

भारत सरकार
खान मंत्रालय
राष्ट्रीय खनिज खोज न्यास

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/545

New Delhi, 4th December, 2024

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 38th meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 29th November, 2024

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of 38th meeting of Executive Committee of NMET held on 29th November, 2024 for your kind perusal.

Action Taken Report on relevant paras may kindly be forwarded to this office.

Encl: As above


[Geetika Sharma]
Deputy Secretary & HoD, NMET

To,

1. The Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy, Anushakti Bhawan, C.S.M. Marg, Mumbai- 400001.
2. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
4. The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
5. The Director General, Geological Survey of India, 27, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700016.
6. The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, 2nd Floor, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
7. The Principal Secretary, Mineral Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal- 462004.
8. The Principal Secretary, Industries, Energy and Labour Dept., Govt. of Maharashtra, 114 Annex Building Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400032.

NMET Secretariat

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9. The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Mines and Petroleum, Government of Rajasthan, Main Building Secretariat, Jaipur-305005.
10. The Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Dept., Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Industries Department Secretariat, Chennai- 600009.
11. Shri Alok Sharma, (Retd.) GM & HoD (Exploration), CMPDIL, 402, Lake Garden, Kanke Road, Ranchi- 834008.
12. Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Head (Business Development & Planning) (Retd.), MECL, 109, KT Nagar, Katol Road, Nagpur- 440013.
13. Dr. Yamuna Singh, Scientist-H, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (Retd.), Flat G-7, Block G, Rainbow Vistas Rock Garden, Opp- IDL, Green Hills Road, Sanathnagar PO, Moosapet, Hyderabad- 500018.
14. Dr. Laxman Singh Shekhawat, Dy. Director General (Retd.), Geological Survey of India, 695 Shanti Nagar (Road No-3), Near Durgapura Railway Station, Durgapura, Jaipur- 302018.
15. Dr. Sahendra Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Geology, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad- 826004.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Secretary (Geology and Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Minerals, Government of Assam.
4. The Principal Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar.
5. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Principal Secretary (Industry and Mines), Government of Gujarat.
9. The Commissioner Secretary (Industries and Commerce), Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
10. The Secretary (Industries, Mines and Geology), Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Secretary, (Industries and Commerce), Government of Karnataka.
12. The Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Kerala.
13. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

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14. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries and Mines), Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Commissioner and Secretary, Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Commissioner & Secretary, Geology and Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Principal Secretary (Steel and Mines), Government of Odisha.
18. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology, Government of Punjab.
19. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Principal Secretary (Industries and Mines), Government of Telangana.
22. The Secretary (Mines and Geology), Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Secretary (Industry, Commerce and Enterprises), Government of West Bengal.
25. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Union Territory of Ladakh.
26. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Sikkim.
27. The Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura.
28. The Secretary, Commerce and Industries, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Secretary, Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Government of Manipur.
30. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-781019.
4. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar.
5. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat.

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8. The Director, Department of Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, J.L.Nehru Udhog Bhawan, 4th Floor, Rail Head Complex, Jammu - 180012.
10. The Director (Mines), Directorate of Mines, Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.
12. The Director, Directorate of Mining and Geology, Government of Kerala.
13. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
14. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Director, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Odisha.
18. The Director, Directorate of Mines and Minerals, Government of Punjab.
19. The Director, Mines and Geology Directorate, Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana.
22. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Director, Directorate of Mines and Minerals, Government of West Bengal.
25. The Director, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Union Territory of Ladakh.
26. The Director, Department of Mines, Minerals and Geology, Government of Sikkim
27. The Director, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura
28. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mineral Resource, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Director, Department of Trade, Commerce and Industries, Government of Manipur.
30. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. Dr. S. Ravi, Deputy Director General and Chairman, TCC-NMET, SU: Karnataka & Goa, GSI, Bangaluru 560111
2. The Director, AMD, Department of Atomic Energy, AMD Complex, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.

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3. The Managing Director, MECL, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur-440006.
4. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDIL, Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031.
5. Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd., Paryawas Bhawan, Block 'A', II nd floor, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.) 462011.
6. M/s Mining Tech Consultancy Services Ltd., Adani Corporate House; Shantigram; Near Vaishno Devi Circl; e; SG Highway Khodiyar NA; Ahmedabad; Gujarat; 382421; India.
7. M/s Kartikay Exploration and Mining Services Pvt. Ltd., 199A/18, Chitnavis Marg, Crorepati Gali, Civil Lines, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440001.
8. M/s Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd., 15-17-909/9,5th Cross Shivabagh, Kadri, Mangalore-575005, Karnataka, India
9. The Managing Director, Odisha Mining Corporation, OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751 001.
10. Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Block 15, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector - 10, Gandhinagar - 382010
11. The Managing Director, Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd., 21, CLM Lane, Raniganj, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal, India Pin: 713347.
12. GEMCOKATI Exploration Pvt Ltd, E-77 MIDC Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442401.
13. M/s Geo Exploration and Mining Solutions, 17, Advaita Ashram Rd, Arthanari Nagar, Fairlands, Salem, Tamil Nadu-636004.
14. Engeotech Consultant, 1338 Vijay Nagar, Kachnar City Road, Jabalpur PIN 482002.
15. M/s United Exploration India Pvt Ltd, Unit 402, Axis mall, CF Block(Newtown), Action Area 1C, Newtown, Kolkata, New Town, West Bengal 700156
16. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, KIOCL Ltd, Block-II, Koramangala, Sarjapura Road, Bangaluru, Karnataka-560034.
17. GeoExpore Pvt. Ltd., WeWork-Next to Forum Mall, Prestige Cube, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560034, Karnataka, India

Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary/PPS to AS(SL)/PS to JS&FA/PPS to JS, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

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**Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust**

Minutes of the 38th Executive Committee (EC) meeting of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 29th November, 2024 at Khanij Kaksh, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

The 38th meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of NMET was held under Chairmanship of Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Mines/Chairman EC on 29th November, 2024 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi in hybrid mode. The list of participants is given in Annexure-1.

Shri Vivek Kumar Bajpai, Joint Secretary, Mines welcomed all the members, invitees and other participants in the meeting. The details of agenda points discussed and decisions taken in the meeting are given below:

Agenda 38.1: Confirmation of minutes of 37th Meeting of EC held on 23rd September, 2024.

The minutes of the 37th EC meeting were circulated on 16th October, 2024. No comments were received from the members.

Decision of EC: EC confirmed the minutes of the 37th Executive Committee (EC) meeting of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). Further, EC instructed that henceforth the minutes of the meeting be circulated within 7 working days.

[Action: NMET]

Agenda 38.2: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes of 37th EC meeting.

EC was briefed on the action taken on decisions taken during the 37th EC meeting. Discussion on the actionable points is given below:

Discussions:

- i. As regards, organising workshop on EL regime, Chairman, EC advised that the EL workshop be organised by Mines-VI section as soon as the EL blocks are auctioned. NMET will fund the workshop.

[Action: Mines VI]

- ii. Regarding the advice of Secretary, Mines to DGM, Maharashtra to submit more exploration projects to NMET for funding (agenda point 37.7.i), Dr. TRK Rao,

D. G., DGM informed that 4 proposals have been submitted and 4 more proposals will be submitted in next 15 days. It was advised that several NPEAs have been notified and some of them are from Maharashtra, which can be encouraged for taking up exploration projects in Maharashtra State through NMET fund.

[Action: DGM, Maharashtra]

- iii. As regards, the direction of EC to carry out Quality Check and Capacity Assessment of MECL and NPEAs, to assess their capability for carrying out exploration of REE and Critical Minerals (Agenda point no. 37.7.ii), the EC was apprised that a committee was constituted on 4/3/2024 headed by Chairman of TCC with the mandate to carry out the capacity assessment of the agencies. In continuation to that, the committee has assessed the capacity of all the agencies and observed that two agencies namely Critical Mineral Trackers and Bhushilp Mining do not have sufficient number of field geologists to execute exploration projects. As regards the quality check of the agencies, EC was apprised that GSI has formulated and circulated an SoP to monitor the work executed by the NPEAs and check the quality.

In this regard, Chairman, EC instructed (a) to issue advisory to the aforesaid agencies for hiring sufficient manpower to execute projects and (b) an online workshop be organised to provide training to the DDGs of State Units on the SoP for clarity and uniformity.

