

**No. O-15012/7/26-R&N**  
**Government of India**  
**NITI Aayog**  
**(Research & Networking Division)**

Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001  
Dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Subject: Request/Invitation for Expression of Interest (REoI) for Research Project -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 “**Export Preparedness Index (EPI) – 5th Edition (2025)**”. 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 **20.07.2026**. In addition, EoI through E-mail may be sent at address **pdresearch-niti@gov.in**.
5. For any query in this regard, R&N Division may please be contacted over email **pdresearch-niti@gov.in**.



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

**Research Study: Export Preparedness Index (EPI) – 5th Edition (2025)**

**1. Background.**

Since 2020, NITI Aayog has published four editions of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI), providing a comprehensive assessment of India's merchandise export ecosystem across States and Union Territories. These reports have empowered subnational governments with region-specific insights, fostering competitive federalism and enabling targeted policy interventions.

The 5th Edition of the EPI seeks to build upon this foundation by incorporating **services exports** and **value-added contributions of subnational units**, thereby offering a holistic view of India's export preparedness.

The comparative analysis of export preparedness among States and UTs introduces a framework that fosters competitiveness within the country. This index empowers stakeholders to identify strategies and improve parameters that impact a state's exports, thereby enhancing its export competitiveness. It provides a comprehensive analysis for policy changes and the creation of a favourable export ecosystem using its data-driven approach. Consequently, this edition can serve as a catalyst for competitive federalism, elevating the export performance of every state and contributing to the nation's overall development.

The first four editions were focused only on merchandise exports and due to the non-availability of disaggregated Services export data, the services exports were not incorporated in the EPI Reports. The 5th edition report will seek to capture not just merchandise exports, but also the services exported from states, UTs, and sub-national units. It will also seek to map out the potential of States / UTs/ Districts to carry out such exports.

Since the exports are recorded at their point of export or by issue of Certificate of Origin, the contribution by downstream entities in the overall export is missed. This present report will also seek to capture the value added at various stages by the subnational units in the overall merchandise and services exports, to correctly assess the contribution by individual subnational units.

The EPI Report will continue to maintain a focus on District level entities and seek to capture the value added at these subnational units and present data for each State.

We will be collaborating with RBI, Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), and Services Export Promotion Council in addition to the other stakeholders such as the State Govt, UTs, M/o Commerce, DPIIT, DGFT etc.

**2. Objective**

- **Expand Scope:** Capture both merchandise and services exports at the State, UT, and district levels.
- **Assess Value Addition:** Map contributions of subnational units at various stages of the export value chain.
- **Empower Policymaking:** Provide actionable insights for States/UTs to strengthen export competitiveness.
- **Promote Competitive Federalism:** Benchmark performance across subnational units to encourage innovation and reforms.
- **Strengthen Data Ecosystem:** Collaborate with RBI, GSTN, SEPC, DGFT, DPIIT, and State governments to improve data granularity and reliability.

### 3. Terms of Reference

NITI Aayog (Trade and Commerce Vertical), has prepared and released four editions of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024. These may be referred to better understand the scope of the process involved and the desired outcome.

The EPI seeks to evaluate all states and UTs and other sub-national units, on their export preparedness and export performance. The primary goal of EPI is to provide crucial policy insights and action plans to states & UTs to enhance their export competitiveness. EPI also helps in inculcating healthy competition and facilitating peer learning among States and Uts in India to enhance their export preparedness and thereby improve their export performance.

NITI Aayog is in the process of preparing the 5th edition of the 'Export Preparedness Index' (EPI) covering the period FY2025, to evaluate all the states and UTs of India on their export readiness and export performance.

### 4. Detailed Scope of Work and Timelines

S. No.	Activity	Detailed Scope of Work	Timeline
1	Inception and Project Planning	Review previous EPI editions, finalize work plan, identify stakeholders, and establish coordination mechanism with Central Ministries, State Governments, and partner institutions.	Weeks 1-2
2	Review of Existing Framework	Assess methodology, indicators, weightages, and ranking mechanisms used in earlier editions. Identify gaps and areas for improvement.	Weeks 2-4
3	Development of EPI Framework	Finalize pillars, sub-pillars, indicators, scoring methodology, normalization techniques, and validation protocols.	Weeks 4-6
4	Data Mapping and Template Design	Prepare data collection templates, define data sources, and establish quality assurance mechanisms.	Weeks 5-7
5	Data Collection	Collect quantitative and qualitative data from Ministries, Departments, States/UTs, Export Promotion Councils, DGFT, Customs, and other stakeholders.	Weeks 7-14
6	Data Validation and Verification	Verify submitted data through documentary evidence, stakeholder consultations, and consistency checks. Resolve discrepancies.	Weeks 12-16
7	Stakeholder Consultations	Conduct consultations with States/UTs, industry associations, exporters, logistics providers, and subject experts to validate findings and gather feedback.	Weeks 10-18
8	Scoring and Index Computation	Apply approved methodology, calculate indicator scores, pillar scores, and overall EPI scores for States and UTs.	Weeks 16-20
9	State/UT Profile Development	Prepare detailed profiles highlighting strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and policy interventions for each State/UT.	Weeks 18-22
10	Best Practices and Case Studies	Document successful export promotion initiatives, institutional innovations, and sector-specific interventions across States/UTs.	Weeks 20-23
11	Draft Report	Prepare draft EPI 5th Edition report including	Weeks 22-

	Preparation	methodology, rankings, analysis, and policy recommendations.	24
12	Review and Validation Workshop	Present findings before Steering Committee and key stakeholders for comments and validation.	Week 25
13	Incorporation of Comments	Revise report based on stakeholder feedback and expert review.	Weeks 26–27
14	Final Report Submission	Submit final report, state scorecards, datasets, presentations, and communication materials.	Week 28
15	Dissemination and Launch Support	Provide support for report launch, presentations, media briefs, and stakeholder outreach.	Weeks 29–33

**5. Duration and expected team strength**

- (a) The estimated timeline for completing this research study is 8 months, including research work, analysis, and report writing.
- (b) The organization must possess a proven experience in handling project work related to international trade and commerce sector with Central/PSUs/Multilateral organisations. Research with Central/State Governments in the last 10 years. Individual project cost to be more than Rs. 50 Lacs.
- (c) The PI should have a Doctorate/ Master's degree in Public Policy/ Economics / Statistics/ Business Administration / or other relevant field from a recognised University, and Minimum (15) years of experience in dealing with work related to international trade and commerce sector. The CO-PI must have a Master's degree in Economics / Statistics/ Business Administration / or other relevant field from a recognised University. Minimum (8) years of experience in dealing with work related to International Trade and commerce sector.

### Format of Expression of Interest (EoI)

Respondents Ref No.:

Date:

Name-  
Designation-  
-----Division,  
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