

Prime Minister's Young Authors Mentorship Scheme (YUVA) Scheme

Empowering Young Writers for a Global Stage

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----Introduction

The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** and the **National Book Trust (NBT) of India** launched the **third edition** of the **Prime Minister's Young Authors Mentorship Scheme**, known as **YUVA 3.0**, on **March 11, 2025**. The initiative aims to nurture **young writers under 30** years of age, providing them with **mentorship** and **exposure** to hone their creative writing skills. YUVA 3.0 builds upon the success of its predecessors, YUVA 1.0 and YUVA 2.0, continuing the government's commitment to **fostering literary talent** and **promoting reading, writing, and book culture** in India. The scheme aligns with the vision of **Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat**, encouraging the **documentation** and **dissemination** of India's rich cultural heritage and knowledge.

YUVA 3.0: Features and Objectives

Theme and Focus

The Themes of PM-YUVA 3.0 are: **Contribution of Indian Diaspora in Nation Building; Indian Knowledge System; and Makers of Modern India (1950-2025)**. The scheme will help to develop a stream of writers who can write on various facets of India encompassing the past, present and future. Besides, the scheme will also provide a window to the aspiring youth to articulate themselves and present a comprehensive outlook of contribution of Indians across fields in ancient and present times.



TIMELINE

DURATION OF ALL INDIA CONTEST	11 March – 10 April 2025
EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	12 April -12 May 2025
MEETING OF NATIONAL JURY	20 May 2025
ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS	31 May 2025
MENTORSHIP DURATION	1 June – 1 November 2025
NATIONAL CAMP	New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 (10 to 18 January 2026)
PUBLICATION OF FIRST SET OF BOOKS	By 31 March 2026

Selection Process

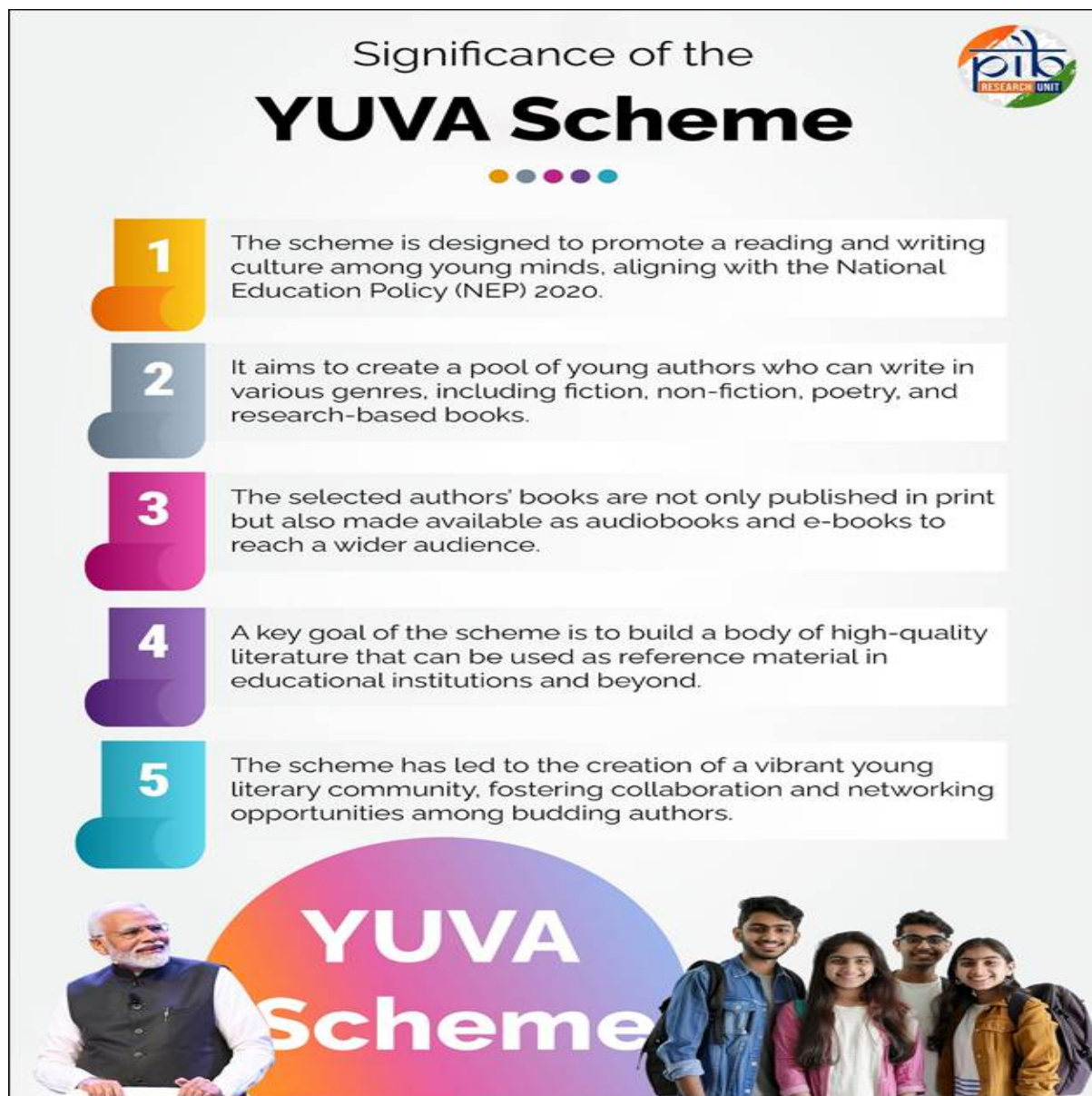
- The scheme invites applications from aspiring writers through **MyGov India's online portal**.
- A competitive process shortlists **50 young authors** based on a well-defined evaluation criterion.
- The **National Book Trust (NBT)** will constitute the selection committee.
- Applicants are required to submit a **book proposal** of **10,000** words, which is then reviewed by a panel.
- The shortlisted candidates undergo a **multi-stage selection process** before the final selection.

Mentorship and Support

- Selected authors receive a **mentorship** program spanning **six months**.
- The authors undergo **workshops, interactions** with mentors, and **exposure** to India's literary ecosystem.
- They receive **financial assistance of ₹50,000 per month** for six months.
- Their works are **published** and **promoted** by the NBT in multiple languages.
- Under the mentorship, a **National Camp** will be held for the PM-YUVA 3.0 Authors during the **New Delhi World Book Fair 2026**.
- Selected authors get the opportunity to present their work at **literary festivals** and **international forums**.

Background of the YUVA Scheme

National Education Policy 2020 has emphasized 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. India is considered to be a '**young country**' because **66%** of its total population are young and can be tapped for capacity and nation building. In this context, a national scheme for mentoring generations of young authors has proven to be a significant stepping stone for laying the **foundation of the future leaders** of the creative world. This scheme has been conceptualised on the premise that the 21st century India needs to groom a generation of **young authors** to create **ambassadors of Indian literature** and world view. 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. The **first** mentorship scheme was launched on **31st May 2021**, then subsequently in **October 2022** and now in **March 2025**.



YUVA 2.0: Expansion and Achievements

Launched in **October 2022**, YUVA 2.0 built upon the foundation of YUVA 1.0 with a renewed focus on **‘Democracy’** as the core theme. The scheme aimed to foster young writers’ engagement with **India’s democratic values, traditions, and governance structures**.

Theme and Vision

The Theme of PM-YUVA 2.0 was **Democracy (Institutions, Events, People, and Constitutional Values)**. The scheme helped in developing a stream of writers who can write on various facets of Democracy in India encompassing the past, present and future. Besides, the scheme also provided a window to the aspiring youth to articulate themselves and present a comprehensive outlook of Indian democratic values at domestic as well as international platforms.

Selection and Implementation

- The competition received an **overwhelming response**, with a diverse pool of participants from across the country.
- **75 authors** were selected through a competitive process. They were also required to submit a book proposal of 10,000 words.
- The **mentorship program** included interaction with constitutional experts, historians, and renowned

authors.

- **Special training sessions** were held to enhance research skills, language proficiency, and storytelling techniques.

Outcomes and Impact

- The **Union Minister for Education** launched **41 new books** under the PM YUVA 2.0 scheme at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 in February.
- **Several books** were **published** in multiple Indian languages, making them accessible to a broad readership.
- Young authors gained **national and international recognition**, participating in events like the **World Book Fair** and literary forums.
- Many participants had their books included in **academic** and **government libraries** for research and reference.
- Some authors had the opportunity to meet and interact with **policymakers** and **scholars**, further enriching their perspectives.

YUVA 1.0: Inception and Legacy

The **inaugural edition**, YUVA 1.0, was launched in **May 2021** as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. The scheme aimed to empower young authors and provide them a platform to express their perspectives on **India's history and contemporary narratives**.

Theme and Inspiration

The theme was **National Movement of India** with focus on **Unsung Heroes**; Little known facts about the Freedom Struggle; Role of various places in National Movement; Entries bringing out new perspectives related to **political, cultural, economic, or science related aspects of national movement** etc. as part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**. This scheme helped to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system.

Selection and Implementation

- The contestants were asked to submit a **manuscript of 5000 words**.
- **75 young authors** were selected, representing diverse linguistic and regional backgrounds.
- The selection was made by a committee constituted by **National Book Trust (NBT)**.
- **Mentorship** included training in writing, editing, and publishing processes.
- **Special sessions** were conducted by eminent historians, journalists, and literary figures.
- A consolidated **scholarship of Rs.50,000 per month** for a period of **six months per author** will be paid under the Mentorship Scheme.

Outcomes and Impact

- The **results** were announced on **25.12.2021**.
- The books produced under YUVA 1.0 were **translated** into multiple Indian languages, enhancing their reach.
- The initiative contributed to **India's literary heritage**, encouraging young voices to document historical narratives.
- Several young authors **gained recognition**, contributing to mainstream literature and academic discussions.
- The scheme established a **strong foundation** for young writers, many of whom went on to publish

additional books independently.

- **10% royalty** is being paid by NBT on publication and sale of the books.

Conclusion

The YUVA scheme, in its three editions, has played a crucial role in **nurturing young literary talent** in India. As the program continues to evolve, it reinforces **India's commitment to promoting creative expression, multilingual literary heritage, and a culture of reading and writing among the youth**. The impact of the scheme is evident in the **success stories of young authors** whose voices have been amplified at both national and international levels. With **continued support and innovation**, the YUVA scheme will remain a **cornerstone of India's literary and cultural renaissance**.

References

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