

भारत सरकार  
खान मंत्रालय  
राष्ट्रीय खनिज खोज न्यास

Government of India  
Ministry of Mines  
National Mineral Exploration Trust

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/ 319

New Delhi, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2025

**Subject: Circulation of minutes of 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Executive Committee of NMET held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 for your kind perusal.

Action Taken Report on relevant paras may kindly be forwarded to this office by 2.9.2025.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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.
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.
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 Udyog 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, Chairman, TCC-I, NMET and Deputy Director General & Head M-V, GSITI, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad-500068.
2. Shri Pradeep Singh, Chairman, TCC-II, NMET and Deputy Director General, M-III A, GSI, CHQ, Kolkata- 700016.
3. The Director, AMD, Department of Atomic Energy, AMD Complex, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.
4. The Managing Director, MECL, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur-440006.
5. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDIL, Gondwana Road, Kanke Road, Ranchi, Ranchi-834031.
6. The General Manager (ME), Mineral Exploration Department, KIOCL Limited, KIOCL Limited, Bangalore-560034.
7. Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Block 15, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector - 10, Gandhinagar - 382010
8. The Managing Director, Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd., 21, CLM Lane, Raniganj, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal, India Pin: 713347.
9. M/s Critical Mineral Trackers, E3, 3rd Floor, Technology Research Park, Indian Institute of Technology, IITH Road, near National Highway 65, Hyderabad, Kandi, Telangana 502285

10. The CEO, QCI-Nabet, ITPI Building, 6th Floor, 4 – A, Ring Road, I P Estate, New Delhi – 110002
11. Engeotech Consultant, 1338 Vijay Nagar, Kachnar City Road, Jabalpur PIN 482002.
12. M/s GemcoKati Exploration Pvt Ltd, E-77 MIDC Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442401.
13. GeoExpore Pvt. Ltd., WeWork-Next to Forum Mall, Prestige Cube, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560034, Karnataka, India
14. M/s PRB Infra, S-3 2nd Floor, Ratan Heights, Medical Chowk, Chandan Nagar, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440009.
15. Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd., 3rd Floor Floor, Anaya Chambers, GN 38/5, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal.
16. Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd., 15-17-909/9,5th Cross Shivabagh, Kadri, Mangalore-575005
17. Ocean Drilling and Exploration Pvt. Ltd., 24 A, Shanti Nager, Bani Vihar, Near Diamond Residency, Jhotwara, Jaipur-332012
18. Ecomen Mining Pvt. Ltd. B – 1/8, 2nd Floor, Sector-H, Aliganj, Lucknow – 226024, Uttar Pradesh, India

**Copy for information to:**

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

**Ministry of Mines**  
**National Mineral Exploration Trust**  
**Minutes of 43<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee (EC) meeting, NMET**  
**held on 14.8.2025**  
**Venue: Khanij Kaksh, Shastri Bhawan**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of NMET was held under Chairmanship of Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Mines/Chairman EC on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi in hybrid mode. The list of participants is given in Annexure-1. Smt. Geetika Sharma, Dy. Secretary & HoD, NMET welcomed the Chairman, EC and introduced Shri Pankaj Garg, Director General, NMET and Member Secretary, EC. She also welcomed all the members, technical experts and invitees at the meeting. The agenda items discussed and decisions taken in the meeting are as under:

**Agenda 43.1: Confirmation of minutes of 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of EC held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2025.**

The minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee (EC) meeting were circulated on 12th June, 2025. No comments or observations were received from the members.

**Decision:** EC confirmed the minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Executive Committee.

**Agenda 41.2: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes of 42<sup>nd</sup> EC meeting**

EC was briefed on the action taken on decisions taken during the 42<sup>nd</sup> EC meeting. Discussion on the actionable points is given as under:-

- i) Regarding monitoring mechanism to track the manpower of NPEAs every six months, QCI-Nabet informed that : (i) a standardized form has been prepared to capture detailed information pertaining to the joining and leaving of experts across all relevant technical areas. The agency will fill the form biannually; (ii) Surveillance Assessment has been carried out for 16 NPEAs and re-accreditation has been done for 7 NPEAs; (iii) they have given warning to 2 NPEAs for non-compliance of the accreditation scheme provisions by not informing the changes in their skilled manpower.  
EC advised QCI-Nabet to organize workshops periodically for the NPEAs to handhold them in maintaining the quality.

**[QCI-Nabet]**

- ii) As regards ascertaining the willingness to carry out exploration in the 51 blocks based on legacy reports along with 10A(2b) cases, EC was informed that willingness has been received from various agencies.

EC instructed to convene a joint TCC meeting to allot the blocks to the NEAs/NPEAs. The agencies may submit the proposals in the upcoming TCC meetings scheduled to be held in the month of August, 2025. These proposals to be placed before the EC at its upcoming meeting in September, 2025

**[NMET and TCC Chairmen]**

- iii) Regarding EC's advice to MECL to organize a workshop for all the NER States one day prior to Mining Ministers' Conclave to be organized in Guwahati on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025, CMD, MECL informed that they are organizing workshops in Mizoram and Tripura in the months of August and September, 2025, respectively.

