

**Terms of Reference (ToR) for the
6th RMSA JRM
(24 August - 08 September 2015)**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a Programme of the Government of India, implemented in partnership with the State Governments with the main objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons. The scheme seeks to enhance enrolment in classes IX and X by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, to improve quality of education imparted at secondary level by ensuring all secondary schools conform to prescribed/ standard norms, to remove gender, socio-economic and disability barriers and to achieve universal access to secondary level education by 2017, i.e. by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan.
- 1.2 RMSA was launched in 2009, funded through national resources (central government + state government) and now has tied up for external funding by Development Partners (DP) – World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA), United Kingdom’s – Department of International Development (DFID) and European Union (EU). As part of the agreement for external aid from the DPs which came into effect in November, 2012, the Joint Review Mission (JRM) is to be conducted every six months in the months of January and July/August each year. The January Mission undertakes States visits, while the July/August mission is a desk review.
- 1.3 The Sixth Joint Review Mission (JRM) of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan is scheduled to be held from **August 24, 2015**. The Mission will be a desk review of the programme implementation, with a focus on the themes identified for the Mission. The Mission will be led by Government of India (GoI).

2. Mission Plan

- 2.1 The RMSA Mission will comprise of 16 members, including two specialist members on financial management and procurement. Members would be chosen in such a way that expertise would be available for all the major functional areas.
- 2.2 The agency wise composition of the Mission will be as follows:
- Government of India (MHRD) - 8 members including Mission Leader and Finance and Procurement Team
 - World Bank, EU and DFID - 8 members (including Finance and Procurement team)

3. Mission Objectives and Guiding Principles

- 3.1 The main objective of the JRM is to review the status of progress and to also consider issues related to programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including financial management/procurement, capacity of States with respect to programme objectives.

3.2 The guiding principle will be one of a Learning Mission from the experiences so far; identify gaps and to collaboratively explore and work out options for bridging those gaps. RMSA has been under implementation since 2009-10 and is still evolving its processes and systems. The JRM therefore will include reviewing overall strategies being adopted in the planning and implementation of the programme with reference to its basic objective.

4. Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Mission

4.1 The Mission will:

- follow up on issues identified during the 5th JRM (January, 2015)
- examine issues related to programme implementation in the following areas:
 - Progress against Sanctioned Annual Work Plans
 - Challenges in physical access and strategies for ensuring education to the children of un-served habitations
 - Status of quality interventions – in-service teacher training arrangements and strategies, nature of on-site academic support structures, availability of required number of teachers and classrooms, progress in teacher recruitment production and distribution of free textbooks, release and utilization of school grant.
 - Progress of civil works particularly new schools, upgradations, additional classrooms, toilets and drinking water facilities.
 - Review of the Financial Management and Procurement (FMP) procedures will also be carried out as part of the JRM. The Mission would review the extent to which States are complying with the provisions and processes laid down in the FMP Manual of RMSA.
 - Review Monitoring Institution reports and other third party evaluation and studies
 - Identify innovative/ best practices – specific interventions that have been successful and can be replicated;
 - Identify areas needing interventions (administrative, HR, financial, capacity building) and areas for further qualitative research/ case studies;

4.2 The Mission however will put a special focus in their work on the following aspects of the programme:

- Understanding what is known about student learning outcomes from the national assessment survey (NAS) and state level assessment surveys (SLAS) in order to recommend strategies to strengthen the measurement of learning outcomes and dissemination of information about how to improve learning outcomes
- Understanding the progress on enrolment (GER and NER), retention including reduction in drop-out rate, transition, and completion with focus on gender, social groups and students with special needs (IEDSS) inclusion

- Understanding the range of mechanisms used to collect data from schools, e.g. from UDISE, Monitoring Institutions, Quality Monitoring Tools, and state level processes, and the way these datasets are used. To what extent are the datasets complementing/duplicating each other - and how can the data be best consolidated and utilized.

4.3 The Mission may also look at the preparatory work in the identified research areas during the exercise.

4.4 The organization of meetings and deliberations in Delhi for the JRM will be the responsibility of the World Bank. MHRD will be responsible for inviting states and national institutions.

5. Time Frame

5.1 The JRM will take place between 24 August-08 September 2015 and the draft schedule / time -frame is proposed as follows:

Date	Day No.	Venue	Activity
24 August 2015 (Mon)	Day 1	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9.30-10.00 am: Opening remarks by GOI and introductions ○ 10.00 –11:30 am: Briefing by Government of India ○ 11:30–12:00 noon: Tea Break ○ 12.00–1.30 pm: Discussion on Action Taken Report from recommendations of 5th JRM ○ 1.30–2.30 pm: Lunch break ○ 2.30–5.30 pm: Internal discussion on distribution of tasks and writing responsibilities among mission members
25 August (Tues)	Day 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9.30–11.30 am: 2014-15 NAS Grade 10 survey – presentation by NCERT on findings from the survey and plans for national dissemination ○ 11:30–12:00 noon: Tea Break ○ 12:00–1.00 pm: Session on state level achievement surveys – Presentation by Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh ○ 01:00–2:00 pm: Lunch Break ○ 02.00–3.00 pm: Session on Teachers Eligibility Test by (TET) by CBSE and NCTE ○ 3.00–4.00 pm: Planning for teacher training- Presentation by Mizoram and Rajasthan ○ 4.00-5.00 pm: Session on report of evaluation of teacher training - presentation by TCA ○ 5.00- 5.30 pm: JRM Members internal discussion
26 August (Wed)	Day 3		<p>Session on RMSA Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9.30–11.00 am: Presentation on updated Results Framework by NUEPA ○ 11.00-12.30pm: Session on RMSA progress against indicators of GER, NER, retention, drop-out, transition, and completion – Trends analysis Presentation by the World Bank ○ 12.30-1.30 pm: Presentation on school size,

		<p>population and planning by TCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1.30-2.30 pm: Lunch break ○ 2.30-4.30 pm: Presentation on progress against indicators by Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Mizoram ○ 4.30-5.30 pm: JRM members internal discussion
27 August (Thurs)	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9.30-11.00 am: Presentation on Quality Monitoring Tools and Reporting Framework by NCERT ○ 11.00-12:00 noon: Presentation by Monitoring Institutions from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on their findings ○ 12.00 to 01.00 pm: Presentation by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on how they manage different information systems (including states' own systems) ○ 01.00-2.00 pm: Lunch break ○ 2.00-3.00 pm: Presentation by Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh on (i) social inclusion and (ii) on how they manage different information systems (including states' own systems) ○ 03.00-4.00 pm: Discussion on data consolidation and use ○ 4:00-5:00 pm: Presentation by Gujarat and Assam on environmental management. ○ 5.00-5.30 pm: JRM Members internal discussion
28 August (Fri)	Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9.30-11.30am: Session on Financial Management (follow-up to last JRM by MHRD/TSG + comments from states) ○ 11.30-1:00 pm: Session on Procurement (follow-up to last JRM by MHRD/TSG + presentation from Assam and Karnataka) ○ 1.00-2.00 pm: Lunch break ○ 2.00-5.30 pm: JRM Members internal discussion and report writing
31 August (Mon)	Day 6	9.30 am onwards: Report writing
1 September (Tues)	Day 7	9.30 am onwards: Report writing
2 September (Wed)	Day 8	9.30 am onwards: Report writing
3 September (Thurs)	Day 9	9.30 am onwards: Report writing
4 September (Fri)	Day 10	9.30 am - 4.00pm: Finalization of report and sharing with MHRD
7 September (Mon)	Day 11	10.00am-12.00 noon: Pre-wrap up meeting with MHRD
8 September (Tues)	Day 12	10.00am- 2.00pm: Wrap-up meeting

6. Documents and information

6.1 The following documents will be shared with the Mission members one week prior to the JRM:

- a) GOI budget allocation, releases and expenditure for RMSA for 2012-13 / 2013-14/ 2014-15/2015-16, broken down by sub-programme and by state.
- b) Financial Management Reports
- c) Audit Reports from States/UTs
- d) UDISE reports – National, State and District Report Cards- 2014-15
- e) Updated Results Framework Document
- f) Overall annual programme implementation reports on States and UTs
- g) RMSA PAB minutes for 2015-16
- h) Reports of the Monitoring Institutions for all the states
- i) Action Taken Report from 5th JRM Recommendations
