

No. O-15012/02/2024-Research

Government of India
NITI Aayog
(Research & Networking Division)

Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
Dated 7th January, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Request/Invitation for Expression of Interest (REoI) for Research Projects -reg.

1. NITI Aayog invites expressions of Interest (EoI) from institutions/organizations of repute (including universities/ consulting firms etc.) for preparation of **India Innovation Index 2025**. The details of the work are enclosed as **Annexure I** to this Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI). The detailed Research Scheme of NITI Aayog-2024 (RSNA-2024) guidelines and its amendments, if any: read with this REoI will govern the process and may be seen at NITI Aayog's website <http://www.niti.gov.in/guidelines>.
2. Interested institutions/organizations are requested to go through the Guidelines of the **Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2024 (Guidelines/RSNA-2024)** before responding to this public notice, especially to satisfy that they fulfill all the eligibility criteria for availing of grant under the said scheme, and also that they can conduct the work/ study project as per the Guidelines.
3. No Applicant or its Associate shall submit more than one Application for the Project. An Applicant applying individually or as an Associate or as part of consortium shall not be entitled to submit another application either individually or as a member of any other consortium, as the case may be. Applicants are advised to provide sufficient details in their applications to allow for an informed and fair evaluation/review process.
4. The hard copy of the EoI as per the format prescribed at **Annexure- II** along with the undertaking as per the **Annexure -III** must be submitted by hand/Registered post to Sh. Sanchit Jindal, ASO (R&N) Room # 435, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001. The EoI must be sent in envelopes superscribed with the words "EoI on (name of the topic as mentioned in the corresponding Annexure)" and the same must reach the NITI Aayog within 21 days of the notified date of Public Notice i.e., before **4 PM, 28th January 2026**. EoI through E-mail may be sent at the address pdresearch-niti@gov.in. However, it must be supplemented with submission of the physical copy.
5. For any query in this regard, the Sh. Sanchit Jindal, ASO (R&N) may please be contacted over email: pdresearch-niti@gov.in



(Dr Banusri Velpandian)
Sr. Specialist, Law (R&N)

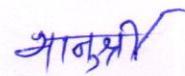
संख्या- ओ-15012/02/2024-अनुसंधान
भारत सरकार
नीति आयोग
(अनुसंधान एवं नेटवर्किंग प्रभाग)

संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001
दिनांक 7 जनवरी, 2026

सार्वजनिक नोटिस

विषय: अनुसंधान परियोजनाओं के लिए रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (आरईओआई) हेतु अनुरोध/आमंत्रण के संबंध में।

1. नीति आयोग अनुसंधान/अध्ययन करने के लिए प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों/संगठनों (विश्वविद्यालय/मानद विश्वविद्यालय सहित) से “भारत नवाचार सूचकांक 2025” पर एक शोध अध्ययन करने के लिए एतद्वारा रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ईओआई) का अनुरोध/आमंत्रण करता है। इस अध्ययन का ब्यौरा रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (आरईओआई) के इस अनुरोध के अनुलग्नक I के रूप में रखा गया है। इस आरईओआई के साथ पठित नीति आयोग की विस्तृत अनुसंधान योजना-2024 (आरएसएनए-2024) के दिशानिर्देश और इसमें संशोधन, अगर कोई हों, ये दिशा निर्देश इस प्रक्रिया को नियंत्रित करेंगे तथा इन्हें नीति आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://www.niti.gov.in/guidelines> पर देखा जा सकता है।
2. सभी इच्छुक संस्थानों/संगठनों से अनुरोध है कि वे इस सार्वजनिक नोटिस का उत्तर देने से पहले नीति आयोग की अनुसंधान योजना-स्कीम 2024 (दिशानिर्देश/आरएसएनए-2024) के दिशानिर्देशों को अच्छी तरह से पढ़ लें, विशेषकर यह पक्का कर लें कि वे इस स्कीम के तहत अनुदान पाने के लिए सभी पात्रता को पूरा करते हैं, और वे दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार कार्य/अध्ययन परियोजना कर सकते हैं।
3. कोई भी आवेदक या उसका सहयोगी परामर्श सेवा के लिए एक से अधिक आवेदन जमा नहीं करेगा। एक आवेदक चाहे वह अकेले या सहयोगी के तौर पर या कंसोर्शियम के हिस्से के तौर पर आवेदन कर रहा है, उसे अकेले या किसी दूसरे कंसोर्शियम के सदस्य के तौर पर, चाहे मामला कुछ भी हो, दूसरा आवेदन जमा करने का हकदार नहीं होगा। आवेदकों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे अपने आवेदन में पूरी जानकारी दें ताकि एक सुविश्वासनीय और सही मूल्यांकन/पुनर्मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया हो सके।
4. इच्छुक आवेदकों द्वारा अनुलग्नक-II में दिए गए फ़ार्मेट के अनुसार ईओआई की हार्ड कॉपी, अनुलग्नक -III में दिए गए शपथ पत्र के साथ, दस्ती/पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा श्री संचित जिंदल, एएसओ (आरएडएन) कमरा संख्या #435, नीति आयोग, संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001 को भेजनी होगी। ईओआई को लिफ़ाफ़ों में भेजना होगा, जिन पर “(संबंधित अनुलग्नक में दिए गए विषय के नाम) से संबंधित ईओआई” लिखा हो और यह सार्वजनिक नोटिस की बताई गई तारीख से 21 दिनों के अंदर यानी 28 जनवरी 2026 को शाम 4 बजे से पहले नीति आयोग तक पहुँच जाना चाहिए। ईओआई ईमेल से इस पते पर भेजा जा सकता है pdresearch-niti@gov.in।
5. इस संबंध में किसी तरह की जानकारी के लिए, श्री संचित जिंदल, सहायक अनुभाग अधिकारी (आरएडएन) से कृपया ईमेल: pdresearch-niti@gov.in पर संपर्क करें।


(डॉ. भानुश्री वेल्पांडियन)
वरिष्ठ विशेषज्ञ, विधि (आरएडएन)

India Innovation Index 2025

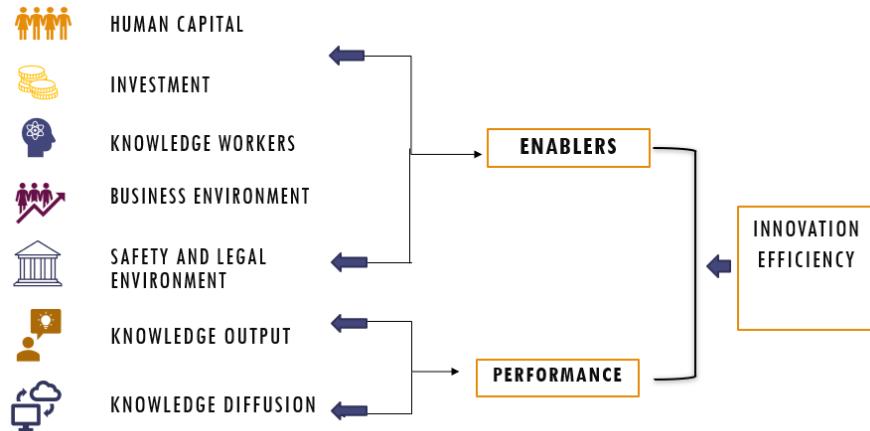
1. Background

- i. Innovation has always been a driver of change and progress in an economy, as it disrupts traditional practices, encourages new processes, and generates new business models. The Government of India recognizes the importance of ‘Innovation’ and had declared 2010-20 as the Decade of Innovation. Over the last few years, ‘Innovation’ has been made a priority by the Government to realize the goal of a “New India”.
- ii. Taking a clue from the Global Innovation Index, the Government held a series of brainstorming sessions with participation from the industry, academia, research organizations, and the State Governments. The discussion was focused on methods for improving India’s overall innovation performance, and it emerged that there was a need to develop an India-specific framework for measuring the innovation capacity and capabilities of the States/the Union Territories (UTs). This essentially motivated the idea of creating India Innovation Index framework.

