



# CRISP MAASAM

Monthly Account of Achievements,  
Successes and Memories



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## Forward note



## S M Vijayanand

IAS Retd.

President- CRISP

**CRISP conceptualizes good governance beyond prompt response to the knock on the door, moving on to 'opening the door on hearing the footsteps' and reaching out to the doorsteps of the citizens who are outliers in the development scenario**



# CRISP Compass Navigating a Symphony of Change

CRISP (Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies) is a unique collective of ten former senior civil servants, who believe in activist public policy with focus on the poorest and the weakest human being. Working pro-bono in close partnership with six States and the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) of Government of India, CRISP endeavors to promote good-governance in areas of its core experience and expertise, viz., Rural Livelihoods, Panchayati Raj, Decentralized Planning, Social Security, Health and Education, all within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CRISP conceptualizes good-governance beyond prompt response to the knock on the door, moving on to 'opening the door on hearing the footsteps' and reaching out to the door steps of the citizens who are outliers in the development scenario. CRISP is proud of its highly motivated and competent teams in the States and in its Central Office at Hyderabad. In the States, CRISP Fellows led by able State Leads, take forward the different projects to achieve the intended outcomes.

This is the First Newsletter which encapsulates the activities of the month. Its objectives include widespread dissemination, promotion of cross learning, seeking of suggestions and stimulation of constructive criticism to improve the quality of our work.

Nation Building needs to start from the grassroots adopting the Antyodaya approach of none left behind by promoting participation, enhancing capabilities and enlarging local freedoms.

To this vision, I dedicate this First Newsletter.



Latest Updates from  
Central Office

## CRISP Advisory Board Commends Progress and Initiatives at Recent Policy Meeting

December 5, 2023



In a significant development, the Centre for Research in Schemes and Policy (CRISP) held its Advisory Meeting at its central office in the Financial District of Hyderabad on December 5, 2023.



Before the meeting convened, members of the Advisory Board conducted a field visit to The City College and the Government Degree College for Women in Begumpet. The purpose of the visit was to assess the implementation of the Apprenticeship-embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) initiated by the Government of Telangana, with support from CRISP. The Board engaged in comprehensive discussions with students, college administrators, teachers, and employers during this visit.



Subsequently, the meeting delved into the progress of CRISP State units. The Board was presented with an overview of the organization's activities and action plans for the next six months. Notably, CRISP teams have embarked on 32 projects, with three already successfully completed and others at various stages of progress.



Expressing satisfaction, the Advisory Board acknowledged the release of six publications to date and emphasized the significance of ongoing studies. The Board anticipates that these studies will contribute substantially to the understanding and improvement of existing policies.

The CRISP Advisory Meeting stands as a testament to the organization's commitment to rigorous policy research and its proactive involvement in shaping initiatives that have a direct impact on the community.

## CRISP Advisory Board Launches Two Insightful Books, Showcasing Commitment to Social Sector Analysis

December 5, 2023



CRISP Board Advisory members launched two impactful books during their recent meeting:

The first publication, titled "Thoughts on Social Sector," is a compilation of 16 study reports authored by the CRISP Fellows of the 2023 batch. Covering a spectrum of social sector issues, this collection promises a nuanced perspective on contemporary challenges and potential solutions.

Additionally, the Board presented the "Study of the Social Audit Unit of Karnataka," a two-part series produced by CRISP in collaboration with experts in social audit. This in-depth exploration aims to contribute valuable insights into the functioning of social audit mechanisms, offering a comprehensive analysis. These publications underscore CRISP's commitment to informed policy discussions and reforms in the social sector.

## **CRISP Secretary R Subrahmanyam IAS Addressed Bodoland Territorial Council**

December 13, 2023



CRISP Secretary R Subrahmanyam, IAS, addressed the Bodoland Territorial Council in Kokrajhar, Assam, emphasizing the significance of decentralized planning and social accountability for effective governance. Grateful for the invitation from Chief Pramod Boro and Advisor Sunil Kaul, CRISP looks forward to collaborative efforts with Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) to enhance governance and community well-being.

