This global academic and professional platform brings together leaders, experts, policymakers, industry professionals, and other stakeholders from across the world to reflect on and strengthen distance education in new and meaningful ways. It creates space for dialogue across institutions, disciplines, and regions. It is a timely opportunity to rethink how we reach distance learners, and how blended, learner-friendly, and industry-relevant education can better respond to the pressing demands of the contemporary educational landscape. Through collective reflection and dialogue, the conference looks toward redefining the future directions of higher education.

Over the past decade, and particularly in the wake of rapid technological change, higher education has undergone significant shifts in the ways knowledge is produced, delivered, and accessed. Open, Distance, Digital and Blended Learning have moved from being supplementary modes of instruction to becoming central to the educational ecosystem, expanding access while raising important questions about pedagogy, quality, equity, and sustainability.

The ODDBL Conference is conceived as a forum for critical engagement with these developments. It aims to bring together educators, researchers, administrators, policymakers, and practitioners to reflect on current practices and emerging trends in distance and digital education. The conference agenda foregrounds discussions on innovative teaching–learning models, digital platforms and tools, institutional practices, policy frameworks, and quality assurance in open and blended learning environments.

Prof Yogesh Singh
Chief Patron
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
University of Delhi

Prof Payal Mago
Patron
Director
Campus of Open Learning
University of Delhi

Prof Ajay Jaiswal
Co-Patron
Principal
School of Open Learning
University of Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eminent Speakers and Distinguished Experts

Sir John Daniel
Chancellor
Acsenda School of Management
Vancouver, BC, Canada (Ex-President, COL, Canada)

Dr. Linda Amrane-Cooper
Director
Centre for Online and Distance
Educations, University of London

Dr. Torunn Gjelsvik
Secretary General
International Council for
Open and Distance Education

Dr Tony Mays
Director
Educations, Commonwealth of Learning
Vancouver, Canada

Prof. Huiru (Jane) Zheng
Professor
of Computer Science School of Computing,
Ulster University, Belfast

Prof. Fan Xianrui
Vice President
Open University of China

Eminent Speakers and Distinguished Experts

Dr. Ganesan Kannabiran
Director
National Assessment and Accreditation
Council (NAAC)

Mr. Shannon West
Deputy Director
British Council, India

Ms. Rittika Chanda Parruck
Director
of Education British Council, India

Dr. B. Shadrach
Director
Commonwealth Educational
Media Centre for Asia

Prof. Nripendra Singh
President, IATM
International Association of
Technology & Management

Prof. V V Subrahmanyam
Professor of Computer Science
SOCIS, IGNOU, New Delhi

Eminent Speakers and Distinguished Experts

Prof. Ami Upadhyay
Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open
University, Gujarat

Dr. Vikas Gupta
Registrar
University of Delhi

Prof Tankeshwar Kumar
Vice Chancellor
Central University of
Haryana

Madhukar M. Waware
Joint Secretary
Distance Education Bureau

Prof. G Chakrapani
Vice Chancellor
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open
University, Hyderabad

Dr. Sanjaya Mishra
Former Director (Education) and
Education Specialist
the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada

Eminent Speakers and Distinguished Experts

Prof. Santosh Panda
Former Chairperson
National Council for Teacher
Education (NCTE), Government of India

Mr. Rajendra Tripathi
Head
Education-Programmes & Partnership India
British Council

Prof. Sanjeev Singh
Dean-Faculty of Technology
University of Delhi

Dr. Rajiv Singh
Department of Computer Science
Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland

Dr. Priyanka Sharma
Deputy CEO
Australian Council for Educational
Research (ACER)

Dr. G. Mythili
Additional Director
STRIDE, IDNOU

Publication Plan

The abstracts accepted for the conference will be published online on the official website of the International Association of Technology and Management (IATM). ISSN number 3069-3519.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

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
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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

Conference Management

International Advisory Board

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Prof. Santosh Panda, 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

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Organising Team

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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

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Conference Venue

Vigyan Bhawan

Kartavya Path, Rajpath Area
Nearest Metro Station Central Secretariat
New Delhi, Delhi 110001 (INDIA)

Scan Here:
For Location of Vigyan Bhawan

Delhi Excursion

Day 1, January 29: Delegates will experience a culturally enriching visit to the Akshardham Temple.

Akshardham Temple

Day 2, January 30: Delegates will enjoy a lively shopping experience at Delhi Haat.

Delhi Haat

Delegates can visit some iconic cultural and historical landmarks of the city.

• India Gate • Lotus Temple • Qutub Minar • Dilli Haat • Connaught Place
• Khan Market • Chandni Chowk • Garden of Five Senses 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.

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For more details, scan here: