

No.1/ PPCC/MEET/MS/2026/1096
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

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Puducherry, the **16 OCT 2026**

Sub: PPCC – 185th Meeting of the Puducherry Pollution Control
Committee held on 13.10.2026 - Minutes – Communicated.

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The minutes of the 185th Meeting of the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee held on 13.10.2026 in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretariat, Puducherry is enclosed for information.



(Dr. N. RAMESH)
MEMBER SECRETARY
PPCC

Encl.: As above

To

As per list enclosed

Copy to:
Guard File

MINUTES OF THE 185th MEETING OF PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE HELD ON 13.10.2026 AT CHIEF SECRETARIAT, PUDUCHERRY.

Agenda Item No. I - Confirmation of the Minutes of the 184th PPCC meeting held on 22.07.2026.

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the 184th PPCC meeting held on 22.07.2026.

Agenda Item No. II: Cases for consideration for Issue of Consent to Establish

Agenda Item No. 1: M/s. Chemplast Sanmar Limited, Karaikal – Proposed expansion of Caustic Soda and Ethylene Dichloride manufacturing facilities – Consideration of holistic technical comments and environmental safeguards for communication to MoEFCC/EAC under integration of Consent to Establish requirements with Environmental Clearance.

The Committee considered the proposal of M/s. Chemplast Sanmar Limited (CSL) for expansion of its integrated chemical manufacturing facility at Vanjore Village, T.R. Pattinam Commune, Karaikal, along with the EIA / EMP report and other documents submitted by the Project Proponent.

The proposal involves increasing Caustic Soda production from 54,750 TPA to 1,09,500 TPA and EDC production from 84,000 TPA to 1,46,000 TPA within the existing 15.7908-hectare plant premises, without additional land acquisition. Separate Environmental Clearance applications have been submitted to the IND-3 and IND-2 Divisions of MoEFCC for the Caustic Soda and EDC components, respectively, as they fall under Schedule 4(d) (Chlor-alkali industry) and Schedule 5(e) (Petrochemical-based processing), respectively, of the EIA Notification, 2006, and are appraised by different EAC divisions.

As both components form part of an integrated facility with interconnected processes, common utilities and shared environmental-management systems, the Committee considered the proposal as a whole. The IND-2 Division has sought PPCC's comments on the site suitability, feasibility of the EDC expansion and environmental safeguards. The Committee agreed that the same technical assessment and recommendations, as approved, may be sent to the IND-3 Division when its request is received, without placing the proposal before the Committee again unless proposal-specific issues require separate consideration.

The Project Proponent made a presentation and furnished clarifications on various aspects of the proposed expansion. The Committee deliberated on the submissions, identified matters requiring clarification or further technical assessment, and recorded the following observations and recommendations.

Deliberations and recommendations

1. Site suitability and overall project feasibility

The Committee noted that the expansion involves no additional land acquisition but substantially increases hazardous chemical production and handling in a coastal and riverine setting near habitations.

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The Committee recommended that the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), MoEFCC deliberate on the continued site suitability and environmental feasibility of the integrated expansion, considering nearby habitations, cumulative environmental impacts, existing environmental performance and major-accident risks, and determine the need for further assessments or safeguards.

2. Water requirement, source-wise balance and groundwater

The reported post-expansion water requirement under Section 2.9 of the EIA is 3,014 KLD, comprising 550 KLD from PASIC and 2,464 KLD from desalination, with an estimated seawater intake of 6,710 KLD. The same section separately indicates 712 KLD of recycled water, which is not accounted for in the reported total. However, the *After Expansion Water Balance Diagram* indicates 1,657 KLD from desalination, 787 KLD of recycled water and 550 KLD from PASIC, totalling 2,994 KLD. The Project Proponent shall reconcile these discrepancies in the total water requirement and source-wise water balance.

The Project Proponent stated that the existing 3 MLD desalination plant and a proposed 6 MLD plant, for which CRZ Clearance has been obtained, would be used after expansion. However, the EIA does not provide adequate details on the status, capacity and utilisation of these facilities or their integration with the proposed expansion. The Project Proponent agreed to furnish a consolidated water balance covering source-wise availability, desalination capacity, seawater intake, recovery, recycling, losses and reject generation.

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The Committee recommended that the EAC deliberate on the adequacy and reliability of the proposed water sources and the discrepancies in the water balance. The Project Proponent shall establish the status and utilisation of the desalination facilities and demonstrate the availability of authorised non-groundwater sources. No additional groundwater abstraction shall be permitted for the expansion, and PASIC water shall be restricted to domestic uses only.

3. Desalination reject and receiving environment

The Committee noted that existing desalination reject is discharged into the Puravadayinar River/backwater system and that its quantity, quality and cumulative impacts on the receiving waters, fisheries and coastal ecosystem require assessment. A site-specific hydrodynamic and dispersion study covering seasonal and tidal variations was not adequately demonstrated in the EIA.

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The Project Proponent agreed to undertake the study through qualified experts. The possibility of extending or rerouting the discharge pipeline towards the sea, including the 500–600 m extension discussed during the meeting, shall be examined based on the findings and applicable approvals.

The Committee recommended that the EAC deliberate on the adequacy of desalination-reject management, including cumulative impacts, water circulation, flushing, dilution, salinity and ecological effects, and determine the need for further assessment, safeguards and statutory approvals for the discharge route.

4. Wastewater treatment and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)

The Committee noted that post-expansion wastewater generation is estimated at 791 KLD of industrial effluent and 20 KLD of domestic wastewater. The EIA describes an ETP–RO–MEE system for industrial effluent treatment and reuse but does not specify the overall design capacity or adequately establish its adequacy for the projected load. Desalination reject is a separate stream and is not covered by the process-effluent ZLD commitment.

The Committee recommended that the EAC examine the adequacy and reliability of the proposed treatment system, its design capacity, treatment efficiency, mass balance, emergency arrangements and feasibility of achieving ZLD for process effluent.

5. Air emissions, dispersion modelling and incinerator adequacy

The Committee discussed the principal emission sources, including the boiler, incinerator, ethylene flare, captive power-generation facilities and process-related sources, and noted that the adequacy of the incinerator and other pollution-control systems for the cumulative post-expansion load, including upset conditions, requires documented demonstration.

The Project Proponent agreed to furnish an incinerator adequacy assessment based on process-flow data and worst-case loading, with simulation wherever required, as part of the subsequent CTO process.

The Committee recommended that the EAC examine the adequacy of the post-expansion emission inventory, dispersion assessment and pollution-control systems, including hazardous and fugitive emissions and incinerator performance under normal and upset conditions, and prescribe additional assessments or safeguards, as necessary, to protect nearby habitations and sensitive receptors.

6. Hazardous and other industrial waste management

The Committee noted the significant quantities of wastes proposed to be generated after expansion, including 1,000 TPA of ETP/desalination sludge, 1,500 TPA of MEE sludge and 5,100 TPA of brine sludge, besides used oil, contaminated containers, oil-contaminated sludge and filters, and other industrial wastes. The existing accumulated stocks, additional generation, cumulative quantities and disposal arrangements require reconciliation. General references to authorised

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recyclers, co-processors and TSDFs do not establish assured disposal capacity or acceptance of the projected quantities.

The Committee recommended that the EAC examine the adequacy of the proposed waste-management arrangements, including waste-wise quantities, authorised receiving facilities, their available capacities, facility-specific acceptance and transportation arrangements. The Project Proponent shall furnish documentary evidence of authorised and assured end-use or disposal routes for all wastes, particularly the significant quantity of brine sludge, before commissioning.

7. EDC fire incident and process-safety assessment

The Committee discussed the fire incident at the existing EDC plant on 17.07.2026, reportedly involving interruption of nitrogen flow during standby-system testing, increased oxygen concentration and a subsequent reaction involving chlorine and ethylene. CSL informed the Committee that a post-incident re-HAZOP had been undertaken and additional automatic interlocks and trip conditions incorporated and tested, with the revised design proposed for the expansion.

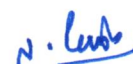
The Committee noted the provisional revocation of the closure direction issued by PPCC on 25.09.2026 and the ongoing investigation by a multidisciplinary Expert Committee constituted by PPCC to assess post-recommissioning environmental performance, residual impacts and safeguards. As the incident occurred after preparation of the EIA/Risk Assessment, the incident findings, including those emerging from the Root Cause Analysis (RCA), HAZOP and other process-safety assessments, and the subsequent corrective measures were not covered in the submitted assessment.

The Committee recommended that the EAC examine the implications of the incident for the proposed expansion, considering the RCA, post-incident HAZOP/PSSR findings and corrective and preventive measures. The EAC may determine whether the existing Risk Assessment/QRA/CFD assessment requires revision or an addendum and whether additional process-safety safeguards are necessary before commissioning.

8. Chlorine safety and off-site risk

The Committee discussed the off-site consequences of an accidental chlorine release, with reference to the QRA/CFD findings, chlorine handling and storage, and nearby habitations. The Project Proponent stated that entire chlorine is consumed in EDC and HCl production and the storage will be minimal. The CFD study indicates that the 10 ppm chlorine plume could extend approximately 913 m for a 5 mm leak and 1,535 m for a 10 mm leak.

In view of the potential off-site consequences, the Committee discussed the need for Fully Enclosed Negative Pressure Scrubbing (FENPS) system at critical chlorine-handling locations, including tonner unloading/transfer, filling/connection areas, chlorine storage and liquefaction facilities. The experience of FENPS implementation at a chlor-alkali industry in Puducherry was also referred to during the discussion.



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The Committee recommended that the EAC examine the adequacy of chlorine safeguards and off-site risk, considering post-expansion chlorine inventory, critical handling locations, nearby habitations and QRA/CFD findings. The EAC may assess the need for FENPS or an equivalent effective containment and scrubbing system at critical locations identified through HAZOP/QRA, along with automatic detection and isolation, adequate scrubbing capacity, backup systems, emergency power, and adequate on-site and off-site emergency plans, drills and community warning arrangements.

9. Feasibility with reference to Government policy restrictions

The Committee considered the policy-level implications of the proposed expansion in the context of the Government of Puducherry's stated position on water-intensive, power-intensive and polluting industries. The Committee noted the following policy references placed before it:

- i) During March 2003, the then Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced in his budget speech that "Based on our past experiences, it has been decided that the Government will not encourage power and water intensive industries and polluting industries in our territory."
- ii) Hon'ble Chief Minister also mentioned in his letter dt.19.05.2003 addressed to the Chief Secretary regarding faster clearance of industrial license that "Chemical Industries, Power Based Industries and the industries which consume enormous quantity of water are not welcome to Puducherry to protect the environment, land and water resources in Puducherry. Necessary care may be taken while clearing industrial licenses".
- iii) The Guidelines notified by the Government of Puducherry to control and regulate the extraction of ground water vide G.O. Ms. No. 2/Ag, Puducherry dated 12.04.2023, stipulates that no industry requiring more than 10,000 LPD of water shall be permitted within 6 km from the seacoast.

The Committee observed that the proposed expansion involves a reported post-expansion water requirement of approximately 3,014 KLD and total power requirement of about 50.3 MW. The project fall under the 17 Categories of Highly Polluting Industries identified by the CPCB and also a Red Category chemical industry, handling hazardous chemicals, including chlorine and EDC, and generating industrial effluent, air emissions and industrial waste.

The Committee noted that the proposed desalination, Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and pollution-control measures would help mitigate environmental impacts. However, taking into account the Government's stated policy position and the resource and pollution implications of the proposed expansion, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal to the Government of Puducherry for approval to forward PPCC's technical recommendations and proposed environmental safeguards to MoEFCC for consideration by the EAC during Environmental Clearance appraisal.

Decision of the Committee

After detailed deliberations, the Committee decided to recommend the expansion proposal of M/s. Chemplast Sanmar Limited to the Government of Puducherry for consideration and permission to forward PPCC's technical recommendations and proposed environmental

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safeguards to MoEFCC for consideration by the EAC during Environmental Clearance appraisal, in view of the Government's stated policy position on water-intensive, power-intensive and polluting industries and the environmental and resource implications of the proposed expansion.

The Committee recommended that the EAC specifically examine the technical issues and assessments identified in the proceedings and consider the environmental safeguards detailed in the Annexure II to these Minutes while appraising the expansion.

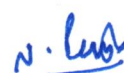
Upon receipt of the Government's permission, PPCC's approved technical recommendations and environmental safeguards may be forwarded to the IND-2 Division, MoEFCC. The same holistic technical assessment and common safeguards may also be communicated to the IND-3 Division upon receipt of its request, without placing the proposal before the Committee again, except where proposal-specific issues warrant separate consideration.

The Committee further noted that the expanded facilities shall not be operated without prior Consent to Operate (CTO) from PPCC under the applicable provisions of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981, and compliance with the applicable Environmental Clearance conditions.

Agenda Item No. 2: Issue of CTE to Mahathi Multispeciality Hospital, R.S.No.75/3, Prabhu Nagar, Kamarajar Salai, Karaikal Municipality, Karaikal for enhancement from 25 Beds to 100 Beds.

The Committee considered the proposal for enhancement of M/s. Mahathi Multispeciality Hospital from 25 to 100 beds and noted that the earlier rejection in the 180th PPCC Meeting held on 09.12.2024, due to inadequate building space, had been addressed by constructing the second and third floors, each measuring 721 sq. m. The inspection conducted on 25.09.2026 confirmed replacement of the 5 KLD ETP with a 30 KLD ETP, against the proposed wastewater generation of 29 KLD and water requirement of 34 KLD. The unit was also reported to have valid biomedical waste disposal arrangements, Health Department registration and municipal licence. After due deliberation, the Committee decided to accord clearance for the proposed enhancement, subject to the following condition:

- (i) The unit shall obtain the requisite registration/permission from the Puducherry Ground Water Authority for abstraction of groundwater at the proposed rate of 34 KLD for the enhanced hospital capacity.
- (ii) The unit shall operate and maintain the 30 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) efficiently and ensure that the treated effluent conforms to the standards prescribed under the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended. The treated wastewater shall be reused to the maximum extent practicable, and the balance, if any, shall be discharged without causing nuisance or adverse impact on the surrounding environment.



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ANNEXURE – I

M/s. Chemplast Sanmar Limited, Karaikal – Proposed expansion of Caustic Soda and Ethylene Dichloride manufacturing facilities - Environmental Safeguards Proposed for Recommendation to MoEFCC

- (i) The Caustic Soda and EDC expansions shall be treated as an integrated project at the existing site for the purpose of environmental management. The common utilities, water systems, wastewater treatment, desalination facilities, hazardous-waste management, emergency preparedness and monitoring systems shall have adequate capacity for the cumulative post-expansion load.
- (ii) No additional groundwater abstraction shall be permitted for the proposed expansion. The existing 550 KLD ground water supply through PASIC shall be restricted to domestic use only after expansion and subject to approval by the Puducherry Ground Water Authority of the Government of Puducherry. The process-water requirement shall be met entirely through authorised desalination and recycled water.
- (iii) A source-wise water balance shall be maintained and continuously monitored, covering PASIC supply, desalinated water, process consumption, domestic consumption, cooling/utilities, recycled water, RO permeate, MEE condensate and all other significant uses. All major water sources and consumption points shall be provided with calibrated flow meters.
- (iv) A complete desalination mass balance shall be maintained, including seawater intake, recovery, product water, reject generation, reject characteristics and disposal. The quantity and quality of desalination reject shall be monitored regularly.
- (v) Desalination reject shall not be discharged to the Puravadaianar River/creek or coastal waters unless the discharge route is specifically authorised and its environmental acceptability is demonstrated. Site-specific hydrodynamic and dispersion assessment, covering seasonal and tidal conditions, shall be undertaken and the recommendations implemented.
- (vi) The complete industrial wastewater generated after expansion, reported at approximately 791 KLD, together with domestic wastewater, shall be treated through adequately designed treatment systems. The ETP–RO–MEE system shall have sufficient capacity to handle maximum/peak wastewater generation, including foreseeable process fluctuations.
- (vii) No untreated or inadequately treated effluent shall be discharged into the Puravadaianar River, creek, drains, land or coastal waters under any circumstances.
- (viii) Adequate emergency storage capacity shall be provided to contain the entire wastewater generation during failure, maintenance or shutdown of the ETP/RO/MEE system. Bypass arrangements shall not be provided.
- (ix) The RO reject, MEE salts/sludge and other concentrated streams shall be managed through authorised routes. The complete ETP–RO–MEE mass balance shall be maintained and periodically reconciled with actual generation and disposal quantities.
- (x) The quality of treated effluent and desalination rejects and any authorised discharge shall be monitored through continuous online monitoring connected to CPCB and PPCC and periodic laboratory monitoring, and records shall be maintained for inspection by PPCC.
- (xi) All stacks, process vents, scrubbers, absorption systems, flares and other air-pollution-control devices shall be designed and operated to meet the applicable emission standards. The pollution-control systems shall have adequate capacity for the cumulative post-expansion load.
- (xii) Particular attention shall be given to chlorine, HCl, EDC and VOC emissions. Fugitive emissions from storage tanks, pumps, compressors, valves, flanges, loading/unloading points and pipelines shall be controlled through a comprehensive Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) programme.



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- (xiii) All critical pollution-control equipment shall have suitable standby/backup arrangements and reliable power supply, wherever failure of the equipment could result in significant environmental or public-health consequences.
- (xiv) All hazardous waste generated from the expansion shall be segregated, quantified, stored and disposed of only through authorised facilities in accordance with the applicable Hazardous and Other Wastes Rules.
- (xv) Before commissioning, the Project Proponent shall establish assured disposal arrangements for the cumulative post-expansion quantities, particularly ETP/desalination sludge, MEE sludge and brine sludge, supported by valid authorisations and facility acceptance/capacity.
- (xvi) Hazardous-waste storage areas shall be designed with impervious flooring, secondary containment, weather protection, fire protection and adequate capacity, with no possibility of contamination of soil, groundwater or surface water.
- (xvii) In view of the significant off-site risk associated with chlorine, the Project Proponent shall implement a Fully Enclosed Negative Pressure Scrubbing (FENPS) system at all critical chlorine-handling and potential-release locations identified through the HAZOP/QRA, including: chlorine tonner transfer/filling station, chlorine bullets, chlorine liquification plant.
- (xviii) The FENPS system shall incorporate automatic chlorine detection, automatic isolation, adequate scrubbing capacity, suitable backup arrangements and reliable emergency power. Its containment and scrubbing performance shall be demonstrated through testing before commissioning and periodically thereafter.
- (xix) Chlorine detection, alarm, automatic isolation, emergency shutdown, scrubbing and emergency-response systems shall be interlocked and periodically tested. Failure of any safety-critical system shall be promptly recorded, investigated and rectified.
- (xx) The On-site and Off-site Emergency Plans shall be revised to reflect the expanded production capacity, increased hazardous chemical inventory, revised QRA and updated consequence contours.
- (xxi) Emergency response arrangements shall cover chlorine, EDC and other hazardous chemical releases, fire, explosion, toxic-gas dispersion, power failure, loss of critical utilities, failure of pollution-control systems and simultaneous/escalating events.
- (xxii) Periodic emergency drills shall be conducted in coordination with the concerned Government departments and local authorities, with corrective actions documented and implemented after each drill.
- (xxiii) The Project Proponent shall maintain an effective system for early warning and communication with nearby communities in the event of a major chemical release or other off-site emergency.
- (xxiv) A comprehensive environmental monitoring programme shall be implemented covering ambient air, stack emissions, fugitive emissions, groundwater, surface water, desalination reject, treated effluent, soil and other relevant parameters in consultation with PPCC. Monitoring shall include locations in the plant, at the boundary and in potentially affected surrounding areas.
- (xxv) The Project Proponent shall obtain valid Consent to Operate (CTO) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended from time to time, from the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee, prior to commencement of operation of the expanded facilities.

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ANNEXURE - II

Sl. No	Name & Designation of member <u>Tvl.</u>		
1.	R. Smitha, I.A.S. Secretary to Government Science, Technology & Environment	--	Chairman
2.	H.D. Varalaxmi Regional Director Central Pollution Control Board (Representing Member Secretary)	--	Member
3.	Dr. Prathap Vaseegar Public Relation Officer Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital & Post Graduate Institute (Representing Medical Superintendent)	--	Member
4.	R. Srikumar Deputy Director Local Administration Department (Representing Director)	--	Member
5	Dr. V. Sivaraman Project Director (PACS) Health and Family Welfare Services (Representing Director)	--	Member
6.	M.M. Vinayaraj Deputy Transport Commissioner Transport Department (Representing Transport Commissioner)	--	Member
7.	Revenue Officer Oulgaret Municipality (Representing Commissioner)	--	Member
8.	Dr. M. P. Ramanujam Consultant Puducherry	--	Expert Member
9.	Dr. R. Saravanane Member Professor & Director (IPR) Department of Civil Engineering Puducherry Technological University	--	Member
10.	S. Senthil Kumar Technical Officer Department of Industries and Commerce (Representing Director)	--	Member
11.	D. Kanagaraj Inspector of Factories and Boiler Puducherry	--	Special Invitee

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COMMITTEE HELD ON 13.10.2026 AT CHIEF SECRETARIAT, PUDUCHERRY.**

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|------|---|----|------------------|
| 12. | K. Baradane
Assistant Engineer
Electricity Department | -- | Special Invitee |
| 13. | A. Srinivasan
Member Secretary
Puducherry Ground Water Authority | -- | Special Invitee |
| 14 . | Dr. N. Ramesh
Senior Environmental Engineer
Department of Science, Technology & Environment | -- | Member Secretary |