



The Federation of
Publishers & Booksellers Associations in India

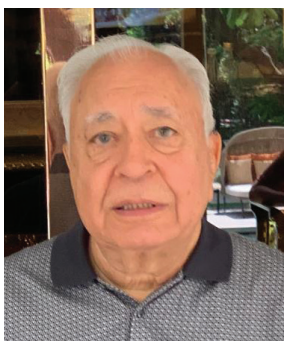
FPBAI Newsletter

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STARTUP ECOSYSTEM AND THE PUBLISHING

Dear Friends,



I have an experience of more than five decades in the publishing industry and I have always endeavoured to put my best efforts to use my experience for the promotion of the book and the publishing industry in every possible manner. I

would like to highlight India's startup ecosystem, which provides an excellent opportunity for the new generation to grow and succeed.

In just a decade, the startup ecosystem in India has grown into one of the world's most dynamic and rapidly expanding startup ecosystems. From around 500 government-recognised startups in 2016, the numbers have surged to over 1.59 lakh in January 15, 2025. Thus India has become the world's third largest startup hub, after the United State and the United Kingdom.

The system is not just the result of entrepreneurial spirit but also the outcome of a powerful convergence of efforts, pushed through proactive governmental policies designed to bring out the best results.

Launched in the year 2016, the 'Startup India' initiative has provided a structured framework that has catalysed the entrepreneurial spirit. The core objective of the startup programme is to cultivate a startup culture, build a robust and inclusive ecosystem, and fundamentally convert

India into a country of 'job creators' instead of 'job seekers'. However, in the field of publishing and bookselling, some severe hurdles stand in the way of the youth who want to make it their profession.

Friends, as you all know, the main sources of the bread-and-butter of Indian publishers are libraries, government institutes, universities, etc. All government institutes purchase books in bulk by inviting tenders, the conditions of which are not only harsh but also violate the spirit of the startup ecosystem. Some of the unsuitable requirements demanded by the libraries are – the bidders should submit a copy of a single order of a minimum ₹50 lakh which they have received in the past; they should have a turnover of ₹2 crore over the past 3 years; an EMD of ₹5 lakh; and a security deposit of over ₹5 lakh. Under these arbitrary conditions, how can we bring in dynamic, highly qualified and proactive youngsters into the noble profession of publishing?

I would therefore draw your kind attention and thoughts towards this serious subject and request you to suggest remedies that can help in the inclusion of newcomers into the trade, which is the need of the hour.

S.K. Ghai
President

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GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE™**CONVERSION RATES EFFECTIVE April 01, 2025**

(The rates are suggestive and not mandatory)
(NEW RATES MARKED WITH ASTERISK):

1. Australian Dollar	@ Rs. 57.00*
2. Canadian Dollar	@ Rs. 63.10*
3. British Pound Sterling	@ Rs. 116.70*
4. Japanese Yen per 100	@ Rs. 60.70*
5. Singapore Dollar	@ Rs. 67.80*
6. Swedish Kroner/ Norwegian Kroner	@ Rs. 08.40*
7. Swiss Franc	@ Rs. 102.40*
8. U.S. Dollar	@ Rs. 90.20*
9. Euro	@ Rs. 97.70*

CONVERSION RATES EFFECTIVE March 01, 2025

(The rates are suggestive and not mandatory)
(NEW RATES MARKED WITH ASTERISK):

1. Australian Dollar	@ Rs. 57.30*
2. Canadian Dollar	@ Rs. 63.60*
3. British Pound Sterling	@ Rs. 113.80*
4. Japanese Yen per 100	@ Rs. 60.00*
5. Singapore Dollar	@ Rs. 67.50*
6. Swedish Kroner/ Norwegian Kroner	@ Rs. 08.10*
7. Swiss Franc	@ Rs. 100.60*
8. U.S. Dollar	@ Rs. 90.60*
9. Euro	@ Rs. 94.70*

CONVERSION RATES EFFECTIVE February 01, 2025

(The rates are suggestive and not mandatory)
(NEW RATES MARKED WITH ASTERISK):

1. Australian Dollar	@ Rs. 56.00*
2. Canadian Dollar	@ Rs. 62.60*
3. British Pound Sterling	@ Rs. 111.30*
4. Japanese Yen per 100	@ Rs. 57.60*
5. Singapore Dollar	@ Rs. 66.10*
6. Swedish Kroner/ Norwegian Kroner	@ Rs. 07.90
7. Swiss Franc	@ Rs. 99.10*
8. U.S. Dollar	@ Rs. 89.70*
9. Euro	@ Rs. 93.20*

VIKSIT BHARAT 2047 CONFERENCE

Our Vice President Mr Vikas Chowdhary was recently invited as the Chief Guest at the 8th National Conference on "Viksit Bharat @2047: Harnessing the Power of Sustainability and Inclusive Growth," held on 18th March 2025 by the Amity School of Economics, Amity University, Noida.

During his address, he touched upon various topics, with a major emphasis on research publications and the role of publishers in Viksit Bharat @2047. The conference was well-attended, with around 200 students, faculty members, academicians, and scholars present.

Through his participation, FPBAI aimed to acquaint the younger generation with the vital role of publishers in society and to inspire students to become the Authors and Publishers of tomorrow. He emphasized the importance of dedicating time to research in their core subjects, highlighting how in-depth study and scholarly contributions can shape the future of knowledge and innovation.



As you may be aware, the Postal Department discontinued the booking of Registered Book Packets in December 2024. In response, FPBAI promptly reached out to the concerned ministry and postal authorities to voice our concerns regarding this change.

Our Vice President, Mr. Vikas Chowdhary, personally engaged with several key officials from the ADJ to the DDJ and up to the Secretary level to highlight the financial impact on individual readers and the potential deterrent effect on reading habits due to increased postal rates. He presented books from various publishers that serve as essential study materials for students across the country, particularly in smaller towns where such resources are not easily available. Mr. Chowdhary also submitted a comprehensive Excel sheet detailing book specifications including size and weight from various publishers. The department appreciated this firsthand data, which played a crucial role in the creation of GYAN POST, a new postal service initiative specifically for printed educational books (is being given below).

Mr. Vikas Chowdhary's dedication to the publishing industry and his success in driving meaningful policy change are truly admirable. He also met with the Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, to extend FPBAI's gratitude and presented him with the FPBAI Members Directory. The Minister graciously accepted the directory and expressed his interest in visiting the FPBAI office in the near future.



The FPBAI proudly acknowledges Mr. Vikas Chowdhary's tireless efforts and extends heartfelt thanks on behalf of all our members.

Table

The rate for postage of Gyan post item (exclusive of applicable taxes) are:	
Weight of item	Rate of postage (in Rs.)
Upto 300 grams	20
Between 301 to 500 gms	25
Between 501 to 1000 gms	35
Between 1001 to 2000 gms	50
Between 2001 to 3000 gms	65
Between 3001 to 4000 gms	80
Between 4001 to 5000 gms	100