

Minutes of the 32nd meeting of the Project Appraisal and Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC)

32nd meeting of the Project Appraisal and Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC) for utilization of EPC funds, was held on 29 July 2025, under the chairpersonship of Chairman, CPCB, in virtual mode. List of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

02. AQM division briefed the committee about the status of EPC funds. Rs. 538 crore has been accrued in the EPC fund account as on 17.07.2025, out of which Rs. 194.83 crores have been disbursed as on 21.07.2025, and Rs. 201.6 is committed for sanctioned projects/activities. Out of the remaining funds amounting to Rs. 141.57 crores, Rs. 54 crores have been earmarked as performance grants for F.Y. 2025-26 under CPCB guidelines for providing gap funding support to 19 NCR cities, leaving Rs. 87.57 crores available for utilization. It was further informed that MCD is expected to submit a proposal seeking funding for development of model road stretches, in line with CAQM guidelines, which would result in further utilization of balance available EPC funds.

04. AQM division informed about the status of proposals received for consideration under EPC funds. A total of 162 proposals have been received so far, and 146 proposals have been examined and decided. Out of these 146 proposals, 41 proposals have been sanctioned while 105 proposals have been rejected. The remaining 16 proposals are under consideration at various stages, with 01 proposal to be considered in today's meeting.

05. PAAC was apprised that in its 31st meeting, it had accorded in-principle approval for taking up a study for prescribing emission standards, requirement of APCDs, cost implication, etc. in Textile, Food processing and Metal industries in Delhi-NCR, from EPC funds, in line with the action plan submitted by CPCB to NITI Aayog. For conducting the study, proposals were sought from 06 premier institutes/agency, and two proposals were received: one jointly submitted by IIT Kanpur (IITK) and IIT Delhi, and other jointly submitted by CSIR-NEERI and MECON Ltd.

06. An in-house committee was constituted for evaluation of the proposals and to provide its recommendation for award of study. Being a partial proposal, the committee did not consider the joint proposal of CSIR-NEERI and MECON Ltd. to be technically qualified for evaluation. The committee was satisfied with the technical and financial proposal jointly submitted by IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi and recommended it for award of study, with IIT Kanpur as the lead institute, at a cost of Rs. 61.5 lakhs, excluding overhead charges of 25% and applicable GST. IITK was asked to explore possibility of reduction of overhead charges but IITK has retained the same, referring to institution policy/guidelines and previous MoU signed with CPCB having the same overhead charges.

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07. Subsequently, the Principal Investigator (PI) Prof. Mukesh Sharma, IITK made a presentation on the scope of work, methodology, timelines and cost break-up. Prof. Sharma expressed that this is a complex study and detailed stack emission monitoring & assessment of existing APCDs will be required to come out with the standards to be prescribed. Considering time constraints, 3rd party would have to be engaged for stack monitoring, but the same would be carried out under complete supervision of IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi.

08. Dr. Hasan, SIAM enquired about the current status of compliance of industrial boilers and furnaces in Delhi-NCR with the prescribed emission standards. Prof. Sharma expressed that it is difficult to comment on the present compliance status, however once field monitoring is carried out, a more realistic estimate can be provided.

09. It was noted that IITK has proposed timeline of 30 November 2025 for submission of the final report, while the timeline prescribed in the action plan submitted by CPCB to NITI Aayog for the task is 15 November 2025. IITK was asked to expedite their project activities, so that the timelines committed by CPCB are complied with. Prof. Sharma expressed that it is difficult to commit right now, but all attempts would be made to complete the project within CPCB prescribed timelines.

10. Considering the above, PAAC sanctioned the proposal of IIT Kanpur at a cost of Rs. 61.5 lakhs (overhead charges and GST extra) and expressed that project activities may be initiated immediately so that the prescribed timelines can be met.

Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.



List of PAAC Members:

1. Sh. Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC and Chairman, CPCB
2. Sh. Bharat Kumar Sharma, Member Secretary, CPCB
3. Sh. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, IFD, MoEFCC
4. Sh. V.K. Soni, Scientist F, IMD
5. Sh. R.K. Agarwal, Director (Technical), CAQM
6. Sh. N.K. Nayak, SE (MVL), MoRTH
7. Sh. A.K. Anand, CEO 1, UPPCB
8. Sh. Mukesh Balodhi, Scientist E, MoEF&CC
9. Dr. Bhupender Singh, Additional Director (Scientific), DPCC
10. Dr. Pradyot Koley, Scientist D, DST
11. Dr. Rashid Hasan, Senior Advisor, SIAM
12. Representative, HSPCB
13. Representative, RSPCB

Invitees:

1. Sh. Mukesh Sharma, Professor Emeritus, IIT Kanpur
2. Sh. Sri Harsha Kota, Associate Professor, IIT Delhi

CPCB Officials:

1. Sh. Pankaj Agarwal, Scientist F & Head, AQM Division
2. Sh. Ankush Tewani, Scientist E, AQM Division
3. Sh. Gautam Kumar Sharma, Scientist C, AQM Division
4. Sh. Toshesh Bhargava, SRF, AQM Division
5. Sh. Nitish, AVE, IT Division

