



Industry Meet 2026



JANUARY 20

Organised by-
Vocational Education Department
National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
Block-A-24/25, Sector-62, Noida, U.P

REPORT ON INDUSTRY MEET-2026 IN COLLABORATION WITH LAGHU UDYOG BHARATI (LUB) *(Confluence of Skill, Industry & Employment)*

Date of Programme: 20 January, 2026

Venue: NIOS Headquarters, Noida

“Industry Meet 2026-emerged as a milestone initiative in strengthening industry linkage and aligning vocational education with industry needs.”

Participation and Dignitaries

The Industry Meet witnessed participation from representatives of various MSME sectors. The programme was graced by the presence of the following distinguished dignitaries:

Key Functionaries

- Prof. Akhilesh Mishra Ji – Chairman, NIOS
- Dr. T.N. Giri Ji – Director (Vocational), NIOS

Chief Guests

Shri Kripashankar ji	Kshetriya Prachar Pramukh, RSS
Shri Omprakash Gupta ji	National Gen. Secretary, LUB
Shri Rakesh Dwivedi Ji	District Labour Commissioner, GB Nagar
Shri Brajesh Kumar Ji	Deputy Director, Factories

Honorable Guests

Shri Pawan Singhal Ji	Meerut Sambhag President, LUB
Shri Raman Chawla ji	State Treasurer, LUB

1. Introduction

The Vocational Education Department (VED) of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) organised an Industry Meet on 20 January 2026 at the NIOS Headquarters, Noida, in collaboration with Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB). The Industry Meet was conceptualised as a strategic initiative to strengthen **industry–education linkage** by creating a structured and sustainable interface between vocational education and the MSME ecosystem.

The programme aimed at aligning vocational education with real-time industry requirements by fostering collaboration in curriculum development, skill training, assessment, certification and workforce upskilling. The initiative was in consonance with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, National Credit Framework (NCrF), Skill India Mission and NSQF, emphasising demand-driven, flexible and learner-centric education pathways.

2. About National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is the largest open schooling system in the world. NIOS is mandated to provide inclusive, flexible and quality education through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and vocational programmes. Through its Vocational Education Department, NIOS offers NSQF-aligned vocational courses aimed at enhancing employability, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning opportunities for learners across the country.

VED, NIOS plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between education and industry by developing demand-driven vocational courses, facilitating industry partnerships, and promoting skill certification and recognition for both fresh learners and experienced workforce.

3. About Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB)

Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) is a national-level organisation representing the interests of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across diverse sectors. LUB works actively to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen MSMEs, and facilitate skill development and capacity building within the industry ecosystem.

The collaboration with LUB provided NIOS an opportunity to directly engage with a wide spectrum of MSME representatives and understand emerging skill requirements, sector-specific challenges, and opportunities for workforce development.

4. Objectives of the Industry Meet

The key objectives of the Industry Meet are:

- **To strengthen industry–education linkage through institutional collaboration-** The Industry Meet aimed to establish a formal mechanism for collaboration between NIOS and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) to ensure continuous engagement between vocational education providers and industry stakeholders, particularly MSMEs.
- **To obtain structured industry inputs for vocational course development and updation-** Industry representatives were invited to share sector-specific skill requirements and emerging trends to support the review, updation and development of NSQF-aligned vocational courses, ensuring industry relevance and employability.
- **To explore collaboration in training, assessment and certification-**The Meet provided a platform to discuss industry participation in training delivery, on-the-job training, apprenticeship, assessment and certification of learners and workforce through NIOS mechanisms.
- **To promote Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)-**A key objective was to facilitate formal recognition and certification of experienced workers who possess practical skills acquired through years of work but lack formal qualifications.
- **To enhance employability and workforce mobility-**Through industry-linked certification, the initiative aimed to enable vertical and horizontal mobility of the workforce, thereby supporting career progression, productivity and lifelong learning.



5. Inaugural Session

The Industry Meet commenced with an inaugural session held at NIOS Headquarters. The session formally opened with a welcome address by the Director of the Vocational Education Department, NIOS, wherein the objective of the meet and the significance of industry-academia collaboration were highlighted. The dignitaries from NIOS and LUB were introduced, and the role of vocational education in enhancing employability, skill development, and industry-relevant learning was emphasized. The signing of the Letter of Intent (LoI) between NIOS and LUB marked a significant milestone in strengthening collaborative efforts for curriculum development, training support, and industry linkage.



As a mark of respect and appreciation, Prof. Akhilesh Mishra (Chairman of NIOS), Col. Shakeel Ahmad (Secretary, NIOS), Dr. Rajiv Kumar Singh (Director Academic, NIOS) and Sh. S. Vijaya Kumar (Director SSS, NIOS), esteemed dignitaries and industry representatives from LUB were felicitated by NIOS. The felicitation ceremony acknowledged their valuable support, guidance, and commitment towards fostering industry collaboration in vocational education. Mementos/flower pots were presented to



the dignitaries as a token of gratitude for their active participation and contribution to the discussions. The gesture reflected NIOS's appreciation for the industry's role in enhancing the quality and relevance of vocational programmes.

6. Presentation by Vocational Education Department

During the programme, **Ms. Anitha Nair, Deputy Director**, delivered a comprehensive presentation on behalf of the Vocational Education Department. The presentation covered the mandate and vision of VED, current vocational education initiatives, and proposed future plans. The presentation also highlighted how NIOS vocational programmes are aligned with NSQF, NCrF and industry requirements, and how industry participation can strengthen curriculum relevance, training quality and learner outcomes. The presentation generated meaningful discussions and positive feedback from industry participants.



7. Agenda-based Deliberations and Collaboration

The deliberations during the Industry Meet were conducted and focused on strengthening **industry-education linkage** through practical and implementable collaboration models. The discussions highlighted the importance of industry participation at every stage of the vocational education lifecycle. Discussions were held on industry support for establishing Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs) at industry premises, learner mobilisation, and creation or upgradation of training infrastructure.



Key areas of collaboration identified during the deliberations included:

- **Utilisation of industry premises as skill training centres**-MSME units expressed willingness to function as NIOS accredited centres for providing hands-on training and exposure to real work environments.



- **Assessment, certification and RPL through NIOS**-Industry-supported assessment and certification mechanisms were discussed to validate skills of both fresh learners and experienced workers.
- **Formalisation of collaboration through LOI**-As a significant outcome, a Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed between NIOS and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB), formalising mutual commitment towards strengthening industry–education linkage in vocational education and skill development.

8. Industry Willingness and Expected Outcomes

Industry representatives from Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) expressed strong willingness to actively participate in the NIOS vocational education ecosystem. Their expectations and commitments reflected a shared vision of strengthening industry–education linkage for mutual benefit. LUB also expressed willingness to support pilot programmes and regional skill initiatives in collaboration with NIOS.

Industry representatives agreed to:

- Support skill training and certification of their workforce through NIOS
- Facilitate Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for experienced workers
- Encourage workforce participation in NSQF-aligned vocational courses
- Enable certification-based career progression and workforce mobility

This collaboration is expected to significantly benefit MSME workers by providing them formal recognition, improving employability, and enhancing opportunities for career advancement, while simultaneously addressing industry skill gaps.

9. Signing of Letter of Intent (LoI) to Strengthen Industry–Education Linkages

As a significant outcome of the Industry Meet, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) on 20 January 2026 at NIOS Headquarters, Noida. The signing of the LoI marks an important milestone in strengthening industry–education linkages for promoting skill development, vocational training and workforce readiness.

The LoI was signed under the guidance and leadership of **Prof. Akhilesh Mishra, Hon’ble Chairman, NIOS**, and **Shri Kripashankar Ji, Social Worker and Chairman, Prerna** reflecting a shared commitment towards aligning vocational education with the evolving skill requirements of industry, particularly the MSME sector.

The initiative has been conceptualised and will be implemented under the leadership of **Dr. T. N. Giri, Director (Vocational Education), NIOS**, whose focused efforts towards strengthening industry linkages, promoting learner-centric vocational education and integrating industry participation into vocational programmes have been instrumental in shaping this collaboration.

The LoI signing took place during the Industry Meet jointly organised by NIOS and Laghu Udyog Bharati, in the presence of senior officials of NIOS and representatives from various industry sectors. The occasion provided a strong platform for reaffirming the shared vision of both organisations to work collaboratively in the domain of vocational education and skill development.

Through this LoI, NIOS and Laghu Udyog Bharati expressed their mutual intent to explore structured collaboration in areas such as industry-supported skill training, curriculum development, assessment and certification, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and utilisation of industry infrastructure for hands-on training. The partnership aims to ensure that vocational education remains industry-relevant, demand-driven and responsive to workforce needs.

Speaking on the occasion, **Prof. Akhilesh Mishra, Hon'ble Chairman, NIOS**, expressed optimism that the collaboration would significantly enhance workforce readiness and employability of NIOS vocational learners, while also contributing to the upskilling and academic enhancement of the existing employed workforce through formal certification and recognition.



10. Way Forward

The Industry Meet 2026 concluded with a shared consensus on adopting a structured and action-oriented roadmap to translate deliberations into measurable outcomes. In view of the discussions and commitments made during the meet, the following way forward was agreed upon by NIOS and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB):

1. Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) will provide NIOS with a consolidated list of industries/MSMEs willing to function as **Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs)** of NIOS. These industry premises will be explored for utilisation as skill training centres, enabling hands-on, work-based learning in real industrial environments.
2. Industries associated with LUB will facilitate enrolment of their existing workforce and new entrants as NIOS vocational learners. Workers possessing prior skills and experience will be encouraged to undergo Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or appropriate vocational courses, leading to formal certification and recognition as skilled workers under NSQF-aligned programmes.
3. LUB and its member industries will actively contribute to curriculum design, review, and periodic updation of vocational courses by providing sector-specific inputs, emerging skill requirements, and feedback based on industry practices.
4. Joint awareness programmes, orientation sessions, and workshops will be organised by NIOS and LUB to sensitise industries and workers about NIOS vocational courses, AVI accreditation, certification benefits, and career pathways.
5. NIOS and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) will explore expansion of this collaborative initiative at the national level by organising similar industry interface meetings across other regions of the country. This will facilitate wider industry participation, strengthen regional skill ecosystems, and ensure PAN India outreach of demand-driven vocational education and training programmes.