

## DIRECTOR DESK

As you all know, Board of Practical Training, Eastern Region, is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and has played a crucial role in facilitating Apprenticeship Training to the freshly passed-out graduate & diploma engineers, graduates & diploma holders in general streams such as B.A, B.Sc., B.Com etc. in different industries and establishments across 32+ emerging sectors. This has played a crucial role in enhancing the skill component of the students in practical terms.

Though this scheme is based on stipendiary share of Govt. of India, the prime motive behind is to develop the skill of the fresh passed-out eligible students who did not undergo any industrial exposure during course of graduation. The passed-out students should come forward and avail the facilities of this scheme to make themselves more employable in the job market. The one-year training as provided under this scheme is equivalent to one year working experience, enabling them to have a better entry into different jobs especially the Govt. ones. The revision in the stipend rate is also under the active consideration of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and is expected to bring encouragement amongst the students in a massive way.

Being a country of enormous young population, Govt. of India has come up with a 'Skill Development Mission' to take the advantage of demographic dividend to unleash a population of talented skilled manpower. The role of BOPT(ER), Kolkata, in this backdrop has increased a lot and it has diversified its activities in this emerging context. The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) web portal has come into full force and the entire activities of enrolment of Students, Institutions and Industries have been made online exclusively. Also, the selection and engagement of enrolled students for Apprenticeship Training and reimbursement of stipend by the establishments has also become an exclusive online activity. This NATS portal will work as an effective virtual platform in facilitating the implementation of Apprentices Act in the Eastern Region.

BOPT has set an aspiring target for 2025-26 comprising of following verticals :

1. Placement of 150K plus Apprentices
2. AI – Apprenticeship 25K plus
3. Assessment and Creditization of NATS to 3K plus Apprentices
4. AEDP Implementation in 50 plus courses

In this year too, we have developed an 'Action Plan and Programme Calendar, April 2025 – March 2026' to disseminate our plan and activities throughout the year. The activities that will be performed in the coming days have been given in detail in this Programme Calendar so that the interested students, establishments and our TPA partners also involve themselves in this endeavour.

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