

No. P-S-MISC/15/2026-O/oDIR(SCHEMES)
Government of India/ भारत सरकार
Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय
Directorate General of Training (D.G.T.)/प्रशिक्षण महानिदेशालय

सातवां तल, कौशल भवन,
न्यू मोती बाग, नई दिल्ली – 110023
दिनांक: 28.09.2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM/ कार्यालय ज्ञापन

Subject: Forwarding of Minutes of pre-bid Meeting for RfP for engagement of an agency for conducting Baseline Survey under Component-I of PM-SETU – reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the subject cited above and to forward herewith Minutes of the pre-bid Meeting for RfP for engagement of an agency for conducting Baseline Survey under Component-I of PM-SETU held on 25.08.2026 under the Chairpersonship of Director (schemes).

2. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

(Swapndeeep Chouhan)
Deputy Director

To:

Attendees of the meeting.

Copy for kind information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, MSDE;
2. Sr. PPS to DG, DGT; and
3. Sr. PPS to JS (PM-SETU).

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Minutes of pre-bid Meeting for RfP for engagement of an agency for conducting Baseline Survey under Component-I of PM-SETU – reg.

A pre-bid meeting for RfP for engagement of an agency for conducting Baseline Survey under Component-I of PM-SETU was held on 25.08.2026 under the Chairpersonship of Director (Schemes). The list of participating firms is at Annexure-I.

2. At the outset, the participants were welcomed, and a brief overview of the RfP was provided. Thereafter, the queries raised by the participating firms were taken up for discussion. Some of the queries were addressed during the meeting itself. However, considering the paucity of time, it was decided that written responses to all the queries, including those already addressed during the meeting, would be provided subsequently. The details of the queries received and the corresponding responses thereto is at Annexure-II.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I

Participating firms for the pre-bid meeting held on 25.08.2026 for RfP for engagement of an agency for conducting Baseline Survey under Component-I of PM-SETU.

1. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP;
2. Quality Council of India;
3. Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP);
4. PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited;
5. Insight Development Consulting Group (IDCG);
6. Convergent View Research & Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.;
7. TRIOs Development Support Pvt Ltd;
8. Quest Alliance;
9. AJNIFM Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM);
10. Ipsos Research Pvt. Ltd.;
11. AMS Academy of Management Studies (AMS);
12. CRISIL;

Annexure-II

Responses to the queries received in the pre-bid meeting held on 25.08.2026 for RfP for engagement of an agency for conducting Baseline Survey under Component-I of PM-SETU.

Sr.No.	RFP Section / Clause No. / Page No.	Query / Clarification Sought / Suggested Modification (if any)	Reply /Comments
1	Section 4 – Methodology and Research Design Page No.: 22	Please confirm whether material changes in methodology, sample size, respondent coverage, data collection approach, survey instruments or reporting requirements arising from subsequent discussions with MDBs will be treated as a change in scope and compensated separately.	Any approved variation in scope, including changes in coverage, sample size, deliverables or methodology, shall be governed by Section 3A – Variation in Scope of Work
2	Section IV – Scope, Coverage and Approach Page No.: 23–24	Please provide the estimated number of Government ITIs, Non-PM-SETU Government ITIs and Private ITIs proposed to be covered across the 12 Program States for bid pricing.	The universe across the 12 Programme States comprises 2,120 Government ITIs and 7,140 Private ITIs. The state-wise ITI details are annexed.
3	Section IV, Clauses 2 & 3 Page No.: 23	Please provide the estimated respondent universe for trainees, graduates, trainers and employers to facilitate sample-size estimation.	Refer to RFP ToR Section 4 (page no. 23).
4	Section IV, Clause 3 Page No.: 23	Please clarify expected response-rate assumptions for the Graduate Tracer Survey and whether replacement sampling/substitution will be permitted where respondents remain unreachable despite reasonable contact attempts.	We expect the selected agency to achieve minimum 95% of the sampling target. Yes, additional sample can be taken as per the methodology defined and agreed upon the tracer study/survey.
5	Section VII – Support by MSDE, NPMU & SPMUs Page No.: 28	Please confirm whether validated contact details (mobile numbers, email IDs and employer information) required for tracer and employer surveys will be made available before fieldwork.	Required details will be provided with the selected agency.
6	Section IV – Scope, Coverage and Approach Page No.: 23–24	Please confirm whether representative estimates are required only at State level or whether district-level analysis/estimates are also envisaged.	Refer RFP ToR
	Section VIII – Cost	Please clarify whether contract-value adjustment will also apply	Any approved variation in scope, including changes in coverage, sample size,

7	Adjustment Mechanism Page No.: 29	where respondent/sample size increases or decreases without a corresponding change in the number of ITIs covered.	deliverables or methodology, shall be governed by Section 3A – Variation in Scope of Work
8	Section VIII and Section 3A.3 Page No.: 29, 49	Please clarify the methodology for determining and approving the per-PSU/ITI unit cost and whether it will be finalized during contract-award discussions.	The reference to per-PSU/ITI unit cost in Section VIII is inadvertent and shall be disregarded.
9	Section IX – Midline and Endline Evaluation Page No.: 29	Please confirm that indicative pricing for Midline and Endline evaluations will not form part of the financial evaluation or ranking under the current procurement.	The Midline and Endline figures in FIN-3 are indicative and are sought solely for price discovery. They shall not form part of the financial evaluation.
10	Section 5.5 and Section 13.3 – Contract Agreement Page No.: 51, 56	Please confirm that confidentiality obligations will survive for three years after completion/termination, consistent with Annexure-II.	As per RFP provisions
11	Section 12.1 – Intellectual Property Rights Page No.: 56	Please confirm that the Agency's pre-existing intellectual property, proprietary methodologies, analytical frameworks, tools, templates and know-how will remain vested with the Agency.	The Agency's pre-existing intellectual property, including proprietary methodologies, analytical frameworks, tools, templates and know-how developed independently prior to the commencement of this assignment shall remain vested with the Agency. However, all project-specific deliverables, outputs, reports, databases, analyses and other materials specifically developed for the Client under this Agreement shall vest with the Client in accordance with Clause 12.1 of the draft contract agreement given in RFP.
12	Section 15.3 – Termination for Convenience Page No.: 57–58	Please confirm that, on termination for convenience, the Agency will be compensated for satisfactorily performed services, committed costs and non-cancellable obligations incurred up to the effective termination date.	As per RFP provisions
13	Contract Agreement Page No.: 46–60	Please clarify whether aggregate Agency liability will be limited to the total Contract Value, except for fraud, willful misconduct or infringement of third-party intellectual property rights.	The aggregate liability of the Agency shall be limited to the total Contract Value, except for liabilities arising from fraud, wilful misconduct, infringement of third-party intellectual property rights.
14	Section 9.3 – Performance Security Invocation Page No.: 53–54	Please clarify whether prior written notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure an alleged breach will be provided before invocation of Performance Security.	As per RFP provisions
	Section 4 – Conflict of Interest Page No.: 9	Please clarify whether an agency currently engaged under PM-SETU in programme management, technical assistance,	As per RFP provisions

15		implementation support, advisory or similar capacity may participate, provided safeguards ensure independence, objectivity and segregation of teams.	
16	Section 4 – ToR: Objectives / Scope, Coverage and Approach Page No.: 21–24	Please clarify whether Private ITIs must be covered in all 12 Program States and, where Private ITIs are unavailable/not identified, what sampling approach and adjustment should be adopted. Clarify treatment of States where Private ITIs are unavailable/not identified and corresponding sampling adjustment.	All four surveys are to be conducted across the three ITI categories in each of the 12 Program States. The Agency shall propose an appropriate statistically valid sampling approach for approval; no unilateral reduction in State/category coverage is permitted. Also refer response SI No. 2
17	Section 4 – ToR: Background / Coordination Mechanism Page No.: 21	For States where no SPMU/coordinating authority is presently identified, please confirm the designated State-level SPOC for ITI access, respondent coordination, data sharing and field activities. Provide/confirm the designated State-level coordinating authority/SPOC for all 12 Program States.	The RFP provides for coordination through MSDE/NPMU/SPMUs and requires the Agency to identify stakeholders and coordinate across the 12 Program States. State-level coordination arrangements/SPOCs will be facilitated by the NPMU as applicable.
18	Section 4 – ToR: Background / Scope and Coverage Page No.: 21–24	Where PM-SETU clusters/participating ITIs are not yet reflected on the portal, will DGT/MSDE provide the finalized State-wise list of ITIs/clusters and concerned SPOCs before commencement? Provide finalized State-wise list of participating ITIs/clusters and concerned SPOCs before field deployment.	Required details will be provided with the onboarded agency.
19	Section 4 – ToR: Scope, Coverage and Approach Page No.: 23–24	Please specify the indicative/expected number of ITIs/PSUs to be covered, as the RFP specifies minimum respondent interviews per selected ITI but not the final number of ITIs. Specify an indicative/expected number of ITIs/PSUs for bid planning and costing.	The selected agency shall determine the required ITI/PSU sample size for each State in accordance with the prescribed sampling methodology and criteria for generating representative State-level estimates. Please refer response at SI no. 2
20	Section 4 – ToR: Methodology and Research Design / Survey Framework Page No.: 21–25	Please clarify whether the existing PM-SETU Survey Framework, draft questionnaires and reference documents will be provided by DGT/MSDE or whether the selected agency must develop the complete framework and instruments independently. Provide access to existing Survey Framework/draft instruments and clarify the extent of instrument development expected.	Selected agency shall propose framework and instruments for survey.

21	Section 3 – Technical Evaluation Criteria, A1: Relevant Experience in Similar Assignments Page No.: 17	Please consider relaxing the experience period from the last five years to the last ten years so that agencies with substantial and relevant similar experience can participate. Replace 'during the last five (5) years' with 'during the last ten (10) years'.	As per RFP provisions
22	Section 3 – Eligibility / Supporting Documents for Relevant Experience Page No.: 17	Please allow alternative documentary evidence where a formal completion certificate has not been issued by the client, such as a CA certificate, client reference, performance/completion confirmation or other proof of completed assignment. Accept Work Order/Agreement plus Client/Performance/Work Completion/Completion Confirmation/Client Reference/CA Certificate or other valid proof of completed assignment.	The bidder shall submit the Work Order/Agreement along with documentary evidence of the required work completed as on the Proposal Submission Date. In the absence of a Client Completion/Progress Certificate, a Client Reference/Confirmation, Performance/Work Completion Certificate or CA Certificate may be submitted. The CA Certificate shall specify the assignment name/title, contract value, invoices raised, amount received/realised and relevant period. Self-certification shall not be accepted as standalone evidence
23	Scope of Services / ToR – Baseline Survey Coverage Page No.: 29	Please clarify whether bidders may submit proposals for selected/limited Program States or whether the assignment must mandatorily be undertaken across all 12 Program States. Allow bidders to submit proposals for selected/limited States, if operationally permissible.	The assignment covers all four surveys collectively across all 12 Program States as specified in the RFP .
24	Section IV – Survey Framework / Sampling Page No.: 24	Please clarify whether the State-wise list and number of ITIs to be covered will be provided by MSDE/NPMU or are to be identified by the selected agency. Provide an indicative State-wise ITI list/number for preparation of the technical and financial proposal.	Please refer response at Sl.No. 2
25	Data Collection – CAPI/CATI Page No.: 24	Please clarify whether a specific CAPI/CATI platform or software has been prescribed by the Client/DGT, particularly for the Graduate Tracer Survey and other surveys. In the absence of a prescribed platform, permit the agency to use its own secure digital data-collection platform.	The selected agency shall develop and host the data collection application on its own secure digital data collection platform and share data with DGT/MSDE on a weekly basis for data quality analysis (share the criteria for removals/disqualification) and feedback. Upon completion of the baseline survey, the agency shall transfer all the data files raw, cleaned and validated dataset to DGT/MSDE.
26	Bid submission deadline Page No.: —	Please extend the bid-submission deadline by at least 14 calendar days from publication of responses to pre-proposal queries and any related corrigendum/addendum.	Please refer corrigendum
	Section 4, Clause V – Timeline for	Please extend the data-collection timeline by three months considering four surveys, 12	The timeline specified in the RFP shall remain applicable.

27	Deliverables; Draft Contract Clause 4.1 Page No.: 24–26, 49	States, multiple ITI/respondent groups, CATI/CAPI, translations and quality assurance. Revise overall assignment duration from four months to seven months and proportionately revise data collection, analysis, reporting and review timelines.	
28	Section 4, Clause IV – Scope, Coverage and Approach Page No.: 23	Please provide indicative number of ITIs and total respondent sample under each survey, including State-wise distribution across PM-SETU Government, non-PM-SETU Government and Private ITIs. Also provide the indicative universe/list available for sampling. Provide tentative State-wise sample distribution; allow variations to be adjusted through approved unit rates.	Please refer to the response to S. No. 2 for the State-wise universe of Government and Private ITIs. The State-wise and survey-category-wise sample size shall be estimated by the selected agency in accordance with the proposed and prescribed sampling methodology.
29	Section 4, Clause III – Graduate Tracer Survey Page No.: 22	Please clarify the graduation years/cohorts to be covered and the approximate size of the graduate database available in each State. Specify eligible pass-out cohorts and reference period for measuring employment outcomes.	The eligible graduate cohort may comprise ITI graduates who passed out during 2024-25 and 2025–26. The same will be finalised during inception report
30	Section 4, Clauses IV.3 and IV.4 Page No.: 23–24	Please specify the expected contact protocol, including minimum/maximum call attempts, treatment of unreachable/invalid numbers and replacement methodology.	The selected agency is expected to provide their protocol, however, adequate attempts are expected for all the valid respondent contact details.
31	Section 4, Clause VII.1 – Support to be Facilitated Page No.: 28	Please confirm whether clean, updated and consent-compliant contact databases will be provided before field deployment and how invalid, duplicate or incomplete records will be treated for final sample achievement. Non-achievement caused by inadequate/inaccurate client-provided databases should not be treated as agency performance deficiency, subject to documented reasonable efforts.	Required details will be provided with the onboarded agency and the responsibility of collecting appropriate participation consent in upon the selected agency.
32	Section 4, Clause III – Employer Survey Page No.: 23	If sufficient employers cannot be identified through graduate respondents, may the agency supplement the frame through ITI placement cells, apprenticeship records, industry associations, MSME databases and other credible sources?	Yes. Where required, the employer sampling frame may be supplemented, subject to the approved sampling framework.
	Section 4, Clause IV.3 – Employer	Please clarify whether the same employer recruiting from multiple sampled ITIs may be counted once	No duplication of employers will be permitted. An employer will be counted only once and linked to the respective sampled

33	Interviews Page No.: 23	or against each linked ITI. Clearly specify unit of analysis, duplication rules and required representativeness.	ITI. The same employer shall not be counted separately across multiple ITIs.
34	Section 3, Form TECH-3(d); Section 4 – Scope Page No.: 34, 48	Please provide the indicative number and categories of IDIs, FGDs and stakeholder consultations expected in each State and clarify whether they are physical or virtual. Provide a minimum qualitative sample matrix for uniform financial estimation.	The selected agency may undertake such qualitative exercises, at its discretion.
35	Section 4, Clause V.2 – Pilot Surveys Page No.: 25	Please clarify the indicative pilot sample size and whether completed pilot interviews may be included in the final sample where no material instrument changes are made. Permit pilot interviews to be included in the baseline dataset if final instruments remain substantively unchanged.	Pilot survey data shall not form part of the final baseline dataset and shall be removed from the data-collection application/server. The instruments shall be pilot-tested in non-selected ITIs; therefore, pilot interviews will not be included in the final survey sample.
36	Section 4, Clause V – Timeline for Deliverables Page No.: 24–26	Please confirm that timelines are contingent upon timely availability of sampling frames, respondent databases, State permissions and MSDE/MDB approvals. Client/MDB/State-caused delays or non-availability of required data/permissions should result in corresponding extension without LD/penalty.	The timelines specified in the RFP shall remain applicable.
37	Section 4, Clause V and Clause VII.6 Page No.: 24–28	Please specify the maximum review period and number of consolidated review cycles for each deliverable. Client feedback may be provided within seven working days; corresponding timeline extension may apply where feedback is delayed.	This will be finalised with the selected agency during inception meeting.
38	Section 4, Clauses V.3 and V.4 Page No.: 25	Please clarify expected dashboard platform, number of user licences, hosting period, refresh frequency, security requirements and whether source-code/platform ownership is required. Finalize dashboard specifications/hosting during inception; treat third-party licence costs separately if required.	This will be discussed and approved in the inception phase.
	Form TECH-3(d); Draft Contract Clause 5.2(e) Page No.:	Please allow onboarding of a data-collection agency under the bidding firm's direct supervision for CATI/CAPI. Given the 12-State scale, please also permit consortium/JV participation	Please refer corrigendum. Third-party/subcontracting arrangements is not be permitted at any stage of the baseline survey.

39	34, 50	between a lead research/consulting firm and a specialized data-collection agency.	
40	Section 4, Clause VI.A – Resource Requirement Matrix Page No.: 26–27	Please clarify the minimum number of State Coordinators and whether one coordinator is mandatory for each State or responsibilities may be distributed.	The RFP provides an indicative requirement of 4–12 State Coordinators. The Agency shall propose the deployment needed to enable parallel data collection across all 12 Program States and meet the required deliverables.
41	Section 3 – Qualification Criteria, Similar Experience Page No.: 17	Please confirm whether credentials from any five States/UTs in which the bidder has undertaken similar assignments may be submitted to satisfy the geographic experience requirement.	Yes.
42	Section 3 – Qualification Criteria, Similar Experience Page No.: 17	For recently completed or ongoing assignments with at least 50% completion, please confirm whether work orders/contracts with self-certification may be accepted where a formal completion certificate has not been issued. Accept equivalent documentary evidence, subject to Client verification.	For ongoing projects(min 50% completed), the bidder shall submit the Work Order/Agreement along with documentary evidence of the required work completed as on the Proposal Submission Date. In the absence of a Client Progress Certificate, CA Certificate may be submitted. The CA Certificate shall specify the assignment name/title, contract value, invoices raised, amount received/realised and relevant completion percentage. Self-certification shall not be accepted as standalone evidence
43	Section 3, Part A – Qualification Criteria: Similar Experience; Part B, A1 Page No.: 17	Please confirm whether skill-gap studies, labour-market assessments, tracer studies and employer/industry surveys undertaken for Sector Skill Councils will qualify as relevant similar assignments for eligibility and technical scoring.	Yes
44	Form FIN-2; Section 4, Clause VIII Page No.: 44, 29	Please clarify where bidders should quote the per-PSU/ITI unit rate, including separate CAPI/CATI rates, as no corresponding field is provided in the financial forms. Revise FIN-2 to include State-wise PSUs/ITIs, fixed costs, per-ITI field cost and per-completed-interview/CATI cost.	The reference to per-PSU/ITI unit rates in Section 4, Clause VIII on Page 29 is inadvertent and shall be disregarded. The Financial Proposal shall be submitted strictly in accordance with Form FIN-1, with a single lump-sum price for the complete assignment, inclusive of all applicable costs and GST. Separate per-PSU/ITI, CAPI/CATI or per-interview rates are not required.
45	Section 4, Clause VIII; Draft Contract Clause 3A Page No.: 29, 49	Please confirm that variations in sample size, survey modality, geographic dispersion, languages, qualitative coverage or deliverables will occur only through mutual written agreement with corresponding cost/timeline adjustments. Replace unilateral variation with a mutually agreed written change-control mechanism.	Any approved variation in scope, including changes in coverage, sample size, deliverables or methodology, shall be governed by Section 3A – Variation in Scope of Work

46	Section 4, Clause IX; Form FIN-3 Page No.: 29, 45	Please confirm that Midline 2028 and Endline 2030 prices are indicative only and may be revised at engagement based on inflation, statutory changes, actual sample, coverage, modality and prevailing market rates. Permit percentage escalation/formula rather than fixed prices valid up to 2030.	The Midline and Endline figures indicated in FIN-3 are indicative and are intended for price discovery under the present procurement. However, the selected agency may subsequently be engaged for the Midline and Endline surveys at the same rate.
47	Section 4, Payment Schedule; Draft Contract Clauses 6.3 and 8 Page No.: 28, 52–53	Please specify the timeframe for review, acceptance and payment release after submission of each deliverable and valid invoice. Review within seven working days and release payment within 30 days of accepted deliverable and valid invoice.	As per RFP provisions
48	Draft Contract Clause 11A.3 Page No.: 55	Please establish objective acceptance criteria and an opportunity for the agency to respond to quality observations before imposition of any penalty. Determine quality deficiency against pre-agreed acceptance criteria after written notice and an opportunity to rectify/explain.	Please refer RFP section 11 of draft contract agreement
49	Draft Contract Clause 12.1 – Intellectual Property Rights Page No.: 56	Please confirm that ownership transfer will not extend to the agency's pre-existing methodologies, templates, analytical models, software, survey platforms, know-how and generic tools. Client may own project-specific outputs/data while agency retains pre-existing IP/tools/methodologies, with an appropriate licence for embedded components.	Please refer Clause 12.1 of the draft contract agreement given in RFP.
50	Draft Contract Clause 13 – Data Security Page No.: 56	Please clarify respective roles of MSDE/DGT and the selected agency under the Digital Personal Data Protection framework, including notices, consent, grievance handling, retention and breach reporting. Agree a detailed data-sharing/data-processing protocol during inception covering roles, security, retention and deletion.	The selected agency shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the rules made thereunder, as applicable, in respect of all personal data processed in connection with the assignment.
	Section 2, Clause 4(c)(ii) – Conflict of Interest Page No.: 9	Please clarify whether agencies currently providing PMU/SPMU support under PM-SETU may participate if separate independent teams, no personnel overlap, information barriers/ring-fencing,	The clause Clause 4(c)(ii) may be considered as inadvertent and shall be disregarded.

51		independent quality review and a formal conflict-management plan are implemented.	
52	Section 2, Clause 14; Forms FIN-1 to FIN-3 Page No.: 12, 43–45	Please confirm whether financial comparison is on GST-inclusive value and whether a change in applicable GST rate after bid submission will be reimbursed/adjusted as per law. Statutory changes in GST/other applicable taxes after bid submission may be adjusted against documentary evidence.	Financial comparison shall be undertaken in accordance with the financial forms, price breakup and evaluation provisions of the RFP.
53	Section 3 – Eligibility, Qualification and Evaluation Criteria, Part 1 Page No.: —	Please reconsider the prescribed average annual turnover requirement of ₹15 crore and reduce it to a level proportionate to the estimated assignment value; the submission suggests approximately ₹8 crore based on the cited DoE advisory.	As per RFP provisions
54	Section 3 – Qualification Criteria; Form TECH-3 Page No.: 17, 33	Please accept a copy of the contract agreement as valid documentary evidence of similar experience where international donor/government clients do not issue completion certificates; client counterpart contact details may be provided for verification.	In the absence of a Client Completion/Progress Certificate, a Client Reference/Confirmation, Performance/Work Completion Certificate or CA Certificate may be submitted. The CA Certificate shall specify the assignment name/title, contract value, invoices raised, amount received/realised and relevant period. Self-certification shall not be accepted as standalone evidence
55	Form TECH-3 – Experience of the Agency Page No.: 33	Please clarify whether legally valid contracts undertaken by the Agency include sub-contracts, joint ventures and consortiums.	Experience gained by the Agency as a consortium/JV partner may be considered, provided the Agency can demonstrate its actual participation and scope of work in the assignment through the relevant contract/agreement and supporting documentary evidence.
56	EMD / GeM Guidelines Page No.: —	EMD shall be submitted in the amount and form specified on the GeM Portal. Any exemption from EMD applicable to MSMEs shall be governed by the applicable GeM rules and provisions.	EMD shall be submitted in the amount and form specified on the GeM Portal. Any exemption from EMD applicable to MSMEs shall be governed by the applicable GeM rules and provisions.
57	Section 4 – Support by MSDE, NPMU & SPMUs / Data Security Page No.: 28, 56	Given that a CATI survey is proposed and MSDE, NPMU and SPMUs will facilitate access to administrative data, will this also include identifiers such as names of trainees, telephone numbers and other contact details? How will such data be dealt with in the context of the DPDP Act?	The selected agency shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the rules made thereunder, as applicable, in respect of all personal data processed in connection with the assignment. The selected agency shall sign an NDA with the Client.
	Section 4 – Graduate Tracer Survey	Based on experience of conducting tracer studies with ITI graduates, CATI success rates can vary between 3% and 10%. How large is	The selected agency shall target a minimum 95% successful completion rate for the Graduate Tracer Survey sample. Wherever required, snowball sampling and

58	Data Collection Page No.: 23–24	the dataset expected to be for the total universe?	other approved follow-up mechanisms may be used to achieve the required response rate and complete the prescribed sample.
59	Financial / Commercial Information Page No.: —	Is there an indicative budget ceiling or estimated contract value for the baseline survey?	Please refer GeM portal
60	Section 3 – Qualification Criteria / Similar Experience Page No.: 17	What documents are admissible for ongoing projects?	Please refer sl no.42.
62		We would like to suggest Demand Draft as the preferred mode of payment as it can be arranged within a shorter timeframe compared to a Performance Bank Guarantee. If payment through Demand Draft is acceptable we request you to kindly share the necessary beneficiary details for its preparation.	The provisions of the RFP shall remain intact.
63	Section 2) Clause Qualification Criteria	National surveys such as NFHS 5&6, AFHS, etc conducted by IIPS/MOHFW with reputed agencies required Rs 5 Crores turnover, which has/had the bid values of Rs 5-6 Crores. We would request you to kindly consider a turnover criterion of Rs 5 crores for eligibility. This would help participation of more well-known agencies in the bidding process.	As per RFP provisions
64		Please clarify whether third-party/subcontracted data collection is permitted under the baseline survey contract?	Not Permitted
64	Section 4 – ToR, Graduate Tracer Survey Page Nos. 22–23	Could you please specify the expected graduation cohort year(s) to be covered under the tracer study? Additionally, has any preliminary assessment been conducted regarding the availability and quality of graduate contact details, which would inform the feasibility of the proposed sampling approach?	The Tracer Survey will cover graduates from the 2024–25, and 2025–26 cohorts. The same will be finalised during inception report
65	Section 4 – ToR, Employer Survey Page No. 23	Could you kindly elaborate on the proposed methodology for identifying employers to be included in the employer perception study? We would also appreciate clarity on whether any segmentation is envisaged, for instance based on indicative sectoral distribution or enterprise	The employer survey sampling will be done as per RFP ToR. The methodology details and selection criteria shall be proposed the selected agency. Any segmentation required shall be proposed by the agency and mutually finalised during inception report. For more details refer to page no. 23 in RFP.

		size, to ensure representativeness.	
66	Section 4 – ToR, Scope, Coverage and Approach Page No. 23	For state-level estimates across the four respondent categories, could you please indicate the expected confidence levels and acceptable margins of error, should this level of precision be required?	As per the RFP ToR.
67	General Section 1	/ We would like to know whether there is scope for reconsideration of the consortium formation requirements for this particular RFP, given the nature of the assignment.	Please refer corrigendum
68	EMD / GeM Guidelines	As a Government institution, AJNIFM seeks confirmation whether submission of a Bid Security Declaration would be acceptable in lieu of EMD for this tender.	Yes
69	EMD Annexure IV	/ Please confirm the acceptable mode of payment for the EMD. Demand Draft has been suggested as the preferred mode.	Demand Draft is an acceptable mode of submission of EMD, subject to the applicable GeM provisions and the requirements specified in the bid.
70	Page No. 21	Please clarify the split between PM-SETU Government ITIs (treatment), non-PM-SETU Government ITIs (comparison group 1) and Private ITIs (comparison group 2), including the State-wise split, and whether Private ITIs are over and above the 650 Government ITIs.	The universe across the 12 Programme States comprises 2,120 Government ITIs and 7,140 Private ITIs.
71	Section 4 – ToR, Clause VIII – Cost Adjustment Mechanism Page No. 29	As mentioned in the ToR, the inclusion of ITIs under PM-SETU is expanding. Please clarify the mechanism for contract price adjustment if ITI coverage changes.	Please refer to Section 3A of RFP
72	Section 4 – ToR, Methodology / Qualitative Enquiry Page No. 34	Please clarify whether DGT has prescribed any minimum number of qualitative interviews.	The selected agency may undertake such qualitative interviews.
73	Section 4 – ToR, Reporting / Deliverables Page No. 34	Please clarify the reporting requirement, frequency and dashboard requirement.	This will be discussed in the inception phase.
74	General Query / Financial Proposal	Since it has been clarified that the technical proposal is for the baseline alone, does this mean the sample size for mid-term and end-line will be the same? Please confirm if only the technical and financial proposal pertaining to baseline is to be provided in this	The Midline and Endline figures in FIN-3 are indicative and are sought for price discovery. They shall not form part of the financial evaluation under the present procurement,

75	General Query / Support by MSDE, NPMU & SPMUs	Submission: We understand that DGT will be sharing the relevant trainee/trainer/graduate databases and employer contact databases with the selected agency. Please confirm.	Required details will be shared with the selected agency.
76	General Query / Reference Documents	We would request the DGT team to share the PM-SETU Survey Framework, draft questionnaires and project implementation documents.	Selected agency shall propose framework, draft questionnaires for survey.
77	General Query – Bid Submission Timeline	Looking at the rigor required to prepare an effective proposal, we request that post pre-bid clarification at least 10 working days should be given for bid submission.	Please refer corrigendum
78	Section 4 – ToR, Clause VIII – Cost Adjustment Mechanism for Variation in State Coverage	The RFP refers to an approved per-PSU/ITI unit cost, but the Financial Proposal/BOQ does not provide a provision to quote this unit cost. Kindly clarify where bidders should indicate the per-PSU/ITI unit cost for subsequent cost adjustments. If required, kindly provide the appropriate format/BOQ line item for quoting the unit cost.	The Financial Proposal shall be submitted as per the prescribed Form FIN-1, wherein the bidder is required to quote a single lump-sum price for the complete assignment, inclusive of all applicable costs and GST.
79	Section 4 – ToR, Section IV: Scope, Coverage and Approach, Point 1	Kindly clarify the basis for proportionate allocation of the sample across States, including whether allocation is to be undertaken separately for Government and Private ITIs using their respective State-level sampling frames, or whether a common/overall ITI universe across the 12 States is to be considered.	A state-representative sample will be required for the baseline survey. Sample allocation shall be undertaken separately for Government and Private ITIs.
80	Section 4 – ToR, Section IV: Scope, Coverage and Approach, Point 2	The RFP does not specify the minimum number of ITIs to be covered per State. Kindly clarify the prescribed minimum number of ITIs for each State and, if applicable, separately for Government and Private ITIs.	The selected agency shall propose a sample size and sampling design for all four study categories and determine the required number of PSUs/ITIs to achieve the desired sample size and ensure adequate representation of Government and Private ITIs.
81	Section 4 – ToR, Section IV: Scope, Coverage and Approach, Points 1–2; FORM FIN-2	The State-wise number of ITIs to be covered is a key cost determinant, but the RFP does not provide the State-wise ITI universe/enrolment figures or expected number of ITIs to be sampled. Kindly clarify whether DGT will provide the State-wise sampling frame and/or indicative State-wise number of ITIs prior to submission of the financial	The universe across the 12 Programme States comprises 2,120 Government ITIs and 7,140 Private ITIs. The state-wise ITI details are annexed. The agencies are expected to bid basis this information. Once an agency is selected, the final details will be shared and sampling plan will be accordingly approved.

		proposal. Alternatively, clarify the basis for determining State-wise ITI coverage and costs.	
82	Section 4, Clause III – Summary of the Four Surveys, Graduate Tracer Survey; Clause IV, Point 3	Kindly clarify whether census-based tracking of the graduate cohort is required, or whether the survey is to be conducted with a minimum of 22 graduate interviews per selected ITI.	For graduates, the sample will be 22 graduate interviews per selected ITI.
83	Section 3 – Eligibility, Qualification and Evaluation Criteria, Part B: Technical Evaluation Criteria, Sr. No. D – Technical Presentation	Kindly clarify whether the Technical Presentation is required to be submitted/uploaded along with the proposal. If yes, specify the prescribed format, mode/place of submission/upload, file format, and any template or page/slide limit.	No
84	Section 4 – ToR, Clause IX – Provision for Midline and Endline Evaluation	Kindly clarify whether the stated estimated bid value of Rs. 4 crore pertains only to the Baseline Survey, or whether it is intended to cover the Baseline, Midline and Endline Surveys.	The estimated cost is for Baseline Survey.
85	Section 3 – Eligibility / Similar Experience and Operational Experience Criteria	The bidder requests that the five-year look-back period for similar assignments be increased to 15 years, noting that the high assignment-value thresholds may restrict participation of otherwise capable bidders.	The provisions of the RFP shall remain intact.
86	Section 3 – Eligibility / Similar Experience	The bidder requests addition of a fourth qualification route: five similar assignments of value not less than ₹30 lakh each, to broaden participation while recognizing that evaluation/impact assessment mandates may have lower contract values despite large-scale field data collection.	As per RFP provision
87	Section 3 – Eligibility / Similar Experience	Kindly clarify whether an assignment executed outside India for a foreign government client or multilateral agency would be considered eligible.	Assignment executed/executing in India shall be considered only
88	Section 3 – Eligibility / Similar Experience	Kindly clarify whether a large-scale survey carried out in the petroleum retail sector involving questions related to consumer behaviour	No

