

- vi. Besides Calls for Proposals, the interested institution/ individuals may also submit proposals, in relevant areas at anytime to the MNRE. Such proposals will be evaluated for financial support on case-to-case basis according to their relevance to Ministry's priorities and suitability for financial support.
- vii. MNRE will issue administrative sanctions for the projects under the Scheme based on the recommendations of Project Appraisal Committee (PAC)
- viii. The Executing agencies (EAs) selected for the pilots will implement the project, share knowledge and viability and the outcome of the pilot projects through project completion report, monitoring reports, workshops, and publications to disseminate findings, best practices, and lessons learned from the pilot.
- ix. The Scheme aims to leverage existing resources and infrastructure available with Government Ministries/Departments/Institutions for production, manufacturing, testing and other required work for the utilisation of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- x. The scheme would fund expenditure related to equipment/retrofitting for production of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives through innovative models/pathways and their applications. Operating expenses on account of production of renewable electricity or its sourcing, land and water sourcing etc. will not be funded under the scheme.
- xi. Financial support for projects will be evaluated and granted taking into consideration the specific needs, merits, and feasibility of each project.

6. Implementation Methodology

6.1. Selection of Project: The SIA will identify the project / proposals suitable for new development / retrofitting, considering factors like innovation, financial support sought as a factor of total project cost, scope for future scaling up and commercial deployment and quantum of Green Hydrogen production.

6.2. Call for proposals: The SIA will issue Call for Proposals for the projects. The proposal shall be submitted directly to the SIA. In case of a consortium/partnership-based proposal, a lead agency should be mentioned, which shall function as EA for that project.

- i. The eligible EAs would include CPSUs, State-PSUs, State Corporations, NGOs, Indian R&D institutions/Research labs/academic institutions, Public and Private companies/Limited Liability Partnerships/ Corporate entity/Proprietorship/ Partnership entity/ startups/ JVs/ Partnerships/ Consortiums of such entities.

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- ii. The EAs must ensure that the completed pilot projects have potential towards commercial scale up.

6.3. Evaluation and Award: The proposals will be evaluated first by a Screening Committee within the SIA, followed by a Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) in accordance with the criteria specified in the Call for Proposals. The final approval will be given by the Advisory Group of the NGHM. The letter of Award shall be issued to the EA by the SIA upon receipt of administrative sanction from MNRE.

6.4. Execution and Commissioning: Work shall be executed as per the approved scope of work. The SIAs shall make all necessary efforts to complete the pilot project, in all aspects, before the timeline mentioned in the Call for Proposal.

6.5 Technical and Regulatory approvals: The EA shall be solely responsible for obtaining the design, retrofitting, safety, applicable environmental and regulatory approvals, as required.

6.6. Testing and Certification: The EA shall get necessary testing and certification compliance from concerned agencies.

7. Funding and Disbursement

7.1. Stages of disbursement of CFA is given below:

S.No	Stages of Disbursement	Percentage of CFA to be released
1	Issue of Letter of Award (LoA)	20%
2	Milestone based disbursements	70%
3	On completion	10%
	Total	100%

Funds will be released to the SIAs by MNRE on the recommendation of the Project Appraisal committee (PAC).

7.2 Percentage of total CFA to the entities/organization is given below.

- i. For Private entities - 80% of total equipment cost
- ii. For Government organizations - 100% of total equipment cost

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7.3 Further, the scheme will be implemented in two parts.

- i. Part A- To call proposals for biomass-based & other technology-based pilot projects with total financial support of Rs. 100 Cr. with maximum support of Rs. 25 Cr to each pilot project.
- ii. Part B- To call proposals for pilot projects from startups developing innovative hydrogen production/Utilization technologies with total financial support of Rs. 100Cr. with maximum support of Rs. 5 Cr to each pilot project.

7.4 The Central Financial Assistance shall be the lower of the two limits specified in clause 7.2 & 7.3, as applicable.

8. Timelines and Penalty Provisions

8.1. The grants released shall be exclusively earmarked for the project and should not be diverted for any other purpose.

8.2. If the EA fails to utilize the grant for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned or fails to complete the project as per DPR, it shall refund the entire amount of the grant, with interest as per GFR to MNRE.

8.3. The Call for proposals should indicate a suitable timeline for completion of the project. Extension of up to six months may be granted for completion of the project on the basis of adequate justification with the approval of the Steering Committee, without any penalty. Any extension beyond six months shall only be granted with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy, with suitable penalties which shall be specified by the SIA in the Call for Proposals issued.

8.4. MNRE reserves the right to retract the sanction, cancel or short-close projects in consultation with the Steering Committee in cases where the EA(s) or the project(s) face unreasonable delays or fail to comply with the objectives/ provisions of this Scheme or the Mission.

9.0 Monitoring Framework

9.1. Steering Committee: Overall monitoring of the scheme and projects undertaken will be carried out by a Steering Committee (SC) under the chairpersonship of Secretary, MNRE with members and experts from relevant organisations. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for

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overall monitoring and implementation of this scheme and suggest modifications and course corrections for its successful implementation.

9.1.1. In case of any ambiguity in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this scheme, the decision of MNRE shall be final. The SC will also facilitate/ recommend measures to resolve difficulties, if any.

9.2. Project Appraisal Committee: A Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) under the chairpersonship of Mission Director, National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) with members from Central/State Departments and other organisations shall evaluate and monitor the pilot projects and recommend projects for sanction of Central Financial Assistance (CFA). The PAC may engage sector experts for various projects, after approval of the Secretary, MNRE. The PAC shall monitor sanctioned projects on a quarterly basis for the allocation of funds based upon the progress of the project. The proposals recommended by PAC will be approved by Advisory Group under the chairmanship of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to Government of India. The PAC shall send recommendations to MNRE for the release of CFA based on the report of SIAs.

9.3. The SIAs shall also devise a monitoring mechanism to track the progress under the pilot projects.

9.4. Quarterly monitoring reports shall be submitted by the SIAs to MNRE.

9.5. Expenditure of funds will be monitored by MNRE through SIA. Utilization Certificates shall be provided by the SIA as per the provisions of GFR.

10. Project Completion

10.1. The SIAs shall submit the Project Completion Report (PCR) to the PAC within one month from the completion of project. PCR shall include the following:

- i. Technical aspects of the project, including the design concept hardware, software, and other technologies used.
- ii. Technical challenges encountered during the project, and how they were overcome.
- iii. Outcome of the project comprising of techno-economic viability, technical knowhow generated along with the data collected during the execution of the project.
- iv. Recommendations for future projects, based on the lessons learned from project.

11. **Guidelines for safeguard of Intellectual property:** MNRE shall issue the necessary guidelines for the safeguard of any Intellectual Property Rights

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such as Publications, Patents, Registered Designs or Trademarks etc. which are generated through projects funded under this scheme. The guidelines may also be a part of the Call for Proposals to be issued by the SIAs.

12. Power to amend Scheme Guidelines

12.1. MNRE may issue necessary amendments in the Scheme Guidelines, as and when required, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of New & Renewable Energy.

