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Monthly Updates- August 2026

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.

Project Goal

The objective is to bridge the gap between higher education and market-relevant skills by integrating industry expertise into academic programs, thereby enhancing the employability of disadvantaged youth. The initiative aims to reach 1 lakh students across 15 states within two years, with a focus on high-demand sectors such as IT, healthcare, logistics, and agriculture.

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 (SSCs) 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.





Progress this Month

Admissions (AY 2026–27): As of August 2026, the project has recorded 20,400 admissions across 426 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) offering 636 Apprenticeship-Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDPs) across nine states.

Apprenticeship Placement: As of 17 August 2026, 1,651 of the 3,020 eligible students have been successfully placed for apprenticeships. Placement facilitation efforts continued across Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, with a continued focus on strengthening employer engagement and closing placement gaps.

Strategic Partnerships: The project initiated and formalized deeper engagement with logistics-sector partners, including Safe and Secure Logistics (SSL), to address placement gaps and expand apprenticeship opportunities. In parallel, orientation and mock interview sessions were conducted in collaboration with Talerang across multiple colleges to strengthen students' employability and interview readiness.

Faculty Training Programme (FTP): FTPs were successfully completed in Bihar for the BFSI, Digital Electronics, E-Commerce Operations, and Content & Creative Writing AEDPs. FTPs are currently scheduled in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, with programmes in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh expected to be scheduled shortly.

Key Learnings

Student Counseling & Role Awareness: There is a need for stronger communication around the value of field-based work and apprenticeships, particularly to address student preference for traditional desk-based roles. Clearly articulating the career progression, employability benefits, and practical skills gained through apprenticeships can help reduce resistance.

Strategic Pivot Towards Direct Industry Engagement: The experience highlights the need to move beyond a purely SSC-led implementation model towards stronger direct engagement with industry and greater state-level mechanisms for enforcing contractual and apprenticeship commitments.

Distinct Corporate Outreach Function: A key learning is that managing the academic ecosystem (HEIs/colleges) and managing the industry demand side (apprenticeship opportunities) require different approaches.

Managing Expectations Around Field-Based Roles: Student and faculty resistance to field-based and sales-oriented apprenticeship roles remains a persistent challenge.

Strengthening Feedback Loops: Differences were observed between faculty-reported progress and students' actual apprenticeship experiences. Introducing anonymous surveys and structured, periodic student feedback mechanisms will help provide a more accurate assessment of placement quality, identify issues early, and enable timely corrective action.

Way Forward

Prioritize Placements: Immediate focus remains on 100% apprenticeship placement closure for the current batch. All interview scheduling and placement follow-ups are being expedited to conclude by the end of August.

Strengthen Accountability: Formal protocols have been established to report faculty absenteeism and poor student preparation to state commissioners. Shift to Industrial Lead Model: As discussed in the Advisory Board meeting, to move away from a purely SSC-led model, we are formalizing direct agreements with Industry Establishments (e.g., SSL) to ensure better role alignment, clear expectations, and structured apprenticeship support, including accommodations and safe working hours for female students

Admissions in AY 2026-27

S.No.	State	No of HEIs	No of AEDPs	No of Admissions
1	Andhra Pradesh	70	111	0
2	Bihar	7	12	193
3	Himachal Pradesh	28	33	844
4	Karnataka	130	144	3,266
5	Madhya Pradesh	93	165	3,333
6	Maharashtra	35	90	1510
7	Odisha	55	64	2,273
8	Rajasthan	58	125	681
9	Telangana	105	209	7,263
10	Uttar Pradesh	87	118	2,365
Total		**668**	**559**	**21,728**