

Request for Proposal (RFP)
FOR
Evaluation of Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme

DO No. I-19014/21/2025-DMEQ

August 2025
Government of India

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No. I-19014/21/2025-DMEO
Government of India
NITI Aayog
Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office
Sansad Marg, New Delhi -110001

Invitation for Proposals

Date: 27th August 2025

Subject: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Evaluation of Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, Government of India, intends to engage a Technical Consultant to support the Evaluation of Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme details of which have been provided in the RFP document.

DMEO, NITI Aayog invites proposals for this assignment, from national/ firms/organisations/institutions, which have requisite experience in this field as detailed in the RFP. The salient features of the study, eligibility criteria and instructions on how to bid and other details are available in the RFP document uploaded on the DMEO website (<https://dmeo.gov.in/tenders>) and Government e-Marketplace (<https://gem.gov.in/>). Important information & tentative dates are given in section 1 of the RFP.

Interested applicants are requested to log into Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and submit their RFP response online, on or before **8th September 2025 (Monday), 17:00 hours**. Applicants can also refer to resources available on GeM (<https://gem.gov.in/support/sellers/?lang=english>) for further queries.

Shri Ashish Diwan
Economic Officer
Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO)
Room No-431, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg
New Delhi, 110001
Email: dmeoeval-niti@gov.in

Disclaimer

- i. The information contained in this Request for Proposals document (“RFP”) or subsequently provided to Applicants, whether verbally or in documentary or any other form by or on behalf of the Authority or any of its employees or advisers, is provided to Applicants on the terms and conditions set out in this RFP and such other terms and conditions subject to which such information is provided.
- ii. This RFP is neither an agreement nor an offer by the Authority to the prospective Applicants or any other person. The purpose of this RFP is to provide interested parties with information that may be useful to them in the formulation of their Proposals pursuant to this RFP. This RFP includes statements, which reflect various assumptions and assessments arrived at by the Authority in relation to the Consultancy. Such assumptions, assessments and statements do not purport to contain all the information that each Applicant may require. The assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in this RFP, may not be complete, accurate, adequate or correct. Each Applicant should, therefore, conduct its own investigations and analysis and should check the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability and completeness of the assumptions, assessments, statements or information contained in this RFP and obtain independent advice from appropriate sources.
- iii. Information provided in this RFP to the Applicants is on a wide range of matters, some of which depends upon interpretation of law. The information given is not an exhaustive account of statutory requirements and should not be regarded as a complete or authoritative statement of law. The Authority accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise for any interpretation or opinion on the law expressed herein.
- iv. Applicants are advised that selection shall be based on their meeting various criteria enumerated in the different clauses of the RFP. Applicants shall be deemed to have understood and agreed that the Authority shall not be required to provide any explanation or justification in respect of any aspect of the selection process or selection.
- v. The Authority, its employees and advisers make no representation or warranty and shall have no liability to any person including any Applicant under any law, statute, rules or regulations or tort, principles of restitution or unjust enrichment or otherwise for any loss, damages, cost or expense which may arise from or be incurred or suffered on account of anything contained in this RFP or otherwise, including the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability or completeness of the RFP and any assessment, assumption, statement or information contained therein or deemed to form part of this RFP or arising in any way in this Selection Process.
- vi. The Authority may in its absolute discretion, but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend or supplement the information, statements, assessment or assumption contained in this RFP.
- vii. The issue of this RFP does not imply that the Authority is bound to select an Applicant or to appoint the Selected Applicant, as the case may be, for the Consultancy and the Authority reserves the right to reject all or any of the Proposals without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
- viii. The selection Process shall be governed by the dispute settlement mechanisms (DSM) (Manual for Procurement of Consultancy and Other Services, June 2022).

- ix. Any information contained in the Proposal shall not in any way be construed as binding on the Authority, its agents, successors or assigns, but shall be binding against the Applicant if the Consultancy is subsequently awarded to it.

Acronyms

B.E.	Budget Estimates
CAPI	Computer Aided Personal Interviews
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DMEQ	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GeM	Government e-Marketplace
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGOs	Non-Government Organization
R.E.	Revised Estimates
RFP	Request for Proposal
TIS	Tender Information Summary

Glossary for RFP

Applicant	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.1
Authorized Representative	As defined in RFP Clause 1.12.2(d)
Authority	As defined in RFP Clause 1.1
Bid Security	As defined in RFP Clause 1.16
Conditions of Eligibility	As defined in RFP Clause 1.4
Conflict of Interest	As defined in RFP Clause 1.5
Consultancy Team	As defined in RFP Clause 1.3
Consultant	As defined in RFP Clause 1.1(b)
Eligible Assignments	As defined in RFP Clause 4.2
Financial Proposal	As defined in RFP Clause 1.14
Key Personnel	As defined in RFP Clause 1.3
Lead Member	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.1
Legal entity	As defined in RFP Clause 1.4.2 (A)
LOA	Letter of Award as specified in RFP Clause 3.4
Professional Personnel	As defined in RFP Clause 1.13.6
Proposal	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2
Proposal Due Date or PDD	As defined in Tender Information Summary
Selected Applicant	As defined in RFP Clause 4.5.2
Selection Process	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.2
Sole Firm	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.1
Support Personnel	As defined in RFP Clause 1.13.6
Team Leader	As defined in RFP Annexure A
Technical Proposal	As defined in RFP Clause 1.13

Glossary for Schedules

Form of Agreement	Form of Agreement as in Schedule-2
Agreement	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(a)
Agreement Value	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 6.1.2
Applicable Laws	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(c)
Associate	As defined in Schedule-3 Clause 9(f)
Deliverables	As defined in Schedule-1 Clause 7
Effective Date	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(g)
Final Evaluation Report	As specified in Schedule-1 Clause 8
Inception Report	As specified in Schedule-1 Clause 7
Member	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(j)
Personnel	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(l)
Project Manager	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 4
Services	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(n)
TOR	As defined in Schedule-1

Tender Information Summary (TIS)

1.0 Basic Tender Details		
1.1.	Tender Title/ Name of Assignment	RFP for the Selection of a Technical Consultant for the Evaluation Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme
1.2.	File Number	I-19014/21/2025-DMEO
1.3.	Tender Type	RFP-Open Tendering
1.4.	Tender Category	Services
1.5.	Proposal Submission	Two Separate Proposals viz Technical & Financial be submitted on GeM Portal
1.6.	Product Category	Consultancy
1.7.	Selection Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) in 70:30 Ratio
1.8.	Appointing Arbitration	Head of the Procuring Organization
1.9.	Language for all type Communication	English only
1.10	Form of Contract	Lumpsum
1.11	Organization:	NITI Aayog
1.12	The Procuring Entity:	DMEO- NITI Aayog
1.13	Mode of Procurement	Online- through GeM Portal
1.14	Tender Inviting Authority (TIA)	DG DMEO- NITI Aayog
1.15	Office Address & Communication for Correspondence	Shri D S Sajwan Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) Room No- 431, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg New Delhi, 110001 Email: ds.sajwan@gov.in
2.0. Critical Dates		
2.1.	Publication on RFP on GeM Portal	27 th August 2025 (Wednesday)
2.2.	Pre-Proposal Queries	Yes
2.3.	Last date for Receiving queries /clarification	1 st September 2025 (Monday)
2.4.	i. Mode & Address for submission of Pre-Proposal Queries	Email: dmeoeval-niti@gov.in
	ii. Applicants may register for the same until a day prior to the Pre-proposal Conference by submitting the details of their representatives attending the pre-proposal conference at the below link:	Registration Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_UtgaDqUuJE6l6YqgNZR55VV2-IPogsiAC8RKeT2UgSahHg/viewform?usp=header
2.5.	Pre-Proposal Conference, Date, Time &	2 nd September 2025 (Tuesday),

	Venue	11.00 AM Link: https://dmeo.webex.com/dmeo/j.php?MTID=m5d948a8287455dfd1c07dac2b4604e57 Venue: R.N.134, NITI Aayog
2.6.	Authority response to Queries	4 th September 2025 (Thursday)
2.7.	Proposal Due Date (PDD)/Last date ¹	8 th September 2025 (Monday)
2.8.	Opening of Technical Proposals date & Time	9 th September 2025 (Tuesday)
2.9.	Proposal Validity (Days from the date of Proposal Opening)	90 Days
3.0 Terms of Reference		
3.1	Period of Contract	4 Months
3.2.	Service Details:	As per Terms of Reference / Scope of Work.
4.0 Documents relating to Bid Security and Performance Security		
4.1.	Bid Security (EMD) Amount in INR:	Rs 3.1 lakhs
4.2.	Is Bid Securing Declaration permitted in lieu of Bid Security?	Only for educational institutions as per RFP Clause 1.16.2
4.3.	Performance Security	Yes, 3 % of the Agreement value
4.4.	Bid/ Performance Security to be addressed/ in favor of:	PAO, NITI Aayog
4.5.	Form of Bid/ Performance Security	Refer Checklist of documents at Clause 1.3
4.6.	Payment Schedule	Inception report = 20% Mid-term report =30% Draft report = 30% Final report =20%
5.0 Critical URL Links		
A	Appendix I (Technical Proposal)	
5.1	Letter of Proposal	Appendix-I Form-1
5.2.	Particulars of Applicant	Appendix-I Form-2
5.3	Statement of Legal Capacity	Appendix-I Form-3
5.4	Power of Attorney	Appendix-I Form-4
5.5.	Financial Capacity of the Applicant	Appendix-I Form-5
5.6	Particulars of Key Personnel	Appendix-I Form-6
5.7	Proposed Methodology & Work Plan	Appendix-I Form-7
5.8	Eligible Assignments of the applicant	Appendix-I Form-8

While extending the Proposal Due Date on account of an addendum, the Authority shall have due regard for the time required by Applicants to address the amendments specified therein. In the case of significant amendments, at least 15 (fifteen) days shall be provided between the date of amendment and the Proposal Due Date, and in the case of minor amendments, at least 7 (seven) days shall be provided.

5.9	Deployment of professional Personnel	Appendix-I Form-9
5.10	Support Personnel	Appendix-I Form-10
5.11	Bid Security Declaration Form with substantiated documents like MSME Udyam Certificate etc	(i) Appendix-I Form-11 (applicants for MSME units and government owned universities/academic institutions only) (ii) Applicable for MSME
5.12	Letter of Intent for Technical Collaboration	Appendix-I Form-12
B	Appendix II (Financial Proposal)	
5.13	Covering Letter	
5.14	Financial Proposal	
5.15	Estimated Personnel Cost	
C.	Documents of LOA	
5.16	Form of Agreement	Schedule-2
5.17	Terms of Reference	Schedule 1 of the RFP
5.18	Deployment of Personnel	Appendix I Form 9
5.19	Estimate of Personnel Costs	Appendix II Form 3
5.20	Cost of Services	Appendix II Form 2
5.21	Payment Schedule	Schedule 2 Annex 5
5.22	Bank Guarantee for Performance Security	Schedule 2 Annex 6
5.23	Judicial Stamp Paper	To be appended with Form of Agreement
5.24	Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest	Schedule-3

1 Checklist of documents

Documents to be uploaded on GeM Portal online on or before PDD:		
1.1.	Technical Proposal	As per Appendix-I, Form 1-12 (available on DMEO website)
1.2.	Financial Proposal	As per Appendix-II, Form 1-3 (available on DMEO)
Documents to be submitted offline.		
2.1.	Bid Security [Insurance Surety Bonds, Account Payee Demand Draft, Fixed Deposit Receipt, Banker's Cheque (only for EMD), Bank Guarantee]	To be submitted within 5 days after PDD.
2.2.	Power of Attorney	To be submitted before the award of Contract (Appendix-I Form-4 as available on DMEO website)
0.3. Documents to be submitted offline on signing of Contract:		
3.1.	Performance Security (3 % of the Agreement value) [Insurance Surety Bonds, Account Payee Demand Draft, Fixed Deposit Receipt, Banker's Cheque (only for EMD), Bank Guarantee]	Bank Guarantee to be submitted as per Appendix-III Form-1 (available on DMEO Website)
3.2.	Form of Agreement	Schedule-2 (as available on DMEO website)
3.3.	Judicial Stamp Paper (To be appended with Agreement)	On Rs 200 Stamp Paper

1 Introduction and Instructions to Applicants

1.1 Background

- a) The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) (“the Authority”) is an attached office of NITI Aayog. Constituted in September 2015 by merging the erstwhile Program Evaluation Office (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), DMEO works to fulfill the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mandate and to build the M&E ecosystem in India. DMEO has been mandated to actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of schemes, programs and Initiatives of the Government of India (GoI) to strengthen their implementation and scope of delivery on an ongoing basis. Further, evidence-based policy making should be integral to overall governance structure in the country.
- b) Request for Proposal
The Authority invites proposals (the “Proposals”) for selection of a Technical Consultant (the “Consultant”) who shall conduct an evaluation study of the Scheme, in accordance with the TOR (collectively the “Consultancy”).

1.2 Scope of Proposal

- 1.2.1 Detailed description of the objectives, scope of services, deliverables and other requirements relating to this Consultancy are specified in this RFP. In case an applicant possesses the requisite experience and capabilities required for undertaking the Consultancy, it may participate in the Selection Process either individually (the “Sole Firm”) or as lead member of a Consortium of firms (the “Lead Member”) in response to this invitation. The term applicant (the “Applicant”) means the Sole Firm (in case of firms) or the Lead Member of a Consortium or Universities or Academic Institutions as the case may be. The manner in which the Proposal is required to be submitted, evaluated and accepted is explained in this RFP.
- 1.2.2 The Authority has adopted a two-stage selection process (collectively the “Selection Process”) for evaluating the Proposals comprising technical and financial bids. In the first stage, a technical evaluation will be carried out. Based on this technical evaluation, a list of short-listed applicants shall be prepared. In the second stage, a financial evaluation will be carried out. Proposals will finally be ranked according to their combined technical and financial scores. The first ranked Applicant shall be selected for negotiation (the “Selected Applicant”).
- 1.2.3 The Applicant shall submit its proposal (Both Technical & Financial as prescribed in clause 1.15.3) on GeM Portal. The Technical Proposal shall be submitted in the form as per Appendix-I (as available on DMEO website) and the Financial Proposal to be submitted in the form as per Appendix-II (as available on DMEO website) . The Forms to be uploaded on GeM can be accessed on DMEO Website (<https://dmeo.gov.in/>). Upon selection, the Applicant shall be required to enter into an agreement with the Authority in the form specified as per Schedule-2 (as available on DMEO website). The responsibility for the completion of study in terms of submission of deliverables and achievements of milestones, as prescribed in Terms of Reference, lies with the Applicant.

- 1.2.4 Sub-Contracting by the applicant is not permitted. However, for conducting field surveys the applicant may engage field investigators or field survey firms. The responsibility to maintain the highest quality of data collected from this study lies with the applicant. The applicant shall submit the credentials of the survey firms proposed for conducting the field survey in the inception reports.

1.3 Key Personnel

- 1.3.1 The Consultant shall form a multi-disciplinary team (the “Consultancy Team”) for undertaking this assignment. The Consultancy Team shall consist the key personnel (the “Key Personnel”) who shall discharge their respective responsibilities as specified below as per Annexure A of RFP:

1.4 Conditions of Minimum Eligibility of Applicants

- 1.4.1 Applicants must read carefully the minimum conditions of eligibility (the “Conditions of Eligibility”) provided herein. Proposals of only those Applicants who satisfy the Conditions of Eligibility will be considered for evaluation. The Minimum Conditions of Eligibility as specified in the RFP may be relaxed for a particular Applicant, if applicable, subject to furnishing of relevant and valid documents or certificates, supporting such relaxations or exemptions under Applicable Laws.
- 1.4.2 To be eligible for evaluation of its Proposal, the Applicant shall fulfill the following
- a) General Eligibility of the Applicant: The Applicant must be a legal entity as per Applicable Laws. The 'legal entity' denotes an organization, that is recognized as a distinct entity under law. It can be an incorporated Company or LLP under Indian Laws or university, academic institution and research & development organization. The Applicant should not have been debarred or blacklisted on the date of application by the Central Government, any State Government, any Statutory Authority of the Government, or a Public-Sector Undertaking, from participating in any consulting assignment.
 - b) Technical Capacity: The Applicant should have, over the past 8 (Eight) financial years preceding the PDD, undertaken a minimum of 2 (two) Eligible Assignments as specified in Clause 4.2
 - c) Financial Capacity: The Applicant should have a minimum annual total revenue/turnover of Rs 2.07 Cr preceding 3 (three) financial years from the date of the application.
 - d) Availability of Key Personnel: The Applicant should offer and make available all Key Personnel meeting the requirements specified in Annexure A of RFP.
 - e) Age limit of Key Personnel: All Key Personnel must below the age of 60 Years and fulfil the Minimum Conditions of Eligibility specified in Annexure A of RFP:
- 1.4.3 The Applicant should enclose with its Proposal, certificate(s) from its Statutory

Auditors² stating its Annual Turnover/Total Revenue³ for the preceding 3 (three) financial years from the date of application. In the event that the Applicant does not have a statutory auditor, it should provide the requisite certificate(s) from the firm of Chartered Accountants that ordinarily audits the annual accounts of the Applicant.

- 1.4.4 The Applicant should submit a Power of Attorney (POA) as per the format of Appendix-1, Form-4 (as provided on DMEO website). However, that such Power of Attorney would not be required if the Application is signed by a partner in case the Applicant is a partnership firm or limited liability partnership.

In the case of government owned academic institutions in lieu of POA, a letter of authorization duly signed by the competent authority such as Head of the Department, Dean, Registrar, Director etc. should be submitted.

- 1.4.5 An Applicant should, during the last three years, neither have failed to perform on any agreement, as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award against the Applicant, nor have been expelled from any project or agreement nor have had any agreement terminated for breach by such Applicant.
- 1.4.6 While submitting a Proposal, the Applicant should attach clearly marked and referenced continuation sheets (without any change in prescribed forms) in the event that the space provided in the specified forms in the Appendices is insufficient.

1.5 Conflict of Interest

- 1.5.1 An Applicant shall not have a conflict of interest as per Schedule 3 (as available on DMEO website) that may affect the Selection Process or the Consultancy. Any Applicant found to have a Conflict of Interest shall be disqualified. In the event of disqualification, the Authority reserves the right to take action as per the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration for, inter alia, the time, cost and effort of the Authority including consideration of such Applicant's Proposal, without prejudice to any other right or remedy that may be available to the Authority hereunder or otherwise.
- 1.5.2 It is expected that the Consultant shall provide professional, objective, and impartial advice and at all times hold the Authority's interests' paramount, avoid conflicts with other assignments or its own interests, and act without any consideration for future work. The Consultant should not accept or engage in any assignment that would be in conflict with its prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place it in a position of not being able to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Authority.
- 1.5.3 Some guiding principles for identifying and addressing Conflicts of Interest have been illustrated in the Guidance Note on conflict of interest at Schedule-3 (as available on DMEO website).

² \$ Please do not attach complete printed annual financial statements. In case relevant extracts of duly audited annual financial statements containing the requisite details are provided, duly countersigned by the authorized signatory, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary.

³ Turnover of university means Revenue from all sources + Grant in Aid

1.6 Number of Proposals

No Applicant or its Associate should submit more than one Application for the Consultancy. An Applicant applying individually or as an Associate shall not be entitled to submit another application either individually or as a member of any consortium, as the case may be. If any Applicant or its Associate is found to submit more than one application either individually or as a member of any consortium, all of their applications shall be rejected.

1.7 Cost of Proposal

The Applicants shall be responsible for all of the costs associated with the preparation of their Proposals and their participation in the Selection Process including subsequent negotiation, visits to the Authority etc. The Authority will not be responsible or in any way liable for such costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Selection Process.

1.8 Verification of information

Applicants are encouraged to submit their respective Proposals after verification of the documents, reference materials, etc. within the purview of this RFP and the Applicable Laws and regulations or any other matter considered relevant by them.

1.9 Right to reject any or all Proposals

- 1.9.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in this RFP, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal and to annul the Selection Process and reject all Proposals, at any time without any liability or any obligation for such acceptance, rejection or annulment, and without assigning any reasons thereof.
- 1.9.2 Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 1.9.1, the Authority reserves the right to reject any Proposal if:
- a) at any time, a material misrepresentation on the part of the applicant is made or discovered, or
 - b) the Applicant does not provide, within the time specified by the Authority, the supplemental information sought by the Authority for evaluation of the Proposal.
- Misrepresentation/ improper response by the Applicant may lead to the disqualification of the Applicant. If the Applicant is the Lead Member of a consortium, then the entire consortium may be disqualified / rejected. If such disqualification / rejection occurs after the Proposals have been opened and the highest ranking Applicant gets disqualified / rejected, the Authority reserves the right to annul the Selection Process.

1.10 Clarifications

- 1.10.1 Applicants should seek clarifications, if any, on the RFP either through GeM portal (<https://gem.gov.in/>) by logging in through their registered ID or by sending an email to dmeoeval-niti@gov.in before the date mentioned in the TIS (Critical Dates). The Authority shall endeavor to respond to the queries within the period specified therein. The Authority shall post the reply to all such queries on the Official Website/GeM

portal without identifying the source of queries.

- 1.10.2 The Authority reserves the right not to respond to any questions or provide any clarifications, in its sole discretion, and nothing in this Clause 1.10 shall be construed as obliging the Authority to respond to any question or to provide any clarification.

1.11 Amendment of RFP

- 1.11.1 At any time prior to the Proposal Due Date, the Authority may, for any reason, modify the RFP document by the issuance of Amendment and posting it on the Official Website at <https://dmeo.gov.in/>
- 1.11.2 All such amendments shall be posted on the GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in/> along with the revised RFP containing the amendments and will be binding on all Applicants.
- 1.11.3 In order to afford the Applicants a reasonable time for taking an amendment into account, or for any other reason, the Authority may, in its sole discretion, extend the Proposal Due Date.

Preparation and Submission of Proposal

1.12 Format and signing of Proposal

- 1.12.1 The Applicant shall provide all the information sought under this RFP. The Authority will evaluate only those Proposals that are received in the specified forms and complete in all respects.
- 1.12.2 Bids along with all the scanned copies of the document should be submitted in the electronic form only through the GeM e-tendering system before the PDD. Before the bid documents are uploaded, all attached documents should be signed using digital signatures of any of the following:
- by the proprietor, in case of a proprietary firm; or
 - by a partner, in case of a partnership firm and/or a limited liability partnership; or
 - by a duly authorized person holding the Notarized Power of Attorney, in case of a Limited Company or a corporation; or
 - by the Authorized Representative of the Lead Member holding the notarized Power of Attorney, in case of consortium.
 - by the Competent Authority from the Educational Institution
- A Notarized copy of the Power of Attorney certified under the hands of a partner or director of the Applicant and notarized by a notary public in the form specified in Appendix-I (Form-4) (as provided on DMEO website) shall be uploaded along with the Proposal.
- 1.12.3 The documents mentioned below shall be sent separately to the Authority in original through Speed Post/Registered Post or delivered by hand to the person specified in 'Invitation to Proposal' (page no.4 of this RFP).
- Notarized Power of Attorney as required under Clause 1.4.4 prior to the award of contract and,
 - Insurance Surety Bond/Demand Draft/Account Payee/ Fixed deposit/ Receipt/

Banker's Cheque /Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee) towards Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration, as required under Clause 1.16. Scanned copy of the same shall be uploaded on the GeM portal. Hard copy of the same will have to be submitted directly to the Authority not later than 5 (five) working days after the bid opening (Opening of Technical Proposal date & time).

- c) Kindly note that the proposal shall be rejected if a hard copy of the Bid security or Bid Security Declaration is not submitted not later than 5 (five) working days after the bid opening. However, the hard copy of Power of Attorney shall be submitted prior to the award of contract.
- d) The envelope should be sealed and shall clearly subscript the following: RFP for "Evaluation of Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme"

1.12.4 Applicants should note the Proposal Due Date, as specified in TIS, for submission of Proposals. Except as specifically provided in this RFP, no supplementary material will be entertained by the Authority, and that evaluation will be carried out only on the basis of Documents uploaded on the GeM portal by the closing time of Proposal Due Date as specified in the TIS. Applicants will ordinarily not be asked to provide additional material information or documents subsequent to the date of submission, and unsolicited material if submitted will be summarily rejected.

1.12.5 The Authority is neither a party nor a principal in the relationship between the Applicant and the organization hosting the e-procurement portal (hereinafter called the GeM Portal). Applicants must comply with the rules, regulations, procedures, and implied conditions/ agreements of the GeM portal, including registration, compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) etc. Consultants shall settle clarifications and disputes, if any, regarding the Portal directly with them. The Consultant is advised to go through the terms and conditions of the GeM Portal carefully before applying.

1.13 Technical Proposal

1.13.1 Applicants should submit the technical proposal online on GeM Portal in the prescribed formats available at Appendix-I (the "Technical Proposal") (as provided on DMEQ website)'.

1.13.2 While submitting the Technical Proposal, the Applicant shall, in particular, ensure that:

- a) The Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration is provided;
- b) All scanned copies of the forms are submitted in the prescribed formats and signed by the authorized signatories;
- c) Power of Attorney, if applicable, is executed as per Applicable Laws;
- d) CVs of all Key Personnel and other professional personnel are duly signed
- e) Key Personnel and other professional meet the Minimum Conditions of Eligibility laid down at Annexure-A of the RFP;
- f) Only one CV for each Key Personnel position has been furnished and no alternates are given.
- g) The latest CVs are signed and dated in blue ink or digitally signed by the respective

Personnel, and digitally countersigned by the authorized signatory. Only a copy of the CV signed by respective Key Personnel, duly digitally countersigned by the authorized signatory, shall be accepted. If 50% of the submitted CVs, are not signed by the key personnel, the evaluation of the technical bid shall be carried without considering these unsigned CVs and, if this Consultant is finally selected, the signed CVs shall be submitted by the Selected Consultant before signing of the LoA . The replacement of such key personnel would not be allowed during the evaluation of bids. If 75% of the submitted CVs are not signed by the respective proposed key personnel, the proposal shall be treated as non-responsive and rejected at the technical evaluation stage.

- h) The CVs contain an undertaking from the respective Key Personnel about his/her availability for the duration specified in the RFP;
- i) Professional Personnel proposed should have good working knowledge of English language;
- j) All Key Personnel will be available for the period indicated in the TOR;
- k) The proposal is responsive in terms of Clause 2.1.3.

1.13.3 Failure to comply with the requirements spelt out in this Clause 1.13 shall make the Proposal liable to be rejected.

1.13.4 If it is found by the Authority at any stage that an applicant or individual Key Personnel has made a false averment regarding his qualification, experience or any other particulars, or his commitment regarding availability for the Project is not fulfilled, the Applicant, Individual Person or both shall be liable under breach of Code of Integrity for Public Procurement and shall be debarred for any future assignment of the Authority for a period not exceeding 2 (two) year as per GFR Rule 151. The award of this Consultancy to the Applicant may also be liable to be cancelled in such an event. In such an event, the Authority also reserves the right to forfeit bid security and/or debar the Applicant, without prejudice to any other right or remedy that may be available to the Authority.

1.13.5 The Technical Proposal should not include the financial proposal or any information relating to the Financial Proposal. In the event of the financial proposal being included in the technical proposal the bid will be treated as non-responsive and rejected at technical evaluation stage.

1.13.6 The proposed team should be composed of experts and specialists (the “Professional Personnel”) in their respective areas of expertise and managerial/support staff (the “Support Personnel”) such that the Consultant should be able to complete the Consultancy within the specified time schedule. The Key Personnel specified in Annexure-A of RFP shall be included in the proposed team of Professional Personnel. The CV of each such Professional Personnel, if any, should also be submitted in the format at Form-6 of Appendix-I.

1.13.7 The Authority reserves the right to verify all statements, information and documents, submitted by the Applicant in response to the RFP. Any such verification or the lack of such verification by the Authority to undertake such verification shall not relieve the Applicant of its obligations or liabilities hereunder nor will it affect any rights of the Authority thereunder.

1.14 Financial Proposal

- 1.14.1 Applicants should submit online the financial proposal in the Prescribed Formats available at Appendix-II (the “Financial Proposal”), clearly indicating the total cost of the Consultancy (Form-2 of Appendix-II, as provided on DMEO website) in both figures and words, in Indian Rupees (INR or ₹), and signed by the Applicant’s authorized signatories as mentioned in Clause 1.12.2. In the event of any difference between figures and words, the amount indicated in words shall prevail. In the event of a difference between the arithmetic total and the total shown in the Financial Proposal, the lower of the two shall prevail. In the event of a difference between the figures shown in the Financial Proposal Form-2 and the GeM Portal, the amount encrypted & submitted through GeM portal shall prevail
- 1.14.2 While submitting the Financial Proposal, the Applicant should ensure the following:
- a) All the costs associated with the assignment shall be included in the Financial Proposal. These shall cover remuneration for all the Personnel (Resident, in the field, office etc.), accommodation, air fare, equipment, printing of documents, surveys, geo-technical investigations etc. The total amount indicated in the Financial Proposal should be without any condition attached or subject to any assumption, and shall be final and binding. In case any assumption or condition is indicated in the Financial Proposal, it shall be considered non-responsive and liable to be rejected.
 - b) The Financial Proposal should be exclusive of any tax liabilities.
 - c) The consultant is liable to pay all the taxes as applicable for this consultancy. Also, all payments by the Authority shall be subject to deduction of taxes at source as per Applicable Laws.
 - d) Costs (including breakdown of costs) shall be expressed in INR exclusive of tax liabilities.

1.15 Submission of Proposal/e-Bid

- 1.15.1 The Applicants should submit the Proposal in the prescribed formats provided in the respective links as per TIS of this RFP on GeM Portal with all pages numbered serially and by giving an index of submissions. Each page of the submission shall be digitally signed by the Applicant’s authorized signatories as mentioned in Clause 1.12.2. In case the proposal is submitted on the document downloaded from the Official Website, the Applicant shall be responsible for its accuracy and correctness as per the version uploaded by the Authority and shall ensure that there are no changes caused in the content/format of the downloaded document. In case of any discrepancy between the downloaded or photocopied version of the RFP and the original RFP issued by the Authority, the latter shall prevail.
- 1.15.2 The proposal should be submitted online on the GeM Portal only; manual/offline bids shall not be accepted under any circumstances. Also, the applicant will have to send the original hard copy of Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration and Notarized Power of

Attorney separately as specified in Clause 1.12.3(b).

1.15.3 The Technical and Financial bids must be submitted separately on GeM Portal in their respective folders/options, one clearly marked “Technical Proposal” and the other clearly marked “Financial Proposal”. If financial proposal is included in the folder/option of technical proposal, the bid will be summarily rejected. The folder marked —Technical Proposal shall contain:

- a) Application in the prescribed format (Form-1 of Appendix-I) along with Forms 2 to 13 of Appendix-I and supporting documents; and
- b) Scanned copy of Bid security Declaration or Bid Security Declaration as specified in Clause 1.12.3(b).

The folder marked —Financial Proposal shall contain the Financial Proposal in the prescribed format (Forms 1, 2 & 3 of Appendix-II).

1.15.4 The complete Proposal must be submitted online on or before 17:00 hours on the Proposal Due Date as specified in TIS. Proposals submitted by post, fax, telex, telegram, in-person or e-mail shall not be entertained.

1.15.5 The Proposal should be made in the Forms specified in this RFP at Appendix-I and Appendix-II. All such forms are also available on DMEO <https://dmeo.gov.in>. Any attachment to such Forms must be provided on separate pages and only information that is directly relevant should be uploaded. This may include scanned photocopies of the relevant pages of printed documents. No separate documents like printed annual statements, company brochures, etc. will be considered.

1.15.6 The rates quoted in the financial proposal should be firm throughout the period of performance of the assignment up to and including acceptance of the final report by the Authority and discharge of all obligations of the Consultant under the Agreement.

1.16 Bid Security

1.16.1 The Applicant should furnish as part of its Proposal, a bid security of Rs 3.1 lakhs in the form of Insurance Surety Bonds/Demand Draft/ Account Payee/ Fixed Deposit/ Receipt/ Banker’s Cheque /Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee) issued by one of the Nationalized/ Scheduled Banks in India in favor of PAO, NITI Aayog payable at New Delhi, except Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) who are registered on the Udyam Portal of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) (subject to compulsory submission of Udyam Certification) ([Udyam Portal](#)).

1.16.2 Bid securities of the unsuccessful bidders during the first stage i.e. technical evaluation, would be returned within 30 days of declaration of results of the technical evaluation, except in case of two highest ranked applicants. In the event that the first ranked Applicant commences the assignment as required in Clause 3.5, the second ranked Applicant, who has been kept in reserve, shall be returned its Bid Security forthwith, but in no case later than 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from PDD. After the award of the contract, the Selected Applicant’s Bid Security shall be returned within 30 (thirty) days on receipt of the performance security in accordance with the provisions thereof. Bid securities of the unsuccessful bidders during the first stage i.e. technical evaluation, would be returned within 30 days of declaration of results of the technical evaluation.

In case of government owned universities/academic institutions, the Applicant shall furnish, as part of its Proposal, a Bid Security Declaration (instead of bid security) as per format specified in Appendix-I Form-11. Universities/academic institutions (hereunder referred to as universities/institutions)/ should be recognized by University Grant Commission or any State or the Central Government Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

- 1.16.3 Any Bid not accompanied by the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration, as the case may be, shall be rejected by the Authority as non-responsive
- 1.16.4 The authority shall not be liable to pay any interest on the Bid Security and the same shall be interest free.
- 1.16.5 The Applicant, by submitting its Application pursuant to this RFP, shall be deemed to have acknowledged that without prejudice to the Authority's any other right or remedy hereunder or in law or otherwise, the Authority reserves the right to forfeit the bid security or take action as per the Bid Security Declaration for, inter alia, the time, cost and effort of the Authority in regard to the RFP including the consideration and evaluation of the Proposal under the following conditions:
 - a) If an Applicant submits a non-responsive Proposal;
 - b) If an Applicant engages in any of the Prohibited Practices specified in Section 5 of this RFP
 - c) If an Applicant withdraws its Proposal during the period of its validity as specified in this RFP and as extended by the **Authority** from time to time;
 - d) In the case of the Selected Applicant, if the Applicant fails to reconfirm its commitments during negotiations as required vide Clause 3.1;
 - e) In the case of a Selected Applicant, if the Applicant fails to sign the Agreement or commence the assignment as specified in Clauses 3.5 and 3.6 respectively; or
 - f) If the Applicant is found to have a Conflict of Interest as specified in Clause 1.5.

1.17 Performance Security

- 1.17.1 The Applicant, by submitting its Application pursuant to this RFP, shall be deemed to have acknowledged that without prejudice to the Authority's any other right or remedy hereunder or in law or otherwise, its Performance Security shall be forfeited and appropriated by the Authority under circumstances specified in this Clause 1.17.4.
- 1.17.2 An amount equal to 3% (three per cent) of the Agreement Value shall be deemed to be the Performance Security. Performance Security may be furnished in the form of Insurance Surety Bond/Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee), Account Payee Demand Draft, Fixed Deposit receipt issued by one of the Nationalized/Scheduled Banks in India.
- 1.17.3 Bid security shall be refunded to the successful bidder on receipt of Performance Security.
- 1.17.4 The Performance Security may be forfeited and appropriated by the Authority if the work submitted by the Consultant is felt to be substandard by the Authority and non-compliance with the scope of the study.

2 Evaluation Process

2.1 Evaluation of Proposals

- 2.1.1 The Authority shall open the Proposals at 17:00 hours on the next working day after the Proposal Due Date via online bid opening. The folder of Technical Proposal shall be opened first. The folder of Financial Proposal shall be kept locked for opening at a later date.
- 2.1.2 Proposals withdrawn prior to Proposal Due Date shall not be considered for evaluation.
- 2.1.3 Test of Responsiveness: Prior to evaluation of Proposals, the Authority will determine whether each Proposal is responsive to the requirements of the RFP. The Authority may, in its sole discretion, reject any Proposal that is not responsive hereunder. A Proposal shall be considered responsive if:
- a) The Technical Proposal is received in the forms specified at Appendix-I; (All forms to be scanned and uploaded in pdf form on GeM Portal duly signed by the authorized signatory, statutory auditor and/or key personnel, as applicable)
 - b) It is received by the Proposal Due Date including any extension thereof pursuant to Clause 1.2;
 - c) It is accompanied by the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration Form as specified in Clause 1.16 or Appendix-I Form-11 (as available on DMEQ website).
 - d) It is digitally signed, numbered and submitted as stipulated in Clauses 1.15;
 - e) It is accompanied by the Power of Attorney as specified in Clause 1.12.3 and Appendix-I Form 4(as available on DMEQ website) ;
 - f) It contains all the information (complete in all respects) as requested in the prescribed formats as per TIS of the RFP.
 - g) It does not contain any condition or qualification; and
 - h) It does not contain the financial proposal or any information regarding the financial proposal.
 - i) It is not non-responsive in terms hereof.
- 2.1.4 The Authority reserves the right to reject any Proposal which is non-responsive and no request for alteration, modification, substitution, or withdrawal shall be entertained by the Authority in respect of such Proposals.
- 2.1.5 The Authority shall subsequently examine and evaluate Proposals in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 4 of this RFP (Criteria for Evaluation).
- 2.1.6 After the technical evaluation, the Authority shall prepare a list of pre-qualified and shortlisted Applicants in terms of Clause 4.4 for opening of their Financial Proposals. A date, time and venue will be notified to all Applicants for announcing the result of evaluation and opening of Financial Proposals. Before opening of the Financial Proposals, the list of pre-qualified and shortlisted Applicants along with their Technical Score will be read out. The opening of Financial Proposals shall be done in presence of respective representatives of Applicants who choose to be present. The Authority will not entertain any query or clarification from Applicants who fail to qualify at any stage of the Selection Process. The financial evaluation and final ranking of the Proposals shall be carried out in terms of Clauses 4.4 and 4.5.

2.2 Confidentiality

Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation, and recommendation for the selection of Applicants shall not be disclosed to any person who is not officially concerned with the process or is not a retained professional adviser advising the Authority in relation to matters arising out of, or concerning the Selection Process. The Authority shall treat all information, submitted as part of the Proposal, in confidence and shall require all those who have access to such material to treat the same in confidence. The Authority may not divulge any such information unless it is directed to do so by any statutory entity that has the power under law to require its disclosure or is to enforce or assert any right or privilege of the statutory entity and/or the Authority or as may be required by law or in connection with any legal process.

2.3 Clarification

- 2.3.1 To facilitate evaluation of Proposals, the Authority may, at its sole discretion, seek clarifications from any Applicant regarding its Proposal. Such clarification(s) shall be provided within the time specified by the Authority for this purpose. Any request for clarification(s) and all clarification(s) in response thereto shall be in writing.
- 2.3.2 If an Applicant does not provide clarifications sought under Clause 2.3.1 above within the specified time, the Authority may proceed to evaluate the Proposal by construing the particulars requiring clarification to the best of its understanding. The Applicant shall be barred from subsequently questioning such interpretation of the Authority.

3 Appointment of Consultant

3.1 Negotiations

- 3.1.1 The Selected Applicant may be invited for negotiations, if necessary. The negotiations shall generally be for re-confirming the obligations of the Consultant under this RFP. Issues such as deployment of Key Personnel, understanding of the RFP, methodology and quality of the work plan shall be discussed during negotiations. There shall be no change in the scope of the work/services during negotiation. Up to two Key Personnel who is/are not eligible as required in Annexure-A of RFP be replaced by the Applicant with better candidate (s) as per Clause 3.1.2. In case the Selected Applicant fails to reconfirm its commitment, the Authority reserves the right to forfeit the bid security or initiate debarment of the firm as per Bid security declaration of the Applicant in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.16. Notwithstanding the above, the substitution of Key Personnel at the negotiations may be considered if due solely to circumstances outside the reasonable control of and not foreseeable by the applicant, including but not limited to resignation, death or medical incapacity. In such a case, the Selected Applicant shall offer a substitute Key Personnel within the period specified in the invitation letter to negotiate the Contract, who shall have equivalent or better qualifications and experience than the original candidate.
- 3.1.2 The Authority will examine the CVs of all other Professional Personnel and those not found suitable shall be replaced by the Applicant to the satisfaction of the Authority.

- 3.1.3 Before issuing a Letter of Award (LoA) to the successful Applicant, the Authority may, at its discretion, ask the selected Applicant to submit self-attested copies of relevant certificates for minimum educational qualifications and proof of relevant experiences, given in the CVs in the proposal, of the Key Personnel for verification. If so decided, the photocopies of such self-certified documents shall be verified and signed by the authorized signatories and kept in the records as part of the contract agreement. If the consultant fails to provide such originals or in case of substantive discrepancies in such documents, the proposal will be considered as non-responsive and rejected thereon. In such cases, the Authority may forfeit the Bid Security or/and initiate suitable action as per the provision of Bid Security Declaration.
- 3.1.4 The negotiations shall be concluded with a review of the finalized draft Contract, which shall be initiated by the Authority and the Applicant's authorized representative. If the negotiations fail, the Authority shall inform the Applicant in writing of all pending issues and disagreements and provide a final opportunity for the Applicant to respond. If disagreement persists, the Authority shall declare the proposal non-responsive, informing the Applicant of the reasons for doing so. The Authority shall invite the next-ranked responsive Applicant to negotiate a Contract. Once the Authority commences negotiations with the next-ranked Applicant, the Authority shall not reopen the earlier negotiations. In case, the second ranked applicant is invited for negotiation, the lower cost, as per financial proposals, between the highest ranked applicant and the second highest ranked applicant shall be offered to the second highest ranked applicant for the award of contract.

3.2 Substitution of Key Personnel (During the Subsistence of the Agreement)

- 3.2.1 The Authority will not normally consider any request of the Selected Applicant for substitution of Key Personnel as the ranking of the Applicant is based on the evaluation of Key Personnel and any change therein may upset the ranking. Substitution will, however, be considered only based on the Consultant's written request and due to compelling or unavoidable situations outside the reasonable control of the consultant, including but not limited to resignation, death or medical incapacity. The substitution shall be subject to the provision of equivalent or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. Such substitution shall ordinarily be limited to one Key Personnel subject to equally or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. As a condition to such substitution, a sum equal to 10% (ten per cent) of the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the payments due to the Consultant from the date of replacement till the completion of contract. In the case of a second substitution hereunder, such deduction shall be 20% (twenty per cent) of the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the payments due to the Consultant from the date of replacement till the completion of contract. Any further substitution may lead to disqualification of the Applicant or termination of the Agreement.
- 3.2.2 Substitution of the Team Leader will not normally be considered and may lead to

disqualification of the Applicant or termination of the Agreement.

- 3.2.3 In case the Authority is not satisfied with the performance of any Key Personnel, the Authority may initiate a request for substitution of such Key Personnel.

3.3 Indemnity

The Consultant shall, subject to the provisions of the Agreement, is liable to indemnify the Authority for an amount of the contract value, for any loss or damage that is caused due to any deficiency in services.

3.4 Award of Consultancy/draft contract and cancellation

Letter of Award (the “LOA”) shall be issued, in duplicate, by the Authority to the Selected Applicant and the Selected Applicant shall, within 7 (seven) days of the receipt of the LOA, sign and return the duplicate copy of the LOA in acknowledgement thereof. In the event the duplicate copy of the LOA duly signed by the Selected Applicant is not received within 7 days of receipt of the LOA, the Authority, unless it consents to extension of time for submission thereof, reserves the right to cancel the LOA and the application and forfeit the bid security.

3.5 Commencement of assignment

The agreement shall be signed between the authority and the selected applicant within 7 days of receipt of signed LOA. The date of agreement will be the date of commencement. If the Consultant fails to sign the Agreement, the Bid Security of the Consultant shall be forfeited or action shall be initiated by the Authority as per the Bid Security Declaration in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.16.5. The Selected Applicant shall not be entitled to seek any deviation⁴ in the Agreement.

3.6 Proprietary Data

All documents and other information provided by the Authority or submitted by an Applicant to the Authority shall remain or become the property of the Authority. Applicants and the Consultant, as the case may be, are to treat all information as strictly confidential. The Authority will not return any Proposal or any information related thereto. All information collected, analyzed, processed or in whatever manner provided by the Consultant to the Authority in relation to the Consultancy shall be the property of the Authority. The Consultant shall make suitable arrangements for the preservation of data collected during the study, such as filled in schedules, tabulation or working sheets, reports, photographs etc., relating to the Project in electronic form and this shall be shared with the Authority at the time of submission of Final report. The ownership of all such data shall remain with the Authority. All raw data compiled during the consultancy assignment shall be transferred to the authority. No data collected in context of the study may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of or given to any other organization/individual, unless so approved by the Authority.

⁴ “Deviation” refers to any departure from the term and conditions specified in the RFP document.

4 Criteria for Evaluation

4.1 Evaluation of Technical Proposals

4.1.1 In the first stage, the Technical Proposal will be evaluated based on the eligibility criteria for the Applicant as laid down in Clause 1.4.2, their experience, understanding of the TOR, proposed methodology and Work Plan, and the qualifications and experience of the Key Personnel. Only those Applicants whose Technical Proposals get a score of 70 (seventy) marks or more out of 100 (one hundred) shall qualify for further consideration and shall be ranked from highest to the lowest based on their technical score.

4.1.2 Technical score (ST) is calculated by considering the highest Technical Proposal (TMax) and will be given a technical score (ST) of 100 points. The technical scores of other proposals will be computed as follows:

$$ST = 100 \times T / T_{Max}$$

(T = absolute score of Technical Proposal)

4.1.3 The scoring criteria to be used for evaluation shall be as follows.

S.No.	Parameter	Maximum Marks	Criteria
1.	Relevant Experience of the Applicant	30	<p>Maximum 10 assignments can be submitted by the applicant.*</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sample size of eligible assignments of the applicant (10 marks). The marks will be allocated based on the following: Each eligible assignment with survey sample size of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 to 1000 respondents: 0.5 mark >1000 to 2000 respondents: 0.7 mark >2000 respondents: 1 mark⁵ Average annual total revenue/turnover of the applicant (10 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹3 crore to ₹ 5 crores: 8 marks > ₹5 crore to ₹ 7 crores: 9 marks > ₹ 7 crores: 10 marks Value of Eligible Assignments (10 marks). The marks will be allocated based on the following: Each eligible assignment with value: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹10 Lakhs to ₹25 Lakhs: 0.8 mark >₹25 Lakhs to ₹50 Lakhs : 0.9 mark >₹50 Lakhs: 1 mark
2.	Proposed Methodology	40	Evaluation will be based on the quality of submissions, as per Appendix-I Form-7, & Form-12

	and Work Plan		and the presentation made by the Applicant ⁵ . Proposed Methodology and work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of ToR, Methodology and Work Plan, Quality of PPT, Response to Queries = 36 marks Collaboration / consortium / partnership with academic institutions = 4 marks⁶
3.	Experience of Proposed Key Personnel of the Applicant	30	Marks shall be awarded for the relevant experience based on the years of relevant experience <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team leader (Maximum Marks 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 to 9 years: 7 marks > More than 9 years: 9 marks 2. Social Development Experts (2 no.s) (Maximum Marks 7 each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 years to 7 years: 5 marks More than 7 years: 7 marks 3. Data Analyst (Maximum Marks 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 years to 4 years: 3 marks More than 4 years: 4 marks 4. Research Associate (Maximum Marks 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 years to 4 years: 2 marks More than 4 years: 3 marks
Total		100	

4.2 Eligible Assignments

For the purposes of determining Conditions of Eligibility and for evaluating the Proposals under this RFP, advisory/ consultancy assignments, for the following projects shall be deemed as eligible assignments (the “Eligible Assignments”):

- In case the applicant submits more than ten assignments, only 1st ten assignments will be considered for evaluation
- Assessment/ research/ evaluation study in health/ nutrition/agriculture/ education/financial inclusion/skilling/rural development sector conducted for Union/ State Government/ regulatory commission/ tribunal/ bilateral agencies/ multilateral agencies/ statutory authorities/ public sector entities in India covering a minimum sample size of 500 respondents.

⁵ The presentation shall be made by all the proposed team members (key personnel) only for their respective part of the proposal (in-person or virtually). The Team Leader must present the majority of the proposal (approximately 50%) of the proposal. In case of absence of Team leader and M&E Specialist (Project Manager) during presentation, the proposal may be rejected by the Authority.

⁶ The Applicant will present how it plans to involve and collaborate with academic institutions while designing and delivering on the Project, if collaborating with such an institution as per Form-12.

- c) Provided that the Eligible Assignments have been completed in the 8 (eight) financial years preceding the PDD.
- d) Provided that the value of each eligible assignment submitted by the Applicant is at least Rs. 10 Lakhs.
- e) For the Eligible Assignments, the Applicant shall provide requisite supporting documents such as copies of contracts, agreements etc. The value for the assignment should be clearly mentioned in the supporting documents provided. In the absence of supporting documents with requisite details, the assignment will not be considered as an Eligible Assignment.

4.3 Shortlisting of Applicants

The technically qualified applicants shall be shortlisted for financial evaluation in the second stage.

4.4 Evaluation of Financial Proposals

- 4.4.1 In the second stage, the financial evaluation will be carried out as per this Clause. The financial score (SF) for the applicant will be arrived at based on the formula given in Clause 4.4.3.
- 4.4.2 For financial evaluation, the total cost indicated in the Financial Proposal will be considered
- 4.4.3 The Authority will determine whether the Financial Proposals are complete, unqualified and unconditional. The cost indicated in the Financial Proposal shall be deemed as final and reflecting the total cost of services. Omissions, if any, in costing any item shall not entitle the firm to be compensated and the liability to fulfil its obligations as per the TOR within the total quoted price shall be that of the Consultant. The lowest Financial Proposal (FMin) will be given a financial score (SF) of 100 points. The financial scores of other proposals will be computed as follows:

$$SF = 100 \times F_{Min}/F$$

(F = amount of Financial Proposal)

4.5 Combined and Final Evaluation

- 4.5.1 Proposals will finally be ranked according to their combined technical (ST) and financial (SF) scores as follows:

$$S = ST \times Tw + SF \times Fw$$

where, S is the combined score, and Tw and Fw are weights assigned to Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal, which shall be 0.70 and 0.30 respectively.

- 4.5.2 The “Selected Applicant” shall be the first ranked Applicant (having the highest combined score). The Authority reserves the right to take action as per the Bid Security Declaration in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.16.5, in case the first-ranked Applicant withdraws, or fails to comply with the requirements specified in Clause 3 as the case may be.

5 Fraud and Corrupt Practices

- 5.1 The Applicants and their respective officers, employees, agents and advisers shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the Selection Process. Notwithstanding anything to the

contrary contained in this RFP, the Authority shall reject a proposal without being liable in any manner whatsoever to the Applicant, if it determines that the Applicant has, directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, anti- competitive practice, coercive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice in the Selection Process or after the issue of the LOA or the execution of the Agreement. In such an event, the Authority shall, without prejudice to its any other rights or remedies, take action as per the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration, or forfeit and appropriate the Bid Security or Performance Security, as the case may be. Further, such an Applicant or Consultant shall not be eligible to participate in any tender or RFP issued by the Authority during a period of 2 (two) years from the date of such an order.

5.2 For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:

- a) “Corrupt practice” means making an offer, solicitation or acceptance of a bribe, reward, gift or any material benefit in exchange for an unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or to otherwise influence the Procurement Process
- b) “Fraudulent practice” means any omission or misrepresentation that may mislead or attempt to mislead so that financial or other benefits may be obtained or an obligation avoided. Such practices include a false declaration or false information for participation in a Procurement Process or to secure a Contract, or in the execution of the agreement
- c) “Coercive practice” means harming or threatening to harm persons or their property to influence their participation in the Procurement Process or affect the execution of the agreement
- d) “Anti-competitive practice” means any collusion, Proposal-rigging or anti-competitive arrangement, or any other practice including cartels coming under the purview of the Competition Act, 2002, between two or more Applicants, with or without the knowledge of the Authority, that may impair the transparency, fairness, and the progress of the Procurement Process or to establish Proposal prices at artificial, non-competitive levels
- e) “Conflict of interest” means participation by a bidding firm or any of its affiliates who are either involved in the Consultancy Contract to which this procurement is linked; if they are part of more than one Proposal in the procurement; or if their personnel have a relationship or financial or business transactions with any official of Authority who are directly or indirectly related to tender or execution process of contract; or improper use of information obtained by the (prospective) Applicant from the Authority with an intent to gain unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or for personal gain or in any other manner specified in Clause 3 Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest .
- f) “Obstructive practice” means materially impeding Authority’s investigation into allegations of one or more of the above-mentioned prohibited practices either by deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering; or by concealing evidence material to the investigation; or by making false statements to investigators and/ or by threatening, harassing or intimidating any party threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters

relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or by impeding the Authority's rights of an audit or access to information.

Annexure A
**Details of minimum Education qualification & Experience required from the
 Consultancy Team**

S. No.	Key Personnel ⁷	Minimum Educational Qualification ⁸	Length of Professional Experience	Minimum Length of Relevant Experience
1	Team Leader (Evaluation Expert)	Masters (or equivalent) in Economics, Public Policy, Development Studies, Social Sciences, or any relevant field	10 years	At least 8 years in last 10 years immediately preceding the date of submission of application in handling evaluation/research projects.
2	Social Development Expert I (preferably with sectoral expertise in relevant thematic areas)	Master's (or equivalent) in social development or related fields.	8 years	At least 6 years of relevant work experience in handling evaluation/research projects in social/ rural and other relevant sectors.
3	Social Development Expert II (preferably with sectoral expertise in relevant thematic areas)	Master's (or equivalent) in social development or related fields.	8 years	At least 6 years of relevant work experience in handling evaluation/research projects in social/ rural and other relevant sectors.
4	Data Analyst	Masters (or equivalent) in data science/statistics/or related field(s)	5 years	At least 3 years of relevant work experience in quantitative and qualitative data management and analysis.
5	Research Associate	Master's degree in development related fields	5 years	At least 3 years of relevant experience in assessment/evaluation/research in social development or related fields

⁷ The upper age limit of the proposed key personnel shall not exceed the age of 60 years.

⁸ For degrees obtained from the accredited foreign Boards/universities, the applicant shall furnish a self-declaration on the academic equivalence to the 'Minimum Educational Qualifications' as defined in Annexure-A.

S. No.	Key Personnel	Responsibilities
1.	Team Leader (Evaluation Expert)	<p>S/He will provide overall leadership, ensure methodological rigor, and coordinate the evaluation team while stepping in for detailed oversight where needed. S/He will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and finalise the evaluation framework, methodology, sampling plan, and tools for ADP and ABP. • Oversee both strategic planning and operational execution of evaluation activities. • Ensure integration of qualitative and quantitative findings into a cohesive analysis. • Guide all thematic experts to maintain consistency in approach, data use, and reporting. • Facilitate stakeholder consultations with NITI Aayog, central ministries, state departments, district/block administrations, and community representatives. • Supervise quality control of fieldwork, data analysis, and report preparation. • Ensure timely delivery of inception, interim, and final reports. • Represent the evaluation team in all review meetings and presentations.
2.	Social Development Experts	<p>S/He will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the inclusivity and equity of interventions across vulnerable and marginalised groups. • Evaluate the impact of the programmes on poverty reduction, gender equity, and social cohesion. • Examine participatory processes, community mobilisation, and convergence with other social sector schemes. • Identify barriers to access and utilisation of services in health, education, nutrition, and livelihoods. • Document best practices and scalable models for social development in low-performing districts/blocks.
3.	Data Analyst	<p>S/He will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain databases for primary and secondary data. • Support design of survey tools and ensure data quality protocols.

S. No.	Key Personnel	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct statistical analysis (descriptive and inferential) to assess scheme performance indicators. • Generate data visualizations, dashboards, and tables for reports and presentations. • Ensure proper coding, cleaning, and validation of datasets. • Work closely with thematic experts to translate data into actionable insights.
4.	Research Associate	<p>S/He will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in literature review, stakeholder mapping, and preparation of background notes. • Support tool design, pilot testing, and field coordination. • Collate, clean, and organise primary and secondary data for analysis. • Draft sections of reports under the guidance of senior experts. • Maintain records of field observations, stakeholder interviews, and meeting notes.

Schedules

Schedule 1: Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR Evaluation of Aspirational District Programme

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1 Quality Assurance of the Evaluation Report

The evaluation report submitted by the Consultant must comply with DMEO's quality standards in order to be accepted. In case of any compromise in the quality of the deliverables, a suitable penalty would be imposed on the Consultant as per the provisions given in the RFP.

An indicative quality standard followed by DMEO is given below. The consultant may include more such standards to further enhance the report quality.

1.1 Executive Summary (ES)

The executive summary (ES) is meant to be read by a wider audience; thus, it must be written with extreme neatness and attention to detail. It should be written with clarity, coherence, and crispness. Findings of the report should be elaborated with key statistics and recommendations following from findings. The ES should offer more than just a synopsis of the chapters; it should also triangulate all the evidence obtained during the study from the primary survey and secondary data and policy implications to flow from such findings. The ES should be forthright in its observations, precise in its deductions, and proactive in its suggestions. ES should ideally be written in short, separate paragraphs that do not exceed five pages. All data/findings/recommendations cited from the main report need to be properly referenced using page numbers. The ES should only briefly touch up the evaluation questions, issues, and problems. The ES needs to be sharp and centred on the conclusions and suggestions emerging from the evaluation study.

1.2 Professional Language and Referencing

The report should be written in a professional manner and in accordance with the standards of a typical double-blind, peer-reviewed publication. The report should be free from grammatical errors, plagiarism and spelling mistakes. Reports with more than 20 per cent plagiarised content will not be accepted. The plagiarism will be ascertained through software/tools such as Turnitin etc. It must adhere to the suggested report structure and appropriately referenced with necessary citations. Any data, diagrams, and graphs must be appropriately labelled and referenced.

1.3 Objective Findings and Recommendation

The report should be a succinct, stand-alone document with objective language that may be used to inform decision-making. The findings should be presented clearly, providing sufficient evidence, and systematically addressing all the evaluation objectives. The recommendations should be clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings of the report. It should be clearly articulated and prioritized based on their importance and potential impact for the improvement of the scheme. The conclusions drawn from primary and secondary research must be given equal weight. Recommendations that lead to an increased financial burden on the government (such as those on increasing budgetary allocation) should be avoided, unless there is sound evidence emerging from the analysis that an increase may be expedient. Focus should be on resource optimisation/judicious usage of resources.

1.4 Ethical Considerations and Data Protection

Ethical considerations, such as confidentiality and data protection, and data quality, must be upheld throughout the process.

2 Background

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched in January 2018 by NITI Aayog, is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at the rapid and inclusive transformation of 112 underdeveloped districts across 26 States and 1 Union Territory. The programme is designed to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at district level, driving socio-economic advancement in historically underserved regions and seeks to improve governance, raise the standard of living and enhance service delivery

The districts were identified ensuring selection of at least one from each state, in a transparent manner by a committee of Senior Officers to the Government of India, in consultation with State Officials using a composite index of key data sets that included deprivation enumerated under the Socio-Economic Caste Census, key health and education sector performance and state of basic infrastructure.

Central to the programme is a rigorous monitoring framework that tracks 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across 81 data points, covering five critical sectors: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure. District performance is monitored and ranked based on incremental progress across these indicators, fostering a healthy sense of competition and driving continuous improvement. A baseline ranking was arrived at in March 2018 based on the KPIs to establish the initial status of each district. Subsequently, the progress of the aspirational districts is tracked using the Champions of Change (CoC) Dashboard. The dashboard uses ‘delta ranking’—a metric that highlights the pace of progress rather than absolute performance. This dashboard provides:

- Real-time theme-wise and overall rankings
- Month-on-month Delta Rankings capturing incremental progress

Currently the data for about 50 data points is self-reported by the districts through the Champions of Change platform and rest of the data points are sourced from MIS of central government ministries and relevant survey data.

The programme's strategy hinges on the convergence of existing government schemes, each with its own funding mechanisms. However, to further stimulate competitive spirit and address critical gaps, the ADP includes a provision for additional performance-based awards - financial rewards of Rs. 30 crore per month are granted to the top-performing districts—overall and by sector. These incentives are used to fund context-specific SDG-aligned projects proposed by the districts. The delta ranking pushes low performing districts to improve their standing as the additional allocations to districts are decided based on these rankings. These allocations have proved successful in funding critical gaps in the districts.

Beginning April 2025, the ranking and incentive distribution frequency is proposed to shift from monthly to quarterly, allowing districts greater flexibility and time for strategic

planning and execution.

The programme follows a strong and clear strategy that focuses on three key ideas – the ‘3Cs’:

- **Convergence:** Aligning efforts across Central, State, and local schemes to maximize developmental impact
- **Collaboration:** Engaging with civil society, philanthropic institutions, and development partners to amplify outreach and innovation
- **Competition:** Fostering a sense of positive rivalry among districts to improve governance and accountability

The indicators are weighed across themes as follows:

Themes	Weightage	Key Performance Indicators
Health and Nutrition	30%	13
Education	30%	8
Agriculture and Water Resources	20%	10
Financial Inclusion and Skill Development	10%	11
Basic Infrastructure	10%	7
Total	100%	49

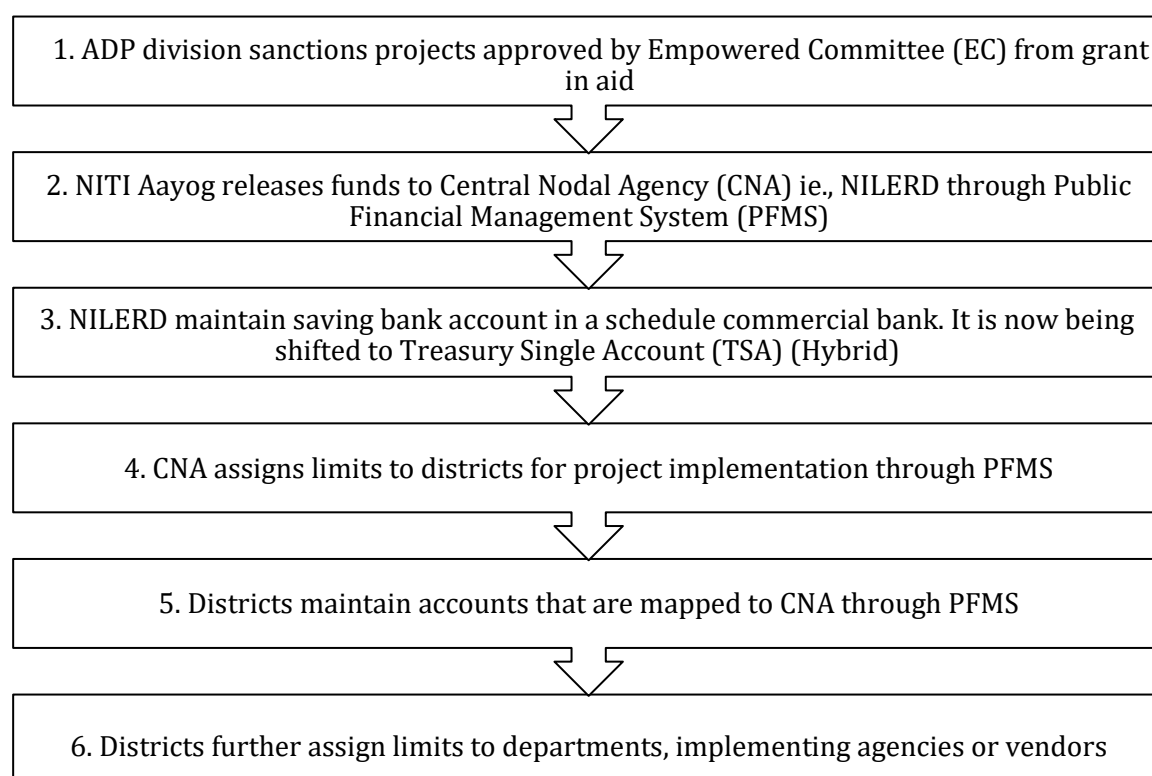
The funds under ADP are disbursed into districts under Windows I, II and III:

- **Window I:** The funds are allocated to districts based on the ranks secured by them towards improving performance on the key performance indicators monitored under the ADP (KPI Framework), through key projects proposed by the concerned District Magistrates. Until March 2024, rankings and awards were declared monthly. From April 2024, rankings continued on a monthly basis, but awards shifted to a quarterly format. Starting April 2025, both rankings and awards are proposed to be declared quarterly. Every quarter the best-performing District overall and in each of the five sectors are identified. The first and second rankers in overall terms are awarded Rs. 10 crores and Rs. 5 crores respectively. The first ranker from each of the five sectors is awarded Rs. 3 crores each. Rs. 30 crore per quarter is earmarked for these high-performing districts to implement key theme-related projects. A district can receive a maximum of 10 Cr. in a span of 12 months. In case the district is ranked 1st again, it will receive a Certificate of Excellence

from CEO, NITI Aayog. Similarly, districts with greater than 100 Cr. in District Mineral Fund (DMF), will only receive Certificate of Excellence from CEO, NITI Aayog.

- Window II: Funding for innovative or special projects proposed by individual districts, groups of districts, or by NITI Aayog. These require approval by the Empowered Committee of Secretaries. Projects under this window are linked to improving performance in terms of ranking for the Aspirational Districts.
- Window III: This window includes expenses towards (i) arrangement for the third-party evaluation, (ii) Domestic travel expenses and foreign travel expenses, (iii) PMU expenses, (iv) Office expenses, (v) Capacity Building/Training expenses, (vi) Printing & Publication, (vii) Advertising & Publicity and (viii) Any other administrative expenses deemed necessary including holding of conference(s)/workshops etc.

Fund Flow Mechanism (National and sub-national level)



Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure Pattern

Phase I of the EAP-SDG, implemented from 2019 to 2022, was funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) amounting to 15 billion Yen (approximately Rs. 974 crores). Phase II of the EAP-SDG, running from April 2022 to March 2024, continued with ODA support from JICA, amounting to 14 billion Yen (approximately Rs. 933 crores). Building on the success of the previous phases, the proposed Aspirational Districts Programme- Phase

III is set to be implemented during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26 with funding provided by the Central Government through budgetary resources. The proposed total cost of the scheme is Rs. 900 Cr. in Phase III.

	Year	Budget Estimate (BE) in Cr.	Revised Estimate (RE) (in Cr.)	Actual Expenditure (AE) (in Cr.)
Phase I	2019-20	126	126	125.06
	2020-21	267	267	266.75
	2021-22	581	581	580
	Total	974	974	971.81
Phase II	2022-23	500	500	497.38
	2023-24	433* (ADP- 333 Cr. & ABP- 100 Cr.)	113	Rs 8 only (Token release)
	Total	933	613	505.38
Phase III	2024-25	570 (240 Cr. pending award from FY 23-24)	208.55	8.08
	2025-26	330	-	-
	Total	900	-	-

Proposed and approved budget under Windows I, II & III across Phases are as follows

	Phase 1 (2019-22)		Phase II (2022-24)		Phase III (2024-26)	
	Proposed amount (in Cr.)	Approved amount (in Cr.)	Proposed amount (in Cr.)	Approved amount (in Cr.)	Proposed amount (in Cr.)	Approved amount (in Cr.)
Window I	600	600	720	720	600	600
Window II	364	350	208	205	200	100

Window III	10	24	5	8	100	40
Total	974	974	933	933	900	680

3 Objectives of the evaluation study

The primary objective of the evaluation is to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) in transforming most underdeveloped regions of the country through localising SDGs effectively.

The study will aim to determine how effectively the ADP have contributed to improving the performance of districts on key indicators related to health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure.

The evaluation study will primarily focus on four core dimensions of the Aspirational Districts Programme:

a) Relevance of the Scheme

- To assess the relevance of the ADP's objectives in addressing regional disparities and developmental gaps in India's most underdeveloped districts.
- To determine how well the programme design reflects ground realities and stakeholder expectations.

b) Efficiency

- To examine the efficiency of the scheme implementation.
- To examine the efficiency of fund allocation, disbursement, and utilization across the participating districts under window I, II and III.

c) Effectiveness

- To evaluate changes in district-level rankings and performance over time and identify the contribution of ADP to this progress.
- To evaluate whether the projects sanctioned under various windows have been effective in achieving their objectives.

d) Impact

- To measure the tangible impacts of ADP interventions on key development indicators.
- To assess the extent to which the ADP has contributed to reducing developmental gaps and promoting inclusive and equitable growth.
- To assess the impact of the projects sanctioned under ADP under various windows at the district level.

4 Scope of Evaluation

4.1 Reference Period of the Study

- a) For Secondary Research: FY 2018–19 to 2024–25
- b) For Primary Research: FY 2021–22 to 2024–25

The consultant will be required to undertake the following tasks:

Inception Phase

- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing documents, reports, dashboards, policies, and administrative data related to ADP.
- Finalize the methodology, evaluation framework, sampling plan and stakeholder consultation strategy.
- Develop and submit an Inception Report including:
 - Theory of Change/Result Chain
 - Sampling strategy for districts
 - Proposed indicators, tools for data collection
 - Risk assessment and mitigation plan

Secondary Research and Meta-Analysis

- Review and analyze:
 - Program design documents and implementation guidelines
 - Data from the Champions of Change Dashboard
 - Budgetary allocations and expenditure reports
 - Reports from third-party monitors, development partners, and government agencies
 - Performance ranking trends of districts

Primary Data Collection

- Conduct quantitative and qualitative research using:
 - Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with NITI Aayog, Ministry officials, State Nodal Officers, District Collectors, Sub-district and block level officials
 - Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Panchayati Raj Institutions, frontline workers (e.g., ASHAs, teachers, etc.), and beneficiaries
 - Beneficiary-level surveys across key themes (health, education, etc.)
 - Case studies of high-performing and lagging districts

The evaluation study should cover a wide sample of districts under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) ensuring broad representation across various parameters.

- The selected sample must include entities that reflect a mix of high, average, and low performance levels.

- Special attention should be given to backward regions, including tribal areas, to capture the unique challenges and outcomes in these contexts.
- Sample should comprehensively represent all five thematic areas of the ADP to enable a holistic assessment of the programmes' implementation and impact.

Monitoring and Quality Control

- Design and implement mechanisms to ensure data quality:
 - Real-time monitoring software tools for data collection and management (e.g., CAPI, geo-tagging, telephonic verification)
 - Third-party validations or back-checks
 - Pilot testing of survey tools before full deployment

Miscellaneous

- Preparation of draft evaluation report and presentation for stakeholder consultations
- Preparation of final evaluation report and presentation after incorporation of inputs from all the stakeholders concerned
- Submit weekly progress reports
- Conducting stakeholders' consultations during the course of the study
- Collecting and compiling the quality data from beneficiary
- High-quality data management and adherence to quality assurance mechanisms as per agreed protocols, plans and schedule
- Adhere to ethical protocols and data confidentiality norms
- The survey agency shall record telephonic interviews, email responses for necessary verification and validation that may be required for managing survey quality
- Collation and data cleaning
- Running data analysis and submitting cross-tabulations/summarizations
- Incorporating concurrent feedback into the work
- The consultant shall maintain high quality in the report content which will be peer-reviewed by DMEQ. The flow of findings and recommendations shall be clearly indicated in the report based on intellectual rigour. In case of any compromise in the quality, suitable penalty would be imposed on the consultant as per the provisions given in the RFP.
- All the reports are required to be submitted in hard copy (10 no.s) as well as in soft copy. A synopsis of the Final Evaluation Report is also required to be submitted separately. In addition to the reports, for further analysis in future, verifiable raw data in soft copy should also be shared with DMEQ, NITI Aayog. This will include detailed transcriptions of key informant interviews and focus group discussions as well as raw data in MS Excel/CSV format.

5 Data Collection and Methodology

5.1 Primary Data Collection:

The reference period for the study is 2021-2022 to 2024-25. A mixed-method study design will be utilized for this study. Under this, the quantitative and qualitative phases will be implemented to assess the Aspirational District Programme objectives mentioned in the earlier section. The primary data collection will have the following (indicative) components: KIIs, FGDs, facility visits, and beneficiary-level surveys.

5.1.1 Sampling

A multi-stage stratified sampling approach may be adopted and will cover at least 25 Aspirational Districts across all States /UTs based on regional spread, performance ranking-overall and theme wise and vulnerable geographies - Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected, tribal and border areas. The size of the sample must take account of competing needs so that costs and precision are optimally balanced. Considering the limited time, a survey in different identified zones should be conducted simultaneously.

Entire country can be divided into 6 geographical zones. Zone wise list of states is mentioned in the table below:

Sr No	Zone	States / UTs
1	Hilly, Northeast and Islands	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar
2	Northern India	Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh
3	Southern India	Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka
4	Western India	Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
5	Central India	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha
6	Eastern India	Bihar, Jharkhand

A minimum of 12 States including at least one Union Territory are to be selected, of which each zone must be represented by at least two States. The State/UT selection criteria are to be proposed by the Consultant as a part of the Methodology and Work Plan. A minimum of 50 KIIs, 25 FGDs, 100 stakeholder surveys and 375 beneficiary surveys are proposed to be conducted with the relevant stakeholders to evaluate the Scheme. There should be an appropriate representation of women in the primary data collection. The indicative sampling frame for the KIIs and FGDs is given below. However, it is essential to note that these numbers are indicative and that the Consultant

may suggest their methodology best suited to meet the objectives of the evaluation. The final methodology will be based on the approval of DMEO. The selection of Aspirational Districts will be reviewed by DMEO keeping in mind the strict adherence to timelines. An indicative sampling framework and minimum sample sizes for costing purposes are as follows:

Distribution of KIIs, FGDs and Survey across Stakeholders:

S.No.	Category	KII	FGD	Beneficiaries
1	NITI Aayog, Ministry	2		
2	Central Prabhari Officer	2		
3	District Collectors /DMs (ADP)	12		
4	State Planning Secretary	1		
	District level Line Department Officials (Education/Health etc.)	33		
5	Frontline Workers (ASHA, AWW, ANM, Teacher etc.)/		25	100
6	Community Groups (SHGs, FPOs, PRI, etc)			
7	Beneficiaries (from aspirational districts)			375
Total		50	25	475

5.1.2 Analysis

The consultant should propose a comprehensive list of parameters and indicators for data collection and analysis. The same shall be finalized in consultation with DMEO.

5.2 Secondary Data Analysis:

Secondary data sources such as operational guidelines of the scheme, budget documents, standing committee reports, existing evaluation reports by various independent institutions, organizations or individual researchers and administrative and district-level MIS data (Health, Education, Agriculture, etc.) will need to be utilized for analysis.

5.3 Mechanism to ensure Data Quality:

A multi-pronged robust quality control process must be followed during data collection.

The following aspects need to be considered:

- a) The field investigators to be engaged in conducting the KIIs and FGDs should have at least 1 year of experience conducting similar surveys/interviews. 2-step training (classroom and then on-the-field training) should be conducted for all field investigators.
- b) It is recommended that pilot study should be conducted on at least 2% of the sample size for Key Informant Interviews, FGDs and beneficiaries to fine tune the survey tools. A brief on the learnings from such a pilot exercise and subsequent improvements in the tools/questionnaires should also be shared with DMEQ.
- c) All survey instruments (questionnaires, FGD guides, validation forms) must be submitted for review and approval by DMEQ prior to full-scale data collection.
- d) 100% data collected should be validated using a validation checklist. Missing data points should be recollected.
- e) In the case of FGDs/beneficiaries, at least 50% of data should also be telephonically verified, and if not verified via phone, back checks should be undertaken to ensure at least 50% data verification.
- f) Use of mobile-based, near real-time and geo-tagged data collection and validation tools should be done to ensure efficiency and accuracy in data collection. Access to tools and data should be provided to the Authority.

6 List of Stakeholders to be consulted

A detailed list of stakeholders to be interacted with during the key informant interviews, FGDs, facility and beneficiary surveys to be formulated by the consultant in consultation with DMEQ.

7 Deliverables and Timelines

The total duration of the evaluation study is 4 months.

- a) In the Inception report, the Consultant must submit a Gantt Chart (weekly) of all the activities and sub-activities. The Consultant shall propose the timeline for the payment-linked deliverables, which are a) Inception Report b) Mid-Term Report, c) Draft Evaluation Report and d) Final Evaluation Report.
- b) The payment-linked deliverable shall adhere to the requirements given in the Scope of Services.
- c) The Authority will manage the project based on the timelines submitted by the Consultant in the Inception report (Gantt chart) for the payment-linked deliverables.

The key deliverables are detailed in the table below:

S. No.	Deliverables	Broad Topics (Indicative)
1.	Inception Report and Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and background of the study • Objectives of the study • Approach and methodology • Literature review and preliminary findings • List of stakeholders and insights from preliminary stakeholder consultations • Sampling plan including sample coverage • Pilot plan • Analysis framework and plan (Mapping of objectives with data points and potential data sources, etc.) • Deliverables and timeline of the study (Weekly Gantt Chart) • Survey Team structure • Training plan for the survey team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field movement plan (Indicative) ○ Quality control mechanism ○ Perceived risks/ limitations and mitigation plan ○ Research tools/instruments/ software- Qualitative and Quantitative ○ Questionnaires, discussion guides, etc. ○ Details of CAPI questionnaire development ○ Data/ information analysis software for both quantitative and qualitative research ○ Detailed report structure <p>The inception report should not be lengthy.</p>
2.	Mid-term report and presentation (to be submitted as per the timeline and covering a minimum of 40% of the sample)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study progress details including training and pilot summaries • Summary on data collected so far including methods used • Challenges faced and mitigation measures • Preliminary findings and key observations • Revised work plan, if applicable • Measures adopted for ensuring data quality including data verification, data validation, back checks, surprise inspections, and use of CAPI and tracking systems. <p>The mid-term report is a progress report and should not repeat the content of the inception report.</p>

S. No.	Deliverables	Broad Topics (Indicative)
3.	Draft evaluation report and presentation for stakeholder consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive Summary (It should be crisp, direct, and lucidly written with emphasis on appropriate sections such as Findings and Recommendations. Findings should be elaborated with key statistics and the recommendations should follow the findings. Length of the Executive Summary should ideally be 5 pages.Sector and scheme Overview (synthesis of the findings from the meta-analysis and the field study as well as the granular CSS level analysis.)Study ObjectivesStudy Approach & Methodology (Brief discussion in the main report. The details would go in the appendix)FindingsSecondary data analysisPrimary data analysisDiscussion on findings & Recommendations (state insights and comparisons including case studies)References & Appendices <p>The final report should be succinct. Content editor to give specific emphasis on the language, coherence, and brevity of the draft evaluation report. Proofreading of the manuscript is compulsory.</p>
4.	Final evaluation report and presentation after incorporation of inputs from all concerned stakeholders	
5.	Presentations and sub-reports on primary data collection, data quality check, secondary research, best practices compendia, etc. as and when requested by DMEQ	

All the reports are required to be submitted in hard copy (10 nos.) and in soft copy. In addition to the reports, for further analysis in future, verifiable raw data in soft copy should also be shared with DMEO, NITI Aayog. This will include detailed transcriptions of key informant interviews and focus group discussions as well as raw data from household surveys in MS Excel/CSV format.

8 Indicative Structure of the Evaluation Report

The Final Evaluation Report should cover the following aspects:

1. Preface
2. Executive Summary
3. Scheme Overview

- 3.1. Brief background
- 3.2. Scheme Objectives
- 3.3. Implementation mechanisms
- 3.4. Nature of evaluation studies and their key findings - Gaps therein
- 4. Study Objectives
- 5. Study Approach & Methodology (Brief discussion in the main report. The details will go in the appendix)
 - 5.1. Overall approach
 - 5.2. Field Study methodology
 - I. Qualitative
 - A. Stakeholder & geographical coverage
 - B. Tools
 - II. Quantitative
 - A. Sampling - Geographical coverage & respondent profile
 - B. Sample size
 - C. Sample selection
 - D. Tools
- 6. Observations & Recommendations
 - I. Scheme performance - Outputs & Outcomes
 - II. Key issues/challenges & their root causes
 - III. Key recommendations/Way Forward -:
 - A. Governance
 - B. Fund Flow efficiency & Utilization
 - C. M&E systems
 - D. Any other relevant aspect

IV. Interventions in Cross-sectional areas –

- A. Accountability & Transparency
- B. Use of IT/Technology in driving efficiency
- C. Social Inclusion
- D. Gender Mainstreaming
- E. Any other relevant cross-sectional area

V. Need for modifications/deletions/additions to fill-in gaps

7. Conclusions

- I. Summary of the findings
- II. Way Forward

8. References & Appendices

8.1. Appendix 1 - Details of Key Informant Interviews and FGDs

- I. Appendix 1a - List of stakeholders interviewed
- II. Appendix 1b - Geography-wise sample Size covered
- III. List of beneficiaries interviewed

9 Reporting

- a) The Consultant will work closely with the Authority. The Authority has established a Working Group (the “WG”) to enable conduct of this assignment. A designated Project Director of the Authority will be responsible for the overall coordination and project development. He will play a coordinating role in dissemination of the Consultant’s outputs, facilitating discussions, and ensuring required reactions and responses to the Consultant.
- b) The Consultant may prepare Issue Papers highlighting issues that could become critical for the timely completion of the Project and that require attention from the Authority.
- c) The Consultant will make a presentation on the Inception Report and Draft Evaluation Report for discussion with the WG at a meeting. This will be a working document. The Consultant is required to prepare and submit a weekly update that includes and describes, inter alia, general progress to date; data and reports obtained and reviewed, conclusions to date, if any; concerns about availability of, or access to, data, analyses, reports; questions regarding the TOR or any other matters regarding work scope and

related issues; and so on. The Consultants' work on the TOR tasks should continue while the report is under consideration and is being discussed.

- d) Regular communication with the WG and the Project Director is required in addition to all key communications. This may take the form of telephone/ teleconferencing, emails, faxes, and occasional meetings.

10 Meetings

The Authority may review with the Consultant, any or all of the documents and advice forming part of the Consultancy, in meetings and conferences held at the Authority's office. No travel time allowance shall be payable for attending meetings at Authority's office. The consultant is required to work from the Authority's office, if required.

11 Miscellaneous

- a) The Consultant may have/establish an office in Delhi/NCR, for efficient and coordinated performance of its Services. All the Key Personnel shall be deployed at this office during the duration of the project as specified in the Manning Schedule forming part of the Agreement. The authorised officials of the Authority may visit the Consultant's Project Office or field locations any time during office hours for inspection and interaction with the Consultant's Personnel.
- b) The Consultant shall mobilise and demobilise its Professional Personnel and Support Personnel with the concurrence of the Authority and shall maintain the time sheet/ attendance sheet of the working of all Personnel in the Project Office. These time sheets/ attendance sheets shall be made available to the Authority as and when asked for and a copy of such record shall be submitted to the Authority at the end of each calendar month.
- c) All the study outputs including primary data shall be compiled, classified and submitted by the Consultant to the Authority in soft form apart from the reports indicated in the Deliverables. The study outputs shall remain the property of the Authority and shall not be used for any purpose other than that intended under these Terms of Reference without the permission of the Authority. The Consultancy shall stand completed on acceptance by the Authority of all the Deliverables of the Consultant and execution of the Agreement. The Authority shall issue a certificate to that effect. The Consultancy shall in any case be deemed to be completed by mutual consent of the Authority and the Consultant.

12 Timeline for Deliverables

S. No.	Activity	Deadlines
1	Award of Contract	T (Date of Contract Signing)
2	Inception Report	T+15 days

S. No.	Activity	Deadlines
3	Finalization of Inception Report based on comments from DMEQ	T+20 days
4	Finalization and Piloting of Questionnaire	T+40 days
5	Pilot Study Report	T+45 days
6	Finalization of Pilot Study Report based on comments from DMEQ (The report should contain finalized tools to be used in the survey)	T+48 days
7	Start of Fieldwork	T+49 days
8	Mid-Term Report (covering a minimum of 40% of the sample)	T+65 days
9	Completion of Fieldwork	T+80 days
10	Review of Data Quality and Clearance by DMEQ	T+90 days
11	Submission of Draft Report	T+105 days
12	Finalization of Report Comments to be provided by DMEQ & Ministry within 7 days of submission of draft report	T+112 days
13	Approval of Final Reports and presentations	T+120 days

REFERENCES

Annexure-I

List of 112 Aspirational Districts

Sr. No.	State	District
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram
2	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
3	Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R. Kadapa
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai
5	Assam	Goalpara
6	Assam	Barpeta
7	Assam	Hailakandi
8	Assam	Baksa
9	Assam	Darrang
10	Assam	Udalguri
11	Assam	Dhubri
12	Bihar	Sitamarhi
13	Bihar	Araria
14	Bihar	Purnia
15	Bihar	Katihar
16	Bihar	Muzaffarpur
17	Bihar	Begusarai
18	Bihar	Khagaria
19	Bihar	Banka
20	Bihar	Sheikhpura
21	Bihar	Aurangabad
22	Bihar	Gaya
23	Bihar	Nawada
24	Bihar	Jamui
25	Chhattisgarh	Korba
26	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon
27	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund
28	Chhattisgarh	Kanker
29	Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur
30	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada

Sr. No.	State	District
31	Chhattisgarh	Bijapur
32	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
33	Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon
34	Chhattisgarh	Sukma
35	Gujarat	Dahod
36	Gujarat	Narmada
37	Haryana	Mewat
38	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba
39	Jammu & Kashmir	Kupwara
40	Jammu & Kashmir	Baramulla
41	Jharkhand	Garhwa
42	Jharkhand	Chatra
43	Jharkhand	Giridih
44	Jharkhand	Godda
45	Jharkhand	Sahibganj
46	Jharkhand	Pakur
47	Jharkhand	Bokaro
48	Jharkhand	Lohardaga
49	Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum
50	Jharkhand	Palamu
51	Jharkhand	Latehar
52	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh
53	Jharkhand	Ramgarh
54	Jharkhand	Dumka
55	Jharkhand	Ranchi
56	Jharkhand	Khunti
57	Jharkhand	Gumla
58	Jharkhand	Simdega
59	Jharkhand	Pashchimi Singhbhum
60	Karnataka	Raichur
61	Karnataka	Yadgir
62	Kerala	Wayanad
63	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur

Sr. No.	State	District
64	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh
65	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani
66	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh
67	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha
68	Madhya Pradesh	Guna
69	Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli
70	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa
71	Maharashtra	Nandurbar
72	Maharashtra	Washim
73	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli
74	Maharashtra	Osmanabad
75	Manipur	Chandel
76	Meghalaya	Ribhoi
77	Mizoram	Mamit
78	Nagaland	Kiphire
79	Odisha	Dhenkanal
80	Odisha	Gajapati
81	Odisha	Kandhamal
82	Odisha	Balangir
83	Odisha	Kalahandi
84	Odisha	Rayagada
85	Odisha	Koraput
86	Odisha	Malkangiri
87	Odisha	Nabarangpur
88	Odisha	Nuapada
89	Punjab	Moga
90	Punjab	Firozpur
91	Rajasthan	Dholpur
92	Rajasthan	Karauli
93	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
94	Rajasthan	Sirohi
95	Rajasthan	Baran
96	Sikkim	West Sikkim

Sr. No.	State	District
97	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar
98	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram
99	Telangana	Asifabad
100	Telangana	Bhoopalapally
101	Telangana	Bhadradi-Kothagudem
102	Tripura	Dhalai
103	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot
104	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur
105	Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich
106	Uttar Pradesh	Shrawasti
107	Uttar Pradesh	Balrampur
108	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharthnagar
109	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli
110	Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra
111	Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar
112	Uttarakhand	Haridwar

List of ADP Indicators

S.No	Theme	Indicator Number	Indicator	Periodicity
1	Health & Nutrition	1.1	Percentage of Pregnant Women receiving four or more antenatal care check-ups against total ANC registrations	Annually
		1.2	Percentage of ANC registered within the first trimester against total ANC registrations	Monthly
		1.3	Percentage of pregnant women (PW) registered for ANC against estimated pregnancies	Monthly
2		2	Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS programme regularly	Monthly
3		3.1	Percentage of Pregnant women having severe anaemia treated against PW having severe anaemia tested cases	Monthly
		3.2	Percentage of Pregnant Women tested for	Annually

S.No	Theme	Indicator Number	Indicator	Periodicity
			Haemoglobin 4 or more than 4 times for respective ANC's against total ANC registration	
4		4.1	Sex Ratio at birth	Monthly
		4.2	Percentage of institutional deliveries out of total estimated deliveries	Monthly
5		5	Percentage of home deliveries attended by an SBA (Skilled Birth Attendance) trained health worker out of total home deliveries	Monthly
6		6.1	Percentage of new-borns breastfed within one hour of birth	Monthly
		6.2	Percentage of low-birth-weight babies (Less than 2500 gms)	Monthly
		6.3	Proportion of live babies weighed at birth	Monthly
7		7	Percentage of underweight children under 5 years	Monthly
8		8.1	Percentage of stunted children under 5 years	Quarterly
		8.2	Percentage of children with Diarrhoea treated with ORS	Quarterly
		8.3	Percentage of children with Diarrhoea treated with Zinc	Quarterly
		8.4	Percentage of children with ARI in the last 2 weeks taken to a health facility	Quarterly
9		9.1	Percentage of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	Monthly
		9.2	Percentage of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)	Monthly
10		10.1	Breastfeeding children receiving adequate diet (6-23 months)	Quarterly
		10.2	Non-Breastfeeding children receiving adequate diet (6-23 months)	Quarterly
11		11	Percentage of children fully immunized (9-11 months) (BCG+ DPT3 + OPV3 + Measles1)	Monthly
12		12.1	Tuberculosis (TB) case notification rate (Public and Private Institutions) against	Monthly

S.No	Theme	Indicator Number	Indicator	Periodicity
			estimated cases	
		12.2	TB Treatment success rate among notified TB patients (public and private)	Monthly
13		13.1	Proportion of Sub centres/ PHCs converted into Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs)	Quarterly
		13.2	Proportion of Primary Health Centres compliant to Indian Public Health Standards	Quarterly
		13.3	Proportion of functional FRUs (First referral units) against the norm of 1 per 5,00,000 population (1 per 3,00,000 for hilly terrain)	Quarterly
		13.4	Proportion of specialist services available in District hospitals against 10* core specialist services	Quarterly
		13.5	Percentage of Anganwadis centres/Urban PHCs reported to have conducted at least one Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition day / Urban Health Sanitation & Nutrition day/ respectively in the last one month	Monthly
		13.6	Proportion of Anganwadis with own buildings	Quarterly
		13.7	Percentage of First referral units (FRU) having labour room and obstetrics OT NQAS certified (ie meet LaQShya guidelines)	Monthly
14	Education	1.1	Transition Rate - Primary to Upper Primary level	Annual
		1.2	Transition Rate - Upper Primary to Secondary level	Annual
15		2	Toilet access: Percentage schools with functional girls' toilets	Monthly
16		3.1	Mathematics performance in Class 3	Quarterly
		3.2	Language performance in Class 3	Quarterly
		3.3	Mathematics performance in Class 5	Quarterly
		3.4	Language performance in Class 5	Quarterly
		3.5	Mathematics performance in Class 8	Quarterly

S.No	Theme	Indicator Number	Indicator	Periodicity
		3.6	Language performance in Class 8	Quarterly
17		4	Female literacy rate (15+ Age group)	Quarterly
18		5	Percentage of schools with functional drinking water facility	Monthly
19		6	Percentage of schools with functional electricity facility at secondary level	Monthly
20		7	Percentage of elementary schools complying with RTE specified Pupil Teacher Ratio	Monthly
21		8	Percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within 1 month of start of the academic session	Annual
22	Agriculture & Water Resources	1.1	Percentage of net sown area under micro-irrigation	Monthly
		1.2	Number of water bodies rejuvenated under MGNREGA	Half yearly
23		2	Crop Insurance- Percentage of net sown area under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	Half Yearly
24		3.1	Percentage increase in agricultural credit	Monthly
		3.2	Certified quality seed distribution	Quarterly
25		4	Number of district Mandis linked to electronic market	Monthly
26		5	Percentage change in Price Realization - difference between Farm Harvest Price (FHP) and Minimum Support Price (MSP)	Half Yearly
27		6	Percentage share of high value crops to total sown area in district	Half Yearly
28		7	Agricultural productivity of 2 major crops	Half Yearly
29		8	Percentage of animals vaccinated	Monthly
30		9	Artificial Insemination coverage	Monthly
31		10	Number of Soil Health Cards distributed	Monthly
32	Financial Inclusion &	1	Total Disbursement of Mudra loan (in rupees) per 1 Lakh population	Monthly
33	Skill Developme	2	Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY): Number of Enrolments per 1	Monthly

S.No	Theme	Indicator Number	Indicator	Periodicity
	nt		Lakh population	
34		3	Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): Number of Enrolments per 1 Lakh population	Monthly
35		4	Atal Pension Yojana (APY): Number of Beneficiaries per 1 Lakh population	Monthly
36		5	Percentage of accounts seeded with Aadhaar as a percentage of total banking accounts	Monthly
37		6	Number of accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana	Monthly
38		7	No of youth certified in short term and long-term training# schemes / no of youth in district in age group 15-29	Monthly
39		8	No of certified youth employed# /No of youth trained under short term and long-term training	Monthly
40		9	Number of Apprentices completing/Total number of trainees registered on the portal	Monthly
41		10	No of people certified under Recognition of Prior Learning#/Non-formally skilled workforce**	Monthly
42		11.1	Women - certified trained	Monthly
		11.2	SC - certified trained	Monthly
		11.3	ST - certified trained	Monthly
	Basic Infrastructure	11.4	OBC - certified trained	Monthly
		11.5	Minorities – certified trained	Monthly
		11.6	Differently abled – certified trained) / Total Number of youth certified trained	Monthly
43		1	Percentage of households with electricity connection	Monthly
44		2	Percentage of Gram panchayat with internet connection	Monthly
45		3.1	Percentage of habitations with access to all weather roads under PMGSY	Monthly
		3.2	Cumulative number of kilometres of all-	Monthly

S.No	Theme	Indicator Number	Indicator	Periodicity
			weather road work completed as a percentage of total sanctioned kilometres in the district under PMGSY	
46		4	Percentage of households with Individual Household Latrines	Monthly
47		5	Percentage of Rural habitations with access to adequate quantity of potable water - 40 lpcd drinking water in rural	Monthly
48		6	Coverage/ establishment of Common Service Centres at Gram Panchayat level	Monthly
49		7	Number of pucca houses constructed for household who are shelter-less or having one room with kuchha wall and kuchha roof or having 2 room with kuchha wall and roof	Monthly

SDGs Served:

Theme	Total Indicators	Indicators mapped to SDG Goals	SDG Goal
Health and Nutrition	13	13 indicators focusing on Maternal and Child health and nutrition, sex ratio, health infrastructure.	Goal 2: Zero Hunger Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing Goal 5: Gender Equality
Education	8	6 indicators focusing on learning outcomes, transition rates and school infrastructure. 2 indicators focusing on improving girls' access to education.	Goal 4: Quality Education Goal 5: Gender Equality
Agriculture and Water Resources	10	3 indicators focusing on micro-irrigation, agricultural productivity and high-value crops.	Goal 2: Zero Hunger
Financial Inclusion and Skill Development	11	5 indicators focusing on skill development and employment of vulnerable/marginalised youth	Goal 8: Decent work and Economic Growth
Basic Infrastructure	7	3 indicators focusing on electricity connection, potable drinking water and sanitation	Goal 6: Clean water and Sanitation Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Action Taken Report on Evaluation Studies of Aspirational Districts Programme

Recommendation	Action Taken
1. Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal- UNDP	
<p>Recommendations for the Way Forward: countering the existing gaps and challenges</p> <p>While it is evident that the ADP has positively impacted the development targets, it should be noted that there are still some challenges and issues that need to be addressed. While some of the challenges have been mentioned in the sections above,</p>	<p>The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) division has taken several steps to address the identified challenges and implement the recommendations. Here's a summary of the actions taken:</p> <p>a. Relooking the indicators: Under Phase- 3 of ADP, the KPI framework will be relooked at to reflect progress and address areas of</p>

Recommendation	Action Taken
<p>this section provides a compilation of the challenges.</p> <p>1. Disparities among sectors: While the Aspirational districts programme has helped strengthen crucial Healthcare and Education sectors, those with lesser weightage need significant focus and improvement. A realignment of sectors and focus is therefore required. Addition of sectors or themes: A useful suggestion from the Aspirational District Fellows (ADFs) who work closely with the programme was to include additional sectors or themes centered around key topics of environment and gender. This, according to the stakeholders, should not just be targeted for the beneficiaries of the programmes, but also integrated within the governance model as indicators of inclusive and sustainable growth.</p> <p>2. Disparities among districts: As mentioned earlier, one of the disadvantages of the Aspirational Districts has been the disparities among districts which does not facilitate fair competition and comparisons. In order to counter these issues, districts could be further grouped together based on their common characteristics and be supported accordingly.</p> <p>3. Data discrepancies and adverse effects of competition: The commencement of ADP brought with it few challenges relating to monitoring and data collection, one of which is the discrepancy in data collected and recorded. Discussions with different</p>	<p>saturation to optimize the impact of ADP. By incorporating updated metrics, the programme can better target areas that require further attention and drive continued improvement.</p> <p>b. Modification of list of districts: To address disparities among districts, it is proposed to relook at some of the aspirational districts based on data analysis and stakeholder consultations. This modification will optimize the impact of the ADP by concentrating efforts on the districts where they are most needed</p> <p>c. Transition to Quarterly Performance-Based Incentives: From April 2024, the ADP will adopt a quarterly performance-based incentive system instead of the monthly approach. This shift is expected to provide districts with more time to plan and implement projects and to improve outcomes by allowing districts to address indicators with longer gestation periods and focus on achieving tangible results.</p> <p>d. Strengthening Collaboration with Development Partners: The ADP division has encouraged collaboration between district administrations and development partners with sectoral expertise to address gaps in implementation. Many development partners have deployed human resources in Aspirational Districts to provide on-ground support for implementation,</p>

Recommendation	Action Taken
<p>stakeholders have highlighted the need for revising indicators, as well as reduced focus on a competitive approach, as they are likely to result in misreporting of data by districts. Apart from this there is also the need for further trainings and learning programmes.</p> <p>4. Scope for collaboration: Given the disparities in sectors, districts and also capacities, furthering collaboration with different organizations may provide the immediate and required support to districts. This can especially be provided for districts located in remote and challenging areas. One of the major issues highlighted across the districts irrespective of performance has been the lack of human resources and technical capacities at the district and block level. Even though districts have been provided support from the Prabhari officers and NITI Aayog, there is a need for capacity building at the grassroots level. This can be resolved by providing districts with dedicated personnel such as Aspirational District Fellows or representatives of the programme. This would bring in additional accountability and ownership for the programme, while also providing support to DMs and DOs, as they are already tasked with several responsibilities. Adopting more flexible methods of the hiring was also suggested as potential solution for improving capacities.</p>	<p>monitoring, and capacity building. These partnerships ensure targeted technical assistance, bolster human resource capacities, and improve the convergence of various schemes and programs.</p>
<p>2. An Assessment of Aspirational Districts Programme by Institute for Competitiveness</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. Streamlining the survey and collection mechanisms: Narrow Pool</p>	<p>The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) division has taken several steps to address the identified challenges and</p>

Recommendation	Action Taken
<p>of Indicators: There is immense scope of streamlining the chosen group of indicators that form the basis of competition among the aspirational districts. For instance, indicators like the percentage of pregnant women taking nutrition and those having severe anaemia, treated are heavily correlated (0.89). It might be ideal to resolve such duplication of assessment. Adjust frequency of data collection based on type: Not all indicators show change at a similar frequency as seen in the study. So, taking this into account, survey methods should be adjusted accordingly. Indicators that present change over the long- run should be assessed on an annual basis while the short-run indicators can continue to be assessed quarterly. This would also improve survey reliability. Digitalization of data mechanisms: The districts would benefit from a more real-time mechanism of data collection and dissemination. Currently, there is a gap of a few months between survey collection and accessibility of the data by districts. This can be improved if the process is digitized and districts can access the data with a minimal lag.</p> <p>2. Leveraging data to design effective evaluation systems: Defining Peer Groups: Assessment of districts should be done based on the standing of comparative peer groups. It has been seen that districts that start at a relatively low level on the development parameters show more rapid improvement over time since they have more opportunity to grow and also draw lessons from ideas that have been</p>	<p>implement the recommendations. Here's a summary of the actions taken:</p> <p>a. Relooking the indicators: Under Phase- 3 of ADP, the KPI framework will be relooked at to reflect progress and address areas of saturation to optimize the impact of ADP. By incorporating updated metrics, the programme can better target areas that require further attention and drive continued improvement.</p> <p>b. Enhanced Data Visualization and insights through Champions of Change Portal: The Champions of Change portal includes data visualization accessible to districts. This tool provides actionable insights by identifying sectoral and indicator-level gaps, benchmarking performance against neighboring districts, and analyzing data trends. These features empower districts to make more informed and strategic decisions.</p> <p>c. Promoting Peer Learning via NITI for States Portal: The NITI for States portal, launched by NITI Aayog, provides districts with access to best practices from across the country. Combined with data insights from the Champions of Change portal, this resource fosters peer learning and facilitates evidence-based decision- making at the district level.</p> <p>d. Strengthened Collaboration with Development Partners:</p>

Recommendation	Action Taken
<p>implemented elsewhere Conducting and Leveraging a Baseline Study: While extending the programme or replicating it across different geographies, it is instructive to conduct a baseline study and choose indicators that have scope for improvement. The study shows that indicators that had already attained near-saturation before the start of the aspirational districts programme show no significant boost in incremental change on introduction of the programme. Examining the nature of indicators: While building evaluation mechanisms for projects like Aspirational Districts, the nature of the indicators should be kept in mind. The study shows that all the indicators do not grow at the same rate by using two categorizations: Ease of Implementation and Type of Indicators. It is observed that long-term indicators have low rate of growth compared to medium- and short-term indicators. Also, impact indicators are easier to implement as compared to outcomes.</p> <p>3. Updating plan of action based on new learnings: Peer Group Comparison: Districts can assess where they stand on different parameters and in which sectors have, they achieved their targets. Based on that, they can plan their future course of action. By assessing which tier group do they lie in they can draw learnings from their tiers and those above them. Relative Movement across Regions: An assessment presented in the Mobility Matrix provides them with the data on whether they have improved, worsened or retained status quo. These achievements/failures can be traced back to the policies to understand What</p>	<p>Collaboration with development partners has been significantly strengthened, with organizations deploying resources and technical expertise across all Aspirational Districts to provide on-ground support in implementation, monitoring, and capacity building. These partnerships have been instrumental in offering technical assistance, enhancing human resource capacities, and improving the convergence of various schemes and programs.</p> <p>e. Increased Public Participation through Key Initiatives: Public participation has been amplified through initiatives such as Chintan Shivirs in September 2023, Sankalp Saptah in October 2023 and the 3 months Sampoonata Abhiyaan from July 2024 onwards, which focused on raising public awareness and ensuring the delivery of basic services to the last mile. These campaigns played a crucial role in bridging gaps in access and promoting inclusive development, with active participation from key stakeholders, including department officials, frontline workers, community leaders, and beneficiaries, contributing to their success.</p>

Recommendation	Action Taken
<p>Works. Best Practices of Leaders: The study is supplemented with case studies on some of the best practices for the leading districts across sectors. The districts can modify the learnings made from these practices based on their local requirements across different parameters.</p> <p>4. Driving targeted investment through partner ecosystem: Defining investment intensity through Distance to Frontier analysis: The partners should define their geography of investment based on their intensity of engagement. The appropriate geography can depend upon the length of their engagement. For instance, the partners that plan to engage for a longer period can choose districts that are farthest away from their targets based on the Distance to Frontier analysis. Building partner engagement based on the 6 Point Framework: The study has developed a Six Point Framework across three major phases of partner engagement that can create better engagement outcomes for partners. The framework is targeted to be utilized by the development partners to leverage better engagement outcomes and promote institutionalization of partner activities within the district administration. Leveraging the IFC Partner Connect to drive engagement: Data visualization and analytics can be utilized to create interactive dashboards that can help in facilitating partner engagements and CSR in Aspirational Districts. IFC Partner Connect is one such interactive dashboard where partners can identify the domain, the region, and the point of engagement as per the requirement of the engagement</p>	

Recommendation	Action Taken
<p>profile. It also enables partners present in a district to identify potential areas of expanding their engagements.</p> <p>5. Engaging in customized local level interventions: Awareness Campaigns: It is observed that in many cases there is not enough demand for basic health and education infrastructure, or benefits of government programmes don't reach the actual targeted groups due to lack of knowledge. In such cases, awareness campaigns are useful as they aid in reaching out to the populations that have stayed aloof from the development process. They also facilitate a common platform for engagement, thereby, helping in integration of actors and beneficiaries. Involving young professionals within grass-root administration: Given one of the major problems is continuity in leadership, it is important that many young professionals are engaged that work directly at the local level and act as a common link between the partners and local government administration. It not only promotes continuity of engagements but also improves the motivation of bureaucrats leading to higher social and economic development.</p> <p>6. Collaborating with locals: Collaboration with the individual functionaries helps in leveraging the social network and enhances the outreach capacity of the district administration in integrating the population. It also opens the door for the introduction of community-based intervention models, which facilitates stakeholder participation. For instance, women-driven institutions such as Self-</p>	

Recommendation	Action Taken
Help Groups and Anganwadis have been particularly crucial in the delivery of schemes.	

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR
Evaluation of Aspirational Block Programme**

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1 Quality Assurance of the Evaluation Report

The evaluation report submitted by the Consultant must comply with DMEQ's quality standards in order to be accepted. In case of any compromise in the quality of the deliverables, a suitable penalty would be imposed on the Consultant as per the provisions given in the RFP.

An indicative quality standard followed by DMEQ is given below. The consultant may include more such standards to further enhance the report quality.

1.1 Executive Summary (ES)

The executive summary (ES) is meant to be read by a wider audience; thus, it must be written with extreme neatness and attention to detail. It should be written with clarity, coherence, and crispness. Findings of the report should be elaborated with key statistics and recommendations following from findings. The ES should offer more than just a synopsis of the chapters; it should also triangulate all the evidence obtained during the study from the primary survey and secondary data and policy implications to flow from such findings. The ES should be forthright in its observations, precise in its deductions, and proactive in its suggestions. ES should ideally be written in short, separate paragraphs that do not exceed five pages. All data/findings/recommendations cited from the main report need to be properly referenced using page numbers. The ES should only briefly touch up the evaluation questions, issues, and problems. The ES needs to be sharp and centred on the conclusions and suggestions emerging from the evaluation study.

1.2 Professional Language and Referencing

The report should be written in a professional manner and in accordance with the standards of a typical double-blind, peer-reviewed publication. The report should be free from grammatical errors, plagiarism and spelling mistakes. Reports with more than 20 per cent plagiarised content will not be accepted. The plagiarism will be ascertained through software/tools such as Turnitin etc. It must adhere to the suggested report structure and appropriately referenced with necessary citations. Any data, diagrams, and graphs must be appropriately labelled and referenced.

1.3 Objective Findings and Recommendation

The report should be a succinct, stand-alone document with objective language that may be used to inform decision-making. The findings should be presented clearly, providing sufficient evidence, and systematically addressing all the evaluation objectives. The recommendations should be clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings of the report. It should be clearly articulated and prioritized based on their importance and potential impact for the improvement of the scheme. The conclusions drawn from primary and secondary research must be given equal weight. Recommendations that lead to an increased financial burden on the government (such as those on increasing budgetary allocation) should be avoided, unless there is sound evidence emerging from the analysis that an increase may be expedient. Focus should be on resource optimisation/judicious usage of resources.

1.4 Ethical Considerations and Data Protection

Ethical considerations, such as confidentiality and data protection, and data quality,

must be upheld throughout the process.

2 Background

The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), launched in January 2023, is aimed at improving governance and accelerating development in India's most underdeveloped regions. Building on the successful model of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), ABP focuses specifically on 500 blocks across 329 districts in 27 States and 4 Union Territories, including 160 blocks from 112 Aspirational Districts. These blocks have been identified as having significant socio-economic challenges and limited access to basic services. The overarching goal of the programme is to transform these blocks by strengthening the delivery of public services, improving administrative capacity, and ensuring that development reaches even the most remote communities.

These blocks were selected on the basis of 30 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Mission Antyodaya and data on social deprivation and SC/ST population from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (2011). At least one block was included from each Aspirational District and distribution of blocks per State/UT was determined using per capita State GDP (75% weight – negative indicator) and State population (25% weight – positive indicator).

ABP is fundamentally a governance reform programme that seeks to bring decision-making closer to the grassroots. Rather than creating new schemes, it emphasizes the effective convergence and implementation of existing Central and State Government schemes. This convergence is achieved through close collaboration among the Centre, State governments, district administrations, and the local population. The programme does not rely on a large infusion of additional funds. Instead, it leverages existing financial and administrative resources more effectively to deliver results on the ground.

A key element of ABP is its focus on measurable outcomes. The programme tracks progress in each block using 40 KPIs across five critical thematic sectors: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Social Development, and Basic Infrastructure. These indicators reflect the most pressing development needs and are monitored rigorously on a quarterly basis. The data for all the indicators under the Programme is sourced from database of Central Government Ministries and is made publicly available through the Champions of Change Dashboard (<https://abp.championsofchange.gov.in/>), ensuring transparency and encouraging community participation in development efforts.

To promote accountability and encourage healthy competition among blocks, ABP employs a structured Delta Ranking system. This system measures the incremental progress of each block on the 40 KPIs over time. Blocks are ranked based on how

much they have improved, which allows even the most disadvantaged areas to be recognized and rewarded for their efforts. These rankings serve not just as a monitoring tool but also as the basis for performance-based financial incentives. On a quarterly basis, financial grants are awarded to top-performing blocks—both overall and by zones. These grants are used to fund context-specific, theme-aligned developmental projects that are proposed by the blocks themselves to address their unique challenges.

Aspirational Block Fellows are deployed in the Aspirational Blocks Programme for aiding with design and execution of development strategies aligned with ABP thematic areas. Fellows assist in implementing and monitoring activities under the ABP, connecting block-level officials with NITI Aayog, and assisting in implementation, monitoring, and improving stakeholder engagement.

Another vital component of the programme is capacity building at the block level. Recognizing that the success of any development initiative depends on the competence and motivation of local officials, ABP places a strong emphasis on continuous training and leadership development. The programme works in partnership with expert institutions (NIRD, SIRD and YASHADA, Pune) and government ministries to develop detailed capacity building modules tailored to each of the five focus sectors. These modules are delivered by specially trained Master Trainers, who are responsible for building the skills of frontline workers and administrators. All block-level officials undergo sectoral and leadership training, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively implement government schemes and respond to local needs.

In addition to administrative training, ABP promotes community mobilisation through active engagement with elected representatives and local institutions. By fostering a sense of ownership among communities, the programme ensures that development is demand-driven and sustainable. It adopts a saturation approach, aiming for comprehensive service delivery so that no household or village is left out of critical interventions. This approach ensures that every eligible person benefits from government schemes in areas such as health coverage, school enrolment, agricultural support, housing, and access to clean drinking water.

Themes	Weightage	Indicators
Health and Nutrition	30%	14
Education	30%	11
Agriculture and Water Resources	20%	5

Social development	15%	5
Basic Infrastructure	5%	5
Total	100%	40

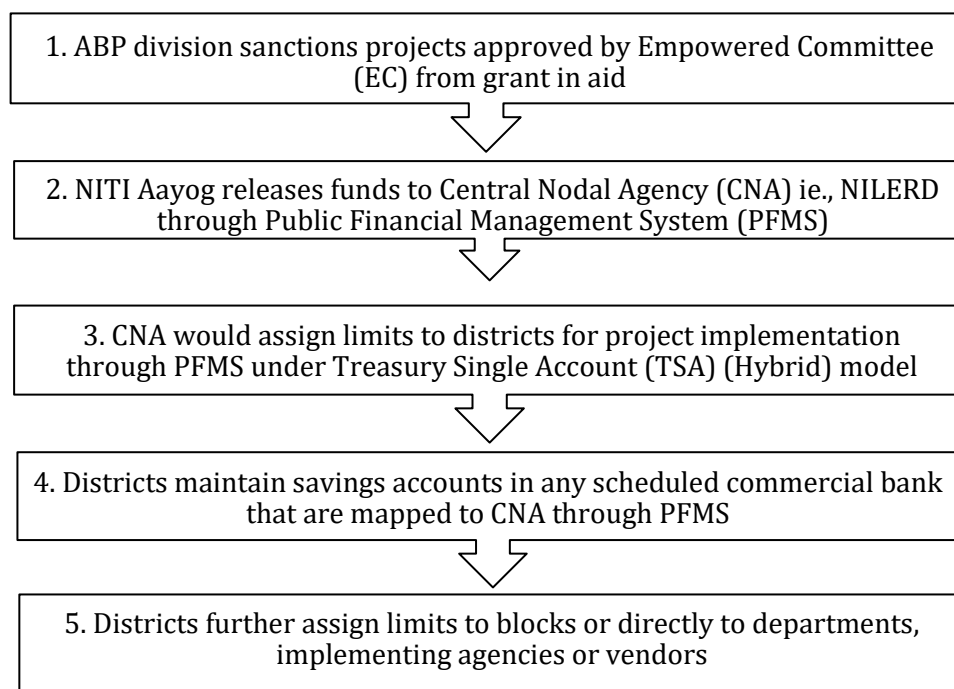
Projects under ABP are sanctioned under three windows, i.e., I, II and III. The funds are disbursed to blocks through districts mainly under Window I and Window II.

Window I - Performance-Based Incentives: Funds disbursed under the challenge method are allocated to blocks based on the ranks secured by them towards improving performance on the key performance indicators monitored under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (KPI Framework). Every quarter, the best performing Block in overall terms and in each of the six zones is identified. The first and second rankers in overall terms are awarded Rs. 3 crores and Rs. 2 crores respectively. The first ranker from each of the six zones is awarded Rs. 1.5 crores each and the second ranker from each of the six zones is awarded Rs. 1 crore.

Window II - Critical Projects: Special or innovative initiatives undertaken by an Aspirational Block, a group of Aspirational Blocks, or NITI Aayog with the aim of improving specific outcomes in these regions. These projects are proposed to the Empowered Committee of Secretaries for their consideration and approval. Window II provides flexibility to fund special/innovative projects addressing key development gaps in blocks, irrespective of their delta ranking.

Window III - Capacity building for SDG and Administrative expenses: includes expenses towards: (a) Strengthening of institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for monitoring of SDGs in India (b) Strengthening of institutional arrangement in aspirational blocks (including AB Fellows) for implementation support (c) Arrangement for third party validation of selected data on sample basis (d) Ranking of States on SDGs to spur competition among States (e) Capacity building of block, district and State level functionaries on SDGs, and (f) Any other administrative expenses.

Fund Flow Mechanism (National and sub-national level)



Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure Pattern

Year	Budget Estimate (BE) in Cr.	Revised Estimate (RE) (in Cr.)	Actual Expenditure (AE) (in Cr.)
2023-24	-	One time approval for cash outgo of Rs. 100 Cr. for FY 2023-24 from the budget of EAP-SDG Phase-II in Aspirational Districts Programme for the FY 2022-24.	
2024-26	765	-	-

Proposed and approved budget under Windows I, II & III across years are as follows

	2023-24		2024-26	
	Proposed amount (in Cr.)	Approved amount (in Cr.)	Proposed amount (in Cr.)	Approved amount (in Cr.)

Window I	-	-	540	540
Window II	-	-	140	75
Window III	-	-	200	150
Total	-	100	880	765

3 Objectives of the evaluation study

The primary objective of the evaluation is to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Aspirational Block Programme in transforming most underdeveloped regions of the country through localizing SDGs efficiently.

The study will aim to determine how effectively ABP has contributed to improving the performance of blocks on key indicators related to health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure.

The evaluation shall focus on the following thematic areas:

a) Relevance

- To assess the relevance of ABP in addressing regional disparities and development gaps in India's most underdeveloped blocks.
- To evaluate whether the thematic focus areas and indicators are aligned with local development needs and national priorities.
- To assess the responsiveness of ABP's design in bringing governance and decision-making closer to the grassroots.

b) Efficiency

- To examine the efficiency of the scheme implementation.
- To assess the deployment, utilization and capacity of Aspirational Block Fellows (ABFs) in facilitating programme implementation and coordination at the block level.

c) Effectiveness

- To evaluate the incremental improvements in each block as reflected in the Delta Ranking system and KPI trends across the five sectors over time and identify the contribution of ABP to this progress.
- To evaluate the extent to which ABFs have contributed towards improving the processes, data management, monitoring and implementation of the scheme.

d) Impact on Beneficiaries

- To measure the tangible impacts of ABP interventions on key development indicators.
- To examine the programme's role in strengthening community engagement at the local level.
- To measure the extent to which ABP has enhanced administrative capacity and performance at the block level through training and leadership development.
- To assess the extent to which the ABP has contributed to reducing developmental gaps and promoting inclusive and equitable growth.

4 Scope of Services

4.1 Reference Period of the Study

FY 2023-24 to 2024-25 for both primary and secondary research

The consultant will be required to undertake the following tasks:

Inception Phase

- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing documents, reports, dashboards, policies, and administrative data related to ABP.
- Finalize the methodology, evaluation framework, sampling plan and stakeholder consultation strategy.
- Develop and submit an Inception Report including:
 - Theory of Change/Result Chain
 - Sampling strategy for blocks
 - Proposed indicators, tools for data collection
 - Risk assessment and mitigation plan

Secondary Research and Meta-Analysis

- Review and analyse:
 - Program design documents and implementation guidelines
 - Data from the Champions of Change Dashboard
 - Budgetary allocations and expenditure reports
 - Reports from third-party monitors, development partners, and government agencies
 - Performance ranking trends of blocks

Primary Data Collection

- Conduct quantitative and qualitative research using:
 - Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with NITI Aayog, Ministry officials, State Nodal Officers, District Collectors, block level officials, sub-district

officials and block officials

- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Panchayati Raj Institutions, frontline workers (e.g., ASHAs, teachers etc.), and beneficiaries
- Beneficiary-level surveys across key themes (health, education, etc.)
- Case studies of high-performing and lagging blocks

The evaluation study should cover a wide sample of blocks under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), ensuring broad representation across various parameters.

- The selected sample must include entities that reflect a mix of high, average, and low performance levels.
- Special attention should be given to backward regions, including tribal areas, to capture the unique challenges and outcomes in these contexts.
- Sample should comprehensively represent all five thematic areas of the ABP to enable a holistic assessment of the programmes' implementation and impact.

Monitoring and Quality Control

- Design and implement mechanisms to ensure data quality:
 - Real-time monitoring software tools for data collection and management (e.g., CAPI, geo-tagging, telephonic verification)
 - Third-party validations or back-checks
 - Pilot testing of survey tools before full deployment

Miscellaneous

- Preparation of draft evaluation report and presentation for stakeholder consultations
- Preparation of final evaluation report and presentation after incorporation of inputs from all the concerned stakeholders
- Submit weekly progress reports
- Conducting stakeholders' consultations during the course of the study
- Collecting and compiling the quality data from beneficiary
- High-quality data management and adherence to quality assurance mechanisms as per agreed protocols, plans and schedule
- Adhere to ethical protocols and data confidentiality norms
- The survey agency shall record telephonic interviews, email responses for necessary verification and validation that may be required for managing survey quality
- Collation and data cleaning
- Running data analysis and submitting cross-tabulations/summarizations
- Incorporating concurrent feedback into the work
- The consultant shall maintain high-quality in the report content which will be peer-reviewed by DMEQ. The flow of findings and recommendations shall be

clearly indicated in the report based on intellectual rigour. In case of any compromise in the quality, the suitable penalty would be imposed on the consultant as per the provisions given in the RFP.

- All the reports are required to be submitted in hard copy (10 no.s) as well as in soft copy. A synopsis of the Final Evaluation Report is also required to be submitted separately. In addition to the reports, for further analysis in future, verifiable raw data in soft copy should also be shared with DMEO, NITI Aayog. This will include detailed transcriptions of key informant interviews and focus group discussions as well as raw data in MS Excel/CSV format.

5 Data Collection and Methodology

5.1 Primary Data Collection:

The reference period for the study is 2023-2024 to 2024-25. A mixed-method study design will be utilized for this study. Under this, the quantitative and qualitative phases will be implemented to assess the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) objectives mentioned in the earlier section. The primary data collection will have the following (indicative) components: KIIs, FGDs, facility visits, and beneficiary-level surveys.

5.1.1 Sampling

A multi-stage stratified sampling approach may be adopted and will cover at least 50 Aspirational Blocks, belonging to non-aspirational districts, across all States /UTs based on regional spread, overall and theme wise performance ranking and vulnerable geographies - Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected, tribal and border areas. The size of the sample must take account of competing needs so that costs and precision are optimally balanced. Considering the limited time, a survey in different identified zones should be conducted simultaneously.

Sr No	Zone	States / UTs	No. of ABP Blocks
1	Hilly, North East and Islands	Arunachal Pradesh (3), Assam (20), Manipur (3), Meghalaya (3), Mizoram (3), Nagaland (3), Tripura (3), Sikkim (3), Himachal Pradesh (3), Jammu & Kashmir (20), Ladakh (2), Uttarakhand (6), Andaman and Nicobar (2)	67
2	Northern India	Punjab (10), Haryana (7), Uttar Pradesh (68)	85
3	Southern India	Andhra Pradesh (15), Kerala (9), Tamil Nadu (16); Telangana (10); Karnataka (14)	64

4	Western India	Maharashtra (27), Rajasthan (27), Gujarat (13), Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (2)	69
5	Central India	Madhya Pradesh (42), Chhattisgarh (20), Odisha (29)	91
6	Eastern India	Bihar (61), Jharkhand (34) West Bengal (29)	95
	Total No of ABP Blocks		500

A minimum of 12 States, including at least one Union Territory, are to be selected, of which each zone must be represented by at least two States. The selection criteria for States, Districts and Blocks are to be proposed by the Consultant as a part of the Methodology and Work Plan. A minimum of 50 KIIs, 25 FGDs and 350 beneficiary surveys are proposed to be conducted with the relevant stakeholders to evaluate the Scheme. There should be an appropriate representation of women in the primary data collection. The indicative sampling frame for the KIIs and FGDs is given below. However, it is essential to note that these numbers are indicative and that the Consultant may suggest their methodology best suited to meet the objectives of the evaluation. The final methodology will be based on the approval of DMEO. The selection of Aspirational Blocks will be reviewed by DMEO keeping in mind the strict adherence to timelines. An indicative sampling framework and minimum sample sizes for costing purposes are as follows:

Distribution of KIIs, FGDs and Survey across Stakeholders:

S.No.	Category	KII	FGD	Beneficiaries
1	NITI Aayog/Ministry	-		
2	State Nodal Officers	2		
3	District Collectors /CEOs (ADP)	5		
4	Block Development Officers (ABP)	20		
5	ABF	13		
6	Frontline Workers (ASHA, ANM, Teacher, BRCs, etc.)	10		100
7	Community Groups (SHGs, FPOs, etc.)		25	
8	Beneficiaries of respective five sectors			250
Total		50	25	350

5.1.2 Analysis

The consultant should propose a comprehensive list of parameters and indicators for data collection and analysis. The same shall be finalized in consultation with DMEQ.

Secondary Data Analysis:

Secondary data sources such as operational guidelines of the scheme, budget documents, standing committee reports, existing evaluation reports by various independent institutions, organizations or individual researchers and administrative and block-level MIS data (Health, Education, Agriculture, etc.) will need to be utilized for analysis.

5.2 Mechanism to ensure Data Quality:

A multi-pronged robust quality control process must be followed during data collection. The following aspects need to be considered:

- a) The field investigators to be engaged in conducting the KIIs and FGDs should have at least 1 year of experience conducting similar surveys/interviews. 2-step training (classroom and then on-the-field training) should be conducted for all field investigators.
- b) It is recommended that pilot study should be conducted on at least 2% of the sample size for Key Informant Interviews, FGDs and beneficiaries to fine tune the survey tools. A brief on the learnings from such a pilot exercise and subsequent improvements in the tools/questionnaires should also be shared with DMEQ.
- c) All survey instruments (questionnaires, FGD guides, validation forms) must be submitted for review and approval by DMEQ prior to full-scale data collection.
- d) 100% data collected should be validated using a validation checklist. Missing data points should be recollected.
- e) In the case of FGDs/beneficiaries, at least 50% of data should also be telephonically verified, and if not verified via phone, back checks should be undertaken to ensure at least 50% data verification.
- f) Use of mobile-based, near real-time and geo-tagged data collection and validation tools should be done to ensure efficiency and accuracy in data collection. Access to tools and data should be provided to the Authority.

6 List of Stakeholders to be consulted

A detailed list of stakeholders to be interacted with during the key informant interviews, FGDs, facility and beneficiary surveys to be formulated by the consultant in consultation with DMEQ.

7 Deliverables and Timelines

The total duration of the evaluation study is 4 months.

- a) In the Inception report, the Consultant must submit a Gantt Chart (weekly) of all the activities and sub-activities. The Consultant shall propose the timeline for the payment-linked deliverables, which are a) Inception Report b) Mid-Term Report, c) Draft Evaluation Report and d) Final Evaluation Report.
- b) The payment-linked deliverable shall adhere to the requirements given in the Scope of Services.
- c) The Authority will manage the project based on the timelines submitted by the Consultant in the Inception report (Gantt chart) for the payment-linked deliverables.

The key deliverables are detailed in the table below:

S. No.	Deliverables	Broad Topics (Indicative)
1.	Inception Report and Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and background of the study • Objectives of the study • Approach and methodology • Literature review and preliminary findings • List of stakeholders and insights from preliminary stakeholder consultations • Sampling plan including sample coverage • Pilot plan • Analysis framework and plan (Mapping of objectives with data points and potential data sources, etc.) • Deliverables and timeline of the study (Weekly Gantt Chart) • Survey Team structure • Training plan for the survey team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field movement plan (Indicative) ○ Quality control mechanism ○ Perceived risks/ limitations and mitigation plan ○ Research tools/instruments/ software- Qualitative and Quantitative ○ Questionnaires, discussion guides, etc. • Details of CAPI questionnaire development • Data/ information analysis software for both quantitative

S. No.	Deliverables	Broad Topics (Indicative)
		<p>and qualitative research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed report structure <p>The inception report should not be lengthy.</p>
2.	Mid-term report and presentation (to be submitted as per the timeline and covering a minimum of 40% of the sample)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study progress details including training and pilot summaries Summary on data collected so far including methods used Challenges faced and mitigation measures Preliminary findings and key observations Revised work plan, if applicable Measures adopted for ensuring data quality including data verification, data validation, back checks, surprise inspections, and use of CAPI and tracking systems. <p>The mid-term report is a progress report and should not repeat the content of the inception report.</p>
3.	Draft evaluation report and presentation for stakeholder consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Summary (It should be crisp, direct, and lucidly written with emphasis on appropriate sections such as Findings and Recommendations. Findings should be elaborated with key statistics and the recommendations should follow the findings. Length of the Executive Summary should ideally be 5 pages. Sector and scheme Overview (synthesis of the findings from the meta-analysis and the field study as well as the granular CSS level analysis.) Study Objectives Study Approach & Methodology (Brief discussion in the main report. The details would go in the appendix) Findings Secondary data analysis Primary data analysis Discussion on findings & Recommendations (state insights and comparisons including case studies) References & Appendices <p>The final report should be succinct. Content editor to give specific emphasis on the language, coherence, and brevity of the draft evaluation report. Proofreading of the manuscript is compulsory.</p>
4.	Final evaluation report and presentation after incorporation of inputs from all concerned stakeholders	

S. No.	Deliverables	Broad Topics (Indicative)
5.	Presentations and sub-reports on primary data collection, data quality check, secondary research, best practices compendia, etc. as and when requested by DMEQ	

All the reports are required to be submitted in hard copy (10 nos) and in soft copy. In addition to the reports, for further analysis in future, verifiable raw data in soft copy should also be shared with DMEQ, NITI Aayog. This will include detailed transcriptions of key informant interviews and focus group discussions as well as raw data from household surveys in MS Excel/CSV format.

8 Indicative Structure of the Evaluation Report

The Final Evaluation Report should cover the following aspects:

1. Preface
2. Executive Summary
3. Scheme Overview
 - 3.1. Brief background
 - 3.2. Scheme Objectives
 - 3.3. Implementation mechanisms
 - 3.4. Nature of evaluation studies and their key findings - Gaps therein
4. Study Objectives
5. Study Approach & Methodology (Brief discussion in the main report. The details will go in the appendix)
 - 5.1. Overall approach
 - 5.2. Field Study methodology
- III. Qualitative
 - A. Stakeholder & geographical coverage
 - B. Tools
- IV. Quantitative
 - A. Sampling - Geographical coverage & respondent profile
 - B. Sample size
 - C. Sample selection
 - D. Tools
6. Observations & Recommendations
 - VI. Scheme performance - Outputs & Outcomes
 - VII. Key issues/challenges & their root causes
 - VIII. Key recommendations/Way Forward -:
 - A. Governance
 - B. Fund Flow efficiency & Utilization
 - C. M&E systems
 - D. Any other relevant aspect
 - IX. Interventions in Cross-sectional areas –

- A. Accountability & Transparency
 - B. Use of IT/Technology in driving efficiency
 - C. Social Inclusion
 - D. Gender Mainstreaming
 - E. Any other relevant cross-sectional area
- X. Need for modifications/deletions/additions to fill-in gaps
- 7. Conclusions
 - III. Summary of the findings
 - IV. Way Forward
- 8. References & Appendices
 - 8.1. Appendix 1 - Details of Key Informant Interviews and FGDs
 - IV. Appendix 1a - List of stakeholders interviewed
 - V. Appendix 1b - Geography-wise sample Size covered
 - VI. List of beneficiaries interviewed

9 Reporting

The Consultant will work closely with the Authority. The Authority has established a Working Group (the “WG”) to enable conduct of this assignment. A designated Project Director of the Authority will be responsible for the overall coordination and project development. He will play a coordinating role in dissemination of the Consultant’s outputs, facilitating discussions, and ensuring required reactions and responses to the Consultant.

The Consultant may prepare Issue Papers highlighting issues that could become critical for the timely completion of the Project and that require attention from the Authority.

The Consultant will make a presentation on the Inception Report and Draft Evaluation Report for discussion with the WG at a meeting. This will be a working document. The Consultant is required to prepare and submit a weekly update that includes and describes, inter alia, general progress to date; data and reports obtained and reviewed, conclusions to date, if any; concerns about availability of, or access to, data, analyses, reports; questions regarding the TOR or any other matters regarding work scope and related issues; and so on. The Consultants’ work on the TOR tasks should continue while the report is under consideration and is being discussed.

Regular communication with the WG and the Project Director is required in addition to all key communications. This may take the form of telephone/teleconferencing, emails, faxes, and occasional meetings.

10 Meetings

The Authority may review with the Consultant, any or all of the documents and

advice forming part of the Consultancy, in meetings and conferences held at the Authority's office. No travel time allowance shall be payable for attending meetings at Authority's office. The consultant is required to work from the Authority's office, if required.

11 Miscellaneous

- The Consultant may have/establish an office in Delhi/NCR, for efficient and coordinated performance of its Services. All the Key Personnel shall be deployed at this office during the duration of the project as specified in the Manning Schedule forming part of the Agreement. The authorised officials of the Authority may visit the Consultant's Project Office or field locations any time during office hours for inspection and interaction with the Consultant's Personnel.
- The Consultant shall mobilise and demobilise its Professional Personnel and Support Personnel with the concurrence of the Authority and shall maintain the time sheet/ attendance sheet of the working of all Personnel in the Project Office. These time sheets/ attendance sheets shall be made available to the Authority as and when asked for and a copy of such record shall be submitted to the Authority at the end of each calendar month.
- All the study outputs including primary data shall be compiled, classified and submitted by the Consultant to the Authority in soft form apart from the reports indicated in the Deliverables. The study outputs shall remain the property of the Authority and shall not be used for any purpose other than that intended under these Terms of Reference without the permission of the Authority. The Consultancy shall stand completed on acceptance by the Authority of all the Deliverables of the Consultant and execution of the Agreement. The Authority shall issue a certificate to that effect. The Consultancy shall in any case be deemed to be completed by mutual consent of the Authority and the Consultant

12 Timeline for Deliverables

S. No.	Activity	Deadlines
1	Award of Contract	T (Date of Contract Signing)
2	Inception Report	T+15 days
3	Finalization of Inception Report based on comments from DMEQ	T+20 days
4	Finalization and Piloting of Questionnaire	T+40 days
5	Pilot Study Report	T+45 days

S. No.	Activity	Deadlines
6	Finalization of Pilot Study Report based on comments from DMEQ (The report should contain finalized tools to be used in the survey)	T+48 days
7	Start of Fieldwork	T+49 days
8	Mid-Term Report (covering a minimum of 40% of the sample)	T+65 days
9	Completion of Fieldwork	T+80 days
10	Review of Data Quality and Clearance by DMEQ	T+90 days
11	Submission of Draft Report	T+105 days
12	Finalization of Report (Comments to be provided by DMEQ & Ministry within 7 days of submission of draft report)	T+112 days
13	Approval of Final Reports and presentations	T+120 days

REFERENCES

Annexure-I

List of 500 Aspirational Blocks

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	Nicobar	Car Nicobar
2	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	Nicobar	Nancowrie
3	Andhra Pradesh	Alluri Sitharama Raju	Gangavaram
4	Andhra Pradesh	Alluri Sitharama Raju	Maredumilli
5	Andhra Pradesh	Alluri Sitharama Raju	Y. Ramavaram
6	Andhra Pradesh	Annamayya	Kodur
7	Andhra Pradesh	Annamayya	Kurabalakota
8	Andhra Pradesh	Annamayya	Lakkireddipalle
9	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Chippagiri
10	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Holagunda
11	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Maddikera (East)
12	Andhra Pradesh	NTR	Ibrahimpattanam
13	Andhra Pradesh	NTR	Penuganchiprolu
14	Andhra Pradesh	Parvathipuram Manyam	Bhamini
15	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam	Yerragondapalem
16	Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R.	Chintakomma Dinne
17	Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R.	Jammalamadugu
18	Arunachal Pradesh	Kra Daadi	Tali
19	Arunachal Pradesh	Longding	Pongchau
20	Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai	Chowkham
21	Assam	Baksa	Tamulpur
22	Assam	Barpeta	Mandia
23	Assam	Cachar	Lakhipur
24	Assam	Darrang	Pub-Mangaldai
25	Assam	Dhemaji	Murgkongselek
26	Assam	Dhubri	Birshing-Jarua
27	Assam	Dima Hasao	Diyang Valley
28	Assam	Dima Hasao	Diyungbra
29	Assam	Dima Hasao	Jatinga Valley
30	Assam	Dima Hasao	New Sangbar

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
31	Assam	Goalpara	Lakhipur
32	Assam	Hailakandi	South Hailakandi
33	Assam	Karbi Anglong	Nilip
34	Assam	Karbi Anglong	Rongmongwe
35	Assam	Karbi Anglong	Samelangso
36	Assam	SS Mankachar	Fekamari
37	Assam	Udalguri	Bhergaon
38	Assam	West Karbi Anglong	Amri
39	Assam	West Karbi Anglong	Chinthong
40	Assam	West Karbi Anglong	Socheng
41	Bihar	Araria	Palasi
42	Bihar	Aurangabad	Deo
43	Bihar	Aurangabad	Kutumba
44	Bihar	Aurangabad	Madanpur
45	Bihar	Aurangabad	Nabinagar
46	Bihar	Banka	Chandan
47	Bihar	Banka	Katoria
48	Bihar	Banka	Shambhuganj
49	Bihar	Begusarai	Bhagwanpur
50	Bihar	Begusarai	Mansurchak
51	Bihar	Begusarai	Samho Akha Kurha
52	Bihar	Begusarai	Teghra
53	Bihar	Bhagalpur	Jagdishpur
54	Bihar	Bhagalpur	Pirpainti
55	Bihar	Bhagalpur	Sabour
56	Bihar	Bhagalpur	Sonhaura
57	Bihar	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj
58	Bihar	Bhojpur	Behea
59	Bihar	Bhojpur	Sandesh
60	Bihar	Bhojpur	Shahpur
61	Bihar	Buxar	Brahmpur
62	Bihar	Buxar	Chakki
63	Bihar	Gaya	Fatehpur

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
64	Bihar	Gaya	Imamganj
65	Bihar	Gaya	Konch
66	Bihar	Gaya	Wazirganj
67	Bihar	Gopalganj	Uchkagaon
68	Bihar	Jamui	Barhat
69	Bihar	Jamui	Khaira
70	Bihar	Jamui	Laxmipur
71	Bihar	Jamui	Sono
72	Bihar	Kaimur (Bhabua)	Bhagwanpur
73	Bihar	Kaimur (Bhabua)	Chand
74	Bihar	Kaimur (Bhabua)	Kudra
75	Bihar	Kaimur (Bhabua)	Ramgarh
76	Bihar	Kaimur (Bhabua)	Rampur
77	Bihar	Katihar	Balrampur
78	Bihar	Katihar	Kursela
79	Bihar	Katihar	Manihari
80	Bihar	Khagaria	Parbatta
81	Bihar	Lakhisarai	Surajgarha
82	Bihar	Madhepura	Chausa
83	Bihar	Munger	Bariyarpur
84	Bihar	Munger	Dharhara
85	Bihar	Munger	Jamalpur
86	Bihar	Munger	Tarapur
87	Bihar	Muzaffarpur	Mushahari
88	Bihar	Nawada	Kashichak
89	Bihar	Nawada	Pakri Barawan
90	Bihar	Purbi Champaran	Kalyanpur
91	Bihar	Purbi Champaran	Kesaria
92	Bihar	Purnia	Baisi
93	Bihar	Purnia	Srinagar
94	Bihar	Rohtas	Tilouthu
95	Bihar	Samastipur	Hasanpur
96	Bihar	Samastipur	Khanpur

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
97	Bihar	Sheikhpura	Sheikhopur Sarai
98	Bihar	Sitamarhi	Bairgania
99	Bihar	Siwan	Andar
100	Bihar	Supaul	Basantpur
101	Bihar	Vaishali	Lalganj
102	Chhattisgarh	Balrampur	Shakargarh
103	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Tokapal
104	Chhattisgarh	Bijapur	Usoor
105	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada	Kuwakonda
106	Chhattisgarh	Gariyaband	Gariyaband
107	Chhattisgarh	Gariyaband	Mainpur
108	Chhattisgarh	Gaurella-Pendra-Marwa hi	Gaurella-2
109	Chhattisgarh	Kabirdham	Bodla
110	Chhattisgarh	Kanker	Durgukondal
111	Chhattisgarh	Kanker	Koilebeda
112	Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon	Makdi
113	Chhattisgarh	Korba	Korba
114	Chhattisgarh	Korba	Podi Uproda
115	Chhattisgarh	Korea	Baikunthpur
116	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	Pithora
117	Chhattisgarh	Mohla-Manpur- A Chowki	A. Chowki (Td)
118	Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur	Orchha
119	Chhattisgarh	Sukma	Konta
120	Chhattisgarh	Surajpur	Pratappur
121	Chhattisgarh	Surguja	Lakhanpur
122	Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	Dadra And Nagar Haveli	Dadra Nagar Haveli
123	Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	Daman	Daman
124	Gujarat	Banas Kantha	Tharad
125	Gujarat	Chhotaudepur	Kawant
126	Gujarat	Chhotaudepur	Naswadi

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
127	Gujarat	Dang	Subir
128	Gujarat	Dohad	Garbada
129	Gujarat	Kachchh	Lakhpat
130	Gujarat	Kachchh	Rapar
131	Gujarat	Narmada	Nandod
132	Gujarat	Panch Mahals	Ghoghamba
133	Gujarat	Patan	Santalpur
134	Gujarat	Surendranagar	Sayla
135	Gujarat	Tapi	Kukarmunda
136	Gujarat	Tapi	Nizar
137	Haryana	Bhiwani	Behal
138	Haryana	Bhiwani	Loharu
139	Haryana	Charkhi Dadri	Badhra
140	Haryana	Nuh	Nuh
141	Haryana	Nuh	Punhana
142	Haryana	Palwal	Hathin
143	Haryana	Rewari	Nahar
144	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	Pangi
145	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	Tissa
146	Himachal Pradesh	Kinnaur	Pooh
147	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	Nirmand
148	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Chhaohara
149	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Kupvi
150	Jammu & Kashmir	Kishtwar	Marwah
151	Jammu & Kashmir	Poonch	Mankote
152	Jammu & Kashmir	Rajouri	Khwas
153	Jammu & Kashmir	Ramban	Khari
154	Jammu & Kashmir	Bandipora	Tulail
155	Jammu & Kashmir	Baramulla	Singhpora
156	Jammu & Kashmir	Kulgam	Manzgam
157	Jammu & Kashmir	Kupwara	Keran
158	Jammu & Kashmir	Pulwama	Ichegoza
159	Jammu & Kashmir	Reasi	Thakrakote

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
160	Jharkhand	Bokaro	Gomia
161	Jharkhand	Chatra	Mayurhand
162	Jharkhand	Deoghar	Devipur
163	Jharkhand	Deoghar	Karown
164	Jharkhand	Deoghar	Sarath
165	Jharkhand	Deoghar	Sarwan
166	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	Govindpur
167	Jharkhand	Dumka	Jarmundi
168	Jharkhand	Dumka	Ramgarh
169	Jharkhand	East Singhbhum	Musabani
170	Jharkhand	Garhwa	Manjhiaon
171	Jharkhand	Giridih	Jamua
172	Jharkhand	Godda	Sundarpahari
173	Jharkhand	Gumla	Dumri
174	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	Chouparan
175	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	Katkamdag
176	Jharkhand	Jamtara	Fatehpur
177	Jharkhand	Jamtara	Karmatanr Vidyasagar
178	Jharkhand	Khunti	Karra
179	Jharkhand	Koderma	Jainagar
180	Jharkhand	Koderma	Markacho
181	Jharkhand	Latehar	Mahuadanr
182	Jharkhand	Lohardaga	Kisko
183	Jharkhand	Pakur	Littipara
184	Jharkhand	Palamu	Hariharganj
185	Jharkhand	Ramgarh	Patratu
186	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Mandar
187	Jharkhand	Sahebganj	Mandro
188	Jharkhand	Saraikela Kharsawan	Gamharia
189	Jharkhand	Saraikela Kharsawan	Kukru
190	Jharkhand	Saraikela Kharsawan	Seraikella
191	Jharkhand	Simdega	Bansjore
192	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum	Gudri

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
193	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum	Tonto
194	Karnataka	Ballari	Kampli
195	Karnataka	Bidar	Aurad
196	Karnataka	Bidar	Chittaguppa
197	Karnataka	Bidar	Humnabad
198	Karnataka	Bidar	Kamalanagara
199	Karnataka	Kalburgi	Afzalpur
200	Karnataka	Kalburgi	Kalagi
201	Karnataka	Kalburgi	Shahbadha
202	Karnataka	Raichur	Maski
203	Karnataka	Raichur	Sirivara
204	Karnataka	Uttara Kannada	Mundgod
205	Karnataka	Uttara Kannada	Supa
206	Karnataka	Vijayapura	Thalikoti
207	Karnataka	Yadgir	Vadagera
208	Kerala	Idukki	Azhutha
209	Kerala	Idukki	Devikulam
210	Kerala	Kasargod	Parappa
211	Kerala	Palakkad	Attappadi
212	Kerala	Palakkad	Kollengode
213	Kerala	Wayanad	Kalpetta
214	Kerala	Wayanad	Mananthavady
215	Kerala	Wayanad	Panamaram
216	Kerala	Wayanad	Sulthanbathery
217	Ladakh	Kargil	Karsha
218	Ladakh	Leh	Rupsho
219	Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	Kattiwada
220	Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	Udaigarh
221	Madhya Pradesh	Anuppur	Pushprajgarh
222	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	Pati
223	Madhya Pradesh	Bhind	Gohad
224	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Buxwaha
225	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Tendukheda

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
226	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	Tirla
227	Madhya Pradesh	Dindori	Bajag
228	Madhya Pradesh	Dindori	Karanjia
229	Madhya Pradesh	Dindori	Mehndwani
230	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	Bamori
231	Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua	Meghnagar
232	Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua	Rama
233	Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua	Ranapur
234	Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua	Thandla
235	Madhya Pradesh	Katni	Rithi
236	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa (East Nimar)	Chhaigaon Makhan
237	Madhya Pradesh	Khargone	Bhagvanpura
238	Madhya Pradesh	Khargone	Ziranya
239	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Mavai
240	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Narayanganj
241	Madhya Pradesh	Morena	Pahadgarh
242	Madhya Pradesh	Niwari	Prithvipur
243	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	Ajaigarh
244	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Zirapur
245	Madhya Pradesh	Ratlam	Bajna
246	Madhya Pradesh	Mauganj	Hanumana
247	Madhya Pradesh	Rewa	Jawa
248	Madhya Pradesh	Rewa	Sirmour
249	Madhya Pradesh	Satna	Majhgawan
250	Madhya Pradesh	Satna	Rampur Baghelan
251	Madhya Pradesh	Shahdol	Pali 1 (Gohparu)
252	Madhya Pradesh	Sheopur	Karahal
253	Madhya Pradesh	Sheopur	Sheopur
254	Madhya Pradesh	Sheopur	Vijaypur
255	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri	Kolaras
256	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri	Pichore
257	Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli	Devsar
258	Madhya Pradesh	Tikamgarh	Baldeogarh

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
259	Madhya Pradesh	Umaria	Manpur
260	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	Basoda
261	Maharashtra	Amravati	Chikhaldara
262	Maharashtra	Amravati	Dharni
263	Maharashtra	Beed	Wadwani
264	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	Jiwati
265	Maharashtra	Gadhichiroli	Aheri
266	Maharashtra	Gadhichiroli	Bhamragarh
267	Maharashtra	Gadhichiroli	Sironcha
268	Maharashtra	Hingoli	Hingoli
269	Maharashtra	Jalna	Badnapur
270	Maharashtra	Jalna	Partur
271	Maharashtra	Nanded	Kinwat
272	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Akkalkuva
273	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Akarani
274	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Navapur
275	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Taloda
276	Maharashtra	Nashik	Surgana
277	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Paranda
278	Maharashtra	Palghar	Dahanu
279	Maharashtra	Palghar	Jawahar
280	Maharashtra	Palghar	Talasari
281	Maharashtra	Palghar	Vikramgad
282	Maharashtra	Solapur	Akkalkot
283	Maharashtra	Solapur	Sangola
284	Maharashtra	Wardha	Karanja
285	Maharashtra	Washim	Malegaon
286	Maharashtra	Yavatmal	Pusad
287	Maharashtra	Yavatmal	Zari Jamni
288	Manipur	Chandel	Chakpikarong
289	Manipur	Churachandpur	Lamka South
290	Manipur	Churachandpur	Tuibong
291	Meghalaya	Ngh (Garo Region)	Resubelpara

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
292	Meghalaya	Ri Bhoi	Umling
293	Meghalaya	Wjh (Jaintia Region)	Amlarem
294	Mizoram	Lunglei	Lungsen
295	Mizoram	Mamit	Reiek
296	Mizoram	Saitual	Ngopa
297	Nagaland	Kiphire	Khonsa
298	Nagaland	Noklak	Thonoknyu
299	Nagaland	Zunheboto	Akuhaito
300	Odisha	Balangir	Gudvella
301	Odisha	Balangir	Puintala
302	Odisha	Bargarh	Paikmal
303	Odisha	Dhenkanal	Kankadahad
304	Odisha	Gajapati	Gumma
305	Odisha	Gajapati	R. Udayagiri
306	Odisha	Kalahandi	Madanpur Rampur
307	Odisha	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur
308	Odisha	Kandhamal	Phiringia
309	Odisha	Kandhamal	Tumudibandh
310	Odisha	Keonjhar	Banspal
311	Odisha	Keonjhar	Harichandanpur
312	Odisha	Koraput	Lamtaput
313	Odisha	Koraput	Laxmipur
314	Odisha	Malkangiri	Chitrakonda
315	Odisha	Malkangiri	Khairput
316	Odisha	Malkangiri	Mathili
317	Odisha	Mayurbhanj	Jashipur
318	Odisha	Mayurbhanj	Thakurmunda
319	Odisha	Nabarangapur	Dabugam
320	Odisha	Nabarangapur	Tentulikhunti
321	Odisha	Nayagarh	Daspalla
322	Odisha	Nuapada	Boden
323	Odisha	Nuapada	Komna
324	Odisha	Raygada	Muniguda

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
325	Odisha	Raygada	Padmapur
326	Odisha	Sambalpur	Naktideul
327	Odisha	Sundargarh	Balisankara
328	Odisha	Sundargarh	Nuagaon
329	Punjab	Amritsar	Ajnala
330	Punjab	Amritsar	Harshe Chhina
331	Punjab	Ferozpur	Makhu
332	Punjab	Gurdaspur	Dera Baba Nanak
333	Punjab	Gurdaspur	Kalanaur
334	Punjab	Jalandhar	Shahkot
335	Punjab	Kapurthala	Dhilwan
336	Punjab	Kapurthala	Sultanpur Lodhi
337	Punjab	Moga	Nihal Singh Wala
338	Punjab	Sangrur	Dhuri
339	Rajasthan	Kotputali-Bahrar	Neemrana
340	Rajasthan	Banswara	Sajjanganj
341	Rajasthan	Baran	Kishanganj
342	Rajasthan	Barmer	Ramsar
343	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	Weir
344	Rajasthan	Shahpura	Kotri
345	Rajasthan	Bikaner	Kolayat
346	Rajasthan	Bundi	Keshoraipatan
347	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh	Nimbahera
348	Rajasthan	Churu	Rajgarh
349	Rajasthan	Dausa	Ramgarh Pachwara
350	Rajasthan	Dholpur	Baseri
351	Rajasthan	Dungarpur	Jothari
352	Rajasthan	Hanumangarh	Sangaria
353	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	Fathegarh
354	Rajasthan	Jalore	Ahore
355	Rajasthan	Jhalawar	Khanpur
356	Rajasthan	Jodhpur (Gramin)	Shergarh
357	Rajasthan	Karauli	Masalpur

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
358	Rajasthan	Nagaur	Jayal
359	Rajasthan	Pali	Rani Station
360	Rajasthan	Pratapgarh	Peepal Khoont
361	Rajasthan	Rajsamand	Bhim
362	Rajasthan	Gangapur City	Gangapur City
363	Rajasthan	Sirohi	Abu Road
364	Rajasthan	Tonk	Peepu
365	Rajasthan	Udaipur	Kherwara
366	Sikkim	Gyalshing	Arithang Chongrang
367	Sikkim	Namchi	Namchi
368	Sikkim	Soreng	Chumbong Chakung
369	Tamil Nadu	Ariyalur	Andimadam
370	Tamil Nadu	Kallakurichi	Kalvarayan Hills
371	Tamil Nadu	Karur	Thogaimalai
372	Tamil Nadu	Perambalur	Alathur
373	Tamil Nadu	Pudhukottai	Thiruvrankulam
374	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram	Thiruvadanai
375	Tamil Nadu	Ranipet	Timri
376	Tamil Nadu	Sivaganga	Thirupathur
377	Tamil Nadu	The Nilgiris	Kothagiri
378	Tamil Nadu	Tenkasi	Melaneelithanallur
379	Tamil Nadu	Thiruvannamalai	Jawathu Hills
380	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli	Turaiyur
381	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	Nanguneri
382	Tamil Nadu	Vellore	K.V.Kuppam
383	Tamil Nadu	Villupuram	Thiruvannainallur
384	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar	Tiruchuli
385	Telangana	Adilabad	Narnoor
386	Telangana	Bhadradi-Kothagudem	Gundala
387	Telangana	Jayashankar Bhupalapally	Mutharam (Mahadevpur)
388	Telangana	Jayashankar Bhupalapally	Palimela
389	Telangana	Jogulamba Gadwal	Ghattu
390	Telangana	Kumuram Bheem	Tiriyani

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
		-Asifabad	
391	Telangana	Mahabubabad	Gangaram
392	Telangana	Mulugu	Kannaigudem
393	Telangana	Narayanpet	Narva
394	Telangana	Nirmal	Pembi
395	Tripura	Dhalai	Ganganagar
396	Tripura	North Tripura	Damcherra
397	Tripura	North Tripura	Dasda
398	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh	Gangiri
399	Uttar Pradesh	Ambedkar Nagar	Bhiti
400	Uttar Pradesh	Ambedkar Nagar	Bhiyawn
401	Uttar Pradesh	Ambedkar Nagar	Tanda
402	Uttar Pradesh	Amethi	Jagdishpur
403	Uttar Pradesh	Amethi	Jamo
404	Uttar Pradesh	Amethi	Shukul Bazar
405	Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich	Huzoorpur
406	Uttar Pradesh	Ballia	Bansdih
407	Uttar Pradesh	Ballia	Chilkahar
408	Uttar Pradesh	Balrampur	Shriduttganj
409	Uttar Pradesh	Banda	Baberu
410	Uttar Pradesh	Banda	Bisanda
411	Uttar Pradesh	Barabanki	Nindaura
412	Uttar Pradesh	Barabanki	Puredalai
413	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly	Baheri
414	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly	Fatehganj (West)
415	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly	Damkhauda
416	Uttar Pradesh	Basti	Harraiya
417	Uttar Pradesh	Basti	Kudaraha
418	Uttar Pradesh	Bijanaur	Kotwali
419	Uttar Pradesh	Bijanaur	Najibabad
420	Uttar Pradesh	Budaun	Ambiapur
421	Uttar Pradesh	Budaun	Asafpur
422	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli	Chahniya

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
423	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot	Ramnagar
424	Uttar Pradesh	Deoria	Gauri Bazar
425	Uttar Pradesh	Etah	Awagarh
426	Uttar Pradesh	Etah	Jaithra
427	Uttar Pradesh	Farrukhabad	Nawabganj
428	Uttar Pradesh	Farrukhabad	Rajepur
429	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur	Hathgaon
430	Uttar Pradesh	Ghazipur	Varachakwar
431	Uttar Pradesh	Ghazipur	Virno
432	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda	Rupaideeh
433	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda	Babhanjot
434	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda	Pandari Kripal
435	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Bansgaon
436	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Brahmpur
437	Uttar Pradesh	Hardoi	Sandila
438	Uttar Pradesh	Jalaun	Jalaun
439	Uttar Pradesh	Jalaun	Rampura
440	Uttar Pradesh	Jaunpur	Machhali Sahar
441	Uttar Pradesh	Jaunpur	Ram Pur
442	Uttar Pradesh	Kasganj	Amanpur
443	Uttar Pradesh	Kasganj	Ganj Dundwara
444	Uttar Pradesh	Kaushambi	Kaushambi
445	Uttar Pradesh	Kaushambi	Manjhanpur
446	Uttar Pradesh	Kheri	Bankeyganj
447	Uttar Pradesh	Kheri	Dhaurhara
448	Uttar Pradesh	Kushi Nagar	Vishunpura
449	Uttar Pradesh	Lalitpur	Mandawra
450	Uttar Pradesh	Mahoba	Kabrai
451	Uttar Pradesh	Maharajganj	Mithaura
452	Uttar Pradesh	Mirzapur	Hallia
453	Uttar Pradesh	Mirzapur	Patehra
454	Uttar Pradesh	Pilbhit	Puranpur
455	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj	Baharia

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
456	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj	Koraon
457	Uttar Pradesh	Rampur	Saidnagar
458	Uttar Pradesh	Sambhal	Asmauli
459	Uttar Pradesh	Sambhal	Gunnaur
460	Uttar Pradesh	Shravasti	Jamunaha
461	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharth Nagar	Khesraha
462	Uttar Pradesh	Sitapur	Biswan
463	Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra	Chatra
464	Uttar Pradesh	St Kabir Nagar	Baghauli
465	Uttar Pradesh	St Ravidas Nagar	Aurai
466	Uttarakhand	Almora	Syaldey
467	Uttarakhand	Bageshwar	Kapkote
468	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	Bahadrabad
469	Uttarakhand	Pauri Garhwal	Duggada
470	Uttarakhand	Udam Singh Nagar	Gadarpur
471	Uttarakhand	Uttar Kashi	Mori
472	West Bengal	Bankura	Indpur
473	West Bengal	Bankura	Khatra-1
474	West Bengal	Bankura	Onda
475	West Bengal	Birbhum	Khoyrasol
476	West Bengal	Birbhum	Mayureswar-1
477	West Bengal	Birbhum	Nanoor
478	West Bengal	Dinajpur Dakshin	Kumarganj
479	West Bengal	Jhargram	Binpur-1
480	West Bengal	Jhargram	Binpur-2
481	West Bengal	Jhargram	Gopiballavpur-1
482	West Bengal	Jhargram	Gopiballavpur-2
483	West Bengal	Maldah	Chanchal-1
484	West Bengal	Maldah	Habibpur
485	West Bengal	Maldah	Harishchandrapur-2
486	West Bengal	Murshidabad	Bhagabangola-1
487	West Bengal	Murshidabad	Lalgola
488	West Bengal	Medinipur West	Keshiary

S.NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	BLOCK
489	West Bengal	Medinipur West	Salbani
490	West Bengal	Purulia	Balarampur
491	West Bengal	Purulia	Hura
492	West Bengal	Purulia	Kashipur
493	West Bengal	24 Paraganas South	Magra Hat-2
494	West Bengal	24 Paraganas South	Thakurpukur Mahestola
495	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Chopra
496	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Goalpokher-1
497	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Goalpokher-2
498	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Hemtabad
499	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Islampur
500	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Itahar

List of ABP Indicators

Sr. No.	Theme	Line Ministry	Indicator	Periodicity
1	Health & Nutrition	MoHFW	Percentage of ANC registered within the first trimester against total ANC registrations	Monthly
2	Health & Nutrition	MoHFW	Percentage of institutional deliveries against total reported deliveries	Monthly
3	Health & Nutrition	MoHFW	Percentage of low-birth weight babies (less than 2500g)	Monthly
4	Health & Nutrition	MoHFW	Percentage of Tuberculosis (TB) cases treated successfully against TB cases notified a year ago	Monthly
5	Health & Nutrition	MoHFW	Percentage of National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certified facilities in Block	Quarterly
6	Health & Nutrition	MoHFW	Percentage of person screened for Hypertension against targeted population	Monthly

Sr. No.	Theme	Line Ministry	Indicator	Periodicity
			in the Block	
7	Health & Nutrition	MoHFW	Percentage of person screened for Diabetes against targeted population in the Block	Monthly
8	Health & Nutrition	MoWCD	Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS programme regularly	Monthly
9	Health & Nutrition	MoWCD	Percentage of children from 6 months to 6 years taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS programme regularly	Monthly
10	Health & Nutrition	MoWCD	Measurement efficiency of children enrolled at Anganwadi Centres during the reporting month	Monthly
11	Health & Nutrition	MoWCD	Percentage of children under 5 years with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	Monthly
12	Health & Nutrition	MoWCD	Percentage of children under 5 years with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)	Monthly
13	Health & Nutrition	MoWCD	Percentage of operational Anganwadis Centres with functional toilets	Monthly
14	Health & Nutrition	MoWCD	Percentage of operational Anganwadis Centres with drinking water facilities	Monthly
15	Education	DOSEL	Transition Rate - Percentage of boys transitioned from Upper Primary to Secondary level	Annual
16	Education	DOSEL	Transition Rate - Percentage of girls transitioned from Upper Primary to Secondary	Annual

Sr. No.	Theme	Line Ministry	Indicator	Periodicity
			level	
17	Education	DOSEL	Transition Rate - Percentage of boys transitioned from Secondary to Higher Secondary Level	Annual
18	Education	DOSEL	Transition Rate - Percentage of girls transitioned from Secondary to Higher Secondary Level	Annual
19	Education	DOSEL	Percentage of elementary schools having PTR less than equal to 30	Annual
20	Education	DOSEL	Percentage of schools having adequate no. of girls' toilet facilities against the total number of schools	Annual
21	Education	DOSEL	Percentage of schools having trained teachers for teaching child with special needs (CwSN)	Annual
22	Education	DOSEL	Percentage of boys with 60% and above marks in Class X board exam	Annual
23	Education	DOSEL	Percentage of girls with 60% and above marks in Class X board exam	Annual
24	Education	DOSEL	Percentage of boys with 60% and above marks in Class XII board exam	Annual
25	Education	DOSEL	Percentage of girls with 60% and above marks in Class XII board exam	Annual
26	Agriculture & Allied Services	DA&FW	Percentage of FPOs formed in the block against total sanctioned	Half Yearly
27	Agriculture & Allied Services	DA&FW	Percentage of beneficiaries under PM Kisan with land	Every 4 months

Sr. No.	Theme	Line Ministry	Indicator	Periodicity
			details and AEPB Seeded against total no. of beneficiaries with land details seeded	
28	Agriculture & Allied Services	DA&FW	Percentage of Soil Health Cards generated against soil sample collection target	Half Yearly
29	Agriculture & Allied Services	DAHD	Percentage of Bovine Animals Vaccinated (FMD)	Half Yearly
30	Agriculture & Allied Services	DoWR	Percentage of Ground Water Extraction at Block Level	Annual
31	Social Development	DFS	No. of banking touch points (bank branch/BC/IPPB centre) located in the block	Monthly
32	Social Development	MeitY	Percentage of Gram Panchayats with at least 250 beneficiaries digitally certified under PM Digital Saksharata Abhiyaan	Monthly
33	Social Development	MoRD	Total number of eligible Households (HHs) added to SHGs	Monthly
34	Social Development	MoRD	Percentage of SHGs that have received Revolving Fund against total SHGs in the Block	Monthly
35	Social Development	DPIIT	Vocal for Local	-
36	Basic Infrastructure	DDWS	Percentage of Households (HHs) with functional tap water connections (FHTC) against total number of HHs in the block	Monthly
37	Basic Infrastructure	DDWS	Percentage of villages declared open Defecation Free (ODF) plus	Monthly
38	Basic Infrastructure	DoT	Percentage of Gram	Monthly

Sr. No.	Theme	Line Ministry	Indicator	Periodicity
			Panchayats with BharatNet	
39	Basic Infrastructure	DoT	Percentage of Gram Panchayats with Live BharatNet connection against total number Gram Panchayats with BharatNet	Monthly
40	Basic Infrastructure	MoRD	Percentage of Households (HHs) constructed under PMAY-G against cumulative target	Monthly

SDG Served:

Theme	Total indicators	Indicators mapped to SDG Goals	SDG Goal
Health and Nutrition	14	11 indicators focusing Maternal and Child health and nutrition and Health infrastructure	Goal 2: Zero Hunger Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing
Education	11	8 indicators focusing Learning outcomes and transition rates. 1 indicator focusing Quality of education. 1 indicator focusing on improving girls' access to education and Sanitation	Goal 4: Quality Education Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
Agriculture & Allied Services	5	5 indicators focusing FPO formation, soil health, PM-Kisan coverage, bovine vaccination, and groundwater extraction	Goal 2: Zero Hunger Goal 3: Good health and well-being Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
Social Development	4	4 indicators focusing SHG inclusion, financial assistance, banking access, and digital literacy coverage.	Goal 4: Quality Education Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Basic Infrastructure	5	5 indicators focusing tap water access, sanitation status, digital connectivity, and rural housing coverage	Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Goal 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure Goal

			11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
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Schedule 2: Form of Agreement

(See [Clause 2.1.3](#))

**AGREEMENT
FOR
Evaluation Study of Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks
Programme**

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AGREEMENT

Consultancy for Evaluation Study of

This AGREEMENT (hereinafter called the “Agreement”) is made on the day of the month of 20..., between, on the one hand, the President of India acting through Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (hereinafter called the “Authority” which expression shall include their respective successors and permitted assigns, unless the context otherwise requires) and, on the other hand, (hereinafter called the “Consultant” which expression shall include their respective successors and permitted assigns).

WHEREAS

- (A) The Authority vide its Request for Proposal for conducting an Evaluation Study (hereinafter called the “Consultancy”) for the Evaluation Study of _____ (hereinafter called the “Project”);
- (B) the Consultant submitted its proposals for the aforesaid work, whereby the Consultant represented to the Authority that it had the required professional skills, and in the said proposals the Consultant also agreed to provide the Services to the Authority on the terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP and this Agreement; and
- (C) the Authority, on acceptance of the aforesaid proposals of the Consultant, awarded the Consultancy to the Consultant vide its Letter of Award dated (the “LOA”); and
- (D) in pursuance of the LOA, the parties have agreed to enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

1 General

1.1 Definitions and Interpretation

- 1.1.1 The words and expressions beginning with capital letters and defined in this Agreement shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:
- a) “Agreement” means this Agreement, together with all the Annexes;
 - b) “Agreement Value” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 6.1.2](#);
 - c) “Applicable Laws” means the laws and any other instruments having the force of law in India as they may be issued and in force from time to time;

- d) “Confidential Information” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 3.3](#);
- e) “Conflict of Interest” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 3.2](#) read with the provisions of RFP;
- f) “Dispute” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 9.2.1](#);
- g) “Effective Date” means the date on which this Agreement comes into force and effect pursuant to [Clause 2.1](#);
- h) “Government” means the Government of
- i) “INR, Rs. or ₹” means Indian Rupees;
- j) “Member”, in case the Consultant consists of a joint venture or consortium of more than one entity, means any of these entities, and “Members” means all of these entities;
- k) “Party” means the Authority or the Consultant, as the case may be, and Parties means both of them;
- l) “Personnel” means persons hired by the Consultant as employees and assigned to the performance of the Services or any part thereof;
- m) “RFP” means the Request for Proposal document in response to which the Consultant’s proposal for providing Services was accepted;
- n) “Services” means the work to be performed by the Consultant pursuant to this Agreement, as described in the Terms of Reference hereto;
- o) “Third Party” means any person or entity other than the Government, the Authority, the Consultant.

All terms and words not defined herein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning assigned to them in the RFP.

- 1.1.2 The following documents along with all addenda issued thereto shall be deemed to form and be read and construed as integral parts of this Agreement and in case of any contradiction between or among them the priority in which a document would prevail over another would be as laid down below beginning from the highest priority to the lowest priority:
- a) Agreement;
 - b) Annexes of Agreement;
 - c) RFP; and
 - d) Letter of Award.

1.2 Relation between the Parties

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as establishing a relation of master and servant or of agent and principal as between the Authority and the Consultant. The Consultant shall, subject to this Agreement, have complete charge of Personnel performing the Services and shall be fully responsible for the Services performed by them or on their behalf hereunder.

1.3 Rights and obligations

The mutual rights and obligations of the Authority and the Consultant shall be as set forth in the Agreement, in particular:

- (a) the Consultant shall carry out the Services in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement; and

- (b) the Authority shall make payments to the Consultant in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

1.4 Governing law and jurisdiction

This Agreement, its meaning and interpretation, and the relation between the parties shall be governed by the Laws of India for the time being in force. Irrespective of the place of delivery, the place of performance or the place of payments under the agreement, the agreement shall be deemed to have been made at the place from which the Letter of Award (LoA or Agreement, in absence of LoA) has been issued. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement, the courts of such a place shall alone have jurisdiction to decide any dispute arising out or in respect of the agreement.

1.5 Language

All notices required to be given by one Party to the other Party and all other communications, documentation and proceedings which are in any way relevant to this Agreement shall be in writing and in English language.

1.6 Table of contents and headings

The table of contents, headings or sub-headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not be used in, and shall not affect, the construction or interpretation of this Agreement.

1.7 Notices

Any notice or other communication to be given by any Party to the other Party under or in connection with the matters contemplated by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall:

- a) in the case of the Consultant, be given by e-mail and by letter delivered by hand to the address given and marked for attention of the Consultant's Representative set out below in [Clause 1.10](#) or to such other person as the Consultant may from time to time designate by notice to the Authority; provided that notices or other communications to be given to an address outside the city specified in Sub-clause (b) below may, if they are subsequently confirmed by sending a copy thereof by registered acknowledgement due, air mail or by courier, be sent by e-mail to the number as the Consultant may from time to time specify by notice to the Authority;
- b) in the case of the Authority, be given by e-mail and by letter delivered by hand and be addressed to the Authority with a copy delivered to the Authority Representative set out below in [Clause 1.10](#) or to such other person as the Authority may from time to time designate by notice to the Consultant; provided that if the Consultant does not have an office in the same city as the Authority's office, it may send such notice by e-mail and by registered acknowledgement due, air mail or by courier; and
- c) any notice or communication by a Party to the other Party, given in accordance herewith, shall be deemed to have been delivered when in the normal course of post it ought to have been delivered and in all other cases,

it shall be deemed to have been delivered on the actual date and time of delivery; provided that in the case of e-mail, it shall be deemed to have been delivered on the working days following the date of its delivery.

1.8 Location

The Services shall be performed at the site of the Project in accordance with the provisions of RFP and at such locations as are incidental thereto, including the offices of the Consultant.

1.9 Authority of Member-in-charge

In case the Consultant consists of a consortium of more than one entity, the Parties agree that the Lead Member shall act on behalf of the Members in exercising all the Consultant's rights and obligations towards the Authority under this Agreement, including without limitation the receiving of instructions and payments from the Authority.

1.10 Authorised Representatives

1.10.1 Any action required or permitted to be taken, and any document required or permitted to be executed, under this Agreement by the Authority or the Consultant, as the case may be, may be taken or executed by the officials specified in this [Clause 1.10](#).

1.10.2 The Authority may, from time to time, designate one of its officials as the Authority Representative. Unless otherwise notified, the Authority Representative shall be:

.....

.....

Tel:

Mobile:

Email:

1.10.3 The Consultant may designate one of its employees as Consultant's Representative. Unless otherwise notified, the Consultant's Representative shall be:

.....

.....

Tel:

Mobile:

Email:

1.11 Taxes and duties

Unless otherwise specified in the Agreement, the Consultant shall pay all such taxes, duties, fees and other impositions as may be levied under the Applicable Laws and the Authority shall perform such duties in regard to the deduction of such taxes as may be lawfully imposed on it.

1.12 Communications

All communications under the agreement shall be served by the parties to each

other in writing, in the agreement's language, and served in a manner customary and acceptable in business and commercial transactions. The effective date of such communications shall be either the date when delivered to the recipient or the effective date mentioned explicitly in the communication, whichever is later. No communication shall amount to an amendment of the terms and conditions of the agreement, except a formal letter of amendment of the agreement expressly so designated.

2 Commencement, Completion and Termination of Agreement

2.1 Effectiveness of Agreement

This Agreement shall come into force and effect on the date of this Agreement (the "Effective Date").

2.2 Commencement of Services

The Consultant shall commence the Services within a period of 7 (seven) days from the Effective Date, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

2.3 Termination of Agreement for failure to commence Services

If the Consultant does not commence the Services within the period specified in [Clause 2.2](#) above, the Authority may, by not less than 2 (two) weeks' notice to the Consultant, declare this Agreement to be null and void, and in the event of such a declaration, the Authority reserves the right to take action as per the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration Form.

2.4 Expiry of Agreement

Unless terminated earlier according to [Clauses 2.3](#) or [2.9](#), this Agreement will expire under two conditions (i) 90 (ninety) days after delivering the final report (refer to [Clause 6.3](#) (d) of the Terms of reference) to the Authority. or (ii) three years from the effective date, whichever occurs first, unless extended by mutual consent of the parties.

2.5 Entire Agreement

2.5.1 This Agreement and the Annexes together constitute a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the agreement between the Parties on the subject hereof, and no amendment or modification hereto shall be valid and effective unless such modification or amendment is agreed to in writing by the Parties and duly executed by persons especially empowered in this behalf by the respective Parties. All prior written or oral understandings, offers or other communications of every kind pertaining to this Agreement are abrogated and withdrawn; provided, however, that the obligations of the Consultant arising out of the provisions of the RFP shall continue to subsist and shall be deemed to form part of this Agreement.

2.5.2 Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of [Clause 2.5.1](#), on matters

not covered by this Agreement, the provisions of RFP shall apply.

2.6 Modification of Agreement

There shall be no modification in the terms and conditions of this Agreement unless the reasons are beyond the control of both parties i.e. the Applicant and the Authority. In no circumstances, the cost should be higher than the agreement cost due to modifications in the terms and conditions.

2.7 Force Majeure

2.7.1 Definition

- a) For the purposes of this Agreement, “Force Majeure” means an event which is beyond the reasonable control of a Party, and which makes a Party’s performance of its obligations hereunder impossible or so impractical as reasonably to be considered impossible in the circumstances, and includes, but is not limited to, war, riots, civil disorder, earthquake, fire, explosion, storm, flood or other adverse weather conditions, strikes, lockouts or other industrial action (except where such strikes, lockouts or other industrial action are within the power of the Party invoking Force Majeure to prevent), confiscation or any other action by government agencies.
- b) Force Majeure shall not include (i) any event which is caused by the negligence or intentional action of a Party or such Party’s agents or employees, nor (ii) any event which a diligent Party could reasonably have been expected to both (A) take into account at the time of the conclusion of this Agreement, and (B) avoid or overcome in the carrying out of its obligations hereunder.
- c) Force Majeure shall not include insufficiency of funds or failure to make any payment required hereunder.

2.7.2 No breach of Agreement

The failure of a Party to fulfill any of its obligations hereunder shall not be considered to be a breach of, or default under, this Agreement insofar as such inability arises from an event of Force Majeure, provided that the Party affected by such an event has taken all reasonable precautions, due care and reasonable alternative measures, all with the objective of carrying out the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2.7.3 Measures to be taken

- a) A Party affected by an event of Force Majeure shall take all reasonable measures to remove such Party’s inability to fulfill its obligations hereunder with a minimum of delay.
- b) A Party affected by an event of Force Majeure shall notify the other Party of such event as soon as possible, and in any event not later than 14 (fourteen) days following the occurrence of such event, providing evidence of the nature and cause of such event, and shall similarly give notice of the restoration of normal conditions as soon as possible.
- c) The Parties shall take all reasonable measures to minimise the consequences of

any event of Force Majeure.

2.7.4 Extension of time

Any period within which a Party shall, pursuant to this Agreement, complete any action or task, shall be extended for a period equal to the time during which such Party was unable to perform such action as a result of Force Majeure.

2.7.5 Consultation

Not later than 30 (thirty) days after the Consultant has, as the result of an event of Force Majeure, become unable to perform a material portion of the Services, the Parties shall consult with each other with a view to agreeing on appropriate measures to be taken in the circumstances.

2.8 Suspension of Agreement

The Authority may, by written notice of suspension to the Consultant, suspend all payments to the Consultant hereunder if the Consultant shall be in breach of this Agreement or shall fail to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement, including the carrying out of the Services; provided that such notice of suspension (i) shall specify the nature of the breach or failure, and (ii) shall provide an opportunity to the Consultant to remedy such breach or failure within a period not exceeding 21 (twenty one) days after receipt by the Consultant of such notice of suspension.

2.9 Termination of Agreement

2.9.1 By the Authority

The Authority may, by not less than 21 (twenty) days' written notice of termination to the Consultant, such notice to be given after the occurrence of any of the events specified in this Clause 2.9.1, terminate this Agreement if:

- a) the Consultant fails to remedy any breach hereof or any failure in the performance of its obligations hereunder, as specified in a notice of suspension pursuant to [Clause 2.8](#) hereinabove, within 21 (twenty-one) days of receipt of such notice of suspension or within such further period as the Authority may have subsequently granted in writing;
- b) the Consultant becomes insolvent or bankrupt or enters into any agreement with its creditors for relief of debt or take advantage of any law for the benefit of debtors or goes into liquidation or receivership whether compulsory or voluntary;
- c) the Consultant fails to comply with any final decision reached as a result of arbitration proceedings pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof;
- d) the Consultant submits to the Authority a statement which has a material effect on the rights, obligations or interests of the Authority and which the Consultant knows to be false;
- e) any document, information, data or statement submitted by the Consultant in its Proposals, based on which the Consultant was considered eligible or successful, is found to be false, incorrect or misleading;
- f) as the result of Force Majeure, the Consultant is unable to perform a material

portion of the Services for a period of not less than 60 (sixty) days; or
g) the Authority, in its sole discretion and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate this Agreement.

2.9.2 By the Consultant

The Consultant may, by not less than 30 (thirty) days' written notice to the Authority, such notice to be given after the occurrence of any of the events specified in this Clause 2.9.2, terminate this Agreement if:

the Authority fails to pay any money due to the Consultant pursuant to this Agreement and not subject to dispute pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof within 45 (forty-five) days after receiving written notice from the Consultant that such payment is overdue;

the Authority is in material breach of its obligations pursuant to this Agreement and has not remedied the same within 45 (forty-five) days (or such longer period as the Consultant may have subsequently granted in writing) following the receipt by the Authority of the Consultant's notice specifying such breach;

as the result of Force Majeure, the Consultant is unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than 60 (sixty) days; or

the Authority fails to comply with any final decision reached as a result of arbitration pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof.

2.9.3 Cessation of rights and obligations

Upon termination of this Agreement pursuant to [Clauses 2.3](#) or [2.9](#) hereof, or upon expiration of this Agreement pursuant to [Clause 2.4](#) hereof, all rights and obligations of the Parties hereunder shall cease, except (i) such rights and obligations as may have accrued on the date of termination or expiration, or which expressly survive such Termination; (ii) the obligation of confidentiality set forth in [Clause 3.3](#) hereof; (iii) the Consultant's obligation to permit inspection, copying and auditing of such of its accounts and records set forth in [Clause 3.6](#), as relate to the Consultant's Services provided under this Agreement; and (iv) any right or remedy which a Party may have under this Agreement or the Applicable Law.

2.9.4 Cessation of Services

Upon termination of this Agreement by notice of either Party to the other pursuant to [Clauses 2.9.1](#) or [2.9.2](#) hereof, the Consultant shall, immediately upon dispatch or receipt of such notice, take all necessary steps to bring the Services to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and shall make every reasonable effort to keep expenditures for this purpose to a minimum. With respect to documents prepared by the Consultant they shall proceed as provided respectively by [Clauses 3.9](#) hereof.

2.9.5 Payment upon Termination

Upon termination of this Agreement pursuant to [Clauses 2.9.1](#) or [2.9.2](#) hereof, the Authority shall make the following payments to the Consultant (after offsetting against these payments any amount that may be due from the Consultant to the Authority):

a) remuneration pursuant to [Clause 6](#) hereof for Services satisfactorily

performed prior to the date of termination;

- b) reimbursable expenditures pursuant to [Clause 6](#) hereof for expenditures actually incurred prior to the date of termination; and
- c) except in the case of termination pursuant to sub-clauses (a) through (e) of [Clause 2.9.1](#) hereof, reimbursement of any reasonable cost incidental to the prompt and orderly termination of the Agreement including the cost of the return travel of the Consultant's personnel.

2.9.6 Disputes about Events of Termination

If either Party disputes whether an event specified in [Clause 2.9.1](#) or in [Clause 2.9.2](#) hereof has occurred, such Party may, within 30 (thirty) days after receipt of notice of termination from the other Party, refer the matter to arbitration pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof, and this Agreement shall not be terminated on account of such event except in accordance with the terms of any resulting arbitral award.

3 Obligations of the Consultant

3.1 General

3.1.1 Standards of Performance

The Consultant shall perform the Services and carry out its obligations hereunder with all due diligence, efficiency and economy, in accordance with generally accepted professional techniques and practices, and shall observe sound management practices, and employ appropriate advanced technology and safe and effective equipment, machinery, materials and methods. The Consultant shall always act, in respect of any matter relating to this Agreement or to the Services, as a faithful adviser to the Authority, and shall at all times support and safeguard the Authority's legitimate interests in any dealings with Third Parties.

3.1.2 Terms of Reference

The scope of services to be performed by the Consultant is specified in the Terms of Reference (the "TOR") at [Annex-1](#) of this Agreement. The Consultant shall provide the Deliverables specified therein in conformity with the time schedule stated therein.

3.1.3 Applicable Laws

The Consultant shall perform the Services in accordance with the Applicable Laws and shall take all practicable steps to ensure that any Personnel and agents of the Consultant, comply with the Applicable Laws.

3.2 Conflict of Interest

3.2.1 The Consultant shall not have a Conflict of Interest and any breach hereof shall constitute a breach of the Agreement.

3.2.2 Consultant and Affiliates not to be otherwise interested in the Project

The Consultant agrees that, during the term of this Agreement and after its termination, the Consultant or any Associate thereof and any entity affiliated with the Consultant shall be disqualified from providing goods, works, services, loans or equity for any project resulting from or closely related to the Services

and any breach of this obligation shall amount to a Conflict of Interest; provided that the restriction herein shall not apply after a period of one and a half years from the completion of this assignment or to consulting assignments granted by banks/ lenders at any time; provided further that this restriction shall not apply to consultancy/ advisory services provided to the Authority in continuation of this Consultancy or to any subsequent consultancy/ advisory services provided to the Authority in accordance with the rules of the Authority. For the avoidance of doubt, an entity affiliated with the Consultant shall include a partner in the Consultant's firm or a person who holds more than 5% (five per cent) of the subscribed and paid up share capital of the Consultant, as the case may be, and any Associate thereof.

3.2.3 Prohibition of conflicting activities

Neither the Consultant nor its Personnel of either of them shall engage, either directly or indirectly, in any of the following activities:

- a) during the term of this Agreement, any business or professional activities which would conflict with the activities assigned to them under this Agreement;
- b) after the termination of this Agreement, such other activities as may be specified in the Agreement; or
- c) at any time, such other activities as have been specified in the RFP as Conflict of Interest.

3.2.4 Consultant not to benefit from commissions, discounts, etc.

The remuneration of the Consultant pursuant to [Clause 6](#) hereof shall constitute the Consultant's sole remuneration in connection with this Agreement or the Services and the Consultant shall not accept for its own benefit any trade commission, discount or similar payment in connection with activities pursuant to this Agreement or to the Services or in the discharge of its obligations hereunder, and the Consultant shall use its best efforts to ensure that its Personnel and agents shall not receive any such additional remuneration.

3.2.5 The Consultant and its Personnel shall observe the highest standards of ethics and shall not have engaged in and shall not hereafter engage in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, anti-competitive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, the Authority shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement forthwith by a communication in writing to the Consultant, without being liable in any manner whatsoever to the Consultant, if it determines that the Consultant has, directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged in any Prohibited Practices in the Selection Process or before or after entering into of this Agreement. In such an event, the Authority shall forfeit and appropriate the performance security, if any, as mutually agreed genuine pre-estimated compensation and damages payable to the Authority towards, inter alia, the time, cost and effort of the Authority, without prejudice to the Authority's any other rights or remedy hereunder or in law.

3.2.6 Without prejudice to the rights of the Authority under [Clause 3.2.5](#) above and

the other rights and remedies which the Authority may have under this Agreement, if the Consultant is found by the Authority to have directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged or indulged in any Prohibited Practices, during the Selection Process or before or after the execution of this Agreement, the Consultant shall not be eligible to participate in any tender or RFP issued during a period of 2 (two) years from the date the Consultant is found by the Authority to have directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged or indulged in any Prohibited Practices.

3.2.7 For the purposes of [Clauses 3.2.5](#) and [3.2.6](#), the following terms shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:

- a) “corrupt practice” means making an offer, solicitation or acceptance of a bribe, reward or gift or any material benefit in exchange for an unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or to otherwise influence the Procurement Process
- b) “fraudulent practice” means any omission or misrepresentation that may mislead or attempt to mislead so that financial or other benefits may be obtained or an obligation avoided. Such practices include a false declaration or false information for participation in a Procurement Process or to secure a Contract, or in the execution of the agreement;
- c) “coercive practice” means harming or threatening to harm persons or their property to influence their participation in the Procurement Process or affect the execution of the agreement
- d) “Anti-competitive practice” means any collusion, Proposal-rigging or anti-competitive arrangement, or any other practice including cartels coming under the purview of the Competition Act, 2002, between two or more Applicants, with or without the knowledge of the Authority, that may impair the transparency, fairness, and the progress of the Procurement Process or to establish Proposal prices at artificial, non-competitive levels
- e) “Conflict of interest” means participation by a bidding firm or any of its affiliates who are either involved in the Consultancy Contract to which this procurement is linked; if they are part of more than one Proposal in the procurement; or if their personnel have a relationship or financial or business transactions with any official of Authority who are directly or indirectly related to tender or execution process of contract; or improper use of information obtained by the (prospective) Applicant from the Authority with an intent to gain unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or for personal gain
- f) “Obstructive practice” means materially impede Authority’s investigation into allegations of one or more of the above-mentioned prohibited practices either by deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering; or concealing evidence material to the investigation; or by making false statements to investigators and/ or by coercive practices mentioned above, to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or by impeding the Authority’s rights of an audit or access to information.

3.3 Confidentiality

The Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them shall not, either during the term or within two years after the expiration or termination of this Agreement disclose any proprietary information, including information relating to reports, data, drawings, design software or other material, whether written or oral, in electronic or magnetic format, and the contents thereof; and any reports, digests or summaries created or derived from any of the foregoing that is provided by the Authority to the Consultant, and its Personnel; any information provided by or relating to the Authority, its technology, technical processes, business affairs or finances or any information relating to the Authority's employees, officers or other professionals or suppliers, customers, or contractors of the Authority; and any other information which the Consultant is under an obligation to keep confidential in relation to the Project, the Services or this Agreement ("Confidential Information"), without the prior written consent of the Authority. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, the Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them may disclose Confidential Information to the extent that such Confidential Information:

- a) was in the public domain prior to its delivery to the Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them or becomes a part of the public knowledge from a source other than the Consultant, its Sub-Consultants and the Personnel of either of them;
- b) was obtained from a third party with no known duty to maintain its confidentiality;
- c) is required to be disclosed by Applicable Laws or judicial or administrative or arbitral process or by any governmental instrumentalities, provided that for any such disclosure, the Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them shall give the Authority, prompt written notice, and use reasonable efforts to ensure that such disclosure is accorded confidential treatment; and
- d) is provided to the professional advisers, agents, auditors or representatives of the Consultant or its Personnel of either of them, as is reasonable under the circumstances; provided, however, that the Consultant or its Personnel of either of them, as the case may be, shall require their professional advisers, agents, auditors or its representatives, to undertake in writing to keep such Confidential Information, confidential and shall use its best efforts to ensure compliance with such undertaking.

3.4 Liability of the Consultant

- 3.4.1 The Consultant's liability under this Agreement shall be determined by the Applicable Laws and the provisions hereof.
- 3.4.2 The Consultant shall, subject to the limitation specified in [Clause 3.4.3](#), be liable to the Authority for any direct loss or damage accrued or likely to accrue due to deficiency in Services rendered by it.
- 3.4.3 The Parties hereto agree that in case of negligence or wilful misconduct on the part of the Consultant or on the part of any person or firm acting on behalf of

the Consultant in carrying out the Services, the Consultant, with respect to damage caused to the Authority's property, shall not be liable to the Authority:

- a) for any indirect or consequential loss or damage; and
 - b) for any direct loss or damage that exceeds (a) the Agreement Value set forth in [Clause 6.1.2](#) of this Agreement, or (b) the proceeds the Consultant may be entitled to receive from any insurance maintained by the Consultant to cover such a liability in accordance with [Clause 3.5.1](#), whichever of (a) or (b) is higher.
- 3.4.4 This limitation of liability specified in [Clause 3.4.3](#) shall not affect the Consultant's liability, if any, for damage to Third Parties caused by the Consultant or any person or firm acting on behalf of the Consultant in carrying out the Services subject, however, to a limit equal to 3 (three) times the Agreement Value.

3.5 Insurance to be taken out by the Consultant

- 3.5.1 The Consultant shall, for the duration of this Agreement, take out and maintain, at its own cost, but on terms and conditions approved by the Authority, insurance against the risks, and for the coverages, as stipulated in the contract or any applicable law including Labour Codes; and at the Authority's request, shall provide evidence to the Authority showing that such insurance has been taken out and maintained and that the current premiums have been paid.

3.6 Accounting, inspection and auditing

The Consultant shall:

- a) keep accurate and systematic accounts and records in respect of the Services provided under this Agreement, in accordance with internationally accepted accounting principles and in such form and detail as will clearly identify all relevant time charges and cost, and the basis thereof (including the basis of the Consultant's costs and charges); and
- b) permit the Authority or its designated representative periodically, and up to one year from the expiration or termination of this Agreement, to inspect the same and make copies thereof as well as to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Authority.

3.7 Consultant's actions requiring the Authority's prior approval

The Consultant shall obtain the Authority's prior approval in writing before taking any of the following actions:

appointing such members of the Professional Personnel as are not listed in [Annex-2](#).
any other action that is specified in this Agreement.

3.8 Reporting obligations

The Consultant shall submit to the Authority the reports and documents specified in the Agreement, in the form, in the numbers and within the time periods set forth

therein.

3.9 Documents prepared by the Consultant to be property of the Authority

- 3.9.1 All plans, drawings, specifications, designs, reports and other documents (collectively referred to as “Consultancy Documents”) prepared by the Consultant (or by the Sub-Consultants or any Third Party) in performing the Services shall become and remain the property of the Authority, and all intellectual property rights in such Consultancy Documents shall vest with the Authority. Any Consultancy Document, of which the ownership or the intellectual property rights do not vest with the Authority under law, shall automatically stand assigned to the Authority as and when such Consultancy Document is created and the Consultant agrees to execute all papers and to perform such other acts as the Authority may deem necessary to secure its rights herein assigned by the Consultant.
- 3.9.2 The Consultant shall, not later than termination or expiration of this Agreement, deliver all Consultancy Documents to the Authority, together with a detailed inventory thereof. The Consultant may retain a copy of such Consultancy Documents. The Consultant, or a Third Party shall not use these Consultancy Documents for purposes unrelated to this Agreement without the prior written approval of the Authority.
- 3.9.3 The Consultant shall hold the Authority harmless and indemnified for any losses, claims, damages, expenses (including all legal expenses), awards, penalties or injuries (collectively referred to as ‘Claims’) which may arise from or due to any unauthorised use of such Consultancy Documents, or due to any breach or failure on part of the Consultant or a Third Party to perform any of its duties or obligations in relation to securing the aforementioned rights of the Authority.

3.10 Providing access to Project Office and Personnel

The Consultant shall ensure that the Authority, and officials of the Authority having authority from the Authority, are provided unrestricted access to the Project Office and to all Personnel during office hour. The Authority’s official, who has been authorised by the Authority in this behalf, shall have the right to inspect the Services in progress, interact with Personnel of the Consultant and verify the records relating to the Services for his satisfaction.

3.11 Accuracy of Documents

The Consultant shall be responsible for accuracy of the data collected by it directly or procured from other agencies/authorities, the designs, drawings, estimates and all other details prepared by it as part of these services. Subject to the provisions of [Clause 3.4](#), it shall indemnify the Authority against any inaccuracy in its work which might surface during implementation of the Project, if such inaccuracy is the result of any negligence or inadequate due diligence on

part of the Consultant or arises out of its failure to conform to good industry practice. The Consultant shall also be responsible for promptly correcting, at its own cost and risk, the drawings including any re-survey / investigations.

4 Consultant's Personnel

4.1 General

The Consultant shall employ and provide such qualified and experienced Personnel as may be required to carry out the Services.

4.2 Deployment of Personnel

4.2.1 The designations, names and the estimated periods of engagement in carrying out the Services by each of the Consultant's Personnel are described in [Annex-2](#) of this Agreement. The estimate of Personnel costs and person day rates are specified in [Annex-3](#) of this Agreement.

4.2.2 Adjustments with respect to the estimated periods of engagement of Personnel set forth in the aforementioned [Annex-3](#) may be made by the Consultant by written notice to the Authority, provided that: (i) such adjustments shall not alter the originally estimated period of engagement of any individual by more than 20% (twenty per cent) or one week, whichever is greater, and (ii) the aggregate of such adjustments shall not cause payments under the Agreement to exceed the Agreement Value set forth in [Clause 6.1.2](#) of this Agreement. Any other adjustments shall only be made with the written approval of the Authority.

4.3 Approval of Personnel

4.3.1 The Professional Personnel listed in [Annex-2](#) of the Agreement are hereby approved by the Authority. No other Professional Personnel shall be engaged without prior approval of the Authority.

4.3.2 If the Consultant hereafter proposes to engage any person as Professional Personnel, it shall submit to the Authority its proposal along with a CV of such person in the form provided at [Appendix-I \(Form-6\)](#) of the RFP. The Authority may approve or reject such proposal within 14 (fourteen) days of receipt thereof. In case the proposal is rejected, the Consultant may propose an alternative person for the Authority's consideration. In the event the Authority does not reject a proposal within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of receipt thereof under this Clause 4.3, it shall be deemed to have been approved by the Authority.

4.4 Substitution of Key Personnel

The Authority expects all the Key Personnel specified in the Proposal to be available during implementation of the Agreement. The Authority will not consider any substitution of Key Personnel except under compelling circumstances beyond the control of the Consultant and the concerned Key Personnel. Such substitution shall be limited to not more than two Key Personnel subject to equally or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. Without prejudice to the foregoing, substitution of one Key Personnel shall be permitted subject to reduction of remuneration

equal to 10% (ten per cent) of the total remuneration specified for the Key Personnel who is proposed to be substituted. In case of a second substitution, such reduction shall be equal to 20% (twenty per cent) of the total remuneration specified for the Key Personnel who is proposed to be substituted.

4.5 Working hours, overtime, leave, etc.

The Personnel shall not be entitled to be paid for overtime nor to take paid sick leave or vacation leave except as specified in the Agreement, and the Consultant's remuneration shall be deemed to cover these items. All leave to be allowed to the Personnel is excluded from the person days of service set forth in [Annex-2](#). Any taking of leave by any Personnel for a period exceeding 7 (seven) days shall be subject to the prior approval of the Authority, and the Consultant shall ensure that any absence on leave will not delay the progress and quality of the Services.

4.6 Team Leader and Project Manager

The person designated as the Team Leader of the Consultant's Personnel shall be responsible for the coordinated, timely and efficient functioning of the Personnel. In addition, the Consultant shall designate a suitable person as Project Manager (the "Project Manager") who shall be responsible for day to day performance of the Services.

5 Obligations of the Authority

5.1 Assistance in clearances etc.

Unless otherwise specified in the Agreement, the Authority shall make best efforts to ensure that the Government shall:

- a) provide the Consultant, its Personnel with work permits and such other documents as may be necessary to enable the Consultant, and its Personnel to perform the Services;
- b) facilitate prompt clearance through customs of any property required for the Services; and
- c) issue to officials, agents and representatives of the Government all such instructions as may be necessary or appropriate for the prompt and effective implementation of the Services.

5.2 Change in Applicable Law

If, after the date of this Agreement, there is any change in the Applicable Laws with respect to taxes and duties which increases or decreases the cost or reimbursable expenses incurred by the Consultant in performing the Services, by an amount exceeding 2% (two per cent) of the Agreement Value specified in [Clause 6.1.2](#), then the remuneration and reimbursable expenses otherwise payable to the Consultant under this Agreement shall be increased or decreased accordingly by agreement between the Parties hereto, and corresponding adjustments shall be made to the aforesaid Agreement Value.

5.3 Payment

In consideration of the Services performed by the Consultant under this Agreement, the Authority shall make to the Consultant such payments and in such manner as is provided in [Clause 6](#) of this Agreement.

6 Payment to the Consultant

6.1 Cost estimates and Agreement Value

- 6.1.1 An abstract of the cost of the Services payable to the Consultant is set forth in Annex-4 of the Agreement.
- 6.1.2 Except as may be otherwise agreed under [Clause 2.6](#), the payments under this Agreement shall not exceed the agreement value specified herein (the “Agreement Value”). The Parties agree that the Agreement Value is ₹ (Rupees.)

6.2 Currency of payment

All payments shall be made in Indian Rupees. The Consultant shall be free to convert Rupees into any foreign currency as per Applicable Laws.

6.3 Mode of billing and payment

Billing and payments in respect of the Services shall be made as follows:

- a) No mobilisation Advance shall be paid to the consultant. The payment shall be made as per the Annexure 5 Payment Schedule of the RFP.
- b) The Consultant shall be paid for its services as per the Payment Schedule at Annex-5 of this Agreement, subject to the Consultant fulfilling the following conditions:
- c) No payment shall be due for the next stage till the Consultant completes, to the satisfaction of the Authority, the work pertaining to the preceding stage.
- d) The Authority shall pay to the Consultant, only the undisputed amount.
- e) The Authority shall cause the payment due to the Consultant to be made within 45 (forty-five) days after the receipt by the Authority of duly completed bills with necessary particulars (the “Due Date”).
- f) The final payment under this Clause shall be made only after the final report and a final statement, identified as such, shall have been submitted by the Consultant and approved as satisfactory by the Authority. The Services shall be deemed completed and finally accepted by the Authority and the final deliverable shall be deemed approved by the Authority as satisfactory upon expiry of 90 (ninety) days after receipt of the final deliverable by the Authority unless the Authority, within such 90 (ninety) day period, gives written notice to the Consultant specifying in detail, the deficiencies in the Services. The Consultant shall thereupon promptly make any necessary corrections and/or additions, and upon completion of such corrections or additions, the foregoing process shall be

repeated. The Authority shall make the final payment upon acceptance or deemed acceptance of the final deliverable by the Authority.

- g) Any amount which the Authority has paid or caused to be paid in excess of the amounts actually payable in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement shall be reimbursed by the Consultant to the Authority within 30 (thirty) days after receipt by the Consultant of notice thereof. Any such claim by the Authority for reimbursement must be made within 1 (one) year after receipt by the Authority of a final report in accordance with Clause 6.3 (d). Any delay by the Consultant in reimbursement by the due date shall attract simple interest @ 10% (ten per cent) per annum.
- h) 30% (thirty per cent) of the Agreement Value has been earmarked as Final Payment to be made to the Consultant upon completion of Services. In the event of non-completion of Services within 2 (two) years of the Effective Date, the Final Payment shall not become due to the Consultant, save and except the costs incurred for meeting its reimbursable expenses during the period after expiry of 24 (twenty-four) months from the Effective Date, including travel costs and personnel costs, at the agreed rates.
- i) All payments under this Agreement shall be made to the account of the Consultant as may be notified to the Authority by the Consultant.

7 Liquidated Damages and Penalties

7.1 Performance Security

- 7.1.1 The Authority shall retain by way of performance security (the “Performance Security”), 3% (three per cent) of all the amounts due and payable to the Consultant, to be appropriated against breach of this Agreement or for recovery of liquidated damages as specified in [Clause 7.2](#). The balance remaining out of the Performance Security shall be returned to the Consultant at the end of 3 (three) months after the expiry of this Agreement pursuant to [Clause 2.4](#) hereof. For the avoidance of doubt, the parties hereto expressly agree that in addition to appropriation of the amounts withheld hereunder, in the event of any default requiring the appropriation of further amounts comprising the Performance Security, the Authority may make deductions from any subsequent payments due and payable to the Consultant hereunder, as if it is appropriating the Performance Security in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- 7.1.2 The Consultant may, in lieu of retention of the amounts as referred to in Clause 7.1.1 above, furnish a Bank Guarantee substantially in the form specified at [Annex-6](#) of this Agreement.

7.2 Liquidated Damages

7.2.1 Liquidated Damages for error/variation

In case any error or variation or plagiarism is detected in the data, data analysis or reports, submitted by the Consultant and such error or variation is the result of negligence or lack of due diligence on the part of the Consultant, the

consequential damages thereof shall be quantified by the Authority in a reasonable manner and recovered from the Consultant by way of deemed liquidated damages, subject to a maximum of 10% (ten per cent) of the Agreement Value.

7.2.2 Liquidated Damages for delay

In case of delay in completion of Services, liquidated damages not exceeding an amount equal to 1% (one per cent) of the Agreement Value per week, subject to a maximum of 10% (ten per cent) of the Agreement Value will be imposed and shall be recovered by appropriation from the Performance Security or otherwise. However, in case of delay due to reasons beyond the control of the Consultant, suitable extension of time shall be granted.

7.2.3 Encashment and appropriation of Performance Security

The Authority shall have the right to invoke and appropriate the proceeds of the Performance Security, in whole or in part, without notice to the Consultant in the event of breach of this Agreement or for recovery of liquidated damages specified in this Clause 7.2.

7.3 Penalty for deficiency in Services

In addition to the liquidated damages not amounting to penalty, as specified in [Clause 7.2](#), warning may be issued to the Consultant for minor deficiencies on its part. In the case of significant deficiencies in Services causing adverse effect on the Project or on the reputation of the Authority, other penal action including debarring for a specified period may also be initiated as per policy of the Authority.

8 Fairness and Good Faith

8.1 Good Faith

The Parties undertake to act in good faith with respect to each other's rights under this Agreement and to adopt all reasonable measures to ensure the realisation of the objectives of this Agreement.

8.2 Operation of the Agreement

The Parties recognise that it is impractical in this Agreement to provide for every contingency which may arise during the life of the Agreement, and the Parties hereby agree that it is their intention that this Agreement shall operate fairly as between them, and without detriment to the interest of either of them, and that, if during the term of this Agreement either Party believes that this Agreement is operating unfairly, the Parties will use their best efforts to agree on such action as may be necessary to remove the cause or causes of such unfairness, but failure to agree on any action pursuant to this Clause shall not give rise to a dispute subject to arbitration in accordance with Clause 9 hereof.

9 Settlement of Disputes

9.1 Amicable settlement

The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or the interpretation thereof.

9.2 Dispute resolution

- 9.2.1 Any dispute, difference or controversy of whatever nature howsoever arising under or out of or in relation to this Agreement (including its interpretation) between the Parties, and so notified in writing by either Party to the other Party (the “Dispute”) shall, in the first instance, be attempted to be resolved amicably in accordance with the conciliation procedure set forth in [Clause 9.3](#).
- 9.2.2 The Parties agree to use their best efforts for resolving all Disputes arising under or in respect of this Agreement promptly, equitably and in good faith, and further agree to provide each other with reasonable access during normal business hours to all non-privileged records, information and data pertaining to any Dispute.

9.3 Conciliation

In the event of any Dispute between the Parties, either Party may call upon CEO, NITI Aayog and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Consultant or a substitute thereof for amicable settlement, and upon such reference, the said persons shall meet no later than 10 (ten) days from the date of reference to discuss and attempt to amicably resolve the Dispute. If such meeting does not take place within the 10 (ten) day period or the Dispute is not amicably settled within 15 (fifteen) days of the meeting or the Dispute is not resolved as evidenced by the signing of written terms of settlement within 30 (thirty) days of the notice in writing referred to in [Clause 9.2.1](#) or such longer period as may be mutually agreed by the Parties, either Party may refer the Dispute to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of [Clause 9.4](#).

9.4 Arbitration

- 9.4.1 Any Dispute which is not resolved amicably by conciliation, as provided in [Clause 9.3](#), shall be finally decided by reference to arbitration by an Arbitral Tribunal appointed in accordance with Clause 9.4.2. Such arbitration shall be held in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi (the “Rules”), or such other rules as may be mutually agreed by the Parties, and shall be subject to the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The place of such arbitration shall be the capital of the State where the Authority has its headquarters and the language of arbitration proceedings shall be English.
- 9.4.2 There shall be a sole arbitrator whose appointment or an Arbitral Tribunal of three arbitrators, of whom each Party shall select one, and the third arbitrator shall be appointed by the two arbitrators so selected, and in the event of

disagreement between the two arbitrators, the appointment⁹ shall be made in accordance with the Rules.

- 9.4.3 The arbitrators shall make a reasoned award (the “Award”). Any Award made in any arbitration held pursuant to this [Clause 9](#) shall be final and binding on the Parties as from the date it is made, and the Consultant and the Authority agree and undertake to carry out such Award without delay.
- 9.4.4 The Consultant and the Authority agree that an Award may be enforced against the Consultant and/or the Authority, as the case may be, and their respective assets wherever situated.
- 9.4.5 This Agreement and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall remain in full force and effect, pending the Award in any arbitration proceedings hereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed in their respective names as of the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED		SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED	
For and on behalf of		For and on behalf of	
Consultant:		Authority	
	(Signature)		(Signature)
	(Name)		(Name)
	(Designation)		(Designation)
	(Address)		(Address)
In the presence of:			
1.		2.	

⁹ Where the Agreement Value specified in Clause 6.1.2 of this Agreement is expected to be less than ₹ 2 crores, the provision for a sole arbitrator shall be retained and where the Agreement Value is likely to be more than ₹ 2 crores, the provision for a Board shall be retained.

Annex-1: Terms of Reference

(Refer [Clause 3.1.2](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement)

(Reproduce Schedule-1 of RFP)

Annex-2: Deployment of Personnel

(Refer [Clause 4.2](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement)

(Reproduce as per Form-9 of Appendix-I)

Annex-3: Estimate of Personnel Costs
(Refer [Clause 4.2](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement)

(Reproduce as per Form-3 of Appendix-II)

Annex-4: Cost of Services

(Refer [Clause 6.1](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement)

(Reproduce as per Form-2 of Appendix-II)

Annex-5: Payment Schedule

The payment schedule linked to the specified deliverables above is given below:

Key Date No.	Description of Deliverables	Payment
KD1	Inception Report approved by Authority	20%
KD2	Mid-Term Report approved by Authority	30%
KD3	Draft Evaluation Report approved by Authority	30%
KD4	Final Evaluation Report approved by Authority	20%
	Total	100%

Annex-6: Bank Guarantee for Performance Security

(Refer [Clause 7.1.2](#) of Schedule 2)

To

[The President of India /Governor of] acting through

.....

.....

.....

In consideration of acting on behalf of the [President of India/Governor of] (hereinafter referred as the “Authority”, which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include its successors, administrators and assigns) awarding to, having its office at (hereinafter referred as the “Consultant” which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include its successors, administrators, executors and assigns), vide the Authority’s Agreement no. dated valued at ₹ (Rupees), (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) the assignment for consultancy services in respect of the Project, and the Consultant having agreed to furnish a Bank Guarantee amounting to ₹ (Rupees) to the Authority for performance of the said Agreement.

We, (hereinafter referred to as the “Bank”) at the request of the Consultant do hereby undertake to pay to the Authority an amount not exceeding ₹ (Rupees) against any loss or damage caused to or suffered or would be caused to or suffered by the Authority by reason of any breach by the said Consultant of any of the terms or conditions contained in the said Agreement.

2. We, (indicate the name of the Bank) do hereby undertake to pay the amounts due and payable under this Guarantee without any demur, merely on a demand from the Authority stating that the amount/claimed is due by way of loss or damage caused to or would be caused to or suffered by the Authority by reason of breach by the said Consultant of any of the terms or conditions contained in the said Agreement or by reason of the Consultant’s failure to perform the said Agreement. Any such demand made on the bank shall be conclusive as regards the amount due and payable by the Bank under this Guarantee. However, our liability under this Guarantee shall be restricted to an amount not exceeding ₹ (Rupees).

3. We, (indicate the name of the Bank) do hereby undertake to pay to the Authority any money so demanded notwithstanding any dispute or disputes raised by the Consultant in any suit or proceeding pending before any court or tribunal relating thereto, our liability under this present being absolute and unequivocal. The payment so made by us under this bond shall be a valid discharge of our liability for payment thereunder and the Consultant shall have no claim against us for making such

payment.

4. We, (indicate the name of Bank) further agree that the Guarantee herein contained shall remain in full force and effect during the period that would be required for the performance of the said Agreement and that it shall continue to be enforceable till all the dues of the Authority under or by virtue of the said Agreement have been fully paid and its claims satisfied or discharged or till the Authority certifies that the terms and conditions of the said Agreement have been fully and properly carried out by the said Consultant and accordingly discharges this Guarantee. Unless a demand or claim under this Guarantee is made on us in writing on or before a period of one year from the date of this Guarantee, we shall be discharged from all liability under this Guarantee thereafter.

5. We, (indicate the name of Bank) further agree with the Authority that the Authority shall have the fullest liberty without our consent and without affecting in any manner our obligations hereunder to vary any of the terms and conditions of the said Agreement or to extend time of performance by the said Consultant from time to time or to postpone for any time or from time to time any of the powers exercisable by the Authority against the said Consultant and to forbear or enforce any of the terms and conditions relating to the said Agreement and we shall not be relieved from our liability by reason of any such variation, or extension being granted to the said Consultant or for any forbearance, act or omission on the part of the Authority or any indulgence by the Authority to the said Consultant or any such matter or thing whatsoever which under the law relating to sureties would, but for this provision, have the effect of so relieving us.

6. This Guarantee will not be discharged due to the change in the constitution of the Bank or the Consultant(s).

7. We, (indicate the name of Bank) lastly undertake not to revoke this Guarantee during its currency except with the previous consent of the Authority in writing.

8. For the avoidance of doubt, the Bank's liability under this Guarantee shall be restricted to ₹ crore (Rupees crore) only. The Bank shall be liable to pay the said amount or any part thereof only if the Authority serves a written claim on the Bank in accordance with Paragraph 2 hereof, on or before [..... (indicate the date falling 365 days after the date of this Guarantee)].

For

Name of Bank:

Seal of the Bank:

Dated, theday of, 20.....

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

NOTES:

- i. *The Bank Guarantee should contain the name, designation and code number of the officer(s) signing the Guarantee.*
- ii. *The address, telephone no. and other details of the Head Office of the Bank as well as of issuing Branch should be mentioned on the covering letter of issuing Branch.*

Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest

(See Clause 1.5)

1. This Note further explains and illustrates the provisions of Clause 1.5 of the RFP and shall be read together therewith in dealing with specific cases.
2. Consultants should be deemed to be in a conflict of interest situation if it can be reasonably concluded that their position in a business or their personal interest could improperly influence their judgment in the exercise of their duties. The process for selection of consultants should avoid both actual and perceived conflict of interest.
3. Conflict of interest may arise between the Authority and a consultant or between consultants and present or future contractors. Some of the situations that would involve conflict of interest are identified below:
 - a) Authority and consultants:
 - i. Potential consultant should not be privy to information from the Authority which is not available to others;
 - ii. Potential consultant should not have defined the project when earlier working for the Authority;
 - iii. Potential consultant should not have recently worked for the Authority overseeing the project.
 - b) Consultants and contractors:
 - i. No consultant should have an ownership interest or a continuing business interest or an on-going relationship with a potential contractor save and except relationships restricted to project-specific and short-term assignments; or
 - ii. no consultant should be involved in owning or operating entities resulting from the project; or
 - iii. no consultant should bid for works arising from the project.
 - iv. The participation of companies that may be involved as investors or consumers and officials of the Authority who have current or recent connections to the companies involved, therefore, needs to be avoided.
4. The normal way to identify conflicts of interest is through self-declaration by consultants. Where a conflict exists, which has not been declared, competing companies are likely to bring this to the notice of the Authority. All conflicts must be declared as and when the consultants become aware of them. The principle of Uberrimae Fidei will be applicable to the voluntary disclosure of the applicant regarding conflict of interest which has to ensure the highest standard of good faith during the disclosure of all material facts that could influence the decision of the other party.

5. Another approach towards avoiding a conflict of interest is through the use of “Chinese walls” to avoid the flow of commercially sensitive information from one part of the consultant’s company to another. This could help overcome the problem of availability of limited numbers of experts for the project. However, in reality effective operation of “Chinese walls” may be a difficult proposition. As a general rule, larger companies will be more capable of adopting Chinese walls approach than smaller companies. Although, “Chinese walls” have been relatively common for many years, they are an increasingly discredited means of avoiding conflicts of interest and should be considered with caution. As a rule, “Chinese walls” should be considered as unacceptable and may be accepted only in exceptional cases upon full disclosure by a consultant coupled with provision of safeguards to the satisfaction of the Authority.
6. Another way to avoid conflicts of interest is through the appropriate grouping of tasks. For example, conflicts may arise if consultants drawing up the terms of reference or the proposed documentation are also eligible for the consequent assignment or project.
7. Another form of conflict of interest called “scope–creep” arises when consultants advocate either an unnecessary broadening of the terms of reference or make recommendations which are not in the best interests of the Authority but which will generate further work for the consultants. Some forms of contractual arrangements are more likely to lead to scope-creep. For example, lump-sum contracts provide fewer incentives for this, while time and material contracts provide built-in incentives for consultants to extend the length of their assignment.
8. Every project contains potential conflicts of interest. Consultants should not only avoid any conflict of interest but should also report any present/ potential conflict of interest to the Authority at the earliest. Officials of the Authority involved in development of a project shall be responsible for identifying and resolving any conflicts of interest. It should be ensured that safeguards are in place to preserve fair and open competition and measures should be taken to eliminate any conflict of interest arising at any stage in the process.
9. Without limiting the generality of the above and Section 1.5, an Applicant shall be deemed to have a Conflict of Interest affecting the Selection Process, if:
 - a) **Conflicting Associations:**
 - directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with another Applicant; or
 - receives or has received any direct or indirect subsidy/ financial stake from another Applicant; or
 - has the same correspondence address or same legal representative/ agent as another applicant for purposes of this proposal; or

- has a relationship with another applicant, directly or through common third parties, that puts it in a position to have access to information about or influence the Proposal of another applicant or influence the decisions of the Authority regarding this Procurement Process; or
- b) **Unfair Competitive Advantage and Conflicting Activities:** had (or any of its Affiliates) been engaged by the Authority to provide goods, works, or services for a project, shall be disqualified from providing consulting services resulting from or directly related to those goods, works, or services. Conversely, a firm (or any of its Affiliates) hired to provide consulting services for the preparation or implementation of a project shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods or works or services resulting from or directly related to the consulting services for such preparation or implementation or
- c) **Conflicting Assignments:** would (including its Experts or any of its Affiliates) be or are providing consultancy services in another assignment for the same or another Authority that, by its nature, may conflict with this assignment.
- d) **Commissions and Gratuities:** The Applicant shall disclose any commissions or fees that may have been paid or are to be paid to agents, representatives, or commission agents concerning the selection process or execution and performance of the resulting Contract. The information disclosed must include the name and address of the agent, representative, or commission agent, the amount and currency, and the purpose of the commission or fee.; or
- e) **Conflicting Relationships:** has close business/ family relationship with a staff of the Authority who are/ would be directly/ indirectly involved in any of the following activities:
 - Preparation of the RFP document or ToR of the procurement process
 - Evaluation of Proposals or Award of Contract, or
 - Implementation/supervision of the resulting contract
- f) For purposes of this RFP, Associate means, in relation to the Applicant, a person who controls, is controlled by, or is under the common control with such Applicant (the “Associate”). As used in this definition, the expression “control” means, with respect to a person which is a company or corporation, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% (fifty per cent) of the voting shares of such person, and with respect to a person which is not a company or corporation, the power to direct the management and policies of such person by operation of law or by contract.
- g) Conflict of interest, for the process of determination, shall include presence of conflict, potential or actual, during one year preceding the last date of bid submission and shall include the factual conspectus related to the personnel specifically indicated as the lead professional of the project team termed as Team Lead/Principal Investigator.

Appendices

Appendix-I: Technical Proposal

(See Clause 1.2.2)

Form-1: Letter of Proposal

(On Applicant's letterhead)

(Date and Reference)

To,

.....

.....

.....

Subject: Consultancy Services for "Evaluation Study of

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to your RFP Document dated _____, I/ we, having examined all relevant documents and understood their contents, hereby submit our Proposal for selection as Consultant for the Project. The proposal is unconditional and unqualified.

2. All information provided in the Proposal and in the Appendices is true and correct and all documents accompanying such Proposal are true copies of their respective originals.
3. This statement is made for the express purpose of appointment as the Consultant for the aforesaid Project.
4. I/We shall make available to the Authority any additional information it may deem necessary or require for supplementing or authenticating the Proposal.
5. I/We acknowledge the right of the Authority to reject our application without assigning any reason or otherwise and hereby waive our right to challenge the same on any account whatsoever.
6. I/We certify that in the last three years, we or any of our Associates 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.

7. I/We declare that:

- a) I/We have examined and have no reservations to the RFP Documents, including any Addendum issued by the Authority;
- b) I/We do not have any Conflict of Interest in accordance with Clause 1.5 of the RFP Document;
- c) I/We have not directly or indirectly or through an agent engaged or indulged in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, anti-competitive practice, coercive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice, as defined in Clause 5.3 of the RFP document, in respect of any tender or request for proposal issued by or any agreement entered into with the Authority or any other public sector enterprise or any government, Central or State; and
- d) I/ We hereby certify that we have taken steps to ensure that in conformity with the provisions of Section 5 of the RFP, no person acting for us or on our behalf will engage in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, anti-competitive practice, coercive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice.

8. I/We understand that you may cancel the Selection Process at any time and that you are neither bound to accept any Proposal that you may receive nor to select the Consultant, without incurring any liability to the Applicants in accordance with Clause 1.9 of the RFP document.

9. I/We declare that we/any member of the consortium, are/is not a Member of a/any other Consortium applying for Selection as a Consultant.

10. I/We certify that in regard to matters other than security and integrity of the country, we or any of our Associates have not been 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 or which relates to a grave offence that outrages the moral sense of the community.

11. I/We further certify that 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.

12. I/We further certify that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending either against us or against our Associates or against our CEO or any of our Directors / Managers / employees.[1]\$
13. I/We hereby irrevocably waive any right or remedy which we may have at any stage at law or howsoever otherwise arising to challenge or question any decision taken by the Authority [and/ or the Government of India] in connection with the selection of Consultant or in connection with the Selection Process itself in respect of the above mentioned Project.
14. The Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration Form is attached, in accordance with the RFP document.
15. I/We agree and understand that the proposal is subject to the provisions of the RFP document. In no case, shall I/we have any claim or right of whatsoever nature if the Consultancy for the Project is not awarded to me/us or our proposal is not opened or rejected.
16. I/We agree to keep this offer valid for 90 (ninety) days from the Proposal Due Date specified in the RFP.
17. A Notarised Power of Attorney in favour of the 153authorized signatory to sign and submit this Proposal and documents is attached herewith in Appendix I Form-4.
18. In the event of my/our firm/ consortium being selected as the Consultant, I/we agree to enter into an agreement in accordance with the form at Schedule–2 of the RFP. We agree not to seek any changes in the aforesaid form and agree to abide by the same.
19. I/We have studied RFP and all other documents carefully. We understand that except to the extent as expressly set forth in the Agreement, we shall have no claim, right or title arising out of any documents or information provided to us by the Authority or in respect of any matter arising out of or concerning or relating to the Selection Process including the award of Consultancy.
20. The Financial Proposal is being submitted in a separate cover. This Technical Proposal

read with the Financial Proposal shall constitute the Application which shall be binding on us.

21. I/We specifically undertake to abide by Clause 1.1 and Clause 1.2 of the RFP Document. Without any demur.

22. I/We agree and undertake to abide by all the terms and conditions of the RFP Document. In witness thereof, I/we submit this Proposal under and in accordance with the terms of the RFP Document.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)
(Name and seal of the Applicant / Lead Member)

APPENDIX-I

Form-2:Particulars of the Applicant

1.1	Title of Consultancy: Evaluation Study for Government Scheme/Program
1.2	Title of Project: Evaluation Study of _____
1.3	State whether applying as Sole Firm or Lead Member of a consortium:
1.4	<p>State the following:</p> <p>i. Details of the Applicant</p> <p>Name of Company or Firm:</p> <p>Legal status (e.g. incorporated private company, unincorporated business, partnership etc.):</p> <p>Country of incorporation:</p> <p>Registered address:</p> <p>Year of Incorporation:</p> <p>Year of commencement of business:</p> <p>Principal place of business:</p> <p>Brief description of the Company including details of its main lines business</p> <p>ii. Details of the Authorized Representative of the Applicant</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Designation:</p> <p>Company:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Phone No.:</p>

	E-mail address:
1.5	<p>If the Applicant is Lead Member of a consortium, state the following for each of the other Member Firms:</p> <p>(i) Name of Firm:</p> <p>(ii) Legal Status and country of incorporation</p> <p>(iii) Registered address and principal place of business.</p>
1.6	<p>For the Applicant, (in case of a consortium, for each Member), state the following information:</p> <p>(i) In case of non-Indian Firm, does the Firm have business presence in India? If so, provide the office address(es) in India.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</p> <p>(ii) Has the Applicant or any of the Members in case of a consortium been penalized by any organization for poor quality of work or breach of contract in the last five years?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</p> <p>(iii) Has the Applicant/ Member ever failed to complete any work awarded to it by any public authority/ entity in last five years?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</p> <p>(iv) Has the Applicant or any member of the consortium been blacklisted by any Government department/Public Sector Undertaking in the last five years?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</p> <p>(v) Has the Applicant or any of the Members, in case of a consortium, suffered bankruptcy/insolvency in the last five years?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</p> <p>Note: If answer to any of the questions at (ii) to (v) is yes, the Applicant is not eligible for this consultancy assignment.</p>
1.7	<p>(i) Does the Applicant's firm/company (or any member of the consortium) combine functions as a consultant or adviser along with the functions as a contractor and/or a manufacturer?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</p> <p>(ii) If yes, does the Applicant (and other Member of the Applicant's consortium) agree to limit the Applicant's role only to that of a consultant/ adviser to the Authority and to disqualify themselves, their Associates/ affiliates, subsidiaries and/or parent organization subsequently from work on this Project in any other capacity?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No/Not Applicable</p>

1.8	<p>(i) Does the Applicant intend to borrow or hire temporarily, personnel from contractors, manufacturers or suppliers for performance of the Consulting Services?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</p>
	<p>(ii) If yes, does the Applicant agree that it will only be acceptable as Consultant, if those contractors, manufacturers and suppliers disqualify themselves from subsequent execution of work on this Project (including tendering relating to any goods or services for any other part of the Project) other than that of the Consultant?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No/Not Applicable</p> <p>(iii) If yes, have any undertakings been obtained (and annexed) from such contractors, manufacturers, etc. that they agree to disqualify themselves from subsequent execution of work on this Project and they agree to limit their role to that of consultant/ adviser for the Authority only?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes/No/Not Applicable</p> <p>It is certified that the aforesaid information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Signature, name and designation of the 157uthorized signatory)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">For and on behalf of</p>

Appendix-I
Form-3: Statement of Legal Capacity

(Applicable only in the case of a consortium, individual applicants are not required to fill out this form)

(On Applicant's letter head)

Date:, Reference

To,

.....

.....

.....

Dear Sir,

Sub: RFP for Evaluation Study of _____

I/We hereby confirm that we, the Applicant (along with other members in case of consortium, the constitution of which has been described in the Proposal[2](\$), satisfy the terms and conditions laid down in the RFP document.

I/We have agreed that (insert Applicant's name) will act as the Lead Member of our consortium.

I/We have agreed that (insert individual's name) will act as our Authorised Representative/ will act as the Authorised Representative of the consortium on our behalf and has been duly authorized to submit our Proposal. Further, the authorised signatory is vested with requisite powers to furnish such proposal and all other documents, information or communication and authenticate the same.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

For and on behalf of

Appendix-I

Form-4: Power of Attorney

(Refer to Clause 1.4.4 and Clause 1.12.3)

Know all men by these presents, we, (name of Firm and address of the registered office) do hereby constitute, nominate, appoint and authorise

Mr / Ms..... son/daughter/wife and presently residing at , who is presently employed with us and holding the position of as our true and lawful attorney (hereinafter referred to as the “**Authorised Representative**”) to do in our name and on our behalf, all such acts, deeds and things as are necessary or required in connection with or incidental to submission of our Proposal for and selection as the **Consultant for Evaluation Study of** sector proposed to be developed by the (the “**Authority**”) including but not limited to signing and submission of all applications, proposals and other documents and writings, participating in pre-bid and other conferences and providing information/ responses to the Authority, representing us in all matters before the Authority, signing and execution of all contracts and undertakings consequent to acceptance of our proposal and generally dealing with the Authority in all matters in connection with or relating to or arising out of our Proposal for the said Project and/or upon award thereof to us till the entering into of the Agreement with the Authority.

AND, we do hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts, deeds and things lawfully done or caused to be done by our said Authorised Representative pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred by this Power of Attorney and that all acts, deeds and things done by our said Authorised Representative in exercise of the powers hereby conferred shall and shall always be deemed to have been done by us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, THE ABOVE-NAMED PRINCIPAL HAVE EXECUTED THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY ON THIS DAY OF, 20.....

For

(Signature, name, designation and address)

Witnesses:

1.

2.

Notarised

Accepted

.....

(Signature, name, designation and address of the Attorney)

Notes:

- *The mode of execution of the Power of Attorney should be in accordance with the procedure, if any, laid down by the applicable law and the charter documents of the executant(s) and when it is so required the same should be under common seal affixed in accordance with the required procedure. The Power of Attorney should be executed on a non-judicial stamp paper of ₹ 100 (hundred) and duly notarised by a notary public.*
- *Wherever required, the Applicant should submit for verification the extract of the charter documents and other documents such as a resolution/power of attorney in favour of the person executing this Power of Attorney for the delegation of power hereunder on behalf of the Applicant.*
- *For a Power of Attorney executed and issued overseas, the document will also have to be legalised by the Indian Embassy and notarised in the jurisdiction where the Power of Attorney is being issued. However, Applicants from countries that have signed the Hague Legislation Convention 1961 need not get their Power of Attorney legalised by the Indian Embassy if it carries a conforming Apostille certificate.*

Appendix-I

Form-5: Financial Capacity of the Applicant

(Refer to Clause 1.4.2 (C))

S. No.	Financial Year	Annual Revenue (₹)
1.		
2.		
3.		

Certificate from the Statutory Auditor^{\$}

This is to certify that _____ (name of the Applicant) has the annual revenue shown above against the respective years.

Name of the audit firm:

Seal of the audit firm

Date:

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

^{\$} In case the Applicant does not have a statutory auditor, it shall provide the certificate from its chartered accountant that ordinarily audits the annual accounts of the Applicant.

Note: Please do not attach any printed Annual Financial Statement. In case relevant extracts of duly audited Annual Financial Statements containing the requisite details are provided, duly countersigned by the authorised signatory, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary in respect of Clause 1.4.3.

[1]^{\$} In case the Applicant is unable to provide the certification specified in Paragraph 12, it may precede the Paragraph by the words viz. —Except as specified in Schedule

..... hereto. The exceptions to the certification or any disclosures relating thereto may be clearly stated in a Schedule to be attached to the Application. The Authority will consider the contents of such Schedule and determine whether or not the exceptions/disclosures are material to the suitability of the Applicant for pre-qualification hereunder.

[2]^s Please strike out whichever is not applicable

Appendix-I

Form-5: Financial Capacity of the Applicant

(Refer [Clause 1.4.2 \(C\)](#))

S. No.	Financial Year	Annual Revenue (₹)
1.		
2.		
3.		

Certificate from the Statutory Auditor^{\$}

This is to certify that (name of the Applicant) has the annual revenue shown above against the respective years.

Name of the audit firm:

Seal of the audit firm

Date:

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

^{\$} In case the Applicant does not have a statutory auditor, it shall provide the certificate from its chartered accountant that ordinarily audits the annual accounts of the Applicant.

Note: Please do not attach any printed Annual Financial Statement. In case relevant extracts of duly audited Annual Financial Statements containing the requisite details are provided, duly countersigned by the authorised signatory, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary in respect of Clause 1.4.3.

Appendix-I

Form-6: Particulars of Key Personnel

A) Details of Key Personnel

1	Designation	
2	Name	
3	Date of Birth	
4	Nationality	
5	Educational Qualification¹⁰ (clearly mentioning the subject)	

6	Employment Record/ Professional experience <i>(Starting with present position, list in reverse chronological order every employment held)</i>			
S N o	Name of Firm	Designation	Start Date	End Date
1				
2				
3				
..				
..				

¹⁰ For degrees obtained from the accredited foreign Boards/universities, the applicant shall furnish a self-declaration on the academic equivalence to the 'Minimum Educational Qualifications' as defined in Annexure A of the RFP.

7	Details of Relevant Experience					
S No	Name of Firm	Designation	Start Date (MM/Y Y)	End Date (MM/YY)	Role (in not more than 1000 characters)	Sector
1						
2						
3						
..						
..						

Certification:

- a) I am willing to work on the Project and I will be available for the entire duration of the Project assignment as required.
- b) I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this CV correctly describes me, my qualifications and my experience.

Place.....

(Signature and name of the Key Personnel)

(Signature and name of the authorized signatory of the Applicant)

Appendix-I

Form-7: Proposed Methodology and Work Plan

The proposed methodology and work plan shall be described as follows:

1. Understanding of TOR (not more than two pages):

The Applicant shall clearly state its understanding of the TOR and also highlight its important aspects. The Applicant may supplement various requirements of the TOR and also make precise suggestions if it considers this would bring more clarity and assist in achieving the Objectives laid down in the TOR.

2. Methodology and Work Plan (not more than six pages):

The Applicant will submit its methodology for carrying out this assignment, outlining its approach toward achieving the Objectives laid down in the TOR, including approach, methodology, sampling, criteria for State/UT selection etc. The Applicant will submit the following:

- i. A brief write up on its proposed team and organization of personnel explaining how different areas of expertise needed for this assignment have been fully covered by its proposal. In case the Applicant is a consortium, it should specify how the expertise of each firm is proposed to be utilised for this assignment. The Applicant should specify the sequence, locations and timelines of important activities in the form of a Gantt chart, and provide a quality assurance plan for carrying out the Consultancy Services. It may be noted that the following broad topics should be covered by the consultant team during the presentation:
- ii. Survey methodology, Methodology for carrying out the assignment including the approach used towards achieving the objectives laid down in the TOR
- iii. Sampling Plan,
- iv. Criteria for selection of required sample size
- v. Field movement plan including details of field team composition/ details of engagement with survey agency, if any
- vi. Plan for ensuring data quality while conducting the primary survey
- vii. Measures to be adopted for ensuring the quality in the report
- viii. Data analysis tool (both for qualitative and quantitative data)
- ix. Data Analysis Plan- The ways of translating findings from data analysis into recommendations
- x. Detailed timelines for carrying out the assignment
- xi. Any other relevant information
- xii. All the proposed team members (Key Personnel) only must attend and make the presentation.

3. Collaboration with Academic Institutions (not more than 2 pages):**

The Applicant will submit on how it plans to involve and collaborate with academic institutions while designing and delivering on the Project. The idea is to strengthen industry-academia-government linkages and foster a collective culture of research, innovation and advancement of knowledge.

******(Universities/academic institutions (hereunder referred to as universities/institutions) should be recognized by University Grant Commission or any State or the Central Government.

Note: Marks can be deducted for writing lengthy and out-of-context responses.

Appendix-I

Form-8: Eligible Assignments of the Applicant

(Refer Clause 4.2)

A) Eligible Assignments of the Applicant *

S N o	Name of the Assign ment	Brief Descrip tion of the Assign ment (in not more than 1000 charact ers)	Is the Assign ment a study related to o standard of living paramet ers (includi ng but not restricte d to _____ _____ ?)	Is the research/eval uation study for Union/State Government/ government, regulatory commission, tribunal, multilateral agencies, statutory authorities, public sector entities etc (Yes/No)	Sample size of the assignm ent (No. of responde nts)	Nam e of the Clien t & Addr ess	Clien t Categ ory (as defin ed in Claus e 3.1.5)	Name & Telephon e no. of Client's represent ative	Value of assignm ent as per the contract / work order/ agreem ent of the Assign ment (in ₹)	Start Date of the Assign ment	End Date of the Assign ment	Description of Services performed by the applicant (in not more than 1000 characters)
(1)	(2)	(3.1)	(3.2)	(3.3)	(3.5)	(4.1)	(4.2)	(5)	(6)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1												
...												

** The Applicant shall provide requisite supporting documents such as copies of contracts, agreements etc. The value for the assignment should be clearly mentioned in the supporting documents provided. In the absence of supporting documents with requisite details, the assignment will not be considered as an Eligible Assignment.*

Appendix-I

Form-9: Deployment of Professional Personnel

S.No .	Designation	Name	Person Days (PD)		Person-Days by Week Numbers																											
			On-field	In Office	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	...							
1.																																
2.																																
3.																																
4.																																
5.																																
6.																																
7.																																
8.																																
9.																																
		Total Person days																														

Appendix-I

Form-10: Support Personnel

[illegible]

Appendix-I
Form-11¹¹: Bid Security Declaration Form

(On Applicant's letter head)

(Date and Reference)

To,

.....

.....

Subject: Bid Security Declaration for Evaluation Study of _____

Dear Sir,

I/We, the undersigned, declare that:

I/We understand that, according to your conditions, proposals must be supported by a Bid Security Declaration.

I/We accept that I/We may be disqualified from bidding for any contract with you for a period of one year from the date of notification if I am /We are in a breach of any obligation under the bid conditions, because I/We

- a) have withdrawn/modified/amended, impairs or derogates from the tender, my/our proposal during the period of proposal validity specified in the RFP; or
- b) having been notified of the acceptance of our proposal by the Authority during the period of proposal validity (i) fail or refuse to execute the Agreement, if required, or (ii) fail or refuse to furnish the Performance Security, in accordance with the Instructions to the Applicants.

I/We understand that this Bid Security Declaration shall cease to be valid if I am/we are not the successful Bidder, either upon the earlier of (i) receiving of your notification of the name of the successful Bidder's name; or (ii) thirty days after the expiration of the validity of my/our Proposal.

Yours faithfully,
(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)
(Name and seal of the Applicant/Lead Member)

¹¹ Applicable as per Clause 1.16.2

Appendix-I

Form-12:^[1] Letter of Intent for Technical Collaboration

(Applicable only in the case of a collaboration / consortium / partnership with Universities/Academic Institutions)

(On Applicant's letterhead)

(Date and Reference)

To,

.....

.....

.....

Subject: Agreement for technical collaboration for Evaluation Study of

Dear Sir,

With reference to your RFP Document dated I/ we, have entered into a technical partnership for the Evaluation Study of scheme. I/we, hereby, agree to collaborate and ensure direct involvement of the university/institution in carrying out the following activities^[2]:

1. 4.
2. 5.
3. 6.

Details of Previous Experience of the academic institution^[3] (Maximum 3)

S. No	Name of Project	Project Undertaken For	Total Value of Project	Sample Size Involved	Duration of Project	Date of Completion of Project
(i)						
(ii)						
(iii)						

I/We shall make available to the Authority any additional information it may deem necessary or require for supplementing or authenticating details related to the collaboration.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

(Name and seal of the Applicant / Lead Member)

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

(Name and seal of representative of university/ academic institution)

Appendix-II: Financial Proposal

Form-1: Covering Letter

(On Applicant's letter head)

(Date and Reference)

To,

.....

.....

.....

Dear Sir,

Subject: Consultancy Services for Evaluation Study of
.....scheme

I/We, (Applicant's name) herewith enclose the Financial Proposal for selection of my/our firm as Consultant for above.

I/We agree that this offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 (ninety) days from the Proposal Due Date or such further period as may be mutually agreed upon.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

Note: The Financial Proposal is to be submitted strictly as per forms given in Appendix-II (Form 1, 2,3) of the RfP.

Appendix-II

(See Clause 2.1.6)

Form-2: Financial Proposal

Item No.	Description	Amount (₹)
A.	PERSONNEL COSTS	
1	Remuneration for Professional Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)	
2	Remuneration for Support Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)	
	Subtotal (A):	
B.	LOCAL COSTS	
1	Office Rent	
2	Office Consumables like stationery, communication etc.	
3	Office Furniture and Equipment (Rental)	
4	Reports and Document Printing	
5	Surveys & Investigations	
6	Miscellaneous Expenses	
	Subtotal (B):	
C.	SUBTOTAL OF A+B	
D.	OVERHEAD EXPENSES @. % of (C)	

E.	GOODS AND SERVICES TAX	
F.	TOTAL (including taxes) (C+D+E) (in ₹) In Indian Rupees(in figures)(in words)	

Note:

1. Estimate of Costs for Item A-I and A-II shall be as per Form-3.
2. Miscellaneous Expenses in Item B (VI) shall not exceed 15% (fifteen per cent) of the total amount in Item D.
3. No escalation on any account will be payable on the above amounts.
4. All other charges not shown here and all insurance premia are considered included in the person day rate/ overhead/ miscellaneous expenses.
5. All payments shall be made in Indian Rupees and shall be subject to applicable Indian laws withholding taxes if any.

Appendix-II

Form-3: Estimate of Personnel Costs

ID No.	Position	Name	Person-Days (₹)	Total Person-Days	Amount (₹)
A1 (I). Remuneration for Professional Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)					
Total					
A2 (II). Remuneration for Support Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)					
Total					
Total:					

Appendix-III

List of Bid-Specific Provisions^[4]

A. Clauses with currency-based footnotes

1. Introduction.
2. Clause 1.4.1: Conditions of Eligibility of Applicants.
3. Clause 1.11: Amendment of RFP.

Note: The above footnotes marked — “\$” shall be retained in the RFP for guidance of the Applicants while submitting their respective Proposals.

B. Schedules with non-numeric footnotes

All non-numeric footnotes marked — “\$” in the Schedules shall be retained in the respective Schedules for guidance of the Applicants while submitting their respective Proposals.

C. Appendices with non-numeric footnotes

All non-numeric footnotes in the Appendices shall be retained in the respective Appendices for guidance of the Applicants. These shall be omitted by the Applicants while submitting their respective Proposals.

D. Schedules and Appendices with blank spaces

All blank spaces in the Schedules and Appendices shall be retained in the RFP. These shall be filled up when the format of the respective Schedule or Appendix is used.

[1] Separate signed LOIs to be submitted for each collaboration at the technical proposal submission stage and hard copies to be submitted prior to the award of contract.

[2] Indicative activities for involvement of academic institutions: Report writing, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Field Work, Data Quality assurance mechanism, Independent Referee for the evaluation report, etc.

[3] This information is sought by DMEQ to understand the existing level of M&E capacity of the academic institution. In the longer run, DMEQ intends to strengthen the core M&E ecosystem of which the Universities/Academic Institutions are critical stakeholders.

[4] This Appendix-III contains a list of Clauses, Schedules and Appendices that would need to be suitably modified for reflecting bid-specific provisions. This Appendix-III may, therefore, be included in the RFP document to be issued to prospective Applicants

