

**Government of India
NITI Aayog
(Research & Networking Division)**

Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
Dated 28th July, 2026

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 “**Strengthening India’s Deep-Tech Startup Ecosystem for Industrial Transformation**”. 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 18th August 2026**. EoI through E-mail may be sent at address pdresearch-niti@gov.in.
5. For any query in this regard, the Sh. Sanchit Jindal, ASO (R&N) may please be contacted over email pdresearch-niti@gov.in.



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

फा. सं. ओ-15012/14/26-आरएंडएन

भारत सरकार

नीति आयोग

(अनुसंधान और नेटवर्किंग प्रभाग)

संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001

दिनांक: 28 जुलाई, 2026

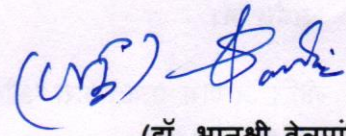
सार्वजनिक सूचना

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

1. नीति आयोग एतद्वारा “**औद्योगिक परिवर्तन हेतु भारत के द डीप-टेक स्टार्टअप इकोसिस्टम का सुदृढीकरण**” विषय पर एक अनुसंधान अध्ययन आयोजित करने के लिए प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों/संगठनों (विश्वविद्यालय/मानद विश्वविद्यालय सहित) से अनुसंधान/अध्ययन हेतु रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ईओआई) आमंत्रित/अनुरोध करता है। अध्ययनों का विवरण इस रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति हेतु अनुरोध (आरईओआई) के **अनुलग्नक-I** के रूप में प्रस्तुत है। नीति आयोग अनुसंधान योजना-2024 (आरएसएनए-2024) के विस्तृत दिशा-निर्देश तथा इसके संशोधन, यदि कोई हों: इस आरईओआई के साथ पठित इस प्रक्रिया को शासित करेंगे और इन्हें नीति आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://www.niti.gov.in/guidelines> पर देखा जा सकता है।
2. सभी संस्थानों/संगठनों से अनुरोध है कि वे इस सार्वजनिक सूचना का उत्तर देने से पूर्व नीति आयोग की **अनुसंधान योजना 2024 के दिशा-निर्देशों (दिशा-निर्देश/ आरएसएनए -2024)** का ध्यानपूर्वक अध्ययन कर लें, विशेष रूप से यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि वे उक्त योजना के तहत अनुदान प्राप्त करने के लिए सभी पात्रता मानदंडों को पूरा करते हैं तथा दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार अनुसंधान अध्ययन परियोजना का संचालन कर सकते हैं।
3. कोई भी आवेदक या उसका सहयोगी परामर्श के लिए एक से अधिक आवेदन प्रस्तुत नहीं करेगा। व्यक्तिगत रूप से या किसी सहयोगी के रूप में अथवा किसी कंसोर्टियम के भाग के रूप में आवेदन करने वाला आवेदक व्यक्तिगत रूप से या किसी कंसोर्टियम के सदस्य के रूप में, जैसी भी स्थिति हो, दूसरा आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने का हकदार नहीं होगा। आवेदकों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे सूविज्ञ एवं निष्पक्ष मूल्यांकन/समीक्षा की अनुमति देने के लिए अपने आवेदनों में पर्याप्त विवरण प्रदान करें।
4. **अनुलग्नक-II** में निर्धारित प्रारूप के अनुसार रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ईओआई) की हार्ड कॉपी, **अनुलग्नक-III** के अनुसार वचनबंध के साथ, इच्छुक आवेदकों द्वारा व्यक्तिगत रूप से दस्ती या पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा श्री संचित जिंदल, एसओ (आरएंडएन), कमरा नंबर 435, नीति आयोग, संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001 के पास जमा की जानी चाहिए। ईओआई वाले लिफाफे के ऊपर “ईओआई ऑन (संबंधित

अनुलग्नक में उल्लिखित विषय का नाम)" शब्द स्पष्ट रूप से अंकित होने चाहिए और यह सार्वजनिक सूचना की अधिसूचित तिथि के 21 दिनों के भीतर अर्थात् 18 अगस्त 2026 को अपराह्न 4:00 बजे से पहले नीति आयोग में पहुंच जानी चाहिए। ई-मेल के माध्यम से ईओआई, ई-मेल पते pdresearch-niti@gov.in पर भी भेजी जा सकती है।

5. इस संबंध में किसी भी पूछताछ के लिए, श्री संचित जिंदल, एसओ (आरएंडएन) से ई-मेल pdresearch-niti@gov.in पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।



(डॉ. भानुश्री वेलपांडियन)

वरिष्ठ विशेषज्ञ, विधि (आर एंड एन)

Research Study: Strengthening India's Deep-Tech Startup Ecosystem for Industrial Transformation

1. Background

India's emergence as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem has been a significant milestone; however, the distribution of innovation remains skewed towards consumer-driven sectors such as fintech and services. Deep-technology domains—including semiconductors, robotics, advanced manufacturing, defence technologies, and space technologies—remain underdeveloped relative to their strategic importance for industrial growth, economic resilience, and national security.

Strengthening deep-tech capabilities is critical for reducing import dependence, enhancing domestic manufacturing, and enabling India's transition towards a high-value, innovation-driven economy. At present, India continues to rely heavily on imports for critical components such as semiconductors and advanced industrial equipment, thereby exposing the economy to supply chain disruptions and geopolitical risks. Furthermore, low levels of industrial automation and limited domestic capability in high-end manufacturing technologies highlight existing structural gaps in India's industrial ecosystem.

Despite having a strong base of scientific talent and a growing number of deep-tech startups, the ecosystem continues to face persistent challenges in scaling innovations from research to commercialization. These challenges include limited access to long-gestation patient capital, inadequate availability of shared R&D and testing infrastructure, weak academia–industry linkages, and procedural as well as regulatory bottlenecks.

While the Government of India has undertaken several initiatives—such as Startup India, the India Semiconductor Mission, and ongoing efforts towards developing a National Deep Tech Startup Policy—these interventions remain fragmented across multiple institutions, lacking convergence. There is currently no unified framework integrating financing, infrastructure, procurement support, and innovation systems into a cohesive deep-tech ecosystem.

Given the strategic importance of deep-tech sectors and the evolving global technological landscape, there is a need for undertaking a comprehensive research study aimed at assessing the existing ecosystem, identifying structural gaps, and developing an integrated policy framework for supporting India's industrial transformation and technological self-reliance.

In view of the above, a research study is proposed to be undertaken by Industry Vertical on identifying the key challenges faced by the deep-tech startup ecosystem in India across various critical sectors including semiconductors, robotics, advanced manufacturing etc with respect to access to long-gestation capital, shared research and testing infrastructure, academia-industry linkages and regulatory bottlenecks, and for bringing about key reforms in the existing policy and institutional framework by understanding

its current gaps and lacunas in developing an integrated and self-reliant deep-tech ecosystem in India.

2. Objective of the Study

The purpose of this research study is to develop a comprehensive and actionable policy framework for strengthening India's deep-tech startup ecosystem, thereby supporting industrial transformation, technological self-reliance, and global competitiveness. The study will focus on the following key objectives:

- i. Undertaking a diagnostic assessment of India's deep-tech ecosystem across funding, infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and institutional linkages.
- ii. Benchmarking India's deep-tech ecosystem against leading global economies and identifying critical gaps in policy design and implementation.
- iii. Identifying sector-specific challenges and growth opportunities across key deep-tech domains, including semiconductors, robotics, advanced manufacturing, defence technologies, and space technologies.
- iv. Evaluating the effectiveness, convergence, and coordination of existing government initiatives supporting deep-tech innovation.
- v. Examining barriers in the commercialization lifecycle, particularly in scaling innovations from prototype to market deployment.
- vi. Proposing mechanisms for strengthening access to patient capital, shared infrastructure, and market access, including public procurement.
- vii. Proposing detailed recommendations outlining policy interventions, institutional mechanisms, and implementation pathways.

3. Terms of Reference (ToRs)

- i. Mapping and analysing the current deep-tech startup ecosystem in India, including sectoral distribution, funding patterns, institutional support systems, and stage-wise growth of startups.
- ii. Identifying and evaluating key structural bottlenecks in the deep-tech lifecycle, particularly in areas such as prototype development, validation, scaling, and commercialization.
- iii. Assessing the availability, accessibility, and utilization of R&D, testing, certification, and prototyping infrastructure, and identifying critical gaps in supporting deep-tech innovation.
- iv. Examining the current framework for academia–industry collaboration, including analysing technology transfer mechanisms, incubation ecosystems, and research commercialization pathways.
- v. Analysing funding dynamics in deep-tech sectors, including identifying early-stage and growth-stage (Series A–C) financing gaps, and evaluating the need for alternative financing instruments such as patient capital.
- vi. Evaluating existing government policies, schemes, and institutional mechanisms supporting deep-tech startups, and identifying gaps in coordination and convergence.

vii. Benchmarking India's deep-tech ecosystem against global best practices, including analysing policy frameworks in different countries.

viii. Identifying sector-specific constraints and opportunities across priority deep-tech domains, including semiconductors, robotics, advanced manufacturing, defence technologies, and space technologies.

ix. Assessing the role of government procurement policies, standards, and regulatory frameworks in enabling market access and scaling of deep-tech innovations.

x. Analysing and proposing strategies for strengthening ecosystem linkages among startups, industry, academia, investors, and government institutions.

xi. Recommending policy and regulatory reforms, institutional coordination mechanisms, appropriate financing and capital deployment strategies and measures for enhancing commercialization and market access to address key challenges in the deep-tech ecosystem.

4. Scope of the Research Study

The scope of the research study will encompass the following:

i. Analysing India's deep-tech ecosystem across key sectors and stakeholders.

ii. Identifying systemic challenges affecting the growth and scalability of deep-tech startups.

iii. Undertaking sectoral deep-dives into priority domains such as semiconductors, robotics, advanced manufacturing, defence technologies, and space technologies.

iv. Benchmarking India's deep-tech ecosystem with global leaders and identifying best practices.

v. Evaluating existing policy initiatives, institutional frameworks, and support mechanisms for deep-tech innovation.

vi. Assessing infrastructure requirements, including R&D facilities, testing labs, and manufacturing ecosystems.

vii. Analysing the investment landscape and financing challenges specific to deep-tech sectors.

viii. Examining regulatory and compliance frameworks affecting deep-tech startups.

ix. Identifying opportunities for strengthening academia–industry collaboration and innovation ecosystems.

x. Developing actionable policy recommendations for enabling deep-tech-led industrial transformation.

5. Proposed Timeline and Expected Team Strength

The estimated timeline for completing the research study is **6 months**, including conducting research, undertaking stakeholder consultations, analysing findings, and preparing the final report.

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.

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