## ASSM STATE PUBLIC FINANCE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS PROJECT (ASPIRe) INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS FOR THE PRINTING OF ASPIRe CALENDAR 2024

No.: ASPIRe/ECF/271643 Dated Dispur 20th December, 2024

Subject: Invitation of quotations for printing of ASPIRe Calendar 2024 Dear Sir,

1. Interested bidders are invited to submit your most competitive quotation for the following:

SI	Brief Description of	Quantity	Delivery	Place of Delivery
	Material	Quartity	period	l lade of Belivery
-	Desk Top Calendar (Colour): (paper quality & design as per sample) spiral bound. Calendar Holding stand(cardboard) 23 cm Width x 19 cm Height. 14 calendar pages (Glossy 250 GSM) - 23 cm Width X 18 cm Height. Contents are attached at Annexure A. Agency need to do printing and delivery on site.  Note:  a. Please check the sample copy in Procurement Cell, F-Block, Finance Department, Assam Secretariat, Dispur, before quoting the rate. b. Submit a sample copy with respective quote.		•	Procurement Cell, F-Block, Finance Department, Assam Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati-06
2	Desk Top Calendar Cover (Colour): (Paper quality & design as per sample) Cover page of the calendar (250 GSM) Content is attached as <b>Annexure B.</b>			

#### 2. Bidder Price:

- a. The contract shall be for the full quantity as described above. Corrections, if any, shall be made by crossing out, initialing, dating and rewriting.
- b. All duties, taxes and other levies payable by the agency under the contract shall be included in the total price.
- c. The rates quoted by the bidder shall be fixed till the entire period of the contract and shall not be subject to adjustment on any account.
- d. The Prices should be quoted in Indian Rupees only.

#### 3. Qualification criteria:

- a. The bidder should have been registered with state Goods and Services Tax (GST). Copy of such certificate shall be enclosed as a proof.
- b. Self-attested copy of PAN card.

#### 4. Important Dates:

Issuance of Request for Quotation	Date	Venue
Submission of Quotation	27-12-2023 (2:00 PM)	ASPIRe office, F- Block,
Opening of Quotations	27-12-2023 (3:00 PM)	Finance Department, Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati- 781006

5. **Validity of Quotation:** The quotation shall remain valid for a period not less than 60 days after the deadline date specified for submission.

#### 6. Submission of Bids:

- a. A bidder shall submit the quotation in one sealed envelope only as per format. A bidder shall not submit more than one quotation for the same item.
- b. The quotation must be in one envelope. The bidder must mention full detailed specification of the items quoted. Mere mentioning words like "complying" / "compliable" is not sufficient.
- c. Envelope containing quotation must bear on the cover itself, name of item bidding for, name and full address with phone numbers of the bidder.

#### 7. Evaluation of Quotations:

The Purchaser will evaluate and compare the quotations determined to be substantially responsive i.e. which

- a) are properly signed; and
- b) conform to terms and conditions, and specifications.

#### 8. Award of contract:

- a. The Purchaser will award the contract to the bidder whose quotation has been determined to the substantially responsive and who has offered the lowest evaluated quotation price.
- b. Notwithstanding the above, AS-CFMS reserves the right to accept or reject any quotations and to cancel the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to the award of contract.
- c. The bidder whose bid is accepted will be notified of the award of contract by the Purchaser prior to expiration of the quotation validity period. The terms of the accepted offer shall be incorporated in the purchase order.
- 9. **Quality Verification**: Quality of the goods provided may be verified by a team of officials as decided and constituted by PD, AS-CFMS. Supply of inferior quality may attract necessary legal action from forfeiture of performance guarantee.
- 10. Payment Terms: 100% payment after delivery

SD/-

(JAYANT NARLIKAR, IAS)
Project Director ASPIRe, AS-CFMS
F-Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur

#### FORMAT OF QUOTATION

SL NO	Name of the Item	Quantity	other taxes	TOTAL WITH GST
1	Desk Top Calendar (Colour)		payable	
	Desk Top Calendar Cover (Colour)			

We agree to supply the above quantity of items in accordance with the specifications for the amount against each item as shown in the Price schedule, within the period specified in the Invitation for Quotations.

We hereby certify that we have taken steps to ensure that no person acting for us or on our behalf will engage in bribery or collusive agreements with competitors.

Signature of Supplier





# ASSAM STATE PUBLIC FINANCE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS



## Calendar 2024

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## **Greetings from ASPIRe**

## The Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017 and the Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020 are effective from 1st September, 2021.

Hence, all departments are mandated to follow all provisions enshrined therein.

am delighted to pen this message as we embark on a transformative journey to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of public finance management in Assam. At the heart of ASPIRe lies a commitment to fostering a culture of good governance, accountability, and fiscal prudence. We recognize that sound public finance management is the cornerstone of sustainable development and economic prosperity. By strengthening our financial systems and practices, we can better deliver essential services to our communities, empower our citizens, and create a more equitable and prosperous Assam.

In addition to the diverse institutional reforms, the Government of Assam has placed significant emphasis on the integration of e-Procurement and the utilization of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, resulting in numerous advantages including shorter

tender cycle, enhanced market participation and costsaving. To guarantee a smooth transition from existing to new procurement rules, comprehensive capacity development is necessary. The Finance Department has implemented a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for state officials, with the goal of enhancing public procurement knowledge through interactive materials.

Our calendar for 2024 provides a concise overview of various procurement rules and procedures while also addressing common questions that may arise during different procurement activities.

Shri Jayant Narlikar, IAS,

Commissioner & Secretary, Finance Department & Project Director, ASPIRe

- Competent Authority means a person, group of body, or organization that has the legal authority to take action as directed by the Authority under the Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017, or as specified in the Rules or Guidelines made under the Act. This includes the power to approve or reject bids, award contracts, and investigate allegations of irregularities in the procurement process.
- **e-Procurement** (electronic procurement) is a method to buy goods or services through e-Tendering on the terms and conditions acceptable to both supplier and purchaser.
- **Bid Security** is a financial guarantee or bond that a bidder submits to a procuring entity as a form of assurance that they will fulfill their obligations under the terms of the bidding documents if their bid is selected. This security typically ranges from 2% to 5% of the bid estimated value and is forfeited if the bidder fails to fulfil their obligations.
- Invitation to bid means a document published by the procuring entity inviting bids relating to the subject matter of procurement and any amendment thereto and includes notice inviting tender and request for proposal.
- Emergency Procurement means procurement of Goods, services or works that need to be taken up in response to recent or imminent, natural or man-made disasters and calamities to restore public facilities or services which are crucial for reinstating normal public life.
- **Urgent works** as distinct from emergency works, means works that require immediate commencement and completion within a compressed timeline for public safety, asset protection, or essential services.

## JANUARY 2024

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## **JANUARY** 2024

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Holidays: 15th & 16th - Magh Bihu & Tusu Puja | 23rd - Gwthar Bathou San / Netaji's Birthday | 26th - Republic Day | 31st - Me-Dam-Me-Phi

#### **FEBRUARY** 2024

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## **Procuring Entity (P.E):**

A procuring entity is any person, agency, or organization that acquires goods, works, or services on behalf of the State Government or any other entity that receives substantial financial assistance from the State Government for its procurement activities. This includes any department, public sector enterprise, entity established by the Constitution of India whose expenditure is met from the Consolidated Fund of the State, or other entity specified by the State Government through a notification.



## **Description of the Subject matter of procurement:**

- The description of the subject matter of procurement must be clear and objective, focusing on the essential needs of the procuring entity.
- ▶ Technical specifications should be based on national or international standards whenever possible.
- Trademarks, trade names, or brands should not be specified unless absolutely necessary, and in such cases, the phrase "or equivalent" must be included.
- Technical specifications should be measurable and functional, focusing on the desired performance or outcome rather than specific products or methods.

## FEBRUARY 2024

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## **FEBRUARY** 2024

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Holidays : 24th - Bir Chilaray Divas

#### **MARCH** 2024

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## **Description of the Subject matter of procurement:**

The description of the goods, services, or works that the procuring entity intends to acquire through the procurement process. It should be clear, objective, functional, generic, and measurable, focusing on the essential needs of the procuring entity rather than specific products or methods.



## Single envelop and two envelop bids:

#### **Single-Envelope Bids:**

• Bids in which the technical, quality and performance aspects, commercial terms and conditions and the financial aspects including the price are contained in a single envelope.

#### Two-Envelope Bids:

- ▶ Bids are submitted in two separate envelopes:
  - Techno-Commercial Bid: Contains technical specifications, quality and performance requirements, commercial terms, and all other details except price.
  - Financial Bid: Contains only the financial aspects of the bid, including price.

#### **Opening and Evaluation:**

For two-envelope bids, the techno-commercial bids are evaluated first to ensure technical acceptability. Only bids deemed technically acceptable proceed to the opening and evaluation of the financial bids.

## **MARCH 2024**

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## **MARCH** 2024

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**Holidays**: 25th - **Dol Jatra** | 29th - **Good Friday** 

#### **APRIL** 2024

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## Single envelop and two envelop bids:

**Single-Envelope Bidding:** Bids containing all aspects, including technical, commercial, and financial aspects, in one envelope.

**Two-Envelope Bidding:** Bids separated into technical and financial envelopes, with technical evaluation preceding financial evaluation.



#### Criteria for evaluation:

- When evaluating bids relevant criteria are considered including price, operational costs, timelines, product or service specifications, payment terms, warranties, and bidder experience and expertise.
- In some cases, the procuring entity may require trials, sample testing, or other methods to further evaluate bids. These requirements should be clearly outlined in the bidding documents.
- ▶ To the extent possible, non-price evaluation criteria should be objective and quantifiable. This makes the evaluation process more transparent and consistent.
- ▶ The bidding documents must clearly specify the criteria for evaluating bids.
- Where applicable, the relative weights assigned to each evaluation criterion should be clearly stated in the bidding documents.
- The procuring entity cannot use criteria or procedures other than those specified in the bidding documents to evaluate bids.

## **APRIL 2024**

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## **APRIL** 2024

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Holidays : 11th - Id-UI-Fitr | 13th to 15th - Bohag Bihu | 20th - Sati Sadhini Divas

#### **MAY** 2024

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## Single envelop and two envelop bids:

The factors considered when evaluating bids. These criteria should be related to the subject matter of procurement and may include price, cost of operation, time frame, characteristics of the goods or works, terms of payment, guarantees, and bidder experience and competence.



## Two stage bidding:

- In the first stage of the bidding process, the procuring entity invites proposals containing the technical aspects with reference to the required outputs or outcomes relevant to the procurement without asking for any bid price.
- ▶ The bid document for the first stage shall include a brief description of objectives and scope of the requirement, instructions to bidders, eligibility criteria, evaluation criteria, preliminary qualification criteria relating to past-experience, technical capabilities, financial strength etc. which will be used for short listing prospective bidders. Each parameter may be assigned marks and relative weights.
- All technical bids are evaluated for short listing by the Bid Evaluation Committee against the different criteria specifically provided in the bidding document. All bidders who meet the minimum requirement shall be shortlisted comprised of not less than three bidders.
- The procuring entity may add, amend or delete any specification of the subject matter of procurement or terms and conditions or criterion for evaluation, etc. but cannot modify the fundamental nature of the procurement itself. Any such revision shall be communicated forthwith to the eligible bidders and uploaded in the State Public Procurement Portal (SPPP) simultaneously.
- In the second stage of bidding, only those who were qualified during the first stage, asking them to present their final bid containing bid prices and detailed technical bid in response to the revised set of specification, terms and conditions evaluation criteria, etc. for the procurement.

## **MAY 2024**

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## **MAY** 2024

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Holidays: 1st - May Day | 8th - Tithi of Damodar Deva | 23rd - Buddha Purnima | 24th – Janmotsav of Sri Sri Madhabdeva

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## Two stage bidding:

In a two-stage procurement process, proposals containing technical aspects are invited in the first stage. In the second stage of bidding, only qualified bidders from the first stage are invited to present their final bid containing bid prices and detailed technical bid in response to the revised set of specification, terms and conditions evaluation criteria, etc. for the procurement.



## Request for Quotations (RFQ):

- A procuring entity may adopt the method of request for quotations for procurement, if the estimated cost or the value of the subject matter of procurement is less than Rupees One lakh on one occasion, but it shall not exceed Rupees Five Lakh in a financial year.
- The procuring entity must initiate and complete the RFQ process after diligent enquiries from the market and ascertaining reasonability of price.
- The procuring entity must keep records of the different dealers, wholesalers, vendors, etc. approached and prices indicated by each of them.
- Sealed quotations must be requested from as many potential bidders as practicable, subject to a minimum of three, for submission within a given date and time.
- ▶ Each bidder must be permitted to give only one quotation.
- ▶ Each bidder must be informed whether any element other than the price for the subject matter of the procurement itself, such as any applicable transportation, insurance charges, customs duties, taxes, etc., are to be included in the total quoted price.
- The successful quotation will be the lowest priced quotation meeting the needs of the procuring entity as set out in the RFQ.
- The quotes from the bidders must be tabulated and evaluated, and a comparative statement must be prepared by the Bid Evaluation Committee recommending the successful bidder.

## **JUNE 2024**

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## **JUNE** 2024

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#### **JULY** 2024

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## Request for Quotations (RFQ):

A procuring entity may adopt the method of request for quotations for procurement, if the estimated cost or the value of the subject matter of procurement is less than Rupees One lakh on one occasion, but it shall not exceed Rupees Five Lakh in a financial year.



### **Spot Purchase:**

- A spot purchase is an unplanned or ad-hoc purchase of goods, services, or works that is made quickly to meet an immediate need. Spot purchases are typically made for small-value procurements or when there is an urgent requirement that cannot be met through the regular procurement process.
- Spot purchases can be made for the same estimated cost or value as prescribed for RFQs.
- ▶ The procuring entity must form a Spot Purchase Committee comprising three members.
- ▶ The Spot Purchase Committee must conduct a diligent market survey to ascertain the specifications, quality, and reasonableness of the rate of the subject matter of procurement.
- ▶ The Spot Purchase Committee must identify the appropriate supplier and record a certificate stating that the subject matter recommended for procurement is of the requisite specifications and quality, priced at the prevailing dealer/wholesale-market rate, and the supplier recommended is reliable and competent to supply/provide the subject matter in question.
- Records of the authorized dealers, vendors, wholesalers approached, and the price quoted by them must be kept.

## **JULY 2024**

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## **JULY** 2024

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#### **AUGUST 2024**

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## **Spot Purchase:**

A spot purchase is an unplanned or ad-hoc purchase of goods, services, or works that is made quickly to meet an immediate need. Spot purchases are typically made for small-value procurements or when there is an urgent requirement that cannot be met through the regular procurement process.



#### **Pre-bid clarification:**

- Any bidder may, in writing, seek clarifications from the procuring entity in respect of the bidding documents within the specified timeframe.
- ▶ The procuring entity must respond to all requests for clarifications within the timeframe specified in the bidding documents.
- All requests for clarifications and responses thereto must be communicated to all bidders in writing or by email and published on the State Public Procurement Portal (SPPP).
- In certain cases, such as turnkey contracts, facilities of a special nature, or procurement of sophisticated and costly equipment, the procuring entity may hold a pre-bid conference to clarify doubts of potential bidders. The date, time and place of the pre-bid conference shall be indicated in the bidding document.
- If any techno-commercial requirements are revised after the pre-bid conference, the procuring entity must issue a formal corrigendum and share it with all bidders. The corrigendum must also be published on the SPPP.

## AUGUST 2024

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## **AUGUST** 2024

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Holidays : 15th - Independence Day | 23rd - Tirubhav Tithi of Sri Sri Madhabdeva | 26th – Janmastomi

#### **SEPTEMBER** 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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#### **Pre-bid clarification:**

A pre-bid clarification is a process by which potential bidders can seek clarifications from the procuring entity regarding the bidding documents. Clarifications can be sought on any aspect of the bidding documents, including the specifications, technical requirements, commercial terms, etc.



### **Performance Security:**

- ▶ All successful bidders must provide performance security before the contract is awarded.
- The amount of performance security must be at least 5% of the contract value but may be higher if specified in the bidding documents.
- Performance security can be provided in the following forms:
  - Online deposit
  - Bank guarantee from a scheduled bank
  - Fixed deposit receipt (FDR) from a scheduled bank, duly endorsed in the name of the procuring entity and discharged in advance by the bidder. The bidder must also furnish an undertaking from the bank to make payment or premature payment of the FDR on demand to the procuring entity without the requirement of the bidder's consent. In the event of forfeiture of the performance security, the FDR will be forfeited along with the interest earned on it.
- The performance security must remain valid for at least 60 days beyond the date of completion of all contractual obligations, including warranty obligations and maintenance and defect liability period, whichever is later.
- The state government may prescribe other forms for furnishing performance security or amend the quantum of performance security by notification from time to time.

## SEPTEMBER 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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## **SEPTEMBER** 2024

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Holidays : 4th - Tirubhav Tithi of Srimanta Sankardeva | 14th - Karam Puja

#### **OCTOBER** 2024

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## **Performance Security:**

A financial guarantee issued by all successful bidders to the procuring entity to ensure that the bidders will fulfill their contractual obligations before the contract is awarded.



#### Schedule - time:

#### **Open Competitive Bidding**

- In case of two envelope, the maximum time allowed for the decision of the Competent sanctioning authority to accept bid is 21 working days
- In case of one envelope, the maximum time allowed for the decision of the Competent sanctioning authority to accept bid is 14 working days
- If approval by Head of Department or next higher authority is needed, the maximum time allowed is 10 working days
- ▶ If approval by Administrative Department is needed, the maximum time allowed is 21 working days

#### **Limited Bidding and Single Source Procurement**

- In case of two envelope, the maximum time allowed for the decision of the Competent sanctioning authority to accept bid is 14 working days
- In case of one envelope, the maximum time allowed for the decision of the Competent sanctioning authority to accept bid is 7 working days
- If approval by Head of Department or next higher authority is needed, the maximum time allowed is 7 working days
- ▶ If approval by Administrative Department is needed, the maximum time allowed is 14 working days

## OCTOBER 2024

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## **OCTOBER** 2024

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Holidays: 2nd - Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi | 10th to 12th - Durga Puja | 13th - Vijaya Dashomi / Janmotsav of Sri Sri Sankardeva | 17th - Kati Bihu | 31st - Kali Puja & Diwali

#### **NOVEMBER** 2024

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#### Schedule - time:

The timeframe for completion of various stages of the process of procurement shall be as specified in the Schedules.



#### Common mistakes:

- ▶ Some procuring entities do not follow Standard Bidding Document (SBD) even though it is notified by the Finance Department. This deviation from the standard bidding documents results in an increased risk of errors and inefficiencies in the procurement process. Without adhering to a standard bidding document, each procurement process may have varying requirements, specifications, qualification criteria, and evaluation criteria, creating confusion among bidders and resulting in inconsistent evaluation of proposals. These inconsistencies make it difficult to compare and select the most suitable vendor. Additionally, the evaluation process becomes more time-consuming and complex, further delaying the procurement process and hindering the timely selection of the suitable vendor.
- One of the commonly observed mistakes in the procurement process is the failure of the tender inviting authority to adhere to the standard template for newspaper advertisements. This results in inadequate information, excessive length, and inconsistencies across different advertisements. Following the proper standard format for publishing tenders will ensure clarity, consistency, and effective communication with all stakeholders involved in the procurement process.
- It is observed that during the bidding process a number of procuring entities mention certain eligibility / qualification criteria which are revealed to be restrictive during the evaluation process. Sometimes the bid evaluation committee ignores such conditions so that the tender can be taken ahead or awarded. This is a violation of **Rule 16(i) Assam Public Procurement Rules**, 2020, which states that procuring entities should not change or relax criteria or terms, once fixed for evaluation of technical bids in the bidding documents under any circumstances. Bids should be evaluated only against the criteria specified in the bidding documents. No new criterion should be added, or any such specified criterion ignored.

## **NOVEMBER 2024**

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## **NOVEMBER** 2024

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Holidays: 3rd - Bhatri Dwitiya | 7th - Chhat Puja | 15th - Guru Nanak's Birthday | 24th - Lachit Divas

#### **DECEMBER** 2024

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#### Common mistakes:

Assam Finance Department has developed and implemented the State Public Procurement Portal, which is customized to cater to electronic procurement/tendering requirements for the State Government Departments and other organizations and It is mandatory to publish offline tenders on the State Public Procurement Portal (SPPP), as per Section 17(3) of Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017 and Rule 17 of Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020. However, the majority of the ASPIRe departments are not doing the same.



#### Common mistakes:

- According to Rule 23 (20) of the Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020, if there is a lack of competition in a procurement process, the procuring entity responsible can proceed with a single tender if the procurement had met certain requirements of encouraging competition. These requirements include using standard bidding terms, industry-friendly specifications, wide publicity, and providing sufficient time for bids. However, it has been observed that when the procuring entity receives little or no competition, they often blindly reissue the same tender with the same qualifying, technical and evaluation criteria, without addressing the reasons for the initial failure. The main reasons for the lack of competition are faulty market research and inclusion of restrictive conditions in the bidding document. Hence, going ahead with the same tender document with the same qualifying, technical and evaluation criteria is not expected to better the competition. Therefore, for better competition the procuring entities should rectify the previous qualifying, technical and evaluation criteria, i.e they should revise and redraft the bidding documents and float the bid.
- Procuring Entity sometimes allocates work to L2 when L1 withdraws their bid without forfeiting the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of L1 party. Rule 29(2) of the Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020, states that the EMD deposited by a bidder shall be forfeited in certain cases:
  - a. when the bidder withdraws or modifies its bid after opening of bids;
  - b. when the bidder, after being selected for award of contract, does not deposit the required performance security within the specified period; and
  - c. if the bidder breaches any provision of code of integrity prescribed for bidders specified in the Act and these rules.

## **DECEMBER 2024**

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## **DECEMBER** 2024

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Holidays : 2nd – Asom Divas (Su-Ka-Pha Divas) | 25th - Christmas Day

#### **JANUARY** 2025

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#### **Common mistakes:**

Procuring entities sometimes float advertisements for very low value of procurement. Schedule II and Rule 21(6) of Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020, states that Tender advertisements in newspapers are not mandatory for procurement with an estimated value of INR 10 lakhs and below.





# Calendar 2025

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**SEPTEMBER** 

OCTOBER								
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# ASSAM STATE PUBLIC FINANCE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS



Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System (AS-CFMS)
Finance Department, Government of Assam