About the India Innovation Index

- iii. The India Innovation Index (III) is envisaged to encourage States/UTs to examine and improve their innovation environment and innovation performance, which could further lead to an improvement in India’s overall innovation performance. The Index is designed as a holistic tool which can be used by policymakers across the country to identify the challenges to be addressed and the strengths to leverage when designing the economic growth policies for their regions. It also serves to infuse the “Spirit of Cooperative and Competitive Federalism” amongst the States/UTs.
- iv. To do so, the Index first examines the conduciveness of the State/UT environment to foster innovation and the results of its innovative practices. This is done by using a framework of indicators organized in pillars, where the Index score for each State/UT is calculated based on the value of each indicator and then computing the scores based on the framework. The index benchmarks this innovation performance, shown by the Index score and its subcomponents, against their peers to understand the reasons for differential performance.
- v. The India Innovation Index is calculated as the average of the scores of Enablers and Performance. The Enablers are the factors that underpin innovative capacities, grouped in five pillars: (1) Human Capital, (2) Investment, (3) Knowledge Workers, (4) Business Environment, and (5) Safety and Legal Environment. The Performance captures benefits that a nation derives from the inputs, divided in two pillars: (6) Knowledge Output and (7) Knowledge Diffusion.

vi. Framework – India Innovation Index



vii. The values of the indicator are used to compute Indicator Scores with a standardized scale. The weighted aggregate (or sum) of the indicator scores forms the Pillar Score, and then the average of the pillar score forms the dimension (Enabler & Performance) score. The average of the dimension scores gives the Overall Innovation Score which is used to rank the States/UTs, while the ratio of the dimension scores gives the Innovation Efficiency Ratio.

viii. The Index covers all 28 States and 8 Union Territories, which are highly diverse in terms of their demographic, economic, and sociocultural factors. Hence, in order to make a fair and reasonable assessment of the innovation performance of the States and UTs, they are grouped into three categories: Major States; North-East and Hill States; and Union Territory and City States. The composition of these categories was updated in III 2021 to reflect the separation of the UT of Ladakh from Jammu & Kashmir and the ‘merger’ of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu as a single Union Territory.

ix. NITI Aayog releases India Innovation Index on a regular basis to rank States and UTs based on their innovative capabilities and performance. India Innovation Index is prepared by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with a suitable knowledge partner.

x. The first edition of the Index, called India Innovation Index 2019 (III 2019), was launched in October, 2019. The second edition, India Innovation Index 2020 (III 2020), was launched in January, 2021. The third edition, India Innovation Index 2021 (III 2021) was launched in July, 2022.

xi. India Innovation Index 2019 had 33 indicators which increased to 36 in India Innovation Index 2020 and 66 in India Innovation Index 2021.

2. Terms of Reference

- i. To understand and analyze the overall innovation ecosystem of the country, including inputs, overall operating framework, and the relevant outputs in various relevant sectors.
- ii. Identify and measure quantitative as well as qualitative indicators (input as well as output) related to innovation performance of Indian States and UT, while considering regional disparities in innovation across India. The Global Innovation Index will act as a key reference document.
- iii. Develop a Weighting Scheme for each Indicator, assign appropriate weights to each indicator based on its relative importance in the overall Innovation ecosystem.

- iv. Determine reliable and transparent sources for data collection for each indicator from the different states and UTs and to coordinate with them for the purpose.
- v. Ensure the transparency and replicability of the index methodology for calculating the index score.
- vi. Develop an Index report to rank States and UTs. Report should outline the conceptual framework, methodology, and data sources for the India Innovation Index.
- vii. Compare and correlate the Indian Innovation Index with different International Innovation Indices for bench-marking India's performance.
- viii. Recommend future improvements in the design and development of the index.
- ix. The time duration of the study would be 6 months following the award of the contract.

3. Conditions for Minimum Eligibility of Applicants

To be eligible for evaluation of its Proposal, the applicant shall fulfil the following:

- i. The Applicant must be a legal entity as per Applicable Laws (which would include, inter-alia, academic institutions/profit/non-profit organisation/Company/LLP).
- ii. The Applicant shall have, over the past 5 (five) years preceding the Proposal Due Date (PDD), undertaken a minimum of 2 (two) assignments related to developing an Index for Ministries/Department of Government of India.
- iii. The Applicant should have well-equipped 'in-house' expert team including a team lead, deputy team lead, Senior Consultant, Junior consultant, Content developer
- iv. The Applicant should have a minimum turnover of Rs. 2 (two) crore per annum during each of the 4 (four) financial years viz. FY 2024-25, FY2023-24, FY 2022-23 and FY 2021-22.
- v. The Applicant should enclose copies of audited balance sheet for FY 2024-25, FY 2023-24, FY 2022-23 and FY 2021-22.
- vi. The Applicant should not be blacklisted by any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU/Govt. Bodies.

Format of Expression of Interest (EoI)**Respondents Ref No.:****Date:**

Name-
 Designation-
 ----- Vertical,
 NITI Aayog,
 Sansad Marg, New Delhi

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: RESPONSE TO – EOI FOR _____

We, the undersigned, offer the following information in response to the Expression of Interest sought by you vide your Notification No._____, dated _____

1. Scope of work and organisation

- (i) The broad scope of work or service (briefly in about 100 words -Remember to tailor the content to the specific project or opportunity you're expressing interest in.)
- (ii) Type of Inputs to be provided by NITI Aayog on the subject
- (iii) Eligibility of the Applicant(s) for the EoI/study (Lead Applicant as applicable):

Type of organisation	Address of Organisation	Registration details	Single or Joint or collaboration (Name of all organisations)	Whether blacklisted By Govt. of India/ State Govt/any Other department

2. Required Documents:

- (i) Copy of Registration Certificate of the Institution/Organisation **OR** Articles of Association {Copy of the Constitution/MOA (Memorandum of Association) of the Institute/ Any letter issued by UGC if University}
- (ii) Registration number (Copy) in NGO-Portal “Darpan” of NITI Aayog, if applicable.
- (iii) Photo copy of PAN card of the organization.
- (iv) Other supporting documents to evaluate the bidder for minimum eligibility conditions.

3. Undertaking: As per **Annexure – III** [To be given separately on A4 size letter head of the Applicant/ Lead Applicant)

4. Information of PI and Organisation

Details of Bidder		
1.	Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)	
2.	Address of PI	
3.	Status of the Organisation (Public Ltd./ Pvt. Ltd./ NGO/ Society/Trust/ University/ Autonomous Body/ Deemed University)	
4.	Status as per Registration certificate/ Act	
5.	Name and Designation of the contact person: Telephone No. (with STD code) Mobile Number Email of the Contact/ key person Fax No. (with STD code) Website:	
6.	Particulars of associate applicants/ JV members/ consortium members/ sub-contractors/collaborators	

- A. We have examined and have no reservations to the EoI Document, including the self-declaration or any addendum that may be issued by NITI Aayog.
- B. We are duly authorized to represent and act on behalf of all collaborating applicants, which shall include jointly and severally / JV/ consortium/ sub-contractors as applicable.
- C. Our response is valid till _____ (Minimum validity is of three months from the submission deadline)

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

NATURE OF AUTHORISATION- BOARD RESOLUTION/LETTER OF
AUTHORITY/ MOA/OM/POA

DATE

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP

Annexure III

SELF-DECLARATION FORM (to be printed on the applicants letter head)

----- hereby declares to NITI Aayog that:

1. In the last three years, we, the lead applicant or any of our Associates / partners/ consortium members have neither failed to perform on any contract, as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award against the Applicant, nor been expelled from any project or contract by any public authority nor have had any contract terminated by any public authority for breach on our part.
2. We as Respondent(s) do not have any Conflict of Interest in accordance with the scope of the EOI in terms of projects or studies or assignments either ongoing or completed: having competing interests or constituting the same key personnel, during the preceding 3 (three) years as on the deadline of EoI submission.
3. We have not directly or indirectly or through an agent engaged or indulged in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, undesirable practice or restrictive practice, in respect of any tender or request for proposal or convicted by a Court of Law or indicted or adverse orders passed by a regulatory authority which would cast a doubt on our ability to undertake the Consultancy for the Project.
4. In regard to matters relating to security and integrity of the country, we have not been charge-sheeted by any agency of the Government or convicted by a Court of Law for any offence committed by us or by any of our Associates.
5. We are solvent and **are not** having our management affairs administered by the Courts or IBC. We are in the position to continue being sustainable in connection to performance of the obligations for this Consultancy procurement action.
6. We shall abide by all the conditions of the REoI and the terms in respect of any matter arising out of the detailed RFP Document if to be submitted on being shortlisted or concerning or relating to the Selection Process including the award of Consultancy.

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

NATURE OF AUTHORISATION- BOARD RESOLUTION/LETTER OF AUTHORITY/
MOA/OM/POA

DATE

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP