

Theme meeting on Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness & Response - Strengthening Protection Strategy

A one day theme meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) was conducted on March 13, 2026 at Niyamak Bhawan. The theme meeting was organized with an intent to get stakeholders feedback and to foster a common understanding among the experts and decision makers on key considerations and formulating Protective Action Recommendation (PAR) and other response actions as part of overall protection strategy. The theme meeting also intended to discuss and deliberate on difficulties in adopting the technical basis and recent developments and guidance stipulated in the national and international publications.

In the inaugural session, Shri Kapil Deo Singh, Head, DRP&E welcomed the gathering with a background on the developments in the recent past in the area of emergency preparedness and response and AERB's objective for organising the theme meeting.

Shri A.K. Balasubrahmanian, Chairperson, AERB in his inaugural remarks highlighted the importance of emergency preparedness as the fifth layer of defence-in-depth which forms the rock bed of nuclear power plant design and across the complete life cycle. He noted that, publication of AERB safety code on management of nuclear and radiological emergencies is a key step towards ensuring necessary arrangement and preparedness by utilities and other response organizations. He also expressed his expectations from the theme meeting for further enhancing EPR arrangements. Shri J. Koley, Executive Director (Regulatory Operations), AERB in his opening address highlighted the strengths of the current improved emergency preparedness framework in India that is built taking into account of a key lesson from the past and various recent national and international developments. The keynote address by Shri S.D. Paraswar, Director Operation, NPCIL addressed the preparedness arrangements maintained by the NPCIL and the areas that needs further strengthening.

The programme of the theme meeting had technical sessions dedicated to discuss the key areas of decision making in formulating and recommending protective actions as part of protection strategy during early and intermediate phases. A special emphasis was given on the importance of addressing non-radiological consequences that arise due a nuclear and radiological emergency. The importance of decision supports tools and the process for evaluation of exercises for continual improvement was emphasized. The technical session was followed by a panel discussion.

The theme meeting had participation from NPP sites, NPCIL-HQ, CMG-DAE, HSEG-BARC & AERB.

The theme meeting and the panel discussions observed that all NPPs and response organizations are implementing the revised requirements to the approved EPR plans and are conducting the emergency exercises as per the new methodology. Areas for further strengthening of EPR viz. advancements in tools for supporting decision making, training programs, consideration to non-radiological hazard, inter-agency coordination, etc. were also identified.



L to R sitting in the 1st row: Dr D K Mohapatra, Dir. TS&RD, Shri Saras Seth, Member Secretary, CMG-DAE, Shri J Koley, ED(RO), Shri S Hari Kumar, Dir. RA&ER, Shri A K Balasubrahmanian, Chairperson, AERB.



Shri A K Balasubrahmanian, Chairperson, AERB delivering his inaugural speech in the meeting