



**DIGITAL INDIA BHASHINI DIVISION**

**A Division under Digital India Corporation**

**(A section 8 company)**

**Request For empanelment**

**for**

**HEI's/Standalone Incubators**

**Definitions:**

S. No	Term	Definition
1	HEI's	Higher Educational Institute
2	IP's	Intellectual Property
3	NIRF	National Institute Ranking Framework
4	ARIIA	Atal ranking of institutions on innovation achievements
5	NBA/NAAC	National Board of Accreditation/National assessment and accreditation council
6	TEQIP III	Technical Education Quality Improvement Program
7	CPP	Central public procurement portal

### Important Dates:

S. No	Event/Item	Date/Time
1	Upload of RFE on CPP Portal	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, Thursday
2.	Last date of Receiving queries on email	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, Thursday
3.	Query/Interaction Sessions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Northern Region</li> <li>2. Northwestern Region</li> <li>3. Western Region</li> <li>4. Southern Region</li> <li>5. South Central Region</li> <li>6. Northeast Region</li> </ol>	Timings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Monday (Morning)</li> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Monday (Evening)</li> <li>• 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Tuesday (Morning)</li> <li>• 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Tuesday (Evening)</li> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Wednesday (Morning)</li> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Wednesday (Evening)</li> </ul>
4.	Last Date of Submission of proposals/Bids on CPP portal	10th July 2024, Wednesday.
5.	Opening of technical packets/proposals on CPP portal	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2024, Thursday

## Contents

1. About BHASHINI:.....	4
2. Instructions to Proposers.....	5
3. Scope of work.....	6
4. Eligible entities/proposers.....	9
5. Initial Screening.....	9
5.1 Eligibility & Document Check.....	9
5.2 Clarification:.....	10
6. Mandatory criteria for getting selected for the Scheme.....	10
7. Evaluation Scorecard:.....	10
8. Evaluation Criteria:.....	13
8.1 Strength of Research Team:.....	13
8.2 Quality and Feasibility of Proposed Research Activities:.....	13
8.3 Effectiveness of Outreach and Awareness Strategy:.....	14
8.4 Experience in Collaboration:.....	14
8.5 Research Team & Research Activities.....	14
8.6 Infrastructure:.....	14
8.7 Outreach and Awareness Strategy/Collaboration Experience:.....	14
8.8 Idea Labs/Incubators/Accelerators/Any Innovation-centric Centers:.....	15
8.9 AI/ML Ecosystem:.....	15
8.10 Number of Startups/Innovations:.....	15
8.11 Number of IPs Filed:.....	15
9. Selection Methodology:.....	17
10. Annexure-I.....	18

### 1. About BHASHINI:

The National Language Translation Mission has been named BHASHINI. The mission BHASHINI was launched by the Hon'ble PM during Digital India week in July 2022. Later it was decided by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), that the mission should be implemented by a newly formed Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).

Mission BHASHINI's commitment extends to fostering a resilient content ecosystem that is bolstered by technological support specifically tailored for Indian languages. The platform aims to facilitate widespread access to open-source data and efficient translation tools, strategically positioned to address the needs of a vast and diverse population. With a vision "harness natural language technologies to enable a diverse ecosystem of contributors, partnering entities and citizens for the purpose of transcending language barriers, thereby ensuring digital inclusion and digital empowerment in an AtmaNirbhar Bharat" the BHASHINI platform is poised to serve as a digital public good, contributing significantly to linguistic accessibility and technological empowerment on a national scale.

**The purposes of the DIBD (Digital India BHASHINI Division) are to:**

- Develop and maintain a public digital platform for enabling an easy and responsive ecosystem for translation among various Indian languages and English using the latest technologies.
- Create and nurture an ecosystem involving startups and Central/State government agencies working together to develop and deploy innovative products and services in Indian languages.
- Act as the nodal agency to further the above, including through evolution of a sustainable model.

**The aims of the BHASHINI are to:**

- Enable all Indians easy access to the internet and digital services in their own language and increase the content in Indian languages.
- Build a National Public Digital Platform for languages to develop services and products for citizens by leveraging the power of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

## 2. Instructions to Proposers

- a. All establishments for which applications are submitted must be registered in India.
- b. All the participating entity should have a valid accreditation like AICTE, NAAC, NBA, UGC or any other which is relevant.
- c. Each participating entity must have a minimum of three years of operational experience.
- d. This RFE does not commit 'DIBD' to award a contract or to engage in negotiations. Further, no reimbursable cost may be incurred in anticipation of award or for preparing this RFE.

- e. The responsibility for ensuring that the applications are delivered in time vests with the “Proposers”.
- f. ‘DIBD’ reserves the right to accept or reject any or all RFE s at any point of time without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- g. The Authority may at its sole discretion extend the deadline for the submission of proposals.
- h. The Proposer(s) must ensure that establishment/ institution has its Physical campus in India.
- i. For any clarifications on the Expression of Interest document, the following may be contacted through e-mail [ceo-dibd@digitalindia.gov.in](mailto:ceo-dibd@digitalindia.gov.in).
- j. The Proposer(s) is required to download the RFE document from the DIBD website ([www.bhashini.gov.in](http://www.bhashini.gov.in)). The complete document is required to be signed on each page along with the company / Proposer’s seal.
- k. The Proposer(s) is required to send their proposals in Sealed Envelope to “The CEO DIBD, Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003, INDIA” by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- l. Entities have to apply for empanelment through CPP portal only, no other methods of applications will be accepted.

### 3. Scope of work

Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) is inviting to partner with HEI’s/Incubators/Accelerators, fostering a collaborative environment.

#### Objectives:

- Enhance and increase the adoption BHASHINI platform to for all Indian regional languages & Geographies.
- Foster a vibrant research ecosystem focused on Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Translation (MT) technologies & develop Applications on various use cases.
- Raise awareness and generate public interest in the BHASHINI initiative.
- Involve Tier 2 / Tier 3 cities/ villages for the above to ensure equitable adoption across the population of the country.

The HEIs are required to share their technical proposals to DIBD **within 21 days of date of publishing of this RFE . DIBD shall send separate invite for Technical Presentation at suitable time to the proposers after receiving the responses of this RFE .**

The journey begins with institutions offering a comprehensive view of their identity, nodal officers, and requisite regulatory approvals. The strategic intent behind their engagement with the BHASHINI ecosystem is illuminated, coupled with official partnership documentation. The collaborative history of the institution, its research focal points, faculty expertise, and plans to involve students within the ecosystem form integral components. This narrative is further enriched by articulating the expected outcomes of this engagement, including research advancements, student skill development, innovation, and broader societal impact. Lastly, the infrastructure, collaborative strategy, and ethical commitment seal the comprehensive portrait of the institution's engagement with BHASHINI.

The key service level objectives that relate to the service and the related aspects of the interface between the department and the proposer are indicated below:

- A. Call to Action
- B. Expected Quarterly Activities
- C. Outreach & Awareness
- D. Collaboration & Innovation
- E. Publicity & Promotion

Following shall be the responsibilities of the HEI's.

1. DIBD, MeitY invites proposals from HEIs with established in India. Selected HEIs will become nodal centers for promoting and contributing to the BHASHINI NLTM in their respective states/regions.
2. Expected Quarterly Activities:
  - a. Research & Development:
    - i. Conduct research projects focused on improving the accuracy and fluency of machine translation for specific language pairs.
    - ii. Develop domain-specific language models for government, education, healthcare, and other critical sectors.
  - b. Organize Conferences, Workshops and seminars to share research findings and foster collaboration among researchers.
  - c. Multilingual Benchmarking: Develop and participate in multilingual benchmarking initiatives to assess the progress of machine translation models for Indian languages.

- d. Focus on Under-Resourced Languages: Dedicate research efforts to improve the capabilities of the BHASHINI platform for under-resourced Indian languages with limited digital presence. Explore collaborations with linguistic communities for data collection and annotation.

### 3. Outreach & Awareness

- a. Conduct hackathons, Sprint Hackathons and Grand innovation challenges to engage students and developers in building innovative language solutions.
- b. Organize knowledge transfer sessions to educate the public about the BHASHINI initiative and its applications.
- c. Host conferences to connect researchers with potential investors and collaborators.
- d. Implement a mentor-mentee program to guide budding NLP enthusiasts.
- e. Organize seminars and conferences featuring prominent figures in the field of language technology.
- f. Utilize local media outlets (print, digital, and broadcast) to publicize BHASHINI-related activities and achievements.
- g. Develop and maintain a dedicated website/social media presence to share information and updates.
- h. Organize state specific events at schools, colleges, and community centers to generate widespread awareness.
  - i. Gamification & Educational Apps: Develop gamified mobile applications or educational tools that promote language learning and awareness of the BHASHINI platform, particularly targeting younger audiences.
  - ii. Community Outreach Programs: Organize workshops in rural and remote areas to bridge the digital divide and empower local communities to utilize the BHASHINI platform effectively.
  - iii. Sprint Hackathons & Model trainings: Organize sprint hackathons to encourage public participation in refining the translation models for specific language pairs. Utilize crowdsourcing platforms to collect high-quality language data for model training purposes.

### 4. Collaboration & Innovation:

- a. Partner with local government agencies and educational institutions to integrate the BHASHINI platform into existing infrastructure.



- b. Collaborate with startups and tech companies to develop commercially viable language translation applications.
  - c. Facilitate data collection and annotation in local languages to enrich the BHASHINI platform.
  - d. Industry Mentorship Programs: Establish mentorship programs where industry experts guide and advise students and researchers working on BHASHINI-related projects. This can bridge the gap between theoretical research and practical applications.
  - e. Inter-HEI Collaboration: Facilitate collaborative research projects between HEIs across different regions to share expertise and accelerate progress in specific language domains like legal, medical, or agricultural translation.
  - f. Policy & Advocacy: Collaborate with policymakers and government agencies to advocate for the inclusion of multilingual support in government websites, digital services, and educational materials, ensuring wider application of the BHASHINI platform.
5. Publicity & Promotion:
- a. Utilize local media outlets (print, digital, and broadcast) to publicize BHASHINI-related activities and achievements.
  - b. Develop and maintain a dedicated website/social media presence to share information and updates.
  - c. Organize outreach events at schools, colleges, and community centers to generate widespread awareness.

## 4. Eligible entities/proposers

- a. Higher Educational Institutes (College's, Universities) and Technology Business Incubators TBI's

## 5. Initial Screening

### 5.1 Eligibility & Document Check:

Ensure HEIs meet one of the mandatory eligibility criteria and proposal document has the required information.

## 5.2 Clarification:

Clarification shall be sought for the missing/additional information from the participating entities who are fulfilling the mandatory criteria

## 6. Mandatory criteria for participation in RFE.

Any Institute (HEIs) willing to apply for the nomination must meet (Three) of following criteria:

- Having pre-incubation centers/incubation centers, student idea clubs.
- Valid score in ARIIA Ranking/ Participated in NIRF Ranking or any valid Govt ranking framework.
- NBA/NAAC Accreditation.
- Having active startup cell within institution.
- Government/ Government funded/Deemed/private/University.
- Standalone incubators and accelerators can also participate.
- Institutes belonging to TEIR-II & TEIR-III cities will be given preference.

## 7. Evaluation Scorecard:

S. No	Criteria	Maximum Marks	Documents Required (Enclose copies with Annexure 1 while applying)
1	Research Team & Research Activities No of Research journals/ papers published * <b>1- 10</b> (3 Marks) * More than <b>10</b> (5 Marks)	5	Journals/RP Published Docs, List with All items signed stamped by head of institution

2	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>* Dedicated Auditorium – <b>5 Marks</b></p> <p>* Dedicated research lab - <b>5 Marks</b></p>	10	Valid Document Proofs/ Head of institution's certificate & complete details of Research lab on the areas of research/equipment's available/being used
3	<p>Dedicated Idea Labs/Incubators/Accelerators/Any innovation centric centers/Cells.</p>	10	Valid Document Proofs/HEI Head signed certificate
4	<p>Experienced faculty /research Scholars on AI/ML/Data Science-Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net count 1 - 2 – 2 Marks</li> <li>• Net Count 3 - 5 – 5 Marks</li> <li>• Net Count 6 - 8 – 8 Marks</li> <li>• Net Count &gt; 8 – 10 Marks</li> </ul>	10	List of the Faculty/Manpower with Resumes.
5	<p>No. of Startups/Innovations (No of Startups/Innovations &lt; 5 – 3 Marks)</p> <p>(No of Startups/Innovations &gt; 5 – 5 Marks)</p>	5	List of Innovations/startups duly signed and stamped by head of institution

7	<p>No. of IP's filed</p> <p>(No. of IP filed &lt; 10 – 3 Marks)</p> <p>(No. of IP filed &gt; 10 – 5 Marks)</p>	5	Valid Patent office filing receipts, allied forms/Claim documents
8	<p>Located in Tier 2 or Tier 3 City (Only) cities except (Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata)</p>	10	NA
8	<p>Presentation (Must have content slides mentioned below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the HEI with achievements (2 Slides)</li> <li>• Innovation and Startup landscape in HEI (2 Slides)</li> <li>• AI/ML/NLP/Data science Expertise in dedicate faculty/scholars/student strength. (2 Slides)</li> <li>• Research projects undertaken in AI/ML/NLP/Data science. (2 Slides)</li> <li>• Innovation portfolio of HEI in AI/ML/NLP/Data science domain. (2 Slides)</li> <li>• Achievements of HEI (2 Slides)</li> <li>• Patents Filed/Granted in similar domain (2 Slides)</li> </ul>	35	Slide deck in PDF Format

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed approach and methodology to work with DIBD (5 Slides)</li> </ul>		
9	Research project walkthrough and Field Visit report.	10	Report To be prepared by DIBD after field visit.

This comprehensive process ensures a fair and transparent selection of HEIs for participation in the BHASHINI scheme, fostering the development of state-wise language missions.



## 8. Evaluation Criteria:

**8.1 Strength of Research Team:** Assess faculty expertise, previous research projects, and available resources in Natural Language Processing (NLP), Deep Tech, AI/ML and Machine Translation (MT). The institute to have a proper infrastructure in terms of labs, auditorium, conference rooms etc.

**8.2 Quality and Feasibility of Proposed Research Activities:** Review the proposed research plan, its alignment with scheme objectives, and feasibility within the given timeline and resources.

**8.3 Effectiveness of Outreach and Awareness Strategy:** Evaluate the proposed methods for reaching out to target audiences and raising awareness about language missions. Also consider the experience of the participating entity in outreach activities of similar programs.

**8.4 Experience in Collaboration:** Consider past collaborations with government agencies and industry partners, evaluating their success and impact.

**8.5 Research Team & Research Activities:**

- a) Evaluate the composition and expertise of the institution's research team, including faculty members, researchers, and technical staff.
- b) Assess the institution's research output in terms of publications, patents, prototypes, and collaborations.
- c) Consider the diversity and interdisciplinary nature of research activities across various departments and centers within the institution.

**8.6 Infrastructure:**

- a) Assess the adequacy and quality of infrastructure facilities supporting research, innovation, and entrepreneurship activities.
- b) Evaluate the availability of specialized laboratories, equipment, software, and computing resources relevant to AI/ML, IoT, robotics, biotechnology, etc.
- c) Consider the institution's investment in modernizing and maintaining infrastructure to meet evolving technological and industry needs.

**8.7 Outreach and Awareness Strategy/Collaboration Experience:**

- a) Evaluate the institution's strategy and effectiveness in promoting outreach and awareness about innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- b) Assess the institution's experience and track record in fostering collaborations with industry partners, research organizations, government agencies, and international institutions.

- c) Consider the impact and visibility of outreach activities, such as workshops, seminars, hackathons, and industry-academia partnerships, in stimulating innovation and knowledge transfer.

#### 8.8 Idea Labs/Incubators/Accelerators/Any Innovation-centric Centers:

- a. Evaluate the presence and effectiveness of idea labs, incubators, accelerators, or other innovation-centric centers within the institution.
- b. Assess the range of services and support provided by these centers, including mentorship, funding assistance, networking opportunities, and access to facilities.
- c. Consider the success stories and outcomes of start-ups or innovations incubated or accelerated by these centers, including revenue generation, job creation, and societal impact.

#### 8.9 AI/ML Ecosystem:

- a) Assess the institution's ecosystem and capabilities in AI/ML research, education, and application.
- b) Evaluate the availability of AI/ML courses, laboratories, research groups, and industry partnerships within the institution.
- c) Consider the institution's contributions to advancing AI/ML technologies through research publications, patents, software development, and collaborative projects.

#### 8.10 Number of Startups/Innovations:

- a) Evaluate the quantity and quality of startups and innovations emerging from the institution's ecosystem.
- b) Assess the diversity of startup domains, such as technology, healthcare, agriculture, and social innovation.
- c) Consider the scalability, sustainability, and market potential of startups and innovations originating from the institution.

#### 8.11 Number of IPs Filed:

- a) Assess the institution's intellectual property (IP) portfolio and its efforts in protecting and commercializing innovative technologies and discoveries.

- b) Evaluate the number, quality, and significance of patents, copyrights, trademarks, and other forms of IP filed by the institution's faculty, researchers, and students.
- c) Consider the institution's IP management and technology transfer policies, as well as its success in licensing IP to industry partners or spinning off ventures.



## 9. Selection Methodology:

- Participating entities will be selected based on the score they will receive as per criteria mentioned in **Section 7** and mandatory criteria **section 6**. of this RFE along with the performance in technical presentation.
- A field visit will be done after technical presentation that will be considered as vital element in selection of the HEI/Incubator as empaneled entity with DIBD.
- Entities scoring Min. 70 marks in evaluation process (Ref. Pt 7 of RFE) and will be selected as Empaneled entity with DIBD.

## Annexure-I

**Covering Letter on Letterhead of the Applicant along with enclosed copies of supporting documents mentioned in Evaluations scorecard.**

<Location, Date>

To,

The Chief Executive Officer,

Digital India Bhashini Division,

(Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India)

Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003, INDIA

Kind Attn. – Mr. Amitabh Nag – CEO, DIBD.

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, hereby submitting our proposal for empanelment for the collaboration as Empanelment for HEI's/Standalone Units. We understand you are not bound to accept any proposal you receive.

We fully understand and agree to comply that on verification, if any of the information provided here is found to be misleading, we are liable to be dismissed from the RFE selection process or termination of the contract during the project.

We agree to abide by the conditions set forth in this RFE.

We hereby declare that our proposal submitted in response to this RFE is made in good faith and the information contained is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sincerely,

<Applicant's Name with seal>

Name: <<Insert Name of Contact>>

Title: <<Insert Title of Contact>>

**Enclosed (All relevant documents requested in evaluation scorecard)**

Signature: <Insert Signature>>