		would be considered eligible.	
89	Section 3 – Eligibility / Similar Experience	Kindly clarify whether an assignment in the food processing sector involving a survey of farmers would be considered eligible.	No
90	Section 3 – Operational Experience / Social Sector	Kindly clarify whether skills development is considered a “social sector” for the purpose of this eligibility requirement.	Yes
91	Proposal Submission Timeline	Kindly consider extending the proposal submission deadline by at least three weeks, up to 25 September 2026, to enable submission of a comprehensive proposal.	Please refer Corrigendum
92		It is requested that registered MSMEs having at least 3 years of experience in conducting similar evaluation studies, baseline studies, surveys etc. across Pan India for Ministries/Departments and PSUs may be exempted from the prescribed experience and turnover criteria.	The provisions of the RFP shall remain intact.
93		Whether large-scale research engagements undertaken for Corporates, Enterprises, Industry Associations and Private Sector Organizations, involving equivalent or greater complexity, scale, sample size, multi-state coverage, analytics and reporting requirements, will be considered for eligibility and technical evaluation?	No
94		Whether similar assignments undertaken for private-sector clients will be considered for scoring and whether relevant corporate/enterprise assignments of comparable scale and complexity may be counted towards technical evaluation marks?	No
95		Whether cumulative value of related work orders under a common master contract/framework agreement, annual rate contracts, project phases, amendments and repeat assignments from the same client may be considered? It is also requested that project scale may be demonstrated through sample size, geographic coverage, number of States, respondent coverage and survey complexity where the individual	Where multiple work orders are issued under a common master/framework agreement and are demonstrably part of the same integrated assignment with substantially the same scope, the cumulative value of such related work orders shall be considered, subject to submission of satisfactory documentary evidence and verification by the Client. The prescribed financial thresholds for similar

		contract value is lower.	assignments shall continue to apply.
96		Whether deployment of field investigators, freelancers, empanelled surveyors and specialized survey agencies under the direct supervision and quality control of the lead Agency is permissible?	No
97		Whether agencies may leverage existing regional partner networks and state-level field resources while retaining overall project ownership and accountability, with details of proposed agencies/freelancers provided upfront?	No
98		Whether timeline extensions will be considered where delays in approvals, sample finalization, respondent access or government coordination are attributable to external stakeholders such as MSDE, NPMU, SPMUs and MDBs?	Please refer clause 11 of draft contract agreement
99		Kindly clarify the expected total sample size of employers, methodology for employer identification and whether employer records will be provided by MSDE/NPMU/ITI network. It is requested that indicative state-wise and national employer sample targets and responsibility for respondent sourcing be provided	The detailed sampling methodology and final sample distribution shall be finalized during the Design Phase in consultation with the Client/MDBs.
100		Whether reductions in achieved sample due to respondent non-response, incorrect contact details or inaccessible respondents will be treated as scope reductions where replacement respondents are unavailable? Kindly clarify sample substitution protocols and commercial implications.	The selected agency is expected to factor in an appropriate non-response buffer in the initial sample size to ensure achievement of the required sample..
101		It is requested that LD of 0.5% per week, subject to 10% of Contract Value, be applicable only for delays solely attributable to the Agency and that delays caused by MSDE, NPMU, SPMUs, ITIs, employers, trainee availability, database quality issues or Force Majeure be excluded.	Please refer clause 11 of draft contract agreement
102		It is requested that objective criteria and governance mechanisms be specified for determining quality deficiencies and that penalties be imposed only after written notice, opportunity to cure and jointly	Please refer clause 11 of draft contract

	documented deficiencies.	agreement
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With reference to Sr. No 2: List of ITIs

State wise Govt. ITIs, 2025

State	No. of Govt. ITIs	Enrollment in Govt. ITIs, 2025
ANDHRA PRADESH	85	15367
ASSAM	31	4249
GUJARAT	273	75728
HARYANA	159	38200
KARNATAKA	274	29861
MAHARASHTRA	422	90139
ODISHA	73	24167
RAJASTHAN	182	25412
TAMIL NADU	93	26905
TELANGANA	66	19107
UTTAR PRADESH	294	109773
WEST BENGAL	168	28318
Total	2120	487226

State wise Private ITIs, 2025

Row Labels	No. of PVT-ITIs	Enrollment in Private ITIs, 2025
Andhra Pradesh	431	38475
Assam	16	1387
Gujarat	174	14496
Haryana	185	14763
Karnataka	928	36898
Maharashtra	575	39425
Odisha	387	36710
Rajasthan	911	60759
Tamil Nadu	280	10711
Telangana	224	21169
Uttar Pradesh	2892	273272
West Bengal	137	13812
Total	7140	561877

CORRIGENDUM No-1

RFQ No.: MSDE/PM-SETU/RFP/02/ 2026-27dated 10.08.2026

With reference to the above Request for Proposal (RFP) For Selection of Agency for Baseline Survey under PM-SETU Component I Upgradation of ITIs, the following amendments/corrigenda are hereby issued:

Sr. No.	Reference in RFQ	Existing Provision	Amendment / Revised Provision
1	Section 1: Letter of Invitation Sr.No. 5	Consortium or Joint Venture participation shall not be permitted under this RFP.	Joint Ventures or Consortiums are permitted to submit a proposal for this assignment. A Joint Venture/Consortium shall comprise a maximum of two members, including the Lead Member. A Declaration regarding Joint Venture/Consortium shall be submitted at the time of bidding in the prescribed format attached to this Corrigendum. No Changes in JV/Consortium shall be allowed after bid submission. No Sub contracting is allowed
2	Section 3 – Part B, Sr. No. 3,4	Supporting document- Work Orders + Completion Certificates / Client Certificates	Supporting document- For completed projects, the Applicant shall submit the Work Order/Agreement along with the Completion Certificate/Client Certificate. In the absence of a Completion Certificate/Client Certificate, a CA Certificate may be submitted. For ongoing projects (minimum 50% completed), the Applicant shall submit the Work Order / Agreement along with documentary evidence of the work completed as on the Proposal Submission Date. In the absence of a Client Progress Certificate, a CA Certificate may be submitted. The CA Certificate shall specify the assignment name/title, contract value, invoices raised, amount received/realised and relevant completion percentage.

Note

All other terms, conditions, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria and provisions of the RFP shall remain unchanged.

Deputy Director -Schemes

Directorate General of Training (DGT)

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Government of India

DECLARATION FOR JOINT BIDDING / JOINT VENTURE / CONSORTIUM
(To be submitted on the Letterhead of the Lead Member)

Date: _____
RFP Reference No.: _____

To

The Directorate General of Training (DGT)
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Government of India

Subject: Declaration regarding Joint Venture / Consortium for the proposal for [Name of Assignment]

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, the undersigned Members of the Joint Venture / Consortium, hereby submit our proposal for the above-mentioned assignment in response to RFP No. _____ dated _____.

We hereby declare and confirm the following:

1. Constitution of the Joint Venture / Consortium

1.1 We have formed a Joint Venture / Consortium solely for the purpose of submitting the proposal and, if selected, for execution of the assignment under the above-mentioned RFP.

1.2 The Joint Venture / Consortium shall comprise a maximum of two (2) members, including the Lead Member.

The Members of the Joint Venture / Consortium are:

Sr. No.	Member	Details
1	Lead Member: [Name of Organisation]	Incorporated/registered under the applicable laws of India, having its registered office at [Address]
2	Member: [Name of Organisation]	Incorporated/registered under the applicable laws of India, having its registered office at [Address]

2. Lead Member Authorization

2.1 We hereby designate [Name of Lead Member] as the Lead Member of the Joint Venture / Consortium.

2.2 The Lead Member is authorized to act on behalf of all Members in all matters relating to the proposal and, if selected, the Contract/Agreement, including but not limited to:

- a. signing and submitting the proposal and all related documents;
- b. receiving and responding to communications, clarifications and instructions from the Authority;
- c. making representations, undertakings and commitments on behalf of the Joint Venture / Consortium; and
- d. coordinating and representing the Joint Venture / Consortium in matters relating to execution of the assignment.

3. Roles and Responsibilities of Members

The Members agree to undertake the following roles and responsibilities:

Sr. No.	Member Name	Role	Key Responsibilities
1	Lead Member	Lead Member	[To be specified by the Applicant]
2	Member	Consortium/JV Member	[To be specified by the Applicant]

3.1 The Members confirm that the roles and responsibilities indicated above shall be binding on the respective Members for the purpose of execution of the assignment.

3.2 The Members shall provide the personnel, expertise, resources and other inputs as required for fulfilling their respective responsibilities under the RFP and the Contract/Agreement.

4. Joint and Several Liability

4.1 We acknowledge and agree that all Members of the Joint Venture / Consortium shall be jointly and severally liable to the Authority for the full and satisfactory performance of the Contract/Agreement in accordance with its terms and conditions.

4.2 Such joint and several liability shall not be limited or affected by any internal arrangement, allocation of responsibilities or agreement between the Members.

4.3 The Members shall remain jointly and severally responsible to the Authority for all obligations arising under the Contract/Agreement.

5. Continuity and Change in Constitution

5.1 The composition of the Joint Venture / Consortium shall not be altered after submission of the proposal except with the prior written consent of the Authority.

5.2 The Joint Venture / Consortium shall not be dissolved during the period of execution of the assignment without the prior written consent of the Authority.

5.3 Any change in the constitution of the Joint Venture / Consortium shall be subject to the provisions of the RFP and the prior approval of the Authority.

6. Acceptance of RFP Terms

6.1 We confirm that we have carefully read and understood the RFP, including all amendments/corrigenda issued thereto, and agree to comply with all applicable terms and conditions.

6.2 Each Member confirms that the information and documents submitted by it in support of the proposal are true and correct to the best of its knowledge and belief.

6.3 We understand that any misrepresentation, suppression of material information or breach of this Declaration may result in rejection of the proposal and/or such other action as may be permissible under the RFP and applicable provisions of the Contract/Agreement.

7. Binding Nature of Declaration

7.1 This Declaration shall be binding upon all Members of the Joint Venture / Consortium.

7.2 We undertake that, if selected, the Joint Venture / Consortium shall execute the Contract/Agreement and perform the assignment in accordance with the terms and conditions of the RFP.

We submit this Declaration as a true statement of our intent, commitment and capability to jointly execute the assignment in accordance with the RFP.

For and on behalf of the Members of the Joint Venture / Consortium

Authorized Signatory – Lead Member

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

Seal & Address: _____

Signature: _____

Authorized Signatory – Member

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

Seal & Address: _____

Signature: _____