

No. O-15012/6/25-Research
Government of India
NITI Aayog
(Research & Networking Division)

Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
Dated 28th May, 2025

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 **“The Role and Future of Dredging in Maritime Infrastructure Development”** The details of the studies are placed in **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 a 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 the 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 in **Annexure- II** along with the undertaking as per **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 18-06-2025. EoI through E-mail may be sent at the address pdresearch-niti@gov.in. However, it must be supplemented with submission of the physical copy.
5. For any query in this regard, R&N Division may please be contacted over email at pdresearch-niti@gov.in.



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

Research study: The Role and Future of Dredging in Maritime Infrastructure Development

1. Background:

Dredging is a process of excavating sediments from the bottom of water bodies to deepen navigating channels to accommodate larger vessels, maintaining port entrances for smooth cargo operations, or reclaiming land for urban expansion. As of 2024, the dredging market in India is about 157 cubic meters (mcm), with maintenance dredging being 110 mcm and capital dredging being 47 mcm.

Worldwide, ship sizes are increasing to achieve economies of scale. As India strides towards becoming a global powerhouse in maritime sector it will require deepening and widening of navigational channel to attract deep draft vessels and movement in cargo through inland waterways.

Government has undertaken several concerted efforts and has issued the 'Dredging Guidelines of Major Ports, 2021' to ensure implementation of dredging projects with optimum utilization of the resources and re-use of dredged material for sustainable development of ports in the country. The Maritime India Vision, 2030 (MIV) also envisages developing Major Ports as transshipment hubs wherever possible and increasing their capacity by way of deepening their channels and near berths.

The dredging sector is marred with complexities like high costs for dredging, limited capabilities, shortage of technically qualified personnel, infrastructural challenges, limited knowledge of dredging contracts etc there is a pressing need to address issues related to complete dredging eco system by undertaking a comprehensive analysis of dredging practices in India, focusing on both capital and maintenance dredging activities across major ports and non-major ports and inland waterways to pinpoint key issues that could enhance its performance and economy.

2. Terms of Reference:

- i. Detailed examination of the current dredging practices in India.
- ii. Identification of Technical and Infrastructural Challenges:
 - a. Assessment technical and managerial capacity, technical and infrastructural challenges including issues related to soil investigation, current expenditure on

dredging, shortage and quality of dredgers, and limitations in rock dredging capabilities.

- b. Assessment of quantum of dredging over next 10 years in Ports and IWAI, assessment of equipment and manpower and level of Investment Required.
- iii. Mapping global practices and recent advancements in dredging technologies and practices, including innovative equipment, sediment management techniques, digital monitoring tools, and their potential to enhance efficiency and sustainability. Case study of Kolkata and Cochin Ports related to dredging
- iv. Role of private players in dredging industry and their current capacity
- v. Role and Ecco-system for dredging in Maritime states for non-major ports
- vi. Assessment of the existing policy framework governing the dredging sector in India (major and non-major ports), analyzing guidelines, regulations, and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable dredging practices and addressing industry challenges and policy interventions required including at State level.
- vii. Environmental implications of dredging operations, focusing on their effects on marine ecosystems, sediment transport dynamics, coastal erosion, and measures for mitigating adverse impacts.

3. Duration and expected team strength:

The duration of study will be 6 (Six) months from date of award of study

4. Conditions for Minimum Eligibility of Applicants

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

- i. The Applicant must be a legal entity as per Applicable Laws (which would include, inter-alia, academic institutions/profit/non-profit organization).
- ii. The Applicant shall have, over the past 5 (five) years preceding the Proposal Due Date (PDD), undertaken a minimum of 5 (five) assignment related to maritime sector for Ministries/Department of Government of India.
- iii. The Applicant should have well-equipped 'in-house' expert team'
- iv. The Applicant should have a minimum turnover of Rs. 2 (two) crore per annum during each of the 3 (three) financial years viz. FY 2023-24, FY 2022-23 and FY 2021-22.
- v. The Applicant should enclose copies of audited balance sheet for FY 2023'24, FY 2022-23 and FY 2021-22.

Annexure II

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 organization.
- (iv) Other supporting documents to evaluate the bidder for minimum eligibility conditions.

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

4. Information of PI and Organisation

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

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

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

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

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP

Annexure III

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

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

DATE

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP