

No. O-15012/27/2024-Research
Government of India
NITI Aayog
(Research & Networking Division)

Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
Dated 17th December, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

1. NITI Aayog hereby requests/invites expressions of Interest (EoI) for conducting research/study from institutions/organisations of repute (including university/deemed university) for undertaking a Research Study on “**Cost of Doing Business in India**”. The details of the studies are placed as **Annexure I** to this Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI). The detailed Research Scheme of NITI Aayog-2024 (RSNA-2024) guidelines and its amendments, if any: read with this REoI will govern the process and may be seen at NITI Aayog’s website at <http://www.niti.gov.in/guidelines>.
2. All the institutions/organisations are requested to go through the Guidelines of the **Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2024 (Guidelines/RSNA-2024)** before responding to this public notice, especially to satisfy themselves that they fulfill all the eligibility criteria for availing of grant under the said scheme and also that they can conduct the research study project as per the Guidelines.
3. No Applicant or its Associate shall submit more than one Application for the Consultancy. An Applicant applying individually or as an Associate or as part of consortium shall not be entitled to submit another application either individually or as a member of any consortium, as the case may be. Applicants are advised to provide sufficient details in their applications to allow for an informed and fair evaluation/review.
4. The hard copy of EoI as per the format prescribed at **Annexure- II** along with the undertaking as per the **Annexure -III** must be submitted by hand or by Registered post to Sh. Sanchit Jindal, ASO (R&N) **Room No 435**, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001 by the interested applicants. The EoI must be sent in envelopes superscribed with the words “EoI on (name of the topic as mentioned in the corresponding Annexure)” and the same must reach the NITI Aayog within 21 days of the notified date of Public Notice i.e before 4:00 PM of 07-01-2025. EoI through E mail may be sent at address jindal.sanchit@gov.in.
5. For any query in this regard, the Sh. Sanchit Jindal, ASO (R&N) may please be contacted over email jindal.sanchit@gov.in


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

1. Background

The Cost of Doing Business (CoDB) is a pivotal factor influencing the competitiveness of an economy, encompassing the expenses businesses incur to establish, operate, and expand. For a rapidly growing economy like India, understanding these costs is essential to fostering a conducive business environment and attracting investment. Despite India's significant reforms to improve its business climate, it faces strong competition from countries like Vietnam, China, and Indonesia, which offer lower operational costs in key sectors.

In the wake of the pandemic, shifts in global trade, investment, and supply chains—coupled with growing concerns about economic and supply chain security—have led to strategies like China+1, compelling countries like India to implement bold measures to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

A comprehensive analysis of CoDB, including factors such as labor, capital, land, utilities, and regulatory compliance, is crucial for assessing an economy's investment climate. This evaluation not only helps policymakers optimize regulatory frameworks and tax policies but also enables the creation of incentives to reduce operational barriers, thereby enhancing productivity and fostering innovation.

Given these considerations, a research study is proposed to be undertaken by the Industry and Foreign Investment Vertical on evaluating the existing cost structures in different sectors of the Indian economy, compare them with international best practices, and propose reforms to make India an attractive investment destination.

2. Objective of the study

The purpose of this research study is to evaluate the diverse factors driving the high CoDB in India, with a focus on identifying sectoral and regional disparities, uncovering structural constraints, and proposing data-driven policy reforms to reduce costs, boost competitiveness, and promote sustainable economic growth. The study will focus on the following key objectives:

- i. Assessing CoDB across key sectors to identify areas for reform that can reduce expenses and enhance India's global competitiveness.
- ii. Benchmarking India's cost structures against major economies to identify competitiveness gaps.
- iii. Evaluating the impact of government policies on land, labor, utilities, logistics, and taxation that influence business costs.
- iv. Recommending strategies to streamline regulatory, compliance, and operational processes to improve ease of doing business.
- v. Proposing sector-specific solutions to reduce financial burdens and enhance the business environment.

3. Terms of Reference

- i. Detailed analysis of India's CoDB compared to global benchmarks, focusing on labour, land acquisition, utilities, logistics, finance, and taxation across sectors and states.
- ii. Identifying sector-specific cost challenges across top five sectors of the economy having the highest share in terms of value in India's manufacturing and MSME and also parallelly assessing the regulatory and compliance framework in five sectors having maximum regulatory and compliance burden that contributes substantially in increasing CoDB.
- iii. Mapping labor costs and productivity levels across states and sectors, with a focus on labor law compliance that raises operational expenses.
- iv. Evaluating the cost of utilities (electricity, water, gas) and logistics (transportation, warehousing inefficiencies) and their impact on business competitiveness in manufacturing sector.
- v. Reviewing government incentives and subsidies aimed at reducing business costs and assessing their effectiveness in addressing key operational challenges.
- vi. Study global policies and strategies that contribute to their lower CoDB. Benchmarking India's CoDB against countries like China, Vietnam, Mexico, Malaysia, Bangladesh and other emerging markets to highlight competitiveness gaps and propose policy reforms.
- vii. Recommending strategies to simplify regulatory processes, reducing the costs of starting, running, and expanding businesses, with focus on MSMEs.
- viii. Recommendations towards reduction in cost of doing business focusing on labour, land acquisition, utilities, logistics, finance, and taxation across sectors referred at ii. above.

4. Scope of research study

- i. Analysing the key components of the CoDB, including labor costs, land acquisition costs, utility prices, logistics, and regulatory compliance, across different sectors of the Indian economy.
- ii. Mapping the key sectors in India that are most affected by high operational costs, particularly in manufacturing and MSMEs.
- iii. Evaluating the impact of state-specific factors such as labor laws, land acquisition policies, and utilities on the overall cost of doing business in different Indian states.
- iv. Comparing India's cost structure with other countries that have successfully reduced business costs to attract foreign and domestic investments, identifying global best practices.
- v. Identifying key sectors with high potential for cost reduction and suggesting strategies for improving their cost competitiveness, especially in labour-intensive industries.
- vi. Studying the role of taxation policies in contributing to business costs, with recommendations for rationalization of tax rates and simplification of tax compliance mechanisms.
- vii. Assessing the logistics and infrastructure costs in India and suggesting reforms to improve the efficiency of transportation, warehousing, and supply chain management.
- viii. Proposing sector-specific policy recommendations to address the unique challenges related to the cost of doing business in manufacturing sectors.
- ix. Recommending strategic interventions for easing the cost of doing business in India, including revising labor laws, simplifying regulatory compliance, rationalizing taxes, and improving infrastructure.

5. Duration and expected team strength

- i. The estimated timeline for completing this research study is 4 months, including research work, analysis, and report writing.
- ii. The organization must possess a proven track record of managing projects related to the analysis of the technical, financial and regulatory viability of conducting businesses over the past 10 years, with specific experience in executing such projects for Central Government Ministries, Departments, or State Governments within the last five years. Individual project cost to be more than Rs. 30 Lacs.
- iii. The Principal Investigator (PI) should hold a Doctorate or Master's degree in Economics, Statistics, Business Management, or a Degree in Engineering/Technology from a recognized university, along with a minimum of 15 years of expertise in the subject area. Similarly, the Co- Principal Investigator (Co-PI) should have at least 10 years of experience in the field, supported by a Master's degree in Economics, Statistics, Business Management, or a Degree in Engineering/Technology from a recognized university.

Format of Expression of Interest (EoI)

Respondents Ref No.:

Date:

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: RESPONSE TO – EOI FOR _____

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

1. Scope of work and organisation

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

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

2. Required Documents:

- (i) Copy of Registration Certificate of the Institution/Organisation **OR** Articles of Association {Copy of the Constitution/MOA (Memorandum of Association) of the Institute/ Any letter issued by UGC if University }
- (ii) Registration number (Copy) in NGO-Portal “Darpan” of NITI Aayog, if applicable.
- (iii) Photo copy of PAN card of the organisation.

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

4. Information of PI and Organisation

Details of Bidder	
1.	Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
2.	Address of PI
3.	Status of the Organisation (Public Ltd./ Pvt. Ltd./ NGO/ Society/Trust/ University/ Autonomous Body/ Deemed University)
4.	Status as per Registration certificate/ Act

5.	Name and Designation of the contact person:	
	Telephone No. (with STD code)	
	Mobile Number	
	Email of the Contact/ key person	
	Fax No. (with STD code)	
	Website:	
6.	Particulars of associate applicants/ JV members/ consortium members/ sub-contractors/collaborators	

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

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

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

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

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

DATE

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP