

RFP No.: 42-22/332/2023-AKAM

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE
GOVERNEMENT OF INDIA**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Engagement of Specialist Consultant for Preparation of **Comprehensive Development Proposals for 5 Model Villages** under the Vibrant Villages Programme (Phase-I)

With Culture, Heritage and Sustainable Heritage Tourism as the Central Theme

Museums Division

Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Request for Proposals document ("RFP") or subsequently provided to Applicants, whether verbally or in documentary or any other form by or on behalf of the Authority or any of its employees or advisers, is provided to Applicants on the terms and conditions set out in this RFP and such other terms and conditions subject to which such information is provided.

This RFP is not an agreement and is neither an offer nor invitation by the Authority to the prospective Applicants or any other person. The purpose of this RFP is to provide interested parties with information that may be useful to them in the formulation of their Proposals. This RFP includes statements which reflect various assumptions and assessments arrived at by the Authority in relation to the Consultancy. Such assumptions, assessments and statements do not purport to contain all the information that each Applicant may require.

The assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in this RFP may not be complete, accurate, adequate or correct. Each Applicant should, therefore, conduct its own investigations and analysis and should check the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability and completeness of the assumptions, assessments and information contained in this RFP and Obtain independent advice from appropriate sources.

The Authority, its employees and advisers make no representation or warranty and shall have no liability to any person including any Applicant under any law, statute, rules or regulations or tort, principles of restitution or unjust enrichment or otherwise for any loss, damages, cost or expense which may arise from or be incurred or suffered on account of anything contained in this RFP or otherwise, including the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability or completeness of the RFP and any assessment, assumption, statement or information contained therein or deemed to form part of this RFP or arising in any way in this Selection Process.

The Authority also accepts no liability of any nature whether resulting from negligence or otherwise, however caused, arising from reliance of any Applicant upon the statements contained in this RFP.

The Authority may in its absolute discretion, but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend or supplement the information, assessment or assumption contained in this RFP.

The issue of this RFP does not imply that the Authority is bound to select an Applicant or to appoint the Selected Applicant for the Consultancy, and the Authority reserves the right to reject all or any of the Proposals without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

The Applicant shall bear all its costs associated with or relating to the preparation and submission of its Proposal including but not limited to preparation, copying, postage, delivery fees, expenses associated with any demonstrations or presentations which may be required by the Authority or any other costs incurred in connection with or relating to its Proposal. All such costs and expenses will remain with the Applicant and the Authority shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for the same or for any other costs or other expenses incurred by an Applicant in preparation or submission of the Proposal, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Selection Process.

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

Name of Work	Engagement of Specialist Consultant for Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposal for 5 Model Villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme (Phase- I) with Culture, Heritage and Sustainable Heritage Tourism as the Central Theme
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Authority	Ministry of Culture, Government of India
Project Locations	Chushul (Leh, Ladakh); Mana (Chamoli, Uttarakhand); Gipu (Kinnaur/Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh); Kaho (Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh); Changu (Mangan,Sikkim)
Type of Tender	Open Tender
Tender Category	Consultancy Services–Architecture and Heritage Planning
Consultancy Period	18 (Eighteen)Months
Mode of Submission	Online/As specified in this RFP
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 2,00,000 (Two Lakhs Only) Exemptions to MSMEs And Start-ups as per applicable Gol guidelines
Tender Fee	Nil
Date of Issue of RFP	03.06.2026
Pre-Bid Meeting	9.06.2026 [Hybrid mode: Online and In person] 11:30 a.m, Room No. 1 Ground Floor, IGNCA, Janpath New Delhi
Last Date for Submission of Queries	12.06.2026
Proposal/ Bid Submission Due Date	24.06.2026
Technical Bid Opening Date	25.06.2026
Presentation Date	08.07.2026
Financial Bid Opening	To be notified

Validity of Proposal	180Days
Selection Method	Two-Stage: Technical Short listing followed by Presentation before Evaluation Committee
Contact Authority	Shri Niranjana Choudhary, Under Secretary (Museums-2) Museums Division, Ministry of Culture, Government of India Work Hall No. 22108, 2nd Floor, Kartavya Bhawan 2 Email: museum2-cul@gov.in

1. Introduction

1.1 Back ground and Programme Overview

The Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Government of India in 2023, aimed at comprehensive development of villages located along India's northern borders. The programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Under Phase-I, 662 villages have been identified across 46 border blocks in 19 districts of the following States and Union Territories:

- Arunachal Pradesh: Anjaw, Dibang Valley, East Kameng, Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey, Lower Dibang Valley, Shi Yomi, Tawang, Upper Siang, Upper Subansiri, West Kameng
- Himachal Pradesh: Kinnaur, Lahauland Spiti
- Uttarakhand: Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh
- Sikkim: Gangtok, Mangan (North)
- Ladakh: Leh

The VVP seeks to arrest out-migration from border villages, strengthen strategic connectivity, and ensure equitable socio-economic development in these regions. Culture, heritage, and sustainable heritage tourism are identified as central pillars for catalyzing sustainable livelihoods and reinforcing community identity in the selected villages.

1.2 The 5 Model Villages

The Ministry of Culture proposes to prepare Comprehensive Development Proposals for 5 Model Villages under VVP Phase-I, placing culture, heritage, and sustainable heritage tourism at the centre of the development vision. The 5 Model Villages are:

- Chushul, Leh, Ladakh
- Mana, Chamoli, Uttarakhand
- Gipu, Himachal Pradesh
- Kaho, Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh
- Changu, Mangan (North), Sikkim

Each of these villages possesses distinct heritage, cultural, and natural endowments that, if developed sensitively, can serve as models for heritage-led, community-centred sustainable heritage tourism development along the northern border.

1.3 Request for Proposals

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India hereby invites proposals from eligible Indian Architectural Firms with proven expertise in heritage conservation, cultural planning, and sustainable heritage tourism to prepare Comprehensive Development Proposals for the 5 Model Villages. The selected firm will be responsible for undertaking village-level surveys, preparing development visions, designing site-specific interventions, and submitting detailed project reports for each village.

1.4 Eligibility for Participation

Applications are invited from Indian Architectural Firms meeting all of the following pre-qualification criteria:

(a) Legal Status

- The applicant must be a legally registered entity/company/Proprietorship or Partnership Indian Architectural Firm registered in India. Joint Ventures shall not be permitted.

(b) Minimum Years of Established Practice

- The firm shall have a minimum of 15 (twenty) years of continuous practice in Architecture, with demonstrated work in heritage, culture, and conservation projects.

(c) Minimum Annual Turnover

- The firm shall have an average annual turnover of at least INR 5 Crore (Five Crore Rupees) over the preceding three financial years, evidenced by audited annual accounts.

(d) Lead Architect Experience

- The firm shall have in-house Lead Architect who has worked as the Lead Architect for Heritage, Culture, or Conservation projects with

10 years experience

(e) Research and Social Sciences Team

- The firm shall deploy, either as full-time employees or as project-specific consultants or associates (with the firm required to specify the arrangement in their proposal), a team comprising:

(i) One Senior Researcher holding a postgraduate/PHD degree in History, Sociology, Anthropology, or an allied discipline with demonstrated experience in heritage or cultural research; and

(ii) One Researcher in the field of economics/Development Economics/Development Studies same or an allied field working under the Senior Researcher's supervision.

(f) Sustainable Heritage Tourism Specialist

- The firm shall deploy, either as a full-time employee or as a project-specific consultant or associate (with the firm required to specify the arrangement in their proposal), an urban conservation architect or urban planner with minimum of 5 (five) years of demonstrated experience.

Firms not meeting all of the above criteria shall not be considered for evaluation.

1.5 Due Diligence by Applicants

Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves thoroughly with the project objectives, site conditions, environmental and cultural context, and all relevant statutory frameworks applicable to each of the 5 Model Villages prior to submission of their proposals. Applicants are encouraged to carefully examine all documents forming part of this RFP, attend the Pre-Bid Meeting, and seek clarifications within the stipulated timeline. The applicants shall be solely responsible for conducting all necessary investigations, assessments, and analysis required for preparation and submission of their proposals.

1.6 Availability of RFP Document

The RFP document shall be available on the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) and/or any other official platform as notified by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

1.7 Validity of Proposal

The Proposal submitted by the Applicant shall remain valid for a period of 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) days from the date of

Opening of the Financial Bid.

1.8 Communications

All communications, including queries and submissions, must be directed via email to:

Shri Niranjan Choudhary

Under Secretary (Museums-2)

Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Work Hall No. 22108, 2nd Floor, Kartavya Bhawan 2

Email: museum2-cul@gov.in

1.9 Currency and Payments

All quotes shall be in Indian Rupees (INR) and all payments to the firm shall be made in INR only.

2. Scope of Work and Project Implementation Framework

2.1 Project Implementation Framework

The Ministry of Culture proposes to implement the assignment through a two-phase project delivery framework:

Phase A: Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposals

Survey, documentation, conceptual development, and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for all 5 Model Villages. This phase is the scope of the present RFP.

Phase B: Implementation Support and Design Supervision

Design oversight and supervision during the execution of approved interventions, which shall be implemented through separate agency engagement by the Authority.

2.2 Scope of Services

The scope of services of the selected Architectural Firm shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

2.2.1 Village Survey and Documentation

- Conduct detailed field surveys of all 5 Model Villages covering built heritage, intangible cultural heritage, natural landscape, existing infrastructure, and land use;

- Prepare inventory of heritage structures, culturally significant sites, traditional settlements, craft practices, and other cultural assets;
- Document community livelihood patterns, demographic profile, and existing sustainable heritage tourism activity;
- Map infrastructure gaps, connectivity, and environmental carrying capacity for each village;
- Assess statutory designations, protected monument status, and applicable heritage regulations.

2.2.2 Comprehensive Development Vision and Master plan

- Develop an integrated development vision for each village, placing culture, heritage, and sustainable heritage tourism at the centre;
- Prepare master plans for each village encompassing heritage conservation zones, public realm improvements, visitor infrastructure, landscaping, and connectivity;
- Design site-specific architectural and landscape interventions responsive to the local vernacular, ecology, and climate;
- Develop thematic sustainable heritage tourism circuits within and between villages where relevant;
- Ensure all proposals are consistent with the broader VVP framework and Gol guidelines on border area development.

2.2.3 Heritage Conservation and Cultural Planning

- Prepare conservation plans for identified heritage structures and cultural landscapes in accordance with applicable conservation charters and National Mission for Monuments guidelines;
- Develop proposals for interpretation, signage, and visitor experience design rooted in authentic local heritage;
- Identify community-based cultural programmes and events as anchors for sustainable heritage tourism;
- Propose adaptive reuse strategies for under utilised heritage buildings where appropriate.

2.2.4 Sustainable Heritage Tourism Infrastructure and Livelihood Linkages

- Design visitor reception facilities, way finding systems, rest areas, and accommodation typologies appropriate to each village context;

- Develop proposals for community home stays, craft centres, cultural performance venues, and food and produce markets;
- Prepare a community livelihood strategy linking sustainable heritage tourism development to local enterprise, skill development, and artisan support;
- Estimate carrying capacities and propose visitor management frameworks.

2.2.5 Detailed Project Reports and Cost Estimates

- Prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for each of the 5 villages, containing detailed design drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and implementation phasing;
- Prepare model tender documents for priority interventions in each village to facilitate downstream procurement by the Authority;
- Assist the Authority in evaluation and on boarding of implementing agencies as required.

2.2.6 Implementation Support and Design Supervision

- Provide design oversight and periodic site supervision during the execution phase;
- Review contractor submissions, shop drawings, material samples, and mock-ups;
- Ensure fidelity of implementation to approved designs and quality standards;
- Attend technical review meetings, site visits, and coordination discussions as required by the Authority.

2.3 Scope Exclusions

The scope of services under this RFP shall not include:

- Detailed structural engineering drawings for construction;
- Procurement of materials or equipment;
- Civil construction, site execution, or installation works;
- Operation and maintenance of any facility;
- EPC execution and associated construction activities.

The above scope components shall be undertaken separately through implementing agencies appointed independently by the Authority.

3. Consultancy Fee Structure

The fee payable to the firm shall be in two parts:

Part 1: Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposals and DPRs for all 5 Model Villages (lump-sum charges).

Part 2: Implementation Support and Design Supervision charges (lump-sum charges).

The consultancy fee shall be deemed to be inclusive of all professional services covered under the scope of this RFP, including surveys, documentation, design development, DPR preparation, preparation of tender documents, engaging of specialist professionals as required, making site visits, and attending meetings as called by the Authority, excluding applicable taxes unless otherwise specified.

The quoted charges under Part 1 shall be inclusive of all necessary site visits during the proposal preparation phase.

4. Selection Process

4.1 Selection Methodology

Selection shall be carried out through a two-stage process:

Stage I: Technical Short-listing

All proposals shall first be evaluated on their technical merit against the pre-qualification criteria set out in Section 1.4 and the technical evaluation criteria set out in Section 4.2. Only firms meeting the minimum pre-qualification thresholds shall proceed to Stage II. The Authority shall notify shortlisted firms of their progression.

Stage II: Presentation before Evaluation Committee

Shortlisted firms shall be invited to make a detailed presentation before the Evaluation Committee constituted by the Authority. The presentation shall cover the firm's understanding of the brief, approach and methodology, proposed team, and a preliminary vision for each of the 5 Model Villages. The presentations may be sought in **a weeks' time from the time** technical scores for Stage 1 are communicated to the qualified bidders.

The financial bids of technically qualified firms shall be opened and considered in accordance with the QCBS methodology.

4.2 Evaluation and Selection

The technical proposals shall be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee duly constituted by the Authority based on the following criteria:

Stage 1: Technical Evaluation on the basis of the below marking scheme.

(Total Marks: 100)

S. No.	Eligibility/ Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Max Marks	Evaluation Method
1	Yearsof Established Practice	15–20years=10 marks 21–25years=15marks Above25 years=20marks	20	Based on incorporation/registration Documents and proof o Continuous practice
2	Average Annual Turnover (Last3FYs)	₹5–7 Crore = 5marks ₹7–10 Crore = 10 marks Above ₹10 Crore=15marks	15	Based on audited balance sheets / CA certificate
3	Lead Architect Experience	Minimum10years Relevant experience=5marks 15+years=10marks 20+years With multiple heritage projects=15marks	15	CV, project credentials, Completion certificates
4	Research& Social Sciences Team	Senior Researcher With required Qualification and Experience =5marks Junior Researcher Provided =3marks Demonstrated heritage/cultural research publications/projects =2marks	10	CVs, qualification certificates, publications/project details
5	Sustainable Heritage Tourism Specialist	QualifiedUrban Conservation Architect/Plannerwith 5–10years experience=5marks	10	CVandproject experiencedocuments

		Above 10 years experience with relevant projects = 10 marks	
6	Relevant Heritage/ Cultural / Conservation Projects Executed	1–2 relevant projects = 5 marks 3–5 projects = 10 marks More than 5 major projects = 15 marks	15 Work orders, completion certificates, portfolio
7	Award-Winning Heritage Projects	One recognised national award from a reputed institution/Union/State Government = 5 marks UNESCO or equivalent international award (10 marks)	15 Award certificates/documentary proof
	TOTAL		100

Firms getting 70 percent marks in Stage 1 technical evaluation shall be invited for the presentation stage. Those getting below this cut off score shall be rejected at this stage only.

Stage 2 evaluation:

Bidders getting 70% marks in the stage 1 presentation shall be invited to make presentations before a jury of experts with the following evaluation criteria.

S. No.	Evaluation Criteria	Details	Max. Marks
1	Understanding of Brief and Conceptual Framework	Assessment of the firm's understanding of the VVP mandate, the five village contexts, and the proposed conceptual approach integrating culture, heritage, and sustainable heritage tourism.	30
3	Design Vision and Village-Level Proposals	Assessment of the design language, spatial proposals, public realm interventions, and visitor experience framework for each of the five model villages.	30
4	Sustainable Heritage Tourism Integration and Livelihood Linkages	Evaluation of the proposed sustainable heritage tourism circuits, community livelihood components, and long-term economic sustainability of the proposed interventions.	20
5	Sustainability, Climate Resilience and Ecological Sensitivity	Assessment of environmental considerations, use of local materials, energy efficiency, and sensitivity to fragile high-altitude and border ecosystems.	10
6	Implementation Feasibility and Phasing	Evaluation of the proposed implementation phasing, cost estimates, project management approach, and alignment with VVP timelines and GoI procurement norms.	10
Total			100

The minimum qualifying score in the Stage 2 presentation is 70 marks out of 100 and only those firms getting this benchmark score shall be recommended for financial bid opening. Firms scoring below 70 marks shall not be considered for further evaluation.

The final selection shall be on the basis of Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS). The weightage shall be 70:30 between technical and financial scores respectively. The firm securing the highest combined score shall be recommended for award of the consultancy, subject to approval of the competent Authority.

The decision of the Authority/Evaluation Committee in this regard shall be final and binding on all participating firms.

4.3 Payment Schedule

Payment under Part1 shall be released in the following stages:

- Stage 1: 20% of Part 1 charges shall be released upon submission and acceptance of inception reports and village survey reports for all 5 villages.
- Stage 2: 30% (cumulative 50%) shall be released upon submission and acceptance of draft masterplans and development proposals for all 5 villages.
- Stage 3: 30% (cumulative 80%) shall be released upon submission of final DPRs for all 5 villages, to the satisfaction of competent authority'
- Stage 4: Balance 20% shall be released upon submission of model tender documents for priority interventions and assistance in onboarding implementing agencies.

Payment under Part2 shall be released in the following stages:

- Stage 1: 80% of Part 2 charges shall be released proportionally against the progress of implementation works in a maximum of 6 instalments.
- Stage 2: Remaining 20% shall be released upon successful completion of the entire supervised scope of work.

5. Instructions to Applicants

5.1 Scope of Proposal

Detailed description of the objectives, scope of services, deliverables, and other requirements relating to this assignment are specified in the Scope of Work set out in Section 2 of this document. Indian Architectural Firms meeting the pre-qualification criteria set out in Section 1.4 are hereby invited to submit their proposals for undertaking the assignment, either as a Proprietorship (Sole Firm) or as a Partnership Firm. Joint Ventures shall not be permitted.

5.2 Conflict of Interest

An Applicant shall not have a conflict of interest that may affect the Selection Process or the Consultancy. Any Applicant found to have a Conflict of Interest shall be disqualified. In the event of disqualification, the Authority shall forfeit and appropriate the Bid Security as pre-estimated compensation and damages payable to the Authority for, inter alia, the time, cost and effort of the Authority in consideration of such Applicant's Proposal, without prejudice to any other right or remedy that may be available to the Authority.

The Authority requires that the firm provide professional, objective, and impartial advice and at all times hold the Authority's interests paramount, avoid conflicts with other assignments or its own corporate interests, and act without any consideration for future work. The firm shall not accept or engage in any assignment that would be in conflict with its prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place it in a position of not being able to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Authority.

5.3 Number of Proposals

No Applicant shall submit more than one Application for this Consultancy. An Applicant applying individually shall not be entitled to submit another application in any other capacity.

5.4 Cost of Proposal

The Applicants shall be responsible for all costs associated with the preparation of their Proposals and their participation in the Selection Process including subsequent negotiation and visits to the Authority or project sites. The Authority will not be responsible or in any way liable for such costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Selection Process.

5.5 Acknowledgement by Applicant

It shall be deemed that by submitting the Proposal, the Applicant has:

- Made a complete and careful examination of the RFP;
- Received all relevant information requested from the Authority;
- acknowledged and accepted the risk of inadequacy, error or mistake in the information provided in the RFP or furnished by or on behalf of the Authority;
- satisfied itself about all matters, things and information necessary and required for submitting an informed application and performance of all of its obligations there under;

- acknowledged that it does not have a Conflict of Interest; and
- agreed to be bound by the undertaking provided by it under and in terms hereof.

5.6 Right to Reject any or all Proposals

Notwithstanding anything contained in this RFP, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal and to annul the Selection Process and reject all Proposals at any time without any liability or any obligation for such acceptance, rejection or annulment, and without assigning any reasons thereof.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Authority reserves the right to reject any Proposal if: (a) at any time, a material misrepresentation is made or discovered; or (b) the Applicant does not provide, within the time specified by the Authority, the supplemental information sought by the Authority for evaluation of the Proposal.

5.7 Clarifications

Applicants requiring any clarification on the RFP may send their queries to the Authority by email at museum2-cul@gov.in in the format given in Section 5.19, so as to reach before the date mentioned in the NIT for seeking clarifications. The Authority reserves the right not to respond to any questions or provide any clarifications, and its silence shall not be construed as obliging the Authority to respond to any question or to provide any clarification.

5.8 Amendment of RFP

At any time prior to the deadline for submission of Proposal, the Authority may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to clarifications requested by an Applicant, modify the RFP document by the issuance of Addendum/Amendment and posting it on the official website and by conveying the same to prospective Applicants by email. All such amendments will be binding on all Applicants. The Authority may, in its sole discretion, extend the Proposal Due Date to afford Applicants a reasonable time for taking an amendment into account.

5.9 Language

The Proposal with all accompanying documents and all communications in relation to or concerning the Selection Process shall be in English language and strictly on the forms provided in this RFP. Where any supporting document is in another language, it must be accompanied by an accurate translation in English, in which case

The English translation shall prevail for all purposes of interpretation.

5.10 Performance Security

An amount equal to 3% (three per cent) of the Agreement Value shall constitute the Performance Security for the purposes of this RFP. The firm awarded the work is required to submit a Performance Guarantee equal to 3% of bid value (excluding GST) in the form of Demand Draft, Bank Guarantee, Online Transfer, or Fixed Deposits pledged in the name of Ministry of Culture, Government of India, upon issue of the Letter of Intent. On submission of the Performance Guarantee, the EMD submitted (if any) shall be returned/released within two weeks.

5.11 Confidentiality

Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation, and recommendation for the selection of Applicants shall not be disclosed to any person who is not officially concerned with the process or is not a retained professional adviser advising the Authority in relation to matters arising out of or concerning the Selection Process. The Authority shall treat all information submitted as part of the Proposal in confidence and shall require all those who have access to such material to treat the same in confidence.

5.12 Force Majeure

In the event of either party being rendered unable by Force Majeure to perform any obligation required to be performed by them under the contract, the relative obligation of the party affected by such Force Majeure shall be suspended for the period during which such cause lasts. The term "Force Majeure" as employed herein shall mean acts of God, War, Civil Riots, Fire directly affecting the performance of the contract, Flood, and Acts and Regulations of respective Governments. Upon the occurrence of such cause and upon its termination, the party alleging that it has been rendered unable as aforesaid shall notify the other party in writing within 72 (seventy-two) hours of the alleged beginning and ending of the cause respectively. If performance under this agreement is suspended by Force Majeure conditions lasting for more than two months, either party shall have the option of cancelling this agreement in whole or part at its discretion without any liability on its part.

5.13 Termination of Agreement by the Authority

The Authority may, by not less than 30 (thirty) days' written notice of termination to the firm, terminate this Agreement if:

- the firm fails to remedy any breach hereof or any failure in the performance of its obligations within 30 days of receipt of a notice of

suspension or such further period as the Authority may grant in writing;

- the firm becomes insolvent or bankrupt or enters into any agreement with its creditors for relief of debt or goes into liquidation or receivership whether compulsory or voluntary;
- the firm fails to comply with any final decision reached as a result of arbitration proceedings;
- the firm submits to the Authority a statement which has a material effect on the rights, obligations or interests of the Authority and which the firm knows to be false;
- any document, information, data or statement submitted by the firm in its Proposal and based on which the firm was considered eligible or successful is found to be false, incorrect or misleading;
- as a result of Force Majeure, the firm is unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than 60 days; or
- the Authority, in its sole discretion and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate this Agreement.

In the event of such termination, a duly constituted committee shall examine the extent of work done and decide on the money payable to or recoverable from the firm, which decision shall be final and binding.

5.14 Termination of Agreement by the Firm

The firm may, by not less than 30 (thirty) days' written notice to the Authority, terminate this Agreement if:

- the Authority fails to pay any money due to the firm pursuant to this Agreement and not subject to dispute within 45 days after receiving written notice from the firm that such payment is overdue;
- the Authority is in material breach of its obligations pursuant to this Agreement and has not remedied the same within 45 days following receipt of the firm's notice specifying such breach; or
- as a result of Force Majeure, the firm is unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than 60 days, subject to notice and due opportunity of being heard.

5.15 Settlement of Disputes

Amicable Settlement

The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or the

Interpretation thereof.

Arbitration

Except where otherwise provided in the contract, all questions and disputes relating to the meaning of the specifications, design, drawing, and instructions hereinbefore mentioned and so to any question, claim, right, matter or thing whatsoever in any way arising out of or relating to the contract, designs, drawings, specifications, estimates, instructions, orders or these conditions or otherwise concerning the works, or the execution of the same whether arising during the progress of the work or after the completion or abandonment thereof, shall be referred to the sole arbitration of a person nominated by the Authority. The submission shall be deemed to be a submission to arbitration under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof. The award of the arbitrator so appointed shall be final, conclusive and binding on all parties. The place of arbitration shall be Delhi.

5.16 Bid Submission and Opening

The bidders are required to submit the proposal in two envelopes, namely Technical Envelope and Financial Envelope, in two separate sealed envelopes.

The Technical Envelope shall contain:

- The signed and sealed RFP as token of acceptance of terms and conditions;
- Firm profile, certificates of registration, audited turnover statements, staff list with qualifications, and project portfolio as specified in Section 1.4;
- CVs of the Lead Architect, Senior Researcher, Researcher (History/Sociology/Anthropology or allied field), and Sustainable Heritage Tourism Specialist, with full details of whether each is a full- time employee or project-specific consultant/associate;
- Approach and Methodology document;
- Undertaking regarding authenticity of information and absence of conflict of interest.

The Financial Envelope shall contain the Financial Bid of the applicant in the format provided at Annexure VII.

At the first instance, the Technical Envelope shall be opened and evaluated. Firms meeting the pre-qualification criteria and scoring a minimum of 70 marks in the technical evaluation shall be shortlisted

and invited for Stage II presentations. Financial bids of technically qualified firms shall be opened subsequently.

5.17 Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)

The Applicant shall submit an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of INR 2,00,000 (Two Lakhs Only) in the prescribed form and manner. The EMD may be submitted in the form of Bank Guarantee, Demand Draft, Fixed Deposit Receipt, Online Transfer, or any other mode as specified by the Authority. The EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be returned after completion of the selection process without any interest. The EMD of the selected bidder may be retained/released upon submission of the prescribed Performance Security.

The EMD shall be liable to forfeiture in the event of withdrawal of proposal during the validity period, submission of false information/documents, refusal to accept the Letter of Intent/Award, or failure to submit the Performance Security within the stipulated period. In case of MSME/Start-up seeking exemption of EMD, an undertaking to that effect shall be submitted.

5.18 Format for Submission of Queries

Applicants are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting. Queries shall be submitted in the following format:

S. No.	Section/Para and Page No.	Original Section /Para	Proposed Amendment /Query

6. Checklist

The applicant should ensure that all documents and papers submitted in this Request for Proposals are fully attested by the authorized signatory under their signature with official seal, wherever applicable. The following documents form part of the RFP and should be submitted along with the bid:

Sl. No.	Document/Requirement	Annexure / Reference	Submitted (Yes/No)
1	Covering Letter duly signed by Authorised Signatory	Annexure I	
2	General Declaration Form	Annexure II	

3	Power of Attorney/Authorisation Letter(if applicable)	Annexure III	
4	Firm Profile–Certificate of Incorporation/Registration;Proofof15years ofpractice	As per RFP	
5	Audited Annual Turnover Statements for the last three financial years (evidencing average annual turnover of at least INR 5 Crore)	As per RFP	
6	Project Portfolio–Heritage, Culture, and Conservation Projects	As per RFP	
7	Evidence of Award-Winning Projects (UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards or equivalent international heritage conservation awards)	As per RFP	
8	CVs of key resource personnel	As per RFP	
9	Earnest Money Deposit (or MSME/Start-up Exemption undertaking)	Annexure V	
10	Format for Financial Bid Submission	Annexure VII	
11	Signed Copy of RFP, Corrigenda/Addenda, and Pre-Bid Responses	As applicable	
12	Any other document specified in the RFP	As applicable	

Annexure I: Format for Covering Letter

Date: _____

To,

The Ministry of Culture

Government of India
Museums Division New
Delhi

Subject: Request for Proposals for Engagement of Architectural Firm for Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposals for 5 Model Villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme (Phase-I)

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the RFP/Tender document for the above-mentioned assignment, we hereby submit our Proposal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the RFP.

We confirm that:

- We have carefully examined and understood the contents of the RFP, including all corrigenda/addenda and clarifications issued by the Authority.
- We agree to abide by all terms and conditions specified in the RFP.
- The information submitted in our Proposal is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
- We understand that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

We submit herewith our Proposal for your consideration.

Thanking You,

For and on behalf of

(Name of Firm)

Authorised Signatory: _____

_____ Name: _____

_____ Designation: _____

Annexure II: General Declaration Form

I/We, the Applicant mentioned above, hereby declare that:

- I/We am/are competent to sign this declaration and execute this tender document.

- I/We have carefully read and understood all the terms and conditions of the RFP and undertake to abide by them.
- The information/documents furnished along with the application are true and authentic to the best of my/our knowledge and belief. I/We am/are aware that furnishing any false information/fabricated document would lead to rejection of my/our bid at any stage and may also attract legal action.
- I/We do hereby declare that the entries made in the above application are true to the best of my/our knowledge and that we shall be bound by the acts of our duly constituted attorney.
- I/We understand that the submission of this bid does not guarantee the awarding of the contract. I/We further understand that if any information submitted by me/us is found to be incorrect either before or after the award of contract, the Authority reserves the right to summarily reject the bid, cancel the contract, or revoke the same with forfeiture of EMD/Security Deposit and may also debar us from participating in future tenders.
- No extra conditions have been quoted in this tender.
- Neither I/We nor any of our representatives are related to any employee of the Authority or any of its associated offices.
- Our firm is not involved in any litigation or arbitration with the Authority during the last 5 (five) years.
- Our firm is not blacklisted by any department under the Government of India or any State Government.

Date: _____

Signature of Applicant(s): _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Annexure III: Format for Power of Attorney / Authorisation Letter POWER OF ATTORNEY / AUTHORISATION LETTER

Know all men by these presents, we, _____(Name of Firm), having our registered office at _____,do hereby nominate, appoint, and authorize Mr./Ms.

_____, Designation _____, to act as our lawful Authorised Representative/Attorney on our behalf in connection with the Request for Proposals for Engagement of Architectural Firm for Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposals for 5 Model Villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme (Phase-I).

The Authorised Representative is hereby authorised to sign and submit proposals, applications, undertakings, declarations, correspondences,

and other related documents; attend meetings/presentations; provide clarifications/information; receive communications; and undertake all necessary acts, deeds, and things in connection with the said RFP/Tender process.

We hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts and deeds lawfully done by the said Authorized Representative pursuant to this Authorization. This Authorization shall remain valid unless revoked in writing.

For and on behalf of (Name of Firm)

Authorized Signatory: _____ Name: _____ Designation: _____

Seal of Firm: _____

Accepted and agreed:

Signature of Authorised Representative: _____

Name: _____ Designation: _____ Date: _____

Annexure IV :Format for Articles of Agreement

This Agreement is made on this _____ day of _____, 202__ between the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as the "AUTHORITY", which expression shall unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof include its successors and assigns) of the One Part;

AND

_____, having its registered office at _____ (Hereinafter referred to as the "CONSULTANT", which expression shall unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof include its successors, legal representatives, executors, administrators, and permitted assigns) of the Other Part.

WHEREAS:

- The AUTHORITY is desirous of appointing a Consultant for "Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposals for 5 Model Villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme (Phase-I)" as specified in the Request for Proposal (RFP) and associated tender documents.
- The CONSULTANT has represented that it possesses the requisite professional expertise, technical capability, experience, and resources necessary for execution of the consultancy services for the assignment.
- The CONSULTANT has examined the RFP documents and has fully satisfied itself regarding the scope of work, project requirements, obligations, risks, and all other conditions relevant to execution of the consultancy services.
- The AUTHORITY, having accepted the proposal submitted by the CONSULTANT, has agreed to appoint the CONSULTANT for the said assignment in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.

NOW THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH AS FOLLOWS:

- In consideration of the payments to be made by the AUTHORITY, the CONSULTANT shall duly perform and complete the consultancy services in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- The AUTHORITY agrees to pay the CONSULTANT the consultancy fees in accordance with the approved Payment Schedule and terms of the Contract, subject to satisfactory completion of the respective milestones/deliverables.

Order of Priority of Contract Documents:

- Letter of Acceptance/Letter of Intent (LOA/LOI)
- Agreement/Contract Document
- Corrigenda, Addenda, and Clarifications issued by the AUTHORITY

- Request for Proposal (RFP) including all Annexures and Appendices
- Technical Proposal submitted by the CONSULTANT

Any dispute or difference arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall, as far as possible, be resolved amicably. Failing such resolution, the dispute shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The venue of arbitration shall be New Delhi. The courts at New Delhi shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters arising out of this Agreement.

The CONSULTANT shall perform the services with due diligence, efficiency, and professional competence and shall observe sound professional practices throughout the duration of the assignment.

For and on behalf of Ministry of Culture, Government of India (AUTHORITY)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

For and on behalf of CONSULTANT

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Place: New Delhi

Date: _____

Annexure V: Format for Bank Guarantee

(For Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security)

In consideration of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India (hereinafter referred to as the "AUTHORITY") having invited bids/proposals for the work of "Engagement of Architectural Firm for Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposals for 5 Model

Villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme (Phase-I)" under Tender/RFP No. _____ and having agreed to accept an Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee from _____ (hereinafter referred to as the "Bidder"), we, _____ (Name and Address of the Bank) (hereinafter referred to as the "Bank"), hereby irrevocably undertake and guarantee to pay to the AUTHORITY an amount not exceeding Rs.2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lakhs Only) against any loss or damage caused to or suffered by the AUTHORITY by reason of any breach by the Bidder of any of the terms and conditions contained in the said Tender/RFP document.

We, the said Bank, hereby undertake to pay the amounts due and payable under this Guarantee without any demur, merely on adem and made by the AUTHORITY stating that the amount claimed is due by reason of breach by the Bidder of any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender/RFP document or failure of the Bidder to comply with the conditions of the Tender/RFP. Any such demand made on the Bank shall be conclusive as regards the amount due and payable by the Bank under this Guarantee.

We further agree that this Guarantee shall remain in full force and effect during the validity period of the bid/proposal and shall continue to be enforceable until all obligations of the Bidder under the Tender/RFP are duly fulfilled or discharged. Unless a demand or claim under this Guarantee is made upon us in writing on or before the expiry date of this Guarantee, all rights of the AUTHORITY under this Guarantee shall cease thereafter.

We lastly undertake not to revoke this Bank Guarantee during its currency except with the prior written consent of the AUTHORITY.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202_.

For and on behalf of (Name of the Bank) Authorised

Signatory: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Bank Seal: _____

Annexure VI: Village Data Sheets

The following data sheets provide verified factual information on each of the 5 Model Villages. The information is provided to assist Applicants in understanding the baseline context for each village. Applicants are encouraged to conduct independent research and site reconnaissance visits to supplement the information provided here. The

development vision for each village is to be proposed by the Applicant as part of their Approach and Methodology submission.

Note: Population figures are indicative and based on available Census and administrative data. Heritage asset listings are not exhaustive. Applicants should verify all data independently.

Village1:Chushul, Leh, Ladakh

Village Name	Chushul
District/ Administrative Unit	Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh
VVPBlock	Chushul
Approximate Location	Pangong Lake area, Ladakh; elevation approximately 4,350 meters above sea level
Approximate Population	Approx.500 to 700 persons (Census 2011; current figures subject to verification)
Community/ Ethnic Identity	Predominantly Tibetan Buddhist; Changpa pastoral Community presence in surrounding area
Key Heritage Assets	Chushul Monastery (Gonpa); traditional Ladakhi vernacular stone and mud-brick residential architecture; historic trade route landscape on the Tibetan plateau rim; associated chortens and mani walls
Natural and Landscape Character	High-altitude cold desert; Pangong Tso lake basin; stark plateau landscape with seasonal wetlands; proximity to Line of Actual Control (LAC)
Existing Sustainable Heritage Tourism Profile	Limited formal sustainable heritage tourism activity; strategic, ecological, and cultural tourism interest exists; Pangong Lake is a major regional attraction drawing significant visitor numbers
Connectivity	Road connectivity via Leh; no scheduled air or rail access; access subject to Inner Line Permit (ILP) and military area restrictions
Key Regulatory/ Statutory	Union Territory of Ladakh jurisdiction; proximity to LAC entails defence and security clearances for development; Inner Line Permit zone
Context	

Primary Cultural and Heritage Themes	Tibetan Buddhist monastic culture; trans-Himalayan Trade heritage; Changpa nomadic traditions; Cold War and 1962 war historical memory
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Village2: Mana, Chamoli, Uttarakhand

Village Name	Mana
District/ Administrative Unit	Chamoli District, Uttarakhand
VVP Block	Chamoli
Approximate Location	Upper Alaknanda valley; elevation approximately 3,200 metres above sea level; last inhabited village before the Mana Pass (leading to Tibet)
Approximate Population	Approx.400 to 500 persons (seasonal; village is largely vacated in winter months)
Community/ Ethnic Identity	Pre dominantly Bhotiya community; strong Hindu and trans-Himalayan cultural synthesis
Key Heritage Assets	Vyas Gufa (cave traditionally associated with sage Vyas composing the Mahabharata); Ganesh Gufa; Bhim Pul (natural rock bridge over the Saraswati River); Mana village traditional stone architecture; proximity to Badrinath Dham (approx. 3 km)
Natural and Landscape Character	High Himalayan alpine landscape; confluence of Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers; seasonal snow closure; glacial and moraine terrain
Existing Sustainable Heritage Tourism Profile	Active religious and pilgrimage visitor activity linked to Badrinath Char Dham circuit; designated as the last Indian village on the Indo-Tibet border; significant footfall during pilgrimage season (May to October); sustainable heritage tourism frameworks not yet formalised
Connectivity	Motor road from Badrinath (approx.3km); Rishikesh and Haridwar serve as base cities; Jolly Grant Airport, Dehradun (approx. 320 km)
Key Regulatory/ Statutory Context	Uttarakhand state jurisdiction; proximity to border area; eco-sensitive zone considerations in Upper Alaknanda basin

Primary Cultural and Heritage Themes	Puranic and Mahabharata associations; Bhotiya trans-Himalayan trade culture; Char Dham Pilgrimage heritage; traditional wool weaving (Bhotiya shawls)

Village 3: Gipu, Himachal Pradesh

Village Name	Gipu
District/ Administrative Unit	Lahaul and Spiti District (or Kinnaur District; to be confirmed by the Authority), Himachal Pradesh
VVP Block	Lahaul and Spiti/Kinnaur (as applicable)
Approximate Location	Upper Himalayan border zone, Himachal Pradesh; precise coordinates to be confirmed; elevation range approximately 3,000 to 4,000 metres
Approximate Population	To be confirmed; estimated small village community of fewer than 300 persons
Community/ Ethnic Identity	Kinnauri or Lahauli community; Buddhist and Hindu syncretic traditions
Key Heritage Assets	Traditional Kinnauri/Lahauli vernacular architecture (flat-roofed stone and timber construction); local temple or gonpa structures; terraced agricultural landscape; traditional orchard and field systems
Natural and Landscape Character	High-altitude arid to semi-arid Himalayan landscape; river valley terrain; Pin-Bhaba or Baspa valley character (subject to confirmation of precise location)
Existing Sustainable Heritage Tourism Profile	Limited; part of emerging tribal circuit and trans-Himalayan cultural sustainable heritage tourism routes
Connectivity	Road connectivity via Shimla and Reckong Peoor Kaza; subject to seasonal road closures; no direct air access
Key Regulatory/ Statutory Context	Himachal Pradesh state jurisdiction; Tribal Area(Schedule V) status in Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti; Inner Line Permit may apply in some zones

Primary Cultural and Heritage Themes	Kinnauri/Lahauli material culture; traditional Agricultural and horticultural economy; Buddhist Monastic traditions; trans-Himalayan trade heritage on the old Indo-Tibet trade route
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Village 4: Kaho, Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh

Village Name	Kaho
District/ Administrative Unit	Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh
VVP Block	Anjaw
Approximate Location	Eastern most inhabited village of India; located on the Lohit River basin near the border with China (Tibet); elevation range approximately 1,500 to 2,500 metres
Approximate Population	Approx.150 to 300 persons (small community; figures subject to verification)
Community/ Ethnic Identity	Meyor community(also written Meyyor); one of the smallest tribal communities of India; Tibetan Buddhist affiliation; historically part of the trans-Himalayan cultural continuum
Key Heritage Assets	Traditional Meyor vernacular timber and bamboo residential structures; community prayer flags and chortens; oral traditions, folklore, and intangible heritage of the Meyor people; historic trade route landscape along the Lohit valley
Natural and Landscape Character	Dense Eastern Himalayan forest; Lohit River gorge; high biodiversity zone; Dibru-Saikhowa and Kamlang reserve forest proximity; dramatic river valley topography
Existing Sustainable Heritage Tourism Profile	Minimal formal sustainable heritage tourism activity; significant ethno-cultural and ecological tourism potential; of particular interest given the uniqueness of the Meyor community's heritage
Connectivity	Extremely limited; track/ road access from Tezuvia Hayuliang; no scheduled air access to Anjaw; nearest airport is Tezu (limited operations); road conditions subject to seasonal disruption

Key Regulatory/ Statutory Context	Arunachal Pradesh state jurisdiction; Inner Line Permit (ILP) compulsory for all non-Arunachali visitors; Restricted Area Permit (RAP) may apply for foreign visitors; Scheduled Tribe area
Primary Cultural and Heritage Themes	Meyor intangible and material cultural heritage; trans-Himalayan Buddhist traditions; Lohit valley ecological And landscape heritage; significance as India's Eastern most inhabited settlement

Village 5: Changu, Mangan (North Sikkim), Sikkim

Village Name	Changu (also referred to as Tsomgo in some administrative records; the village of Changu is distinct from Tsomgo Lake; Applicants should verify precise administrative identity)
District/ Administrative Unit	Mangan District (North Sikkim), Sikkim
VVP Block	Mangan (North Sikkim)
Approximate Location	North Sikkim; high-altitude area near the Tibetan border; elevation range approximately 3,000 to 4,500 metres depending on precise village location
Approximate Population	Small village community; precise figures subject to confirmation; estimated fewer than 500 persons
Community/ Ethnic Identity	Predominantly Lepcha and Bhutia communities; Tibetan Buddhist tradition
Key Heritage Assets	Buddhist monasteries (gompas) and associated sacred sites; traditional Lepcha and Bhutia vernacular architecture; sacred landscapes including lakes, passes, and forests with spiritual significance; traditional handloom and thangka painting traditions
Natural and Landscape Character	Eastern Himalayan alpine and sub alpine landscape; high-altitude lakes; glacial terrain; rich biodiversity within Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve buffer zone
Existing Sustainable Heritage Tourism Profile	Limited; North Sikkimis are stricted permit area; Gurudongmar Lake and Yumthang Valley draw permitted visitor traffic; significant cultural and ecological sustainable heritage tourism potential

Connectivity	Road access from Gangtok via Mangan; no rail or airaccess; Bagdogra Airport (West Bengal) is the nearest airport (approx. 125 km from Gangtok); Restricted Area Permit required for North Sikkim
Key Regulatory/ Statutory Context	Sikkim state jurisdiction; Restricted Area Permit (RAP) required for North Sikkim; proximity to international border with China; eco-sensitive zone within Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve buffer
Primary Cultural and Heritage Themes	Lepcha and Bhutia intangible and material heritage; Tibetan Buddhist monastic and ritual traditions; sacred landscape traditions (Beyul concept of hidden sacred valleys); traditional ecological knowledge

Applicants are advised to conduct independent field research, consult State Government departments, and visit the villages where possible before submission of their proposals. The Ministry of Culture reserves the right to update or supplement the above data sheets through corrigenda prior to the bid submission date.

Annexure VII: Format for Financial Bid Submission

Name of Firm:

RFP Reference No.:

We hereby submit our Financial Bid for the above-mentioned assignment as follows:

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Quote In INR	GST (INR)	Total Amount (INR)
1.	Preparation of Comprehensive Development Proposals for all 5 Model Villages (Lump-sum Charges)			
2.	Implementation Support and Design Supervision Charges (Lump-sum Charges)			
	Total Cost			

Note: The quoted charges shall be inclusive of all professional services, site visits, travel, and incidental expenses required for the

scope of work under Part 1. Figures should be quoted in INR inclusive of all taxes except GST, which should be shown separately.

For and on behalf of (Name of Firm)

Authorised Signatory: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Seal of Firm: _____

Date: _____