

CHAPTER – 21 PART 2 ABM MODULE C BY ASHISH SIR



Project appraisal is the evaluation of a proposed project to determine its **viability**, **feasibility**, **and sustainability**. This involves three key assessments:

Step	Key Considerations
(a) Appraisal of Managerial	Who are the promoters & their credentials?
Aspects 😉 🗀	Financial stake of promoters 🕏
	Ability to bring additional funds during
	contingencies 🕰
	Form of business organization (Partnership, Pvt.
	Ltd., Public Ltd.)
	Key management personnel & their experience
(b) Technical Appraisal 🚡	✓ Location of the project ?
	✓ Product/ Service being offered 🖺
	✓ Production process & technology provider ⊚
	Availability of raw materials & infrastructure

	Pollution control & waste disposal 🙈
	✓ Marketing Arrangements
(c) Economic Appraisal 🖏 📈	Return on Investment (ROI) - NPV, IRR, Payback
	Period ::
	✓ Break-even Analysis – At what point does the
	project start making profit? 🔟
	Sensitivity Analysis – Impact of price
	fluctuations on viability 📉

Example: A new metro rail project in Mumbai needs a detailed appraisal of technical feasibility, economic viability, and management capabilities before banks sanction loans.

Infrastructure Project Financing

Infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, railways, power plants, airports, and telecom networks require special financial structuring due to their long-term nature.

Feature	Key Considerations
Long Gestation Period	Infrastructure projects take years to complete
	before generating revenue 🏗
(§) High Debt-Equity	Heavy borrowing due to huge capital investment
Ratio	required 📈
Extended Payback	Revenue generation starts after several years of
Period	project completion
Regulatory Risks	Subject to government policies, environmental

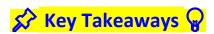
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	clearances, and legal approvals
Public-Private	Many projects are funded through PPP models to
Partnerships (PPP)	share financial risks 🍪
🔛 Special Loan	Infrastructure projects use long-term loans, ECBs,
Structures	and Bonds for funding

Example: Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL) Project – India's longest sea bridge is funded through a combination of government funding, loans from JICA (Japan), and bank financing.

RBI Guidelines for Infrastructure Financing

- RBI has set special **guidelines** for infrastructure project financing due to **large funding requirements & risks**:
- Infrastructure projects are eligible for long-term financing up to 20-25 years
- Banks must conduct stress tests & risk assessments before financing
- Projects must ensure adequate Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR)
- Lenders prefer projects with government backing or Public-Private Partnership (PPP)



- ✓ Project Appraisal = Evaluation of Managerial, Technical, and Economic Feasibility
- **✓** Economic Appraisal → ROI, Break-even & Sensitivity Analysis
- ✓ Infrastructure Financing = High debt, long payback period, regulatory risks
- ✓ RBI Guidelines ensure risk management & proper loan structuring

RBI Guidelines for Infrastructure Project Financing 🖀 📜

Types of Financing by Banks

RBI has laid out various **financing mechanisms** to support **infrastructure projects**. These include:

Financing Type	Description
Take-Out	Banks enter agreements with IDFC/other financial
Financing	institutions for infrastructure funding. <a> Liquidity
	support is available from IDFC/ other institutions.
Inter-	Banks can issue guarantees favoring other lending
Institutional	institutions for infrastructure projects. <a>The issuing
Guarantees	bank must invest at least 5% of the project cost.
Ⅲ Financing	✓ Banks can finance acquisition of promoter's equity in
Promoter's Equity	infrastructure projects under certain conditions (See
	below).

Conditions for Financing Promoter's Equity (§)

Banks can provide funding for **acquiring shares** in **existing** infrastructure companies, subject to strict conditions:

Condition	Requirement
Existing Companies	Finance only for shares of existing infrastructure companies.
Only	
✓ Voluntary	Acquisition must be due to voluntary disinvestment of
Disinvestment	foreign/domestic promoters.
Financial Health	Company should have satisfactory net worth & no loan defaults.
✓ Loan Cap	Bank finance must not exceed 50% of the total acquisition cost.
✓ Security	Loan should be secured against company assets, not shares.
✓ Loan Tenure	Maximum 7 years, but banks can approve longer terms if
	needed.
Regulatory	Adherence to Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and SEBI
Compliance	guidelines.
✓ Board Approval	Every loan proposal must be approved by the bank's board.

Example: If an Indian infrastructure company (e.g., GMR Infra) wants to acquire shares of an existing power project, banks can finance up to 50% of the acquisition cost, provided the company meets the above conditions.

Key Guidelines for Infrastructure Project Appraisal

Banks must conduct a **thorough risk assessment & financial appraisal** before funding an infrastructure project.

Appraisal Area	Key Considerations
Ⅲ Due Diligence	Assess financial viability of government-led projects.
(§) Revenue & Financing	Clearly define revenue sources & repayment schedules.
Assessment	
⚠ Risk Evaluation	Identify risks like cost overruns, delays, legal issues &
	assess mitigation strategies.
Special Purpose Vehicles	Many projects use SPVs – banks must assess their
(SPVs)	stability & creditworthiness.
Government Guarantees	State government guarantees do not replace proper
	credit appraisal.
Joint Financing &	Large projects require consortium financing with
Syndication	multiple banks.
✓ Monitoring & Supervision	Set up specialized committees to track project progress
	& financial health.

Example: Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project requires multiple banks & financial institutions to collaborate for funding. Appraisal includes cost estimation, feasibility study, and risk mitigation before approval.

Key Takeaways

- **✓** Infrastructure Financing = Special Guidelines for Risk Management
- **✓** Banks must follow RBI's structured appraisal & funding norms
- **✓** Government Guarantees ≠ Substitute for Due Diligence
- **✓** SPVs & Consortium Lending are Key in Large-Scale Projects
- Proper infrastructure financing ensures India's long-term growth while managing banking risks! 🔊 🟗



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Prudential Credit Exposure Limits

To manage risks, RBI has set prudential credit exposure limits for single & group borrowers in infrastructure financing.

Type of Borrower	Exposure Limit
Single Borrower	✓ 15% of bank's capital funds. ✓ Additional 5% (total 20%) if
	funding infrastructure projects.
Group Borrowers	25% of the bank's capital funds. Can be exceeded in
	exceptional cases with board approval.
Exceptional	Banks may increase exposure by another 5% with Board
Cases	approval.
Disclosure	✓ If limits are exceeded, banks must disclose in the financial
	statements.

- Example: A bank with ₹10,000 crore capital funds can lend:
- **✓ ₹1,500 crore** to a **single borrower** (or ₹2,000 crore if it's for infrastructure).
- **✓** ₹2,500 crore to a borrower group (higher with board approval).
- Risk Weights for Capital Adequacy
- ♠ Banks must comply with Prudential Guidelines on Capital Adequacy & assign risk weights as per Basel norms.
- ♦ Infrastructure loans have higher risk weights, increasing capital requirements.

3 Asset-Liability Management (ALM)

Infrastructure loans have **long repayment periods** (10-20 years), creating **liquidity mismatches**.

Banks **must ensure** they have enough long-term deposits to match loan tenures.

Example: A **20-year road project loan** funded by **5-year deposits** creates a **mismatch**.

To manage, banks should:

- ✓ Raise long-term bonds.
- ✓ Use Take-Out Financing (explained below)

4 Administrative Arrangements

Requirement	Objective
✓ Timely Credit	Infrastructure projects must not be delayed due to
Availability	funding issues.
Approval Process	Banks must have clear loan approval procedures.
✓ Monitoring	Banks should track project progress & ensure funds
Mechanism	are used properly.

Example: Metro Rail Projects require timely funding to avoid cost overruns.

Banks must monitor disbursements & implementation timelines.

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What is Take-Out Financing?

- **✓ Solution for long-term loan mismatches** in infrastructure financing.
- **✓ Banks initially fund** the project.
- ✓ IDFC/SBI or other financial institutions "take out" (refinance) the loan after a fixed period (e.g., 5 years).
- ✓ Benefits: ✓ Reduces liquidity strain ✓ Frees up bank capital
- ✓ Helps long-term projects.

Example: A highway project loan (₹5,000 crore, 15 years) may be transferred to IDFC after 5 years, allowing the bank to fund new projects.

(§) Liquidity Support from IDFC/SBI

- Alternative to Take-Out Financing
- ✓ **IDFC commits at sanction** to refinance **all or part of the loan** after an agreed period (e.g., 5 years).
- ✓ Bank keeps credit risk but gains liquidity support.

Example: SBI funds a ₹10,000 crore power project → IDFC refinances ₹6,000 crore after 5 years → SBI gets fresh liquidity for new loans.

- **✓** Prudential exposure limits regulate single/group borrower risk.
- **✓** Banks must carefully manage asset-liability mismatches.
- **✓** Proper monitoring ensures funds are used correctly.
- ✓ Take-Out Financing & Liquidity Support help manage long-term loans.
- **Efficient infrastructure financing fuels India's economic growth**while keeping banks financially stable!