



**INDIAN DISTANCE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (IDEA)**

In collaboration with

**Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY (BRAOU)**

*Organising*

*Two Day National Conference on*

# **Beyond Boundaries: The New ODL Landscape**

**25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**



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## ABOUT IDEA

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The Indian Distance Education Association (IDEA) is a national-level professional body of distance educators, established in 1992 with the objective of promoting the growth and quality of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in India. IDEA is a voluntary, broad-based association comprising faculty members from Open Universities, Distance and Correspondence Education institutions, Continuing and Online Education systems, along with educationists and researchers committed to advancing ODL.

The proposal of forming a professional association for distance educators emerged after extensive deliberations, leading to IDEA's first formal meeting in 1993 at Warangal, attended by 30 members from 12 universities. IDEA provides a common platform for interaction, collaboration, and exchange of ideas among individuals and institutions engaged in teaching, research, and innovation in ODL. Through its evolving role and participatory approach, IDEA continues to serve as a vital professional forum, shaping the future of Open and Distance Education in India. IDEA organized 25 National Seminars / Conferences so far.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, India's first Open University was established on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1982, as Andhra Pradesh Open University and later renamed as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1991 with the motto of **"EDUCATION FOR ALL."** Its campus is located in Jubilee Hills, spanning over 53.63 acres and features impressive buildings, green lawns, and tree-lined roads that enhance the scenic beauty of the rocks. All UG, PG and PhD programs of the university are recognized by the University Grants Commission, which supports diverse learners through 125 Learner Support Centres across Telangana including 10 Regional Centres and exclusive Learner Support Centres for Women, Army Jawans and Prisoners. Over four decades, the University has enhanced access to higher education, emphasizing innovative spacing.

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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Open and Distance Learning (ODL) is rapidly evolving from a system of alternative access to a dynamic, technology-enabled educational ecosystem that transcends geographical, social, and institutional boundaries. As India moves toward a digital, knowledge-driven society, ODL must respond with bold innovations, inclusive strategies, and learner-centric models that bridge gaps and create new opportunities for all.

The theme for 26<sup>th</sup> conference of IDEA “Beyond Boundaries: The New ODL Landscape” captures this transformative moment. It reflects a shift from traditional correspondence-based learning to flexible, hybrid, and digital pathways that support diverse learners such as working professionals, rural communities, women, senior citizens and learners with disabilities. Today’s ODL institutions are leveraging AI tools, mobile learning, OER, virtual labs, and data-driven approaches to re-imagine content delivery, assessment, learner support, and academic quality.

The conference seeks to explore how ODL can break boundaries of: **access** (reaching new populations), **technology** (adopting digital and AI innovations), **pedagogy** (embracing open, interactive, and flexible learning), and **impact** (contributing to national development and lifelong learning). By bringing together academicians, policy makers, EdTech innovators, and practitioners. This conference aims to reshape how ODL is envisioned, implemented and experienced—setting a new benchmark for openness and excellence in Indian higher education.

### Objectives of the Conference

- To explore emerging trends and innovations shaping the future of ODL.
- To examine inclusive strategies for expanding access and equity.
- To promote technology-enabled, learner-centered pedagogical practices.
- To deliberate on quality assurance and governance in digital ODL ecosystems.
- To strengthen ODL’s role in lifelong learning, employability and national development
- To examine the role of governing bodies in policymaking.

### Sub-Themes

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#### 1. Expanding Access : Reaching the Unreached

- Strategies for widening access across regions and communities
- Empowering women, rural learners and underserved groups
- Reducing digital divides and ensuring affordability
- Role of open universities in social justice and democratization of education

#### 2. Technology-Driven ODL Ecosystems

- AI-enabled teaching, learning, evaluation and student support
- Mobile-first and app-based learning models
- Virtual labs, AR/VR and immersive digital learning
- Cloud-based platforms and intelligent learning systems

### **3. New Pedagogies for the ODL Era**

- Designs for interactive, learner- centered online courses
- Open pedagogy: collaborative and learner- generated content
- Microlearning, MOOCs, modular certification and flexible learning pathways
- Integrating competency- based education into ODL

### **4. Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Practices**

- OER creation, adaptation, and quality frameworks
- Institutional OER policies and licensing practices
- Open text books, open assessments and open course development
- Global and national OER collaborations

### **5. Emerging tools & Support Services**

- AI chatbots, virtual mentors, and real- time academic support
- AI tools and E-content development.
- Tools for language commands
- Digi locker, NAD & ABC portal.
- Inclusive support mechanisms for learners with disabilities

### **6. Quality Assurance and Excellence in the New ODL Landscape**

- Quality benchmarks for digital, hybrid and distance modes
- Measuring learning effectiveness and engagement
- Faculty capacity- building for digital teaching and assessment
- Ensuring academic integrity in online and distance environments

### **7. Governance, Policy and Institutional Innovation**

- UGC-DEB quality guidelines and policy directions
- Institutional leadership for digital transformation
- University – industry collaborations and EdTech partnerships
- Sustainable models of digital ODL implementation
- NAAC & NIRF gradings.

### **8. Career Development & Lifelong Learning**

- Upskilling and reskilling through ODL
- Micro-credentials aligned with NEP2020 and skill ecosystem
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- ODL's contribution to employability and social mobility

## Who Can Participate?

- Faculty members and Researchers.
- ODL Administrators and Academic leaders.
- Policy makers and Regulatory Bodies.
- EdTech Professionals and Innovators.
- Research Scholars and Postgraduate Students.

## Call for Papers

Papers are invited from Academicians, Researchers, Students and others who are interested in the Open Distance Learning discipline. Participants are invited to submit the Abstracts (350 Words) for paper presentation on the sub themes of the conference. The Abstracts should be emailed to [idea.distance@gmail.com](mailto:idea.distance@gmail.com) and the soft copy of the full-length original papers should be submitted in MS Word format with a limit of 1500 to 4000 words. The papers will be peer reviewed by the Expert Committee and the best papers will be published in an edited book with ISBN.

## Important Dates

Last Date for Submission of Abstracts: 20-02-2026

Last Date for Submission of Full Paper: 05-03-2026

## Registration

Registration Fee is mandatory for the participants in the conference and paper presenters. Certificates will be issued only for the Registered Participants.

For Faculty	– Rs. 1000/-
For Research Scholars	– Rs. 500/-
For Students	– Rs. 300/-

The Registration Fee can be paid through Credit Card/Debit Card/Internet Banking or Scan the following QR Code for UPI payment



## Bank Account Details

Name	: Organizing Secretary, National Conference
Bank	: State Bank of India
Branch	: BRAOU Branch, Hyderabad.
IFSC Code	: SBIN 0020872
Bank A/c No	: 44847212370
Registration Link	: <a href="https://forms.gle/ytcWpug3g4En7a5TA">https://forms.gle/ytcWpug3g4En7a5TA</a>

## Accommodation

Limited accommodation is available at the University Guest House on payment of nominal charges. The delegates can avail the services by prior intimation to the Conference Director.

## Venue of Conference

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University  
Road No.46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033 Telangana State.

## Advisory Committee

1. Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice- Chancellor, BRAOU : Chairman
2. Prof. V. S. Prasad, Former Vice-Chancellor, BRAOU, Former Director, NAAC : Member
3. Prof. K. Seetharama Rao, President, IDEA, Former Vice-Chancellor, BRAOU : Member
4. Prof. V. Venkaiah, Former Vice-Chancellor, Krishna University : Member
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