

### N.4: TASAR activities during COVID-19 pandemic

RRCAT has initiated a Trade Apprenticeship Scheme at RRCAT (TASAR) under National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to professionally train ITI pass youngsters by providing them access to modern engineering infrastructure under the guidance of experienced and knowledgeable technocrats of RRCAT. This scheme also provides semi-skilled technical manpower to the organisation.



*Apprentices being trained in electrical maintenance.*

COVID-19 pandemic brought a brief gap in the training scheme. RRCAT continued to pay stipend to the apprentices to support them during the difficult times. The training of second batch, which was about to be completed when the lockdown was announced in March 2020, was completed soon after the lockdown was lifted. The training of third batch has now started and it is progressing in full scale. The team of young technocrats constituting TASAR Internal Assessment Sub-Committee (TIAS) has taken care of the apprentices to safeguard them against pandemic. All apprentices have been provided with high-quality masks and hand sanitizer spray bottles to help them in exercising COVID-19 related precautions.

There were some heart-warming news from previous TASAR batches. Over ten apprentices of first batch have been placed in premier national organisations such as BARC, RRCAT, NPCIL, IGCAR, ISRO, and Railways. Four apprentices of the second batch have made it to top ten merit list of Madhya Pradesh in 110<sup>th</sup> All India Trade Test. The details are given in the table below:

*Madhya Pradesh state rank holders from the second TASAR batch.*

Name	Trade	State Rank	Trade Rank
Neeraj Kumar	Turner	1	1
Mohit Saini	Electrician	2	1
Anuj Sharma	Electroplater	7	1
Tarun kumar	Fitter	9	1

The state rank holders of the second TASAR batch have also topped their respective trades. Such achievements during the fledgling stages of the TASAR are results of combined efforts of TASAR coordination committee, TASAR faculty members, TASAR internal assessment sub-committee, RRCAT technocrats and the apprentices. They have played a crucial role in proving TASAR's worth in making swift progress towards meeting the noble objective of NAPS of providing excellent technical manpower for nation building.

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### N.5: Industrial and radiation safety in RRCAT

*Industrial safety:* Fire & Safety Cell strives to ensure that safe working environment prevails in RRCAT and everyone in the Centre adheres to safe work practices and complies with all administrative controls. To meet the above objective, safety inspections are carried out at various levels, the purpose of which is to find and remove possible hazards and unsafe practices in jobs to avoid accidents. Safety review sub-committees for the five groups of RRCAT regularly visit various laboratories and buildings of RRCAT to monitor, review and ensure implementation of various safety measures. Committees observe the industrial safety aspects and gives recommendations to improve safety, wherever necessary. These safety inspections are carried out in the presence of Building Safety Officer (BSO) and deputy BSO of the respective buildings, and the reports are submitted to the Apex Safety Committee (ASC).

Internal Safety Inspection Committee for laser ensured that everyone using laser was aware of the risks; watches and other jewelries were not allowed in the laboratory; all non-optical objects that were close to the optical beam had a matt finish in order to prevent specular reflections; adequate eye protection was provided to everyone in the room if there was a significant risk of eye injury; alignment of beams and optical components were performed at a reduced beam power wherever possible.

Similarly, Internal Safety Inspection Team for Accelerator ensured that radiation fields and other hazardous factors in accessible areas were within the relevant regulatory stipulated limits; no one remained trapped or was present inside the areas with high radiation fields during operation while the primary particle beam was switched on; there was protection against noxious fumes and gases that might be formed during the accelerator beam operation or in radiation processing of materials; an efficient fire protection system was in place; safety was adequately taken care of against all other conventional and industrial hazards, and non-ionizing radiation, which might arise from operation in various subsystems in the facility. The fire protection system was checked to ensure that it was working efficiently and there was adequate protection against noxious fumes and gases.