Apprenticeships in AI under NATS

The **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme** is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Education which aims to bridge the employability gap by facilitating on-the-job training of fresh graduates, diploma holders and students of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes.

The scheme provides 6 months to 1 year of Apprenticeship training in various sectors, along with a monthly stipend. The minimum prescribed stipend for graduates and diploma holders is Rs 9,000 and Rs 8,000 per month. Government of India shares 50% of the minimum stipend.

The Apprentices Act, 1961 mandates every establishment with thirty or more employees to hire apprentices in the range of 2.5 – 15% of their total employee strength. The scheme is being implemented by four regional Boards of Apprenticeship / Practical Training (BOAT / BOPT) at Kanpur, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai which are autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Education.

To meet the rising demand for AI talent, the Ministry is launching the **AI Apprenticeship Programme** which will provide structured on-the-job training to graduates and diploma holders who wish to acquire proficiency across various fields like Data Science, Machine Learning, Application Development, Prompt Engineering, etc.

Under this programme, the Ministry is requesting establishments that are using or developing AI/ML technologies to offer Apprenticeships under NATS. These establishments may fall under two broad categories.

1. Establishments that are developing core AI/ML technology and applications to address specific challenges
2. Establishments that leverage AI to solve problems that are specific to their sector like Agriculture, Healthcare, Logistics, etc.

Establishments from emerging sectors who are using AI are encouraged to enroll for the scheme. These sectors may include but not be limited to the following indicative list -

1. Energy
2. AgriTech
3. Logistics
4. Healthcare & Bioelectronics
5. Manufacturing and Industry 4.0
6. Banking, Financial Services and Insurance
7. Digital and Creative Economy
8. AI in Engineering

Interested establishments can contact their regional BOAT / BOPT office and register on the NATS portal which they can use for all apprenticeship related activities like registration, posting of advertisements for apprenticeship, student selection, contract creation, progress tracking, etc.

The establishments will work with BOPT / BOPT in finalizing the Apprenticeship Plan which will contain Learning Outcomes and Competencies. They will assess the apprentice's performance against Learning Outcomes during the training period. The progress made by apprentices will be uploaded by establishments in the Record of Progress (RoP) module on the NATS portal. At the end of one year of training, a Certificate of Proficiency will be issued to the apprentice.