

# Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Selection of Consulting Services

To set up and strengthen the National Assessment Centre

## PARAKH

Performance Assessment, Review and  
Analysis of Knowledge for  
Holistic Development

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



एन सी ई आर टी  
NCERT

**Educational Survey Division**

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110016



Reference Number: 31-6/PARAKH/ESD/2022-23/3169 /12082022

**Request  
for  
Expression of Interest (EoI)  
for  
Selection of Consulting Services:**

To set up and strengthen the National Assessment Centre  
**Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic  
Development (PARAKH)**

**Country: INDIA**

**Project: Setting up and strengthening the capacity of the National Assessment  
Centre - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for  
Holistic Development (PARAKH)**

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



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NCERT

**Educational Survey Division  
National Council of Educational Research and Training  
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110016**

**AUGUST 2022**



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## Common abbreviations and defined terms

This section explains the common abbreviations and defined terms that are used in this Expression of Interest (EoI). Defined terms are written using capital letters.

Abbreviation / term	Full terminology / definition
BOAs	Boards of Assessment. There are more than 40 boards of assessment in the country that operates at international, national and sub-national (state) level.
Client	National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi the organization invites Expression of Interest.
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease of 2019
CPPP	Central Public Procurement Portal is e-procurement portal in India.
CV	Curriculum Vitae
CWSN	Children with Special Needs
DIET	District Institute of Educational Training. It is district-level academic authority and nodal institutions guiding all schools education and teacher education efforts in the district.
Divyang	Used for Children with Special Needs
EoI	Expression of Interest
ESD	Educational Survey Division
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
International consulting agencies/bidders	Firms that have grounding in working in educational learning assessments as per global standards.
IPF	Investment Project Financing
IRT	Item response theory
MoE	Ministry of Education
NAS	National Achievement Survey. They are conducted periodically by the Ministry of Education/NCERT to know the health of the education system.
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training is an organization of the Ministry of Education working in the area of school education and teacher education. Referred to as client in the document.
NEP	National Educational Policy-2020
PARAKH	Stands for Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development is National Assessment Center recommended in National Educational Policy -2020. It is going to be a standard-setting body to achieve the objectives of establishing norms, benchmarks and recommendations for students assessment and evaluation to promote and enhance learning.
PIRLS	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study
PISA	Program for International Student Assessment
QCBS	Quality and Cost-Based Selection Evaluation is based on the cost committed by the bidder and the technical qualification of the bidder.
RFP	Request for Proposal
SAS	State Achievement Survey

SBA	School-Based Assessment
SCERT	State Council of Educational Research and Training
SIE	State Institute of Education
SLAS	State learning Achievement Survey
STARS	Strengthening Teaching Learning and Results for States. It is a project run by the Ministry of Education and funded by the World Bank.
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
TOR	Terms of Reference
WB	World Bank

## 1. Text of the advertisement



F.No 31-6/PARAKH/ESD/2022-23

**National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**

An autonomous organization under the

**Ministry of Education (MoE) Department of School Educational and Literacy (DoSEL)**  
New Delhi-110016 (India)

### Invitation for Expression of Interest for PARAKH

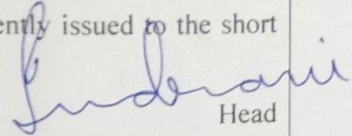
National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education (MoE) invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from **international consulting agencies** for Setting up and Strengthening the Capacity of the National Assessment Centre - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (*PARAKH*).

The EoI document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objectives, the scope of work and evaluation criteria, mode of fees payment, etc. can be downloaded from the website [www.ncert.nic.in](http://www.ncert.nic.in) or [www.education.gov.in](http://www.education.gov.in)

Further details, if any, may be obtained from Head, Educational Survey Division, Room Number 18, Fourth Floor, Zakir Hussain Khand, NCERT Sri Aurobindo Marg, Delhi-110016 during working hours (0900 to 1730 hours IST).

Last date for submission of EoI is **02/09/2022 dd/mm/yyyy (Friday)** up to **1200 hours (IST)**. A non-refundable fee of US \$ 250 by way of online transfer in the account number **10137881331** name of the account holder **Secretary**, Name of the Bank **State Bank of India, NCERT** New Delhi 110016, IFSC Code **SBIN0001690**, may be remitted and provide details while submitting EoI for Setting up and Strengthening the Capacity of the National Assessment Centre - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (*PARAKH*). In case, the agency is India based then the amount will be deposited in Indian rupee.

Applicants meeting the qualification criteria may be invited for online presentation short-listed before the selection committee of NCERT. Bid Document will be subsequently issued to the short listed applicants only.

  
Head  
Educational Survey Division  
NCERT

*Note: NCERT or any of its designates reserves the right to cancel this request for EoI and/or invite afresh with or without amendments, without liability or any obligation for such request for EoI and without assigning any reason. Information provided at this stage is indicative and NCERT reserves the right to amend/add further details in the EoI.*

## 2. Letter of invitation



F.No 31-6/PARAKH/ESD/2022-23

**National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**

An autonomous organization under the

**Ministry of Education (MoE) Department of School Educational and Literacy (DoSEL)**

**New Delhi-110016 (India)**

**www.ncert.nic.in**  
**esdhead.ncert@gov.in**  
**Date: 12/08/2022**  
**dd/mm/yyyy**

Dear Sir/Madam,

National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education (MoE) invites sealed Expression of Interest (EoI) from **international consulting agencies** for Setting up and Strengthening the Capacity of the National Assessment Centre - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (*PARAKH*).

The EoI document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective, the scope of work method of evaluation and mode of fees payment etc. can be downloaded from NCERT website [www.ncert.nic.in](http://www.ncert.nic.in) and [www.education.gov.in](http://www.education.gov.in)

The Expression of Interest will **only be accepted electronically** through the e-Procurement Portal Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP). Bidders are advised to follow the instructions provided in the 'Instructions to the Tenderer for the e-submission of the bids online through the CPPP for e-Procurement at <https://etender.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Further information can be obtained at the address given below.

**Head**

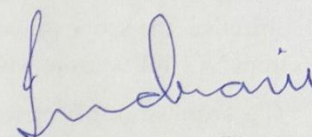
Educational Survey Division,  
Room Number 18, Fourth Floor,  
Zakir Hussain Khand, NCERT,  
Sri Aurobindo Marg,  
New Delhi-110016  
India

Queries if any may be referred through email to the Head Educational Survey Division, NCERT above-mentioned address. or e-mail at [esdhead.ncert@gov.in](mailto:esdhead.ncert@gov.in)

**Important dates:**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Critical Dates</b>	<b>Date (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	<b>Time (IST)</b>
1.	Publishing date	12/08/2022 (Friday)	1200 hours
2.	Document download start date	12/08/2022 (Friday)	1200 hours
3.	Document download end date	02/09/2022 (Friday)	1200 hours
4.	Bid submission start date	12/09/2022 (Monday)	1000 hours
5.	Bid submission end date	16/09/2022 (Friday)	1700 hours
6.	Bid opening date	23/09/2022 (Friday)	1500 hours
7.	Pre-bid meeting	Tenth day from the date of publishing date of bid	1500 hours

Yours sincerely,



**Head**  
Educational Survey Division  
NCERT

**Encl:** EoI document

# 1. Request for Expressions of Interest (consulting services–firms selection)

## Background and context

National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is to be set up as a standard-setting body under the Ministry of Education (MoE) that fulfills the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment along with other tasks as mandated by Para 4.41 of NEP -2020.

Accordingly, PARAKH is proposed to be set up as a constituent unit of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Education (MoE) Department of School Education and Literacy ((DoSEL). The Educational Survey Division (ESD) will act as a nidus for carrying out activities of PARAKH.

The key mandate for PARAKH will be to provide technical support for learning assessments, strengthen the National Achievement Survey, build capacity to improve the assessment ecosystem, monitor and report on learning outcomes in the country, guide examination boards, and create partnerships and networks. PARAKH will be established as a technical organization with a knowledge of assessment standards and skills, as well as a robust understanding of policymaking and implementation. It will be a thought leader in the field of learning assessment and be the home of assessment experts who have a deep understanding of education and how children learn. Its team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally. PARAKH will eventually become the national single-window source for all assessment related information and expertise, with a mandate to support learning assessment in all forms, both nationally and where applicable, internationally.

It is expected that PARAKH will be closely working with all the associated organizations like Boards of Assessment (BoAs), SCERTs/SIEs/ States and UTs and international organizations/agencies working in the area of assessment and evaluation.

## Aims and objectives:

### 3.1 The twin objectives of the PARAKH are stated as under:

- i. **Monitoring the health of the system and achievement of learning outcomes:** Undertaking the sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS), guiding the State Achievement Survey (SAS), and monitoring achievement of learning outcomes in the country.
- ii. **Improving Assessment and Setting Standards:** Setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized

school boards of India, encouraging and helping school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century advising school boards regarding new assessment patterns and latest researches, promoting collaboration between school boards, and for ensuring equivalence of academic standards among learners across all school boards.

The objective of hiring the services of a consulting agency is to seek technical expertise of international standards for improving learning assessments in the country and to build the capacity of various stakeholders in the field of learning assessment.

### **Processing fees of EoI:**

A non-refundable processing fees for US \$250 through online payment in the account number 10137881331, name of the account holder **Secretary**, Name of the Bank **State Bank of India, NCERT New Delh- 110016, IFSC Code SBIN0001690** , may be remitted and provide details while submitting “EoI for Setting up and Strengthening the Capacity of the National Assessment Centre - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (*PARAKH*). Bids received without or with inadequate EoI processing fees shall be liable to get rejected.

### **Deadline for submission of proposal:**

In exceptional circumstances and at its discretion, NCERT may extend the deadline for submission of proposals by issuing an amendment to be made available on the NCERT website, in which case all rights and obligations of NCERT and the bidders previously subject to the original deadline will thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.

### **Validity of offer:**

The offer for EoI as per this document shall be valid for a period of three (3) months initially which may be extended further if required by NCERT.

### **Terms of reference:**

The detailed terms of reference are enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

### **Instructions to consultants**

The Expression of Interest is to be submitted in the manner prescribed below:

- i. Applicant’s Expression of Interest as per Format-1.
- ii. Organizational Contact Details as per Format-2.
- iii. Experience of the organization/agency as per Format-3.
- iv. List of three (03) experts/ consultants on payroll as per Format-4.
- v. Financial strength of the company as per Format-5.
- vi. Additional information as per Format-6.
- vii. Declaration as per Format-7.

EoI Documents have been hosted on the website [www.ncert.nic.in](http://www.ncert.nic.in) and [www.education.gov.in](http://www.education.gov.in) may be downloaded from the website.

The bidders are expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms and other details in the EoI document carefully. Failure to furnish complete information as mentioned in the EoI document or submission of a proposal not substantially responsive to the EoI documents in every respect will be at the bidder's risk and may result in rejection of the proposal.

### **Qualification criteria**

The shortlisting criteria are:

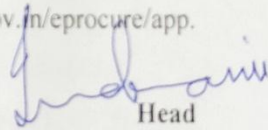
- (i) General Experience of Consulting Agency
- (ii) Specific Experience of Consulting Agency in a Similar Role
  - (a) The Consulting Agency should have **international experience for building the capacity of national or sub-national assessment centres** that includes setting up of the assessment center; identification and selection of centre staff; strengthening staff capacity through long-term or short-term training programs; and building staff capacity to design, develop, manage, and conduct large-scale and other standardized assessments, provide data analysis and evidence-based insights, and support improvement in student learning outcomes through evidence-based initiatives and policy reforms.
  - (b) The Consulting Agency ideally should have experience with the design and conduct of standardized assessment programs for school, higher, and vocational education as well as non-standardized assessment.
  - (c) The Consulting Agency will provide a list of contracts implemented in the last five years (i.e. financial years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21) currently under implementation, with details of the assignments, values, contact details (names, email and mobile numbers) of the respective Clients, and Client's Certificates of satisfactory performance, along with their Expression of Interest (EoI).
  - (d) The Consulting Agency shall confirm that it has no objection to the Client (NCERT) contacting previous/existing Clients of the Consulting Agency.
- (iii) Financial Soundness of the Consulting Agency

The Consulting Agency will provide evidence in the form of the last five years (i.e., 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21) audited balance sheets/financial reports.
- (iv) Number of full-time experts on the Consulting Agency's payroll whose experience and qualifications are similar to the Key Experts listed in Section 5 of the Terms of Reference.

- (v) Consulting Agency shall submit the various documents mentioned above with the EoI and also documents relating to the incorporation of the business entity, in support of the experience and expertise claimed by them.
- (vi) While evaluating the EoI, the Client will assign a higher score for a greater number of years in the core business, experience in implementing similar projects, high-value projects of a comparable nature and complexity, and high turnover/revenues from similar consulting assignments, financial soundness, technical and managerial capability, and a larger number of full-time experts on the Consulting Agency's payroll whose experience and qualifications are similar to those of Key Experts.
- (vii) Consulting Agency are informed that the Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
- (viii) A Consulting Agency may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
- (ix) A Consulting Agency will be finally selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method as set out in the Procurement Regulations.

#### Mode of submission of EoI

The Expression of Interest will **only** be accepted electronically through the e-Procurement Portal of the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP). Bidders are advised to follow in instructions provided in the 'Instructions to the Tenderer for the e-submission of the bids online through the CPPP for e-Procurement at <https://etender.gov.in/e procure/app>. Further information can be obtained at the address given below.



Head

Educational Survey Division,  
Room Number 18, Fourth Floor,  
Zakir Hussain Khand, NCERT,  
Sri Aurobindo Marg,  
New Delhi-110016  
INDIA

**Email:** [esdhead.ncert@gov.in](mailto:esdhead.ncert@gov.in)

Following will be the minimum pre-qualification criteria. Each eligible Consulting Agency should possess all the following pre-qualification criteria. Responses not meeting the minimum pre-qualification criteria will be rejected and will not be evaluated.

The selection process will involve two stages. The first stage called an 'Expression of Interest' will be used to shortlist a set of consulting agencies who are prima-facie interested, eligible and capable to deliver the services. The second stage called a 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) will be used to make final selection.

### **Evaluation criteria and method of evaluation:**

- (i) Screening of EoIs shall be carried out as per eligibility conditions mentioned in this document and based on verification of testimonials submitted.
- (ii) EoI will be evaluated for short listing inter alia based on their past experience of handling similar type of project, strength of their human resources, financial strength of firm and presentation / proposal to the selection committee whose decision will be final.
- (iii) Agencies who qualify as per the eligibility conditions will be provided a brief about the proposed National Assessment Center (PARAKH). The agencies may be required to make a presentation, if required, to a selection committee show-casing their proposals.
- (iv) Short-listed agencies will be issued Bid Documents and asked to submit their price proposal.
- (v) Bidders must ensure that their Bid response is submitted as per the formats attached with this document. Special comments on the objectives and scope of the service projected in the enquiry may also be submitted along with the offer.

### **Conflict of interest:**

The attention of interested Consulting Agency is also drawn to Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

### **Condition under which EoI is issued:**

The EoI is not an offer and is issued with no commitment. NCERT reserves the right to withdraw EoI and or vary any part thereof at any stage. NCERT further reserves the right to disqualify any bidder, should it be so necessary at any stage. (<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/178331533065871195-0290022020/original/ProcurementRegulations.pdf>)

### **last date of submission of EoI:**

The last date of submission of EoI is **02/09/2022 dd/mm/yyyy (1200 hours IST.)**

Bid Opening Date & Time is **23/09/2022 dd/mm/yyyy (1500 hours IST.)**

## 2. Formats for submission:

### Format – 1 : Applicant’s Expression of Interest

To,

The Head

Educational Survey Division

NCERT, New Delhi-110016

Subject: Submission of Expression of Interest for Setting up and Strengthening the Capacity of the National Assessment Centre - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (*PARAKH*)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

In response to the Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EoI) published on xx.xx.xxxx for the above purpose, we would like to express interest to carry out the above proposed task. Applicable processing fees of US \$ 250 is remitted online. A copy of the payment receipt is enclosed. As instructed, the following documents were submitted while submitting EoI on the CPP Portal.

1. Organizational Details (Format-2)
2. Experience in related fields (Format-3)
3. List of experts / Consulting Agency on payroll (Format-4)
4. Financial strength of the organization/agency (Format-5)
5. Additional information (Format-6)
6. Declaration (Format-7)

Encl.: As above

Your sincerely

Signature of the applicant

[Full name of applicant]

Stamp/Office Seal

Date: .../.../2022

**Note:** This is to be furnished on the letter head of the organization/agency.

## Format – 2: Organizational/agency contact details

S. No	Organizational/agency contact details	
1	Name of the agency	
2	Main areas of work	
3	Type of agency	
4	Whether the agency has been blacklisted by any organization/country. If yes, details thereof.	
5	Address of registered office with telephone number and email address:	
6	Address of offices in India (if any).	
7	Contact Person with telephone no. & e-mail address	

Encl.:

1. Copy of certificate of incorporation
2. Copy of Article of Association in respect of 3 above
3. Undertaking in respect of 4 above

Signature of the applicant

[Full name of applicant]

Stamp/Office Seal

Date:../.../2022

### Format – 3: Experience in Related Fields

Overview of the past experience of the agency in all aspects related to Various domains of Assessment

S. No	Items	Number of Assignments during last 5years	Order Value of each assignment in US \$ (Enclose copy of each order)	Mention the name of Client/ Organization (Enclosed completion certificates)
3.1	Experience of assignments of similar nature			
3.2	Experience in carrying out similar assignments in Different organizations/ regions/countries			
3.3	Experience in carrying out Similar assignments in India			
<p>Decision of Evaluating Committee in ascertaining “similar nature” and “similar assignment” will be final.</p> <p>Signature of the applicant (Full name of applicant)</p> <p>Stamp &amp; Date</p>				

**Format - 4: List of experts (As per ToR) on payroll**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Relevant Experience with Project details</b>
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
<p>Signature of the applicant (Full name of applicant) Stamp &amp; Date</p>				

**Format – 5: Financial Strength of the organization/agency**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Overall annualturnover (in US \$.)</b>	<b>Whether profitable Yes/No</b>	<b>Annual net profit in (US \$)</b>
1	2016-17			
2	2017-18			
3	2018-19			
4	2019-20			
5	2020-21			

Note: In the event of consulting services rendered outside India and details thereof along with relevant proof in support of your claim.

Signature of the applicant

(Full name of applicant)

Stamp & Date

## Format – 6: Additional Information

1. List all enclosures related to the previous sections.

S.NO	Description	No. of pages

2. Additional information to support the eligibility as per Section 7 (Not more than 2 pages).

Signature of the applicant

(Full name of applicant)

Stamp & Date

## Format -7: Declaration

We hereby confirm that we are interested in competing for the Consulting Service for setting up and Strengthening the Capacity of the National Assessment Centre - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (*PARAKH*)

All the information provided herewith is genuine and accurate.

Authorized Person's Signature.

Name and Designation:

Date of Signature:

Note: The declaration is to be furnished on the letter head of the organization/agency.

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

Country: India

**1.0 Title of the Project:** Setting up and Strengthening the capacity of the National Assessment Center– “Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development” (PARAKH).

Assignment Title: Selection of an agency for Setting up and Strengthening Capacity of the National Assessment Center - Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (*PARAKH*).

**1.1** The consulting services (“the Services”) for which the Expression of Interest (EoI) is being requested is for Setting up and Strengthening the National Assessment Center – “Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development” (*PARAKH*) – which will be set up as a constituent body of NCERT to lead student assessment work in India.

**1.2** The input is in terms of key experts and deliverables, based on the Terms of Reference (TOR), and the expected start date of the assignment is **01/10/2022** with an expected implementation period of **three (3) years. The contract will be renewed every year based on the performance of the consulting agency.**

**1.3** The NCERT hereby referred to as (“Client”) now invites eligible consulting firms hereby referred to as (“Consulting Agency”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consulting Agency should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications, relevant experience, and expertise to perform the services.

**2.0 Objectives:** The objective of hiring the services of a consulting agency is to seek technical expertise of international standards for improving learning assessments in the country and to build the capacity of various stakeholders in learning assessment. The broad objectives are:

- i. to provide academic and technical support to the national level core team of PARAKH in the planning and implementation of several projects for qualitative improvement of learning levels in the country.
- ii. to build the capacity of various stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels in conducting learning assessment studies.
- iii. to provide support and strengthen the psychometric analysis and documentation process including the development of reports.

### 3.0 Background

The World Bank's support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) via the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Program focuses on key factors expected to have a transformational impact on service delivery through improved decentralized planning and management. One of the key goals of the STARS Program at the national level is to strengthen learning assessment systems. Specifically, STARS will supply multi-year financing for establishing an independent National Assessment Center - PARAKH – to manage India's participation in international assessments like the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), or Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and to oversee national assessments like the NAS. It also will help build the technical capacity of PARAKH in the following areas:

- i. Developing and implementing technical standards for the design, conduct, analysis, and reporting of a wide variety of large-scale and standardized assessments in Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary;
- ii. Developing and implementing technical standards for the design, conduct, analysis, and reporting of a wide variety of School based assessments in the different stages of school education i.e. the Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary.
- iii. Creating high-quality assessment items aligned with competency-oriented learning standards;
- iv. Developing and implementing assessments of cognitive, non-cognitive, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills;
- v. Sampling design and drawing statistically sound samples;
- vi. Analyzing and reporting on assessment results in technically robust and policy- and pedagogically relevant ways;
- vii. Using classical test theory, item response theory (IRT), equating/linking, standard setting, and other measurement and psychometric techniques;
- viii. Reviewing and using learnings from participation in international assessments to inform national education policy and strengthen institutional arrangements and technical design for national assessments;
- ix. Supporting states in improving their State Learning Achievement Surveys (SLAS) and in developing meaningful assessment strategies;
- x. Setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation enabling the shift towards skill requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- xi. Developing inclusive assessment systems by formulating guidelines and recommending appropriate tools for conducting assessments to ensure equitable

- access and opportunities for all students, especially children with disabilities;
- xii. Advisory support; and enabling coordination between key stakeholders including national and sub-national government bodies and non-state actors;
  - xiii. Promoting research on new/latest assessment approaches and facilitating knowledge exchange on international best practices; and
  - xiv. Supporting stakeholders to implement new ways of assessment using information and communication technology (ICT).
  - xv. Capacity building of Boards of Assessment (BOAs).

#### **4.0 Broad Scope of Work Envisioned**

The Consulting Agency will support the NCERT in the following areas:

*(i) PARAKH Institutional Set Up*

The Consulting Agency will provide timely, practical, and high-quality advice and support to help determine:

- PARAKH overall staffing (with clearly defined roles and responsibilities) and resource needs for the next five to ten years; detailed staffing (with clearly defined roles and responsibilities) and resource needs for the first three years;
- PARAKH capacity building plan for short- (three years) and longer-term (five to ten years), based on a need/gap analysis, work program, staffing, and resources. The three-year plan should include, at a minimum, the areas outlined under (v) below.
- The Consulting Agency shall also support NCERT to hire experts and other necessary staff on a contract basis and deputation in consultation with the Executive Committee of PARAKH for a designated period.
- Establish the overall setup of PARAKH under NCERT as a constituent body

#### **Key Deliverables:**

- i. Introductory report, agreed with the MoE, Executive Committee for PARAKH, NCERT and agency hired, outlining overall goals, organizational structure, work program, staffing, resources, and capacity building needs for PARAKH for first 5-10 years.
- ii. Detailed annual report (each of the first 3 years), reviewing the previous year's progress (for the Year 2 and 3 annual reports) and outlining the goals, work program, staffing, resources, and capacity-building needs for the year ahead.
- iii. Hiring of staff/experts for establishing PARAKH
- iv. Capacity building at the National Level functionaries with international exposures

The Consulting Agency will provide timely, practical, and high-quality advice and support to:

- Create a detailed plan for an improved NAS 2024 exercise that maintains a link to NAS 2021 so that scores can be compared;
- Support in all aspects of the design, administration, analysis, and reporting for NAS 2024,

(iv) School-Based Assessment Activities

- Review all aspects of the design and conduct of the NAS 2017/2018 and 2021 exercises and identify areas for improvement;

(v) Capacity Building of State Functionaries

Build capacity to support states in improving their State Learning Achievement Surveys (SLAS).

(vi) International Assessments

The Consulting Agency will provide timely, practical, and high-quality advice and support to:

- Familiarizing PARAKH team with various international assessment programs (e.g., PISA, PIRLS, TIMSS, other);
- Supporting PARAKH team in identifying the programs having relevance for India in the short to long-term
- Preparing PARAKH team for participation in one or more international assessments, including by doing pilots or other familiarization exercises (e.g., PISA for Schools);
- Review and use findings from participation in international assessments (India's participation or that of other countries) to inform national and/or sub-national education policy and to strengthen institutional arrangements and technical design for national and sub-national/large-scale assessments.

(vi) Other Assessment Activities

The Consulting Agency will provide timely, practical, and high-quality advice and support to:

- Familiarize the PARAKH team with a variety of vocational education assessments, methods, and approaches;
- Familiarize the PARAKH team with a variety of higher education assessments, methods, and approaches;
- Support the PARAKH team in capacity building of states, SCERTs, and DIETs in School Based Assessment (SBA), including project-based assessment, home-based assessments, and assessment of CWSN;

- Support the PARAKH team to incorporate international evidence to strengthen assessment systems in India to meet COVID 19 and other pandemic situations necessitating remote assessment, with an emphasis on technology-based solutions and use of results for remediation and learning recovery.

**Key Deliverables:**

- Completed weeklong workshop and submitted training materials and resources for each topic (non-cognitive assessment, vocational education assessment, higher education assessment).
- Analytical papers and presentations by the PARAKH team on the relevance and strategic use of (i) various non-cognitive assessment instruments, methods, and approaches to India, (ii) various vocational education assessments, methods, and approaches to India, and (iii) various higher education assessments, methods, and approaches to India.
- Brief report on PARAKH team support to States, SCERTs/Assessment Cells, and DIETs for School Based Assessment and other alternative ways of assessments (can be part of the annual report).
- Strategy paper and detailed implementation plan authored by PARAKH team on preparing for remote assessment using tech-based solutions and use of results for remediation and learning recovery in pandemic or other emergency crisis leading to school closures.

(vii) technical capacity of PARAKH Personnel

The Consulting Agency will build the technical capacity of PARAKH personnel in the following areas relevant to national (e.g., NAS), sub-national, international, and other assessment activities:

- Creating assessment frameworks and blueprints;
- Creating high-quality assessment items aligned with competency-oriented learning outcomes relevant to the various assessments and their objectives;
- Sampling design and drawing statistically sound samples;
- Developing standardized procedures and operational manuals for administration of assessments, managing their administration and collection of data on the ground;
- Analyzing and reporting on assessment results in technically robust and policy- and pedagogically relevant ways; developing dashboards and policy insights as per need at various policy decision-making levels;
- Standard setting; developing cut scores and performance levels/descriptors;
- Dissemination of assessment results and policy insights to various stakeholders;

- Developing and implementing assessments of cognitive, non-cognitive, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills;
- Classroom and formative assessments, including training of teachers in how to design and carry out these assessments;
- Developing holistic student report/progress cards for all schooling stages, and supporting their implementation and use;
- Creating online item banks for key subjects and grades, both as an input to large-scale assessment as well as to teaching and learning at the classroom level;
- Using classical test theory, item response theory (IRT), equating/linking, standard setting, and other measurement and psychometric techniques;
- Strengthening research capacities on new/latest assessment patterns and facilitating knowledge exchange on international best practices;
- Identifying and supporting pilots to implement new ways of assessing using education technologies;
- Reviewing and using findings from assessments to inform national education policy; and
- Any other assessment topics requested by the PARAKH team.

5. Contract Period and Reporting Requirements: The contract period will be for three years from the day of initiation of the project. The contract will be renewed on yearly basis based on the key performance indicators.

5.1 During the contract period it is expected that the consulting agency is stationed at NCERT for at least one-third of the time of total contract for providing consultancy in face to face mode for rest of the time the agency may work from remote location but they will have constant networking with the core team of PARAKH.

## 6.0 Timelines

The Consulting Agency would be required to meet the following broad timelines and deliverables:

Proposed Timeline	Deliverables
Within three weeks of the commencement of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductory report, agreed with Executive Committee of PARAKH, outlining overall goals, organizational structure, work program, staffing, resources, and capacity building needs for PARAKH for first</li> </ul>
	5-10 years [2.(i) a]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed report, outlining goals, work program, staffing,</li> </ul>

	resources, and capacity building needs for the year ahead, agreed with MoE and PARAKH team [2. (i) b]
Within 8 weeks of approval from Executive Committee of PARAKH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Program Proposals</li> <li>• Implementation of Program in consultation with core team of PARAKH</li> </ul>
Further deliverables will be specified at the RFP Stage	

## 7.0 Team Composition & Qualification Requirements for the Key Experts

As a minimum, the Consulting Agency's team will comprise the following Key Experts who shall meet the requirements of qualifications and experience tabulated below. The Consulting Agency shall submit CVs of the persons proposed as Key Experts for each Key Position, along with the Technical Proposal, in response to the Request for Proposal (when issued). These CVs will be evaluated only at the time of evaluation of the Technical Proposal. The non-key experts are not required to be submitted at the time of EoI and shall be considered at the time of RFP.

Estimated input of the Key Experts (the man months are the minimum requirement and the Consulting Agency will have to fulfil the requirements as per the TOR in case of additional requirement) follows:

S. No.	Position	Qualification and Experience	Months	Number
1	Program Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-graduate or equivalent in Education, Psychometrics, Machine Learning, Educational Measurement, Learning Assessments, Qualitative and Quantitative Research or related fields</li> <li>• Minimum 10 years experience of working on planning and management of large-scale learning assessments</li> <li>• Experience working on at least three equivalent capacity-building projects</li> </ul>	12	One
2	Education Specialists in Subjects (Mathematics, Languages, Science, Social Science, Socio-Emotional Learning, 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skills)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-Graduate or equivalent in related subject areas</li> <li>• Minimum 7 years' experience of working on learning assessment test item design and capacity building</li> <li>• Experience working on at least three equivalent capacity building projects</li> </ul>	12	One each in the subjects Total Five
S.No.	Position	Qualification and Experience	Months	Number