[Action: NMET/GSI]

- iv. Regarding the direction of Chairman, EC to DMG, Madhya Pradesh for facilitating M/s Engeotech to carry out phosphate exploration in the State (Agenda point 37.7.iv), Shri Sohan Baghel, Dy. Director, DMG, MP informed the house that M/s Engeotech had applied for forest permission in respect of Devpur Manakpura phosphate block in Parivesh Portal and accordingly permission of 15 days has been provided to the agency to carryout sampling during field work. As regard the exploration in Jhalauthar Phosphorite block the agency has not yet applied for forest permission.

Chairman, EC directed DMG, MP to actively follow up with Forest Department to facilitate M/s Engeotech to carry out exploration.

[Action: DMG, Madhya Pradesh]

- v. Deputy Secretary and HoD, NMET informed the house that AMD has shared 33 reports with various State Governments in last 5 years and the report in respect of Bhatikheda block was submitted to Rajasthan Government. Director, AMD informed that in the last two years more than 2000 samples were collected from that area and were analysed. The resource updation is being carried out and updated GR would be submitted to the State Government within 15 days. Shri Vivek Kumar Bajpai, Joint Secretary, Mines requested Director, AMD to provide reports to the Ministry of Mines in respect of blocks where critical minerals are found during investigations carried out by AMD. In continuation to that Director, AMD informed that Kamthai deposit of Rajasthan contains REE which can be taken up for auction.

Chairman, EC instructed that the requisite data be collected from AMD and the Bhatikheda & Kamthai blocks be put up for auction in the upcoming tranche.

[Action: AMD/Mines IV]

- vi. DG, GSI stated that the geo-coordinates of NMET funded projects and their spatial distribution should be uploaded in NGDR portal.

Chairman, EC instructed to provide the available shape files to GSI for uploading on NGDR portal. Further, Chairman, EC instructed to add advisory in the sanction order that final payment to the agencies would be disbursed when the report is uploaded on NGDR portal.

[Action: NMET]

Decision of EC: EC accepted the Action Taken Report on the minutes of 37th EC meeting.

Agenda 38.3: Approval of new exploration project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committees (TCCs).

TCC-1 at its 69th and 70th meeting held and TCC-2 at its 1st and 2nd meetings held during September and October 2024 recommended following mineral exploration projects amounting to Rs. 95.46 crore for approval of EC.

Details of the new project proposals recommended for approval of EC are as under:

Amount in Rs crore							
A. Projects recommended by TCC-1							
S. No.	Project/Block Name	Agency	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost	Status
1	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Akapur Block, Yavatmal District, Maharashtra. [69 th TCC-1]	MECL	Limestone	G3	10	0.97	Approved
2	General exploration (G2 stage) for molybdenum in Vellakkal Central Block, Uttangarai Sector, Haru-Uttangarai Belt, District-Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. [70 th TCC-1]	MECL	Molybdenum	G2	15	11.21	Approved
3	Preliminary exploration (G3) for molybdenum in Vellakkal North Block (2.90 Sq.Km.) & Vellakkal South Block (1.55 Sq.Km.), Uttangarai Sector, Haru-Uttangarai Belt, District-Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. [70 th TCC-1]	MECL	Molybdenum	G3	15	9.12	Approved
4	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Mundra-Chilaiblock Block (4.38 Sq. km) District- Yavatmal, Maharashtra. [70 th TCC-1]	MECL	Limestone	G3	10	0.91	Approved

5	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Hiwardhara-Ganeshpura Block (2.81 Sq. km) District- Yavatmal, Maharashtra. [70th TCC-1]	MECL	Limestone	G3	10	0.94	Approved
6	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Graphite in Dhourakhaman area (60.0 Sq. Km), District: Bolangir, Odisha [69th TCC-1]	OMC Odisha	Graphite	G4	10	0.89	Approved
7	Reconnaissance (G-4) for Manganese around Kandhal area of Rairakhol Tahasil of Sambalpur District, Odisha [70th TCC-1]	DMG Odisha	Manganese	G4	10	0.74	Approved
8	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Barpat Block, Balrampur Ramanujan District, Chhattisgarh. [69th TCC-1]	DGM Chhattisgarh	Bauxite	G3	12	1.37	Approved
9	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) For Diamond In Part Of A Palaeo-Channel In Krishna Basin Near Mangalagiri, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. [69th TCC-1]	Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Diamond	G4	12	2.07	Approved
10	Preliminary Exploration for Aluminous Laterite and Associated Critical Elements (V, Ga, & REE) in Mundalli Block, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka [70th TCC-1]	Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Laterite, V, Ga and REE	G3	10	0.91	Approved
11	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE & RM (Sc, Nb) mineralisation in Samalpatti, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu. [69th TCC-1]	KIOCL	REE	G4	10	1.32	Approved
12	Reconnaissance Survey for gold and associated	Mining Tech Consult	Gold and associated	G4	10	3.74	Approved

	ated minerals in Killarh atti area, Koppal & Rai chur, Karnataka. [70 th TCC-1]	tancy Ser vices Ltd	iated mi nerals				
13	Reconnaissance Surv ey (G-4 stage) for Iron Ore in Arewada – Hita padi Block (27 sq km), District: Gadchiroli, Ma harashtra. [70 th TCC-1]	GemcoKa ti Explorat ion Pvt. Lt d.	Iron Ore	G4	6	0.17	Approved
Total-A						34.36	
B. Projects recommended by TCC-2							
14	Preliminary (G3) explo ration for Glauconite a nd associated minerals in Pitupura block, Saw ai Madhopur and Kara uli Districts, Rajasthan [1 st TCC-2]	Geoexpor e	Glaucon ite	G3	18	1.95	Approved
15	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Limestone in S angmania Block, Satna District, Madhya Prade sh. [1 st TCC-2]	MPSMC	Limesto ne	G3	42 10	1.13	Approved
16	Reconnaissance Surv ey (G4) for REE & ass ociated minerals in and around Langmipi - Lac hing Thing Area (124.6 8 sq. km), West Karbi A nglong District, Assam. [1 st TCC-2]	MECL	REE an d Assoc iated Mi nerals	G4	15	4.57	Approved
17	Reconnaissance surve y (G4) for Glauconite in Ambara West Block Ka chchh District, Gujarat. [1 st TCC-2]	MECL	Glaucon ite	G4	12	1.08	Approved
18	Reconnaissance surve y (G4) for Glauconitic S andstone in Kishanpur Block, Satna District, M adhya Pradesh [1 st TCC-2]	MECL	Glaucon ite	G4	42 10	0.91	Approved
19	Preliminary Exploratio n (G3-Stage) for Tin in Kangra Block (6.35 sq. km. Area), District – Te	MECL	Tin	G3	15	6.05	Approved

	hri Garhwal, Uttarakha nd. [2 nd TCC-2]						
20	Preliminary Exploratio n (G3-Stage) for REE mineralisation in Naus er-Bamni Dhani-Danda li Block Barmer, State: Rajasthan. [2 nd TCC-2]	MECL	REE	G3	14	6.11	Approved
21	Preliminary Exploratio n (G3) for Copper and associated minerals in Jaridih-Pipradih Block, District: Giridih, Jharkh and. [2 nd TCC-2]	MECL	Copper and ass ociated mineral s	G3	15	4.00	Approved
22	Preliminary Exploratio n (G3) for Potash in La khasar East Extension Block (9.50 Sq.km), La khasar Sub Basin, nort h western part of Rajas than, District- Bikaner, Rajasthan. [2 nd TCC-2]	MECL	Potash	G3	15	16.17	Approved (Cost to be monitored by TCC)
23	Reconnaissance Surv ey (G4) for Iron, Mang anese and Associated Minerals in Jauli-Sailw ara Block (33.8 Sq.km) , District: Jabalpur, Sta te: Madhya Pradesh. [2 nd TCC-2]	MECL	Iron, Ma nganes e and a ssociate d miner als	G4	10	1.35	Approved
24	Preliminary Exploratio n Survey (G3) of Iron O re and associated mine rals in Bamuri Block, S idhi District, Madhya P radesh. [2 nd TCC-2]	Maheshw ari Mining Private Li mited	Iron ore and ass ociated mineral s	G3	12	2.86	Approved
25	Reconnaissance Surv ey (G-4) for Graphite & Vanadium in and aroun d Lalpani area, Lohit D istrict, Arunachal Prad esh. [2 nd TCC-2]	Kartikay Exploratio n and Min ing Servic es Private Limited	Graphit e and V anadium	G4	15	5.63	Approved

26	Preliminary Exploration for Nickel, Cobalt, Chromium & PGE minerals in Gamnom Block, Kamjong District, Manipur. [2 nd TCC-2]	United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd.	Nickel, Cobalt, Chromium	G3	18	6.12	Approved
27	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Vanadium and Titanium in Magnetite bearing sand in the beach/dune sands along the Saurashtra coast, Gujarat. [2 nd TCC-2]	Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Vanadium and Titanium	G4	15	1.70	Approved
28	Preliminary exploration (G-3 Stage) for Magnetite and associated minerals in Pipradih Area (7.00 Sq. km.), District: Giridih, State: Jharkhand [5 ² nd TCC]	CMPDI	Magnetite	G3	08	1.47	Approved
Total-B						61.1	
Total A+B						95.46	

Decision of EC: (i) EC approved the financial sanction of **₹95.46/- crore** (Rupees ninety-five crore and forty-six lakhs only) for the 28 new project proposals recommended by TCCs. (ii) EC instructed DGM, Tamil Nadu to render administrative support to the agencies carrying out mineral exploration in the State. (iii) EC directed DMG, Madhya Pradesh to render support to MECL so that the G3 exploration in Sangmania limestone block (Sl. No. 15) and G4 exploration in Kishanpur block (Sl. No. 18) can be completed in 10 months' time.

[Action: NMET, DMG-Tamil Nadu & MP]

Agenda 38.4: Approval of Revised/Additional cost for ongoing projects recommended by TCC

TCC-1 at its 70th meeting and TCC-2 at its 2nd meeting recommended additional cost for following mineral exploration projects:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost (Rs. in cr.)	Revised cost (Rs. in cr.)	Remarks
A. Revised cost recommended by TCC-1					

1	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Manganese Ore and Graphite in Kanaital block, (Block area- 4.26 sq.km) District: Balangir, Odisha. [70th TCC-1]	MECL	2.23	2.42	Additional drilling of 44m and 235 additional samples
2	Preliminary Exploration, G3 (Phase-I) in Block 'A' For Ni-Cr-Cu, PGE-Au-REE in Mafic-Ultramafic Bodies in Hadanur-Tagadur Belt, Mandya District, Karnataka (Block area- 7 sq. km) [70th TCC-1]	Geoexpore	0.8612	0.8682	Rs. 49,938 for petrographic study of additional 10 samples and additional Rs. 20000/- for Peer Reviewer cost
B. Revised cost recommended by TCC-2					
3	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for REE in Kumhardih Khijuri-Pachambha Block, (Block area- 175.27 sq. km), District- Giridih, Jharkhand. [2nd TCC-2]	MECL	0.7809	0.7863	<i>Chemical analysis of additional 10 samples</i>
4	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Copper and associated minerals in Thakurdi Area-1 Block (5.1 sq.km.),Singhbhum Copper Belt, East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand [2nd TCC-2]	MECL	4.36	4.66	for chemical analysis of additional 700 samples
5	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Diamond in adjacent area of Angira-B & Angira-A Block (2.3 sq.km.), Chhattarpur district, Madhya Pradesh [2nd TCC-2]	MECL	5.62	6.16	Additional magnetic and TDEM survey
6	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) of Bauxite in Dhuliapat block, Lohardaga district Jharkhand. [2nd TCC-2]	CMPDI	0.82	0.94	Additional drilling and associated samples for chemical analysis

7	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for vanadium and titanium in Dandi-Onjal-Surwada Block in Navasari and Valsad Districts, Gujarat [2nd TCC-2]	CGM, Gujarat (Geo Marine Solutions Private Ltd)	0.86	0.89	Change in type of drilling to auger drilling.
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Decision of EC: EC approved the additional cost of the 7 ongoing projects.

[Action: NMET]

Agenda 38.5: Approval for pre-closure of ongoing project

TCC-1 at its 69th meeting has recommended the pre-closure of following proposal for approval of EC:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost (in Crores)	Revised cost (in Crores)	Remarks
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Manganese in Taljuri-Ghunchadihi Block (80.00 Sq. Km), Balangir District, Odisha [69th TCC]	MECL	1.66	0.67	Project stopped due to local agitation

Discussion:

Chairman, TCC-1 apprised EC that the project titled “Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Manganese in Taljuri-Ghunchadihi Block (80.00 Sq. Km), Balangir District, Odisha” was approved in 27th EC Meeting held on 10th January 2023 with a timeline of 14 months. Due to agitation by local public only 12m drilling could be completed and further drilling activity was not possible. TCC-1 in its 69th meeting reviewed the proposal and recommended the pre-closure of the project considering the local disturbance and also recommended the revised cost sheet with modified quantum.

Decision of EC: EC approved the pre-closure of the project titled “Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Manganese in Taljuri-Ghunchadihi Block (80.00 Sq. Km), Balangir District, Odisha”.

[Action: NMET]

Agenda 38.6: Approval of Extension of timeline for ongoing projects recommended by TCC

TCC-1 at its 69th and 70th meeting held and TCC-2 at its 1st and 2nd meetings held during September and October, 2024 recommended timeline extension of following 24 mineral exploration projects:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Scheduled date of completion	Required timeline (up to)	Remarks
A. Timeline extension recommended by TCC-1					
	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for PGE, Nickel, Cobalt and Gold in Rangapura Block, District: Hassan, Karnataka [69th TCC-1]	MECL	31.08.2024	31.10.2024 (2 months)	For GR submission
	Preliminary Exploration for coal in Borda & Ghonsa Parsoda block, Wardha Valley CF [69th TCC-1]	CMPDI	31.10.2024	31.3.2025 (5 months)	To carry out drilling
	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Karnapodikonda Bauxite Block (9.062 sq.km) in Koraput district of Odisha. [69th TCC-1]	OMC	31.3.2024	31.10.2024 (6 months)	For GR submission
	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for graphite in Lamer-Panga Block (49 sq. Km) in Kalahandi district of Odisha. [69th TCC-1]	OMCL	15.9.2024	31.10.2024 (1 month)	For GR submission
	Procurement of Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (WD-XRF) Spectrometer through NMET fund. [69th TCC-1]	IBM	8.10.2024	31.3.2025 (5.5 months)	Delay in supply of instrument by the supplier
6.	Procurement of Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) through NMET fund. [69th TCC-1]	IBM	8.10.2024	31.3.2025 (5.5 months)	Delay in supply of instrument by the supplier
7.	Procurement of laboratory scale mineral processing equipments, characterization and	IBM	3.12.2024	31.3.2025 (3.5 months)	Specification finalization and delay in tendering

	analysis instruments for modern mineral processing laboratory, IBM, Nagpur. [69th TCC-1]				
8.	Procurement of laboratory scale mineral processing equipment's, characterization and analysis instruments for Regional Mineral Processing Laboratory, Bengaluru. [69th TCC-1]	IBM	5.12.2024	31.3.2025 (3.5 months)	Specification finalization and delay in tendering
	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Graphite and Sulphide in Ganacharpura Block (33.60 Sq. Km), Kolar District, Karnataka [70th TCC-1]	MECL	31.05.2024	31.10.2024 (5 months)	GR Submission
	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for manganese ore in Taljuri-Gunchadihi block, District: Balangir, Odisha. [70th TCC-1]	MECL	02.04.2024	31.10.2024 (6.5 months)	GR Submission
	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Manganese ore and Graphite in Bharatbahal Block (2.00 sq km), District: Balangir, Odisha. [70th TCC-1]	MECL	27.10.2024	31.3.2025 (5 month)	Delay due to standing crop
12.	Financial Assistance from NMET funds to procure Machinery Laboratory Equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [70th TCC-1]	DGM Karnataka	31.8.2024	31.03.2025 (7 months)	Delay in tender process
13.	Financial Assistance from NMET funds to procure Machinery Laboratory Equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [70th TCC-1]	DGM Karnataka	30.9.2024	31.10.2025 (13 month)	Delay due to change in specification

14.	Preliminary exploration for Manganese in Hardatal block (1.38 sq. km), District: Balangir, Odisha. [70th TCC-1]	DMG Odisha	31.10.2024	15.11.2024 (1.5 months)	GR Submission
15.	Preliminary exploration (G3) for graphite around Naringapanga block (S & W) (0.143 sq. km) block, District: Rayagada, Odisha [70th TCC-1]	DMG Odisha	4.11.2024	31.12.2024 (2 months)	GR Submission
B. Timeline extension recommended by TCC-2					
16.	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite, Titanium & Associated Minerals in Siskari Pat Block (0.28 sq. km), Lohardaga District, Jharkhand [1st TCC-2]	MECL	30.09.2024	30.11.2024 (2 month)	GR Submission
17.	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Iron Ore in Lengupara area, Goalpara District, Assam [1st TCC-2]	DGM Assam	31.07.2024	30.09.2024 (2 months)	GR Submission
18.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Iron and Associated Minerals in Karmahi-Chuwahi Block (33.40 sq.km Area), District- Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh [2nd TCC-2]	MECL	11.9.2024	31.12.2024 (3.5 months)	GR Submission
19.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Manganese and Associated Minerals in Katori-Jhiriya Block (140.22 Sq. Km), District- Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh. [2nd TCC-2]	MECL	31.10.2024	31.3.2025 (5 months)	GR Submission
20.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for REE in Kumhardih Khijuri-Pachambha Block, (Block area- 175.27 sq. km), District- Giridih, Jharkhand.	MECL	11.9.2024	31.12.2024 (3.5 months)	GR Submission

	[2nd TCC-2]				
21.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Iron, Manganese and Associated Minerals in Tikariya Block (146.0 Sq. Km), Districts- Jabalpur, Katni and Umaria, Madhya Pradesh. [2nd TCC-2]	MECL	4.8.2024	31.12.2024 (4.5 months)	GR Submission
22.	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) of Bauxite in Dhuliapat block, Lohardaga district, Jharkhand. [2nd TCC-2]	CMPDI	23.3.2024	31.12.2024 (9 months)	Core drilling and chemical analysis of addl. samples
23.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Coal in Khapia Block, North Karanpura Coal Field, Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand [2nd TCC-2]	CMPDI	2.10.2024	02.04.2025 (6 months)	Law and order issue and GR Submission
24.	Financial Assistance from NMET funds to procure Machinery Laboratory Equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration [2nd TCC-2]	DGM, Arunachal Pradesh	03.04.2023	31.3.2025 (12 months)	Delay in procurement due to delay in tendering process

Decision of EC: EC approved the timeline extension of the 24 ongoing projects.

[Action: NMET]

Agenda 38.7: In-principle Approval of Projects Submitted by NPEAs

TCC-1 and TCC-2 have accorded in-principle approval for the following 06 mineral exploration proposals of NPEAs.

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Limestone in and around Nanhwara Kymore Area, Katni District, Madhya Pradesh.	Engeotech Consultant
2	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for the assessment of Bauxite, and Gallium in weathered zone in Naredi Bauxite Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat.	Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

3	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for the assessment of Bauxite, and Gallium in weathered lateritic zone in Sandhan Bauxite Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat.	Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
4	Reconnaissance survey for REE (G-4) in Wopeng Rongpi Gaon, Karbi Anglong districts, Assam.	Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd.
5	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Namangunam, Kadur, Chokkanathapuram, Vellur villages in Ariyalur & Perambalur district, Tamil Nadu.	Geo Exploration and Mining Solutions
6	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Kulumur block Ariyalur and Perambalur Districts, Tamil Nadu	Geo Exploration and Mining Solutions

Decision of EC: EC directed the NPEAs to submit DPR within 3 months of in-principle approval.

[Action: NPEAs listed in the table above]

Discussions

- i. Dr. L.S Sekhawat, DDG, GSI (Retd.) and Technical Expert, EC apprised the house that in many areas the concentration of TiO₂ is found to be more than 10% which is considered as economically viable. TiO₂ is mostly present in Ilmenite and Rutile and contains good amount of Vanadium (V) and Scandium (Sc) which is a rare element having economical value. Therefore, the TiO₂ values should be studied properly for possibilities of Vanadium and Scandium. He further informed the house that bentonitic clays in Gujarat have a very good concentration of Vanadium and may be further studied/utilised properly.

Some areas near Kamthai deposit in Rajasthan are having REEs along with LREEs where concentration of LREE is mostly less than 1000 ppm. It needs to be considered whether such low values of LREE are worth for G4/G3 level investigation.

Chairman, EC observed that Vanadium and Scandium being important elements, are worth exploring even when concentration is low. Some R&D projects can be taken up to explore the possibility of extracting such elements.

[Action: EA, Mines/Director, JNARDDC]

- ii. Dr. Sahendra Singh, Professor and Technical Expert, EC citing the recent gold discovery in China, informed the house that the avenues of seismic survey in

deep seated and critical minerals may be explored, in addition to coal exploration. In continuation to that, DG, GSI informed that GSI would carry out MT survey in the brownfield areas to ascertain the depth continuity of the ore bodies. Regarding including seismic survey in other commodities apart from coal, DG, GSI pointed out that GSI is doing DSRS survey as a part of pilot project. Based on the outcome of the study, further course of action would be decided.

[Action: DG, GSI/Director (Tech.)]

- iii. Shri Alok Sharma, Technical Expert, EC stated that the report of the committee to include seismic survey in coal exploration may be circulated early so that the larger area can be explored. Chairman EC, directed the committee to submit the report early.

[Action: ADG, Exploration, DGH]

- iv. Smt. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Mines pointed out that with time NMET is funding more projects and increasing its budget expenditure progressively. GSI and the State Governments should identify areas having potential for deep seated minerals and aggressively focus on increasing the exploration activities in those areas.

[Action: DG, GSI/All State DGMs, MECL]

- v. In his concluding remarks, Chairman, EC advised DG, GSI and NMET to explore the strategies for enhancement of mineral exploration activities and utilisation of Rs. 600 crores in the next financial year.

Annexure-1**List of Participants**

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Status	Remarks
1	Shri V.L Kantha Rao Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Chairperson, ex officio	Physical
2	Shri Asit Saha Director General Geological Survey of India	Member, ex officio	Physical
3	Shri Vivek Kumar Bajpai Joint Secretary Ministry of Mines	Member, ex officio	Physical
4	Smt. Nirupama Kotru Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor Ministry of Mines	Member, ex officio	Physical
5	Shri Dheeraj Pande Director, Atomic Mineral Directorate	Member, ex officio	Online
6	Shri Anandji Prasad Advisor (P) Ministry of Coal	Member, ex officio	Physical
7	Shri Amit Bansal Deputy Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member, ex officio (Representative)	Online
8	Shri Alok Kumar Deputy Secretary Integrated Finance Division Ministry of Mines or Coal	Member, ex officio	Physical
9	Dr. T R K Rao, Director General DGM, Maharashtra	Members, ex officio	Through VC
10	Shri Sohan Baghel Joint Director Mineral Resource Department Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	Members, ex officio	Through VC
11	Smt. K Deepa Joint Director Commissionerate of Geology and Mining Government of Tamil Nadu	Member, ex Officio	Through VC
12	Shri N P Singh Additional Director Mines and Geology Govt. of Rajasthan	Member, ex Officio	Through VC
13	Shri Alok Sharma GM (Exploration) (Retd.) CMPDIL	Technical Expert	Through VC
14	Shri Naresh Nautiyal Head (Business Development & Planning) (Retd.) MECL	Technical Expert	Through VC
15	Dr. Yamuna Singh Scientist-H (Retd.)	Technical Expert	Through VC

	Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research		
16	Dr. Laxman Singh Shekhawat Dy. Director General (Retd.) Geological Survey of India	Technical Expert	Through VC
17	Dr. Sahendra Singh Professor Department of Applied Geology Indian Institute of Technology (ISM)	Technical Expert	Through VC
INVITEES			
18	Dr. S Ravi Dy. Director General and Chairman TCC-1, NMET	Invitee	Physical
19	Shri Pradeep Singh Dy. Director General and Chairman TCC-2, NMET		Physical
20	Shri Yogendra Singh Bhamboo Diretor (Tech.) Ministry of Mines	Invitee	Physical
21	Shri. Sanjay Singh Director and Member Secretary TCC-2, NMET	Invitee	Physical
Officers of NMET			
22	Smt. Anju C S	Suptdg. Geologist	Physical
23	Shri Seababrata Das	Senior Geologist	Physical
24	Smt. Palak Kapoor	Senior Geologist	Physical
25	Dr. Rajesh Sharma	Senior Geologist	Physical
26	Shri Ravi Dutt	Cost Accounts Officer	Physical
27	Shri Akshay Verma	Geologist	Physical
28	Shri Jayant Gupta	Asst. Cost Accounts Officer	Physical
29	Shri Yogesh Agarwal	Assistant	Physical