## **CRISP's association with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan of the Ministry of Education**

December 13, 2023



CRISP is thrilled to announce its collaboration with the Ministry of Education's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. Under this partnership, CRISP will be actively involved with UBA's extensive network of 3600 colleges across the country. This collaboration underscores a shared commitment to rural development, leveraging the strengths of both organizations.

## TCF Founder Ashish Dhawan Inspires Apprenticeship Students in Hyderabad

December 05, 2023



In a remarkable engagement facilitated by CRISP and the Telangana Government, Ashish Dhawan, the Founder of The Convergence Foundation (TCF), recently interacted with students enrolled in Apprenticeship-embedded courses across colleges in Hyderabad. Mr. Dhawan shared invaluable insights and presented the formula for success in life, aptly termed as CASH [Curiosity (read and gather as much current knowledge as possible, especially in the online world) Aspiration (in life will take one forward) Social (interact with diverse people and groups and learn) Hard Work (no substitute for this)].



## IN THIS ISSUE

Transforming Higher Education in Uttar Pradesh

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Karnataka team is making efforts towards multi-dimensional rural development.

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CRISP is working towards transforming education in Andhra Pradesh.

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CRIS.P is promoting excellence in the higher education sector in Telangana.

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The Meghalaya team has been making progress by executing initiatives that align with the values of the SDGs.



## Meghalaya



## NSS Orientation Programme on Sustainable Development Goals

December 4, 2023

The Planning, Investment Promotion & Sustainable Development Department of the Government of Meghalaya, in collaboration with the State NSS Cell Meghalaya, organized a one-day Orientation Programme on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for NSS Students. The event, held on December 4, 2023, aimed to empower NSS Volunteers to become ambassadors of SDGs in Meghalaya.

Dr. Minnette Ireen Passah, the CRISP State Lead Meghalaya, was invited to deliver a lecture on the theme, "Unite to Act for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals." Her insightful session emphasized the importance of NSS Volunteers uniting to act as SDGs Volunteers for a better and more sustainable tomorrow.



## Key Highlights

### • Moral Responsibility

NSS Volunteers were reminded of their moral duty to act passionately and compassionately, contributing to a safer and more sustainable society for future generations.

### • Immediate Action for a Better Future

Emphasis was placed on NSS Volunteers actively creating a better future now, serving as agents for transformative change in Meghalaya.

### • Global Movement for Sustainable Development:

NSS Volunteers were encouraged to join the global movement, recognizing the power in their hands to bring about change through innovative solutions and efforts.

### • Localization of SDGs

NSS Volunteers were urged to facilitate long-term attitude and behavioral changes, contributing to the localization of SDGs in Meghalaya.

### • Data-Driven Action and Social Cohesion

NSS Volunteers were tasked with helping villages create actionable blueprints with measurable targets, contributing to a "data revolution" for effective SDG analysis at the local level. Simultaneously, they play a vital role in championing social cohesion and building trust through their commitment, motivation, and collective actions, leading to sustainable outcomes for the people.

### • Inspiration for Transformation

NSS Volunteers were urged to inspire others and drive the transformation required for SDGs to take root in the community. Their actions and stories as NSS Volunteers can make a significant impact on achieving sustainable development.

In conclusion, the NSS Orientation Programme on Sustainable Development Goals provided a platform for NSS Volunteers to understand their pivotal role in achieving SDGs in Meghalaya. The call to action is clear – to unite, act, and champion sustainable development for a brighter future.





## Project Update Transforming Education in Andhra Pradesh

December 4, 2023

CRISP, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh government, is transforming 1000 government schools to CBSE standards for a world-class learning environment. Key initiatives include a dedicated CBSE Vertical, aligned academic calendars, qualified teacher deployment, and adopting Structured Pedagogy for Grades 8 and above.

Since July 2023, 60 top-performing CBSE teachers have crafted 1,145 lesson plans for Grades 9 and 10, covering English, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Social Science. Pending SCERT approval, these plans will be distributed to CBSE teachers, enhancing the teaching-learning process for improved academic performance starting April 2024. CRISP remains committed to excellence in Andhra Pradesh's education.



## Project Update Effective Operationalisation of Digital Education

Design and development of a Web Portal and Individual Websites for 1000 CBSE Schools



Andhra Pradesh, pioneering CBSE curriculum implementation in government schools, led the way with 1000 CBSE-affiliated schools. Acknowledging the need for streamlined information, CRISP initiated a comprehensive CBSE Web Portal and 1000 individual school websites.

After obtaining approvals for the Functional Requirement Document and Model Websites, CRISP empowered schools to develop and maintain their sites. Capacity-building sessions were conducted, making the websites user-friendly. Headmasters and teachers were oriented on content sourcing and uploading.



With schools actively participating, regular monitoring ensures progress alignment. The project is nearing completion, promising enhanced information dissemination and communication for improved education management in Andhra Pradesh.



### Study of select Digital Education Initiatives CBSE Schools

The Andhra Pradesh government's tech-focused initiatives, including tablets and Interactive Flat Panels (IFP), aim to revolutionize education. CRISP proposes a study to assess the efficacy of tablets in State Government Schools, optimizing the program for improved student learning outcomes.

#### Study Goals:

CRISP's study will analyze student and teacher adoption, engagement, implementation challenges, and the overall educational experience. By field-testing the questionnaire and conducting background work, the study aims to offer key insights for policymakers and education stakeholders.

#### Upcoming Milestone:

Preparations are underway, and the study is set to commence next month. CRISP is dedicated to ensuring technology integration benefits students in Andhra Pradesh. Stay tuned for updates on this transformative initiative!

### Strengthening Foundational Schools and Early Childhood Education

To strengthen foundational learning in Early Childhood Education (ECE) delivery, CRISP addresses challenges by proposing a centralized ECE Portal. With ECE offered through Anganwadi Centres and Foundational Schools, the portal becomes a one-stop destination for all ECE-related matters.

#### Comprehensive Information:

The portal will offer teachers daily lesson plans, activity updates, and a platform to upload children's performance data. Administrators can track enrolment, attendance, and assessments, while parents gain insights into their wards' activities and learning levels.

#### Current Progress:

CRISP has developed the Functional Requirement Document and is in discussions with stakeholders for optimal website development. Design and development are scheduled to begin in the coming months. This initiative aims to enhance monitoring, evaluation, and overall improvement in early childhood education.

## Project Update Strengthening Foundational Schools and Early Childhood Education



Recognizing the crucial role of early childhood education (ECE) in a child's holistic development, Andhra Pradesh is prioritizing the operationalization of Foundational Schools and strengthening early childhood education. Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the state has re-categorized schools and implemented initiatives to enhance the quality of preschool education.

In this context, CRISP is implementing the following -

### 1. Proposal for Creation of Posts for Dedicated Pre-School Teachers in AP

In response to the need for qualified preschool teachers, CRISP proposed the creation of dedicated posts under the Department of School Education. This includes recruitment guidelines, a career pathway for Anganwadi Workers to transition to preschool teachers, and a defined pay scale.

### 2. Time-Use Study of Anganwadi Workers:

CRISP is planning a comprehensive Time-Use Study of Anganwadi Workers in Andhra Pradesh. The study aims to understand their day-to-day roles, responsibilities,

and activities. By documenting time spent on various tasks, the study will provide evidence-based recommendations to restructure duties, ensuring dedicated hours for Early Childhood Education activities. Fieldwork is expected to commence next month.

### 3. Convergence Workshop:

To address challenges and opportunities arising from the establishment of Foundational Schools, CRISP proposed a Vision-Setting and Convergence Workshop. This collaborative initiative aims to bring together departments to establish a common vision, ideate strategies, and ensure effective convergence for the delivery of quality early childhood education.

These initiatives align with the state's commitment to providing a strong foundation for young learners, fostering a conducive learning environment, and promoting effective collaboration between departments. Stay tuned for further updates on these transformative efforts.

## Karnataka



## Empowering Communities through Waste Management Convergence

The synergy between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) presents opportunities for local development and women's empowerment. Solid Waste Management (SWM) stands out as a potential convergence point, addressing waste challenges and creating sustainable livelihoods for SHG women. Karnataka's innovative SWM model, led by Gram Panchayat Level Federations (GPLFs) of SHGs, holds promise for effective waste management and economic empowerment.

### CRISP's Area of Action:

The Karnataka CRISP Team collaborates with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) to enhance the SWM-SHG-GP convergence. Efforts include conducting workshops, drafting enabling Orders and Circulars, and developing an SWM training module. The proposed 'SWM Resource Clusters' project, accepted by RDPR, focuses on Bagalkote and Davanagere districts. It aims to showcase successful SWM enterprise models, foster community ownership, and drive collaboration between SHGs and GPs.

### Project Objectives:

- Empower GPs and GPLFs for efficient waste management.
- Enable women to operate SWM as a sustainable enterprise.
- Bring behavioral transformation within the community.

### Expected Outcomes:

Insights gained from the 'Resource Clusters' project will not only optimize waste management practices within the clusters but will also serve as a guiding light for SWM convergence efforts in other GPs, contributing to a sustainable and empowered future.

## Transforming Gram Panchayat Libraries in Rural Karnataka



Rooted in the Karnataka Libraries Act of 1965, the state boasts a robust network of public libraries, including Gram Panchayat (GP) libraries. In 2019, these libraries shifted to the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), marking a strategic move to empower local governance. Currently, with 5895 GP libraries, these institutions contribute significantly to literacy, education, and cultural enrichment in rural areas.

### Department Initiatives

RDPR actively promotes library services through campaigns like Oduva Belaku (The Light of Reading - focused on reintegrating children into studies post Covid pandemic), Gatti Odu Abhiyana (aimed at nurturing reading habits among students), and Chinnara Chithara Abhiyana (geared towards encouraging creativity and imagination among children through artworks). These programs, addressing post-pandemic learning, reading habits, and creativity among children, have seen substantial participation, with over 4.5 million children enrolled through Oduva Belaku.

### NGO Partnerships

NGOs like Sikshana Foundation, CMCA, Akanksha Trust, and others actively support library services by providing infrastructure, librarian training, and organizing various activities. With support from Sikshana Foundation, 5447 libraries have undergone digitization, equipped with digital tools and accessibility features for differently-abled individuals.

### CRISP's Impactful Evaluations

CRISP conducted concurrent evaluations, studying the impact of NGO interventions and the effectiveness of digitization. The findings led to significant actions, including plans for new libraries, extended hours, and enhanced librarian training. A grant of 264 crore rupees from the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, resulting from a CRISP proposal, supports these initiatives.

### Future Plans:

In the upcoming months, the CRISP team plans a comprehensive outcome evaluation, piloting best practices in library management. This involves establishing Library Management Committees, organizing digital literacy and financial skill development sessions for Self-Help Group members, and conducting constitutional literacy sessions for students.



## Crèches for Children of Working Women in Rural Karnataka (“Koosina Mane”)



CRISP Representative with Zilla Panchayat CEO, Kolar District and trainers at Crèche workers’ training program, Kolar

### Empowering Mothers and Nurturing Futures:

Effective day care is crucial for both mothers and young children, promoting women's employment, child development, and economic growth. Recognizing this, the Government of Karnataka introduced "Koosina Mane," an initiative to pilot 62 crèches in Gram Panchayats, aligning with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department.





**Scale-Up and Budget Allocation:**

With a target of establishing 4000 crèches by the end of the current financial year, Karnataka allocated 40 crores in the annual budget 2023-'24. CRISP, tasked with evaluating the pilot crèches, provided recommendations integrated into the expansion phase.

**Current Progress:**

As of December 22, 2023, 3117 crèches have set up infrastructure, 11,153 workers completed training, and 891 crèches are already operational. Each district is actively involved in worker training, aiming for immediate crèche operations post-training.

**CRISP's Role:**

CRISP will provide valuable field insights on crèche operations, worker training, service demand, convergence between departments, and overall crèche functioning. The team plans to conduct process monitoring, attending weekly review meetings to address challenges and recommend adjustments.

**Anticipated Impact:**

As the initiative unfolds, CRISP's involvement ensures effective implementation, contributing to the success of Koosina Mane in transforming childcare and fostering holistic development in Karnataka.

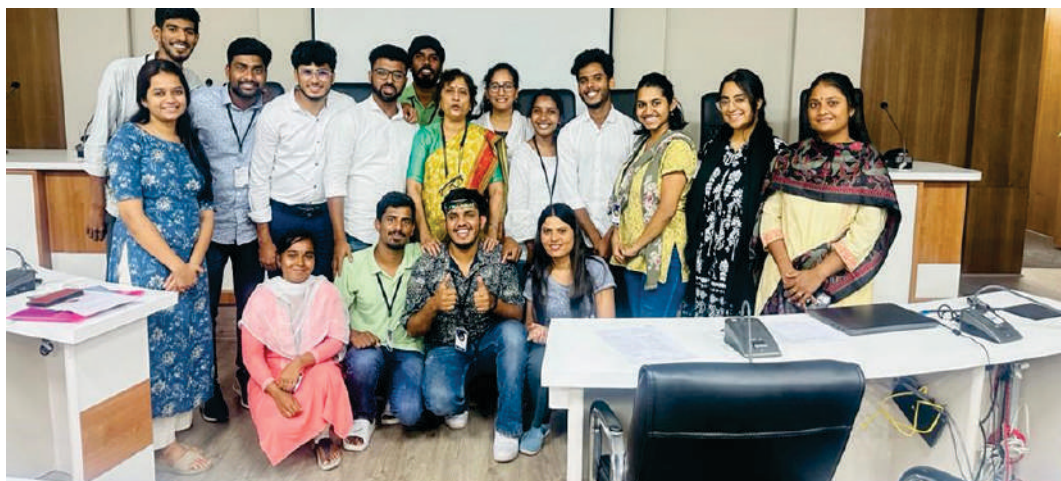


Newly setup crèche at Begur GP (Mysore District)

**CRISP Facilitates Orientation for Mercy Mission Fellows**



The Karnataka CRISP Team led a comprehensive orientation program on December 7th and 8th, 2023, for the third cohort of Mercy Mission Fellows. The 14 selected Fellows are currently undergoing field immersion as part of their Fellowship under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.



Jointly organized by CRISP and department officials, the orientation provided an in-depth overview of the Department's rural initiatives.

Key sessions covered Rural Libraries, Rural Crèches, Solid Waste Management, and the Grama Aroya initiative.

Fellows received guidance on Research Methodology and effective time management strategies tailored for their field immersion.

The Mercy Mission Fellowship Program, born in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, offers a year-long experiential learning initiative within the social sector.

CRISP's orientation serves as a crucial foundation for Fellows, equipping them with insights for impactful roles in the social sector.

During the month-long field immersion, CRISP members remain engaged with Fellows through regular Video Conference calls, providing guidance, answering queries, and trouble shooting issues.

The orientation empowers Fellows to contribute meaningfully to their respective roles, enhancing their skills and knowledge within the social sector.



## Transforming Higher Education in Uttar Pradesh

In January 2023, CRISP embarked on a transformative journey through the PEHLE UP Project, a collaborative initiative with the Higher Education Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh. This month-long report encapsulates our concerted efforts, milestones achieved, and ongoing initiatives in reshaping the higher education landscape.

### Key Achievements:

Our journey began with the identification of 100 colleges for NIRF and 766 institutions for NAAC Accreditation, setting the foundation for impactful change. Collaborating with UPHED, workshops were conducted at four universities, fostering connections with approximately 250 colleges. Our collaborative approach led to the establishment of a State Level Quality Assurance Cell, a pivotal milestone in enhancing educational quality.

### Recognition and Appreciation:

CRISP's persistent efforts gained recognition as NIRF registrations surpassed 100 institutions for the first time in Uttar Pradesh. Our action plan, presented before esteemed officials, garnered appreciation from the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary. This acknowledgment further fueled our commitment to excellence.

### Engagement and Outreach:

The month witnessed extensive engagement with institutions across Gorakhpur, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Varanasi, Lucknow, and Meerut. From resolving curriculum-related issues to conducting doubt-clearing sessions, CRISP played a pivotal role in establishing connections with new Higher Education Institutions.

## Uttar Pradesh



### Strategic Meetings and Conferences:

Notable interactions included meetings with the Vice Chancellor of Gorakhpur University and participation in the Convergence Foundation UP meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary. These encounters provided valuable insights and further strengthened our collaborative approach.

### Ongoing Initiatives and Skill Development:

The initiation of On Job Training (OJT) at Goel Institute of Higher Studies and Sahu Ram Swaroop Mahila College showcased our commitment to practical skill development. The creation of WhatsApp groups for Institute's Innovation Councils and Swayam Local Chapters facilitated real-time communication and support.

### Upcoming Workshops and Future Plans:

As part of our continuous capacity-building efforts, upcoming workshops include "Ways to Strengthen IICs in Non-Technical Colleges" by Dr. Rashmi Singh and a "Swayam-NPTEL Workshop for Local Chapters." These initiatives are geared towards fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the higher education ecosystem.

### Documentation and Reporting:

The development of a comprehensive manual for NIRF SANJEEVI and detailed status reports for Government Colleges and NAAC Accreditation reflects our commitment to thorough assessment and documentation of the educational landscape.

### Conclusion:

As CRISP continues its journey to transform higher education in Uttar Pradesh, the collaborative spirit, achievements, and strategic initiatives showcased in this report underscore our commitment to excellence, innovation, and positive change.



Our activities have been featured in a few news media

## CRISP is Promoting Excellence in higher education sector in Telangana



Telangana

CRISP Telangana team presenting HEIGHTS Action Plan to Secretary, Edn Dept. on 01.08.2023

### 1. Promoting Excellence:

Under the "Promoting Excellence" project, CRISP is actively enhancing the ranking, accreditation, and course curriculum of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Telangana. The government's efforts include academic reforms, governance initiatives, and equity-focused strategies. CRISP identified 100 institutions for NIRF and 400 for NAAC, aligning with the goal to uplift 500 institutions to excellence. Initiatives like free education for girls, low-cost education, and outreach programs aim to improve access and quality in higher education.

### 2. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC):

Collaborating with Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), CRISP identified 230+ potential private unaided colleges for NAAC accreditation. Guidance tools and state-wise NAAC performance reports were developed, supporting the accreditation process.

### 3. Handholding of Colleges for Promoting Excellence:

CRISP's engagement with RBVRR Women's College exemplifies collabo-

rative support. Offering guidance on NAAC processes and NIRF submissions, CRISP anticipates a positive outcome, leveraging the college's experience.

### 4. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

CRISP identified potential colleges for NIRF 2024 ranking and conducted a workshop in collaboration with the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education. Interaction on NIRF parameters, sub-parameters, and strategic analysis empowered 25 colleges. Post-workshop, CRISP provided individualized support and facilitated a dedicated session for RBVRR Women's College.

### 5. Course Assessment:

Assessing courses for relevance and effectiveness is crucial for promoting excellence. CRISP, in collaboration with TSCHE and universities, is evaluating and updating courses based on market requirements. Ten programs, emphasizing undergraduate courses, are being mapped to high-performing universities' curriculum.

### 6. Teacher Assessment & Faculty Development:

CRISP's survey questionnaire to faculty in Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programs (AEDPs) colleges informed

targeted Faculty Development Programs (FDPs). A focused webinar and collaboration with PMMMNMTT Centers in Telangana aim to enhance faculty capacities in 10 identified domains.

### 7. Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programs (AEDPs):

CRISP facilitated the implementation of AEDPs in Telangana, signing MoUs with Sector Skill Councils (SSCs). A total of 1160 students in 26 colleges are part of AEDPs, fostering industry-relevant skills and employability.

### 8. CRISP Advisory Board Visit:

The Advisory Board visited AEDP colleges, expressing appreciation and endorsing the scalability of the initiative. CRISP's plan for upscaling AEDPs in 2024-25 aligns with its commitment to enhancing student employability.



### 9. Research & Innovation:

Encouraging research among Conventional Degree Colleges, CRISP transforms Extension and Outreach activities into research proposals. The Fellowship for Young Faculty for Research Excellence (FYRE) initiative aims to boost faculty research productivity.

### 10. PM USHA Initiative:

CRISP conducted a workshop on applying to Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for universities and government degree colleges. Multiple workshops, guidance documents, and review sessions supported colleges in proposal submissions.

This collaborative journey reflects CRISP's commitment to reshaping Telangana's higher education landscape through strategic initiatives, innovative programs, and continuous support to institutions.