3.	Senior Psychometricians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctorate Degree in Education</li> <li>• Post-Graduate or equivalent in Education/Education Research/Data Science, or related areas</li> <li>• Minimum 7 years' experience of working on sample design or learning assessment data analysis psychometrics,/report writing</li> <li>• Experience working on at least three equivalent capacity building projects</li> </ul>	12	Two
4.	Junior Psychometricians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-Graduate or equivalent in Education/Education Research/Data Science, or related areas</li> <li>• Minimum 7 years' experience of working on sample design or learning assessment/ psychometrics, data analysis and reports</li> <li>• Experience working on at least three equivalent capacity building projects</li> </ul>	12	Three

### 8.0 Deliverables

In addition to the deliverables listed above, any other report as desired by NCERT or Executive Committee of PARAKH shall be prepared by the Agency. They shall submit a detailed completion report at the end of the project.

**Scoring Matrix for EoI Evaluation**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Max Points</b>								
1	<p>General Experience in Providing Services as per short listing criteria (i) (a)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="336 591 1249 871"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="336 591 1102 647">Number of Years of Experience as on March 31 2021</th> <th data-bbox="1102 591 1249 647">Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 647 1102 703">Less than 1 year</td> <td data-bbox="1102 647 1249 703">NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 703 1102 815">One point for every one year experience ( 1year: 1 point; 2 years: 2 points;.....19 years: 19 points)</td> <td data-bbox="1102 703 1249 815">Max 19</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 815 1102 871">20 years and more</td> <td data-bbox="1102 815 1249 871">20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of Years of Experience as on March 31 2021	Points	Less than 1 year	NIL	One point for every one year experience ( 1year: 1 point; 2 years: 2 points;.....19 years: 19 points)	Max 19	20 years and more	20	20
Number of Years of Experience as on March 31 2021	Points									
Less than 1 year	NIL									
One point for every one year experience ( 1year: 1 point; 2 years: 2 points;.....19 years: 19 points)	Max 19									
20 years and more	20									
2	<p>Experience in Providing Services as per shortlisting criteria (ii) in last 5 years (i.e. Financial Years 2016-17,2017-18, 2018-19 ,2019-20 and 2020-21)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="336 1016 1249 1279"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="336 1016 1102 1117">Number of Assignment with direct relevance to the scope and coverage of the TOR</th> <th data-bbox="1102 1016 1249 1117">Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 1117 1102 1218">Each project carries 1.5 points (up to 19 projects)</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1117 1249 1218">Max 28.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 1218 1102 1279">20 and more number of projects</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1218 1249 1279">30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of Assignment with direct relevance to the scope and coverage of the TOR	Points	Each project carries 1.5 points (up to 19 projects)	Max 28.5	20 and more number of projects	30	30		
Number of Assignment with direct relevance to the scope and coverage of the TOR	Points									
Each project carries 1.5 points (up to 19 projects)	Max 28.5									
20 and more number of projects	30									

3	Annual turnover in each of the last five financial years (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21). Fill appropriate points in respective columns and submit							30	
	Annual Turnover	Points	Financial Years						Total Points Max 30
			2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
	Above US \$ 1000000	6							
	More than US \$ 750000- US \$1,000,000	5							
	More than US \$ 500000 - US \$750000	4							
	More than US \$ 250000 - US \$500000	3							
	Less than US \$ 250000	2							

4	Availability of key Expert as per the TOR			Max Points
				20
	(A) Number of Key Team Leads on Consulting Agency's Pay Roll in reference to Key Position specified in TOR (Max Points 5)		Max Points	
	One point for each team lead up to four ( 1 lead : 1 point; 2: 2 points; 3: 3 points; 4 : 4 points)		Max 4	
	5 and above team leads in the agency		5	
	(B) Number of Psychometricians on Consulting Agency's Pay Roll in reference to Key Position specified in TOR (Max Points 10)		Points	
	Less than 6 psychometricians		1	
	For every additional psychometrician, more than 5 assign one point ( 6 : 2 points; 7: 3 points; 8: 4 points; 9 : 5 points; 10: 6 points; 11: 7 points; 12: 8 points; 13;9 points)		Max 9	
	14 and above		10	
	(C) Number of Key Subject Specialists on Consulting Agency's Pay Roll in reference to Key Position specified in ToR (Max Points 10)			
	Subjects	Number of specialists	(0.2 point for each specialist ) Max <b>one</b> point for five or more than five specialists in the given domain.	Total Points
	Languages			
	Mathematics			
	Science			
	Social Sciences			
	Socio- Emotional Learning, 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skills 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills			
				Total points
Overall Points (Out of 100)				100