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PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEME FOR MENTORING YOUNG AUTHORS

YUVA (YOUNG, UPCOMING AND VERSATILE AUTHORS)

"I call upon our young friends to write about our freedom fighters, events associated with them & tales of valour during freedom struggle from their areas."

31 January 2021, Mann Ki Baat

INTRODUCTION

National Education Policy 2020 has emphasised on the empowerment of the young minds and creating a learning eco-system that can make the young readers/learners ready for leadership roles in the future world. In this context, a national scheme for mentoring generations of young authors will go a long way in laying the foundation of the future leaders of the creative world. This is an entirely new concept for a national level scheme.

The scheme has been conceptualised on the premise that the twenty-first century India needs to groom a generation of young authors to create ambassadors of Indian literature. In view of the fact that our country is ranked third in the arena of book publishing and we have a treasure trove of indigenous literature, India must project it at the global stage.

India tops the chart in youth population being 65% of the total, waiting to be tapped for capacity building and thereby nation building. With the express purpose of mentoring a new generation of young creative writers, there is imminent requirement to take initiatives at highest level, under the national level visionary flagship programme of the Prime Minister viz. **Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat**.

The scheme will help to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system. Besides, the scheme will also provide a window to the aspiring youth to articulate themselves in their mother tongue and represent India at the global/international forum.

FOCUS AREAS:

This scheme is part of the India@75 Project in order to bring to fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in National Movement and other related themes in an innovative and creative manner.

CONCEPT

This Scheme will be a social investment for a knowledge-based society, percolating the idea of appreciation of literature and language among the young creative minds. Through mentoring of the creative skills of young authors, this scheme will provide them training towards cultural and literary perspectives.

While preparing them as authors and creative leaders of the future, this scheme will ensure to bring to centre stage the rich heritage of accumulated ancient Indian wisdom.

PROPOSAL

This proposal of mentorship of young authors is in tune with PM's vision of **Global Citizen** that needs to be launched **to train young and budding authors of below 30 years** in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.

IMPLEMENTATION & EXECUTION

The **National Book Trust, India** (under BP Division, Ministry of Education, GOI) as the Implementing Agency will ensure phase-wise execution of the Scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship.

Selection procedure of Young Authors

- A total of 75 authors will be selected through an All India Contest to be conducted through <https://www.nbtindia.gov.in/>
- The selection will be made by a Committee to be constituted by NBT.
- The Scheme has been launched on 29 May 2021.
- The Contest Period will be 1st June – 31st July 2021.
- The contestants will be asked to submit a manuscript of 5000 words to judge their suitability to develop as a proper book under the Mentorship Scheme.
- The names of selected authors will be announced on the occasion of Independence Day on 15th August 2021.
- Based on mentorship, the selected authors will prepare manuscripts for final selection under the guidance of the nominated mentors, and the entries of the winners will be readied for publication by 15th December 2021.
- The published books may be launched on 12th January 2022 on YUVA DIVAS or the National Youth Day.

Phase I – Training (3 months)

- The National Book Trust, India will organise a Two-Week Writers' Online Programme for the selected candidates.
- During which the young authors will be trained by two eminent authors/mentors from NBT's panel of accomplished authors and writers.
- In addition, eminent authors/mentors under NBT's Advisory Panel from various languages will mentor and guide them on how to exercise their literary skills.
- After the completion of the two-week writers' Online Programme, the authors will be trained for 2-Weeks at various On-line/On-site National Camps organised by NBT in various states of India to give them an enriching experience to various literary cultures of the States.
- This scheme will be exclusively launched on virtual platform during 2021-2022.
- The eco-system of publishing--how a content is created, authors are mentored, the editorial processes that take place, literary agents spot creative talent would be an integral aspect of the programme.

PHASE II – Promotion (3 months)

- The authors will get to expand their understanding and hone their skills through interaction at various international events such as Literary Festivals, Book Fairs virtual Book Fair, Cultural Exchange Programmes, etc.
- At literary festivals, the exposure gained from connecting with other young authors as well as industry professionals will let them broaden their horizons.
- At the end of training and mentorship **A consolidated scholarship of Rs. 50, 000 per month for a period of six months (50,000 x 6 = Rs. 3 Lakh) per author will be paid under the Mentorship Scheme.** A book or a series of books written by the young authors will be published by NBT, India as the outcome of the mentorship programme.
- **A royalty of 10% will be payable to the authors on successful publications of their books at the end of the Mentorship Program.**
- Their books thus published will be translated into other Indian languages ensuring the exchange of culture and literature between

different states of India and thereby promoting **Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat**.

- They will also be given a platform to promote their books and also to propagate the Reading and Writing culture on a national scale.

OUTCOME OF THE SCHEME

This scheme will ensure creating a pool of authors in Indian languages as well as English who are ready to express themselves and project India on any international platform, as well as it will help in projecting Indian culture and literature globally. The young authors so mentored shall become proficient in writing in various genres like fiction, non-fiction, travelogues, memoirs, drama, poetry and so on.

It will make sure to bring reading and authorship as a preferred profession at par with other job options, making the youth of India take reading and knowledge as an integral part of their grooming up years. In addition, it will bring a positive psychological push to the young minds given the impact and effect of the recent pandemic on mental health of the youth.

India being the third largest publisher of books in the world, this scheme will give a boost to the Indian publishing industry, by bringing in new generation of authors writing for national and international audience.

This programme will thereby be in tune with PM's vision of **Global Citizen** and **Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat** and establish India as a **Vishwa Guru**.