

The National Initiative for Skill-Integrated Higher Education (NISHE)

Overview

The National Initiative for Skill-Integrated Higher Education (NISHE) aims to enhance the employability of over 1 lakh students enrolled in non-professional degree programs across 1,500+ colleges in 10 states over the next three years. Operating at zero cost to state governments, NISHE supports the professionalization of general education by aligning with the University Grants Commission's Guidelines for Apprenticeship-Embedded Degree Programs (AEDPs). Its core objective is to integrate skill development into mainstream higher education.

Strategy

State-Led Implementation:

NISHE is driven by State Governments, who tailor implementation to local needs and priorities, ensuring regional relevance and ownership.

CRISP's Enabling Role:

CRISP enables effective execution by collaborating with Sector Skill Councils on curriculum and faculty development, and with BOATs for managing apprenticeships and evaluations.

Progress Monitoring & Student-Centric Focus:

CRISP's central and state teams use the NISHE MIS platform to track progress, enable timely interventions, and ensure the program aligns with student aspirations.

Major Highlights

- Model curricula were shared with all State Governments for their review and contextual adaptation to ensure relevance and responsiveness to local needs.
- The Higher Education Department issued a directive urging State Conventional Universities to accelerate Board of Studies (BoS) approvals, expediting the academic clearance process.
- Engagement with the Boards of Apprenticeship and Training (BOATs) was initiated, with multiple meetings held to define roles, clarify expectations, and align on implementation timelines

Challenges Faced



Strategic adjustments were required within a short timeframe following the release of new UGC Guidelines on AEDP implementation in March 2025.

The newly mandated active role of BOATs necessitated clarification of responsibilities between BOATs and SSCs for all stakeholders.

The timing of these changes, coinciding with peak preparation for the upcoming academic year, posed significant challenges in adapting and executing the revised strategy.

Key Learnings and Way Forward



- ✓ The ability to rapidly adjust to the revised UGC Guidelines highlighted the importance of flexible and responsive planning in large-scale, multi-state initiatives.
- ✓ Clear role definitions and early engagement of all key stakeholders—HEIs, SSCs, BOATs, and State Governments—are essential for smooth and coordinated implementation.
- ✓ CRISP's central and state teams played a vital role in enabling real-time monitoring and consistent communication, ensuring alignment across levels

Photo Gallery