EC advised DG, NMET to review the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> North East Mining Ministers' Conclave and in respect of any actionable points, MECL may follow up with the concerned States.

**[NMET and MECL]**

- iv) As regards the release of exploration incentive to agencies for upgradation of mineral blocks from G4 to G3 stage of investigation after completion of G3 stage of investigation.

EC was informed that NMET is revising the entire Schedule of Charges (SoC) and the relevant modification will be incorporated in the revised SoC of NMET.

**[NMET]**

- v) Regarding EC's instruction to upload the details of procured instruments on NMET website, EC was apprised that the list of procured instruments has been uploaded on NMET website.

EC further advised to (i) add an introductory paragraph citing the wider use of these instruments in mineral exploration activities by the beneficiaries; (ii) the contact details of respective agencies should also be uploaded so that interested agencies may be facilitated to borrow the equipments for their use; (iii) visit the

Department of Science and Technology (DST) portal to study the methodology followed by them for uploading details of equipments.

[NMET]

- vi) Regarding ECs decision to review the procurement status of the agencies EC advised DG, NMET to review the individual procurement projects with concerned agencies, for timely procurement and utilization of equipment.

[NMET]

### **Agenda 43.3: Approval of new exploration project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committees (TCCs)**

TCC-1 at its 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> meeting and TCC-2 at its 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meeting have recommended 14 mineral exploration proposals (including three proposals for ratification) with estimated cost of Rs 28.76 crore for approval of EC.

Amount in Rs. Crore							
A. Projects recommended by TCC-1							
Sl. No.	Project/Block Name	Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )	Agency	Commodity	Stage	Duration (in months)	Cost
1	Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) for limestone in Mukteswarapuram Block, Suryapet district, Telangana	4.57	MECL	Limestone	G3	07	0.93
2	Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) for limestone in Pedaveedu East Block, Suryapet district, Telangana	4.17	MECL	Limestone	G3	07	0.86
3	Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) for limestone in Pedaveedu West Block, Suryapet district, Telangana	7.78	MECL	Limestone	G3	07	0.89
4	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Aluminous Laterite, Vanadium and associated minerals (V, Ga & REE) in	6.33	MECL	Aluminous Laterite, Vanadium and	G3	42 10	1.23



	Kallar Block, Kasaragod District, Kerala			associated minerals (V, Ga & REE)			
5	Preliminary exploration Survey (G3) for Iron ore in Gidhali-Chiklakasa block, Balod district, Chhattisgarh	3.35	Bhushilp Mines and Minerals Pvt. Ltd.	Iron	G3	12	1.96
6	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Graphite in Dahita Block, District: Bargarh, Odisha	5.40	MECL	Graphite	G3	12	2.03
7	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite, Vanadium, Gallium and associated minerals around Patgaon and Somlewadi villages (Patgaon Block), Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra	7.0	Geo Marine Solutions Private Limited	Bauxite, Vanadium, Gallium and associated minerals	G3	12	2.28
8	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Bauxite, Vanadium, Gallium and associated minerals around Pendhri village (Pendhri Block), Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra	7.0	Geo Marine Solutions Private Limited	Bauxite, Vanadium, Gallium and associated minerals	G3	12	2.26
9	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE and Associated Minerals in Maddur area, Narayanpet District, Telangana	160.0	Critical Mineral Trackers	REE and Associated Minerals	G4	10	1.31
10	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE, Ni, Co and PGE in Podili area, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh	210.0	Critical Mineral Trackers	REE, Ni, Co and PGE	G4	10	1.90
	Total A						15.65
B. Projects recommended by TCC-2							
11	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Bauxite and associated	44	MECL	Bauxite and associated minerals	G4	10	1.18

	minerals in Ratnal Area, Districts Kachchh, Gujarat						
12	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Bauxite and associated minerals in Kukma Area, District Kachchh, Gujarat	13.32	MECL	Bauxite and associated minerals	G4	10	0.75
13	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for limestone in Vadekhan Block, Rajkot district, Gujarat	6.19	PRB Infra Projects Private Limited	Limestone	G3	10	0.69
14	Reconnaissance survey for Potash & Halite in Ramsara - Amarkot -Dalmir- Khera area in Fazilka District, Punjab	10.30	Ocean Drilling and Exploration Private Limited	Potash & Halite	G4	10	10.49
	<b>Total B</b>						<b>13.11</b>
	<b>Total A+B</b>						<b>28.76</b>

**Decision of EC:** (i) EC advised MECL to complete exploration in Kodom and Kallar block, Kasargod District Kerala in 10 months' time due to upcoming elections in the State.

(ii) EC ratified the financial sanction of Rs. 2.68 crores for three (03) exploration proposals at Sl. no 1 to 3.

(iii) EC approved financial sanction of Rs. 26.08 crores for 11 projects (Sl. No. 4 to 14) of mineral exploration.

**Agenda 43.4: Approval for procurement of machinery/equipment/software etc. from NMET fund by DGM, Kerala**

Chairman TCC-1 apprised that Department of Geology and Mining (DGM), Kerala, has submitted a proposal with total estimated cost of Rs. 9.95 crore, for the procurement of machinery, laboratory equipment, instruments, etc., aimed at enhancing mineral exploration activities. The details of items to be procured by DGM, Kerala are as under:

S.No.	Item	Quantity	Estimated Cost per unit (Rs. In Lakh)	Total Estimated
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				Cost (Rs. In Lakh)
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
1.	Polarizing Microscope With Camera and Software	1	20	20
2.	Petrographic Thin Section Unit	1	50	50
3.	Crawler Mounted Drill Rig with Associated Accessories	3	150	450
4.	WD XRF and Accessories	1	350	350
5.	Vibratory Disc Mill with Grinding Sets	12	8.33	100
6.	Certified Reference Material	30	0.83	25

The TCC-1 at its 78<sup>th</sup> meeting had reviewed the proposal and recommended the procurement of Polarizing Microscope with Camera and Petrographic Thin Section Unit (Sl. No. 1 & 2) with a cost of Rs. 70 lakh to EC for approval. Further, TCC-1 advised DGM, Kerala to review the cost of the items mentioned at Sl. No. 3-6 and present the proposal in the 79<sup>th</sup> TCC meeting of NMET for further recommendation.

**Decision of EC:** EC instructed DGM, Kerala to review the specification of the instruments at Sl. No. 3-6 and resubmit the proposal to TCC within 15 days for consideration.

**Agenda 43.5: Approval of additional cost/cost revision of ongoing exploration/procurement project proposals**

TCC-1 and TCC-2 have recommended cost revision of following 11 ongoing projects for approval of EC.

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost (in Rs Cr.)	Revised cost (in Rs Cr.)	Additional Cost (in Rs Cr.)	Remarks
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Limestone in and around Nanhwara Kymore Area	Engeotech Consultants	0.70	1.04	0.34	Additional drilling of 180 m

	in Katni District of Madhya Pradesh					
2	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Bauxite, Ga, V, Ti & REE in Reldi Moti area Kachchh District, Gujarat	Critical Mineral Trackers	0.55	0.72	0.17	Change from outsourced drilling to in-house drilling
3	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Bauxite, Ga, V, Ti & REE in Lakhond area, Kachchh District, Gujarat	Critical Mineral Trackers	0.60	0.69	0.09	Change from outsourced drilling to in-house drilling
4	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Iron Ore in Amhawa Block, Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh	Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd.	3.97	4.09	0.12	Addition of geophysical survey (magnetic method)
5	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Mailar Base Metal - Gold Prospect Block in Mailar area, Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh	Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd.	3.25	3.64	0.39	Additional drilling of 200m
6	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for magnetite and associated Vanadium mineralization in Khursipar block, Dist-Gondia, Maharashtra	MECL	2.73	2.71	-0.02	The area is reduced from 3.1 km <sup>2</sup> to 2.8 km <sup>2</sup>
7	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Aluminous Laterite and associated Critical Elements (V, Ga, & REE) in Mundalli Block, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka	Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	0.91	0.97	0.06	Additional drilling of 50 m
8	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Kanapulisi Graphite Block (98.3 sq.km.), District Rayagada, Odisha	MMPL	1.69	1.66	-0.03	Quantum of Land crop compensation, approach road to drilling site and chemical analysis was reduced

9	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE & RM (Sc, Nb) mineralization in Samalpatti Block (28.5 sqkm extent), District Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu	KIOCL	1.32	1.34	0.02	Additional EPMA studies and chemical analysis
10	Preliminary Exploration (G3 stage) for Limestone in Northwest of Boro Lakhindong Block, Dima-Hasao district, Assam	MMPL	3.12	3.113	-0.007	Change in the rates of chemical analysis
11	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Graphite in Ranibandh Area, Bankura, West Bengal	MMPL	1.43	1.36	-0.09	Change in quantum of laboratory studies, drilling, pitting, trenching

**Decision of EC:** EC accorded approval for cost revision of above 11 ongoing exploration projects.

**Agenda 43.6: Approval of surrender/pre-closure of ongoing exploration project proposals**

TCC-1 and TCC-2 have recommended the pre-closure of following 09 mineral exploration projects:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost (in Rs Cr.)	Duration in months	Expenditure incurred (in Rs Cr.)	Reason
1	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Sawalhira (East) Block, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra	Gemco Kati Exploration Private Limited	0.87	10	0.69	Analytical results did not show promising values
2	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Manganese in Rongha block, District Bhandara, Maharashtra	DGM Maharashtra	0.90	15	0.36	Forest clearance issue
3	Preliminary exploration for Limestone in Savalhira block (4.04 km <sup>2</sup> ), District Chandrapur, Maharashtra	DGM Maharashtra	0.74	15	0.29	Forest clearance issue

4	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Jaharitola (3.34 km <sup>2</sup> ) & Mundatola Blocks (4.34 km <sup>2</sup> ), Sundargarh District, Odisha	MECL	2.86	12	1.14	80% area is covered with soil
5	Preliminary Exploration (G3) (Phase-1) for Gold in Kudrekonda Area by Geophysical Survey, