

Monthly Updates- July 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 31 July 2026, a total of 14,316 students have enrolled across 386 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) offering 559 Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDPs) in nine states.
- The **Apprenticeship Assessment Framework for Retail, BFSI, Logistics, and E-Commerce (Semesters V & VI)** was finalized in alignment with the UGC Guidelines for HEIs Offering AEDPs (March 2025).
- MoUs were signed between **BOPT (ER) and participating colleges in Bihar, and BOAT (NR)** and participating colleges in Uttar Pradesh, strengthening institutional support for apprenticeship implementation.
- The **Piramal Foundation launched the Samruddhi Programme** for female students enrolled in BFSI programmes, creating pathways for industry training and employment across multiple states.
- **AU Small Finance Bank expressed interest in facilitating apprenticeship opportunities** for students in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- The **project reporting system was streamlined by transitioning from narrative reports** to structured tabular formats, enabling more systematic monitoring of progress, challenges, and corrective actions.

Key Learning and Way Forward

- **Madhya Pradesh:** Placement activities continued, with 81 of 981 eligible students placed. Progress was constrained by ongoing university examinations (until 20 August), transportation challenges for field-based BFSI roles, and limited faculty engagement.
- **Maharashtra:** The implementation strategy shifted towards increased engagement with private universities. A total of 838 admissions were recorded across 14 colleges, while 52 colleges reported no admissions.
- **Karnataka:** Admissions exceeded 2,800 students, with 408 students placed. Retail placements were expected to conclude by the end of July.
- **Telangana:** Admissions crossed 5,000 students, and the team initiated industrial mapping to align local industries with apprenticeship opportunities.
- **Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh:** Both states intensified orientation programmes and admission campaigns, targeting over 2,000 admissions each.

Key Learnings

- Achieving timely apprenticeship placements requires continuous monitoring, proactive engagement with institutions, and swift resolution of implementation bottlenecks. Strengthening real-time tracking mechanisms and leveraging student success stories through social media can further improve programme visibility, accountability, and student participation.

Admissions in AY 2026-27

S.No.	State	No of HEIs	No of AEDPs	No of Admissions
1	Bihar	4	4	60
2	Himachal Pradesh	28	33	814
3	Karnataka	77	86	2,488
4	Madhya Pradesh	75	102	1,625
5	Maharashtra	13	27	861
6	Odisha	48	55	1,378
7	Rajasthan	25	34	618
8	Telangana	93	185	5,404
9	Uttar Pradesh	23	33	1,068
Total		386	559	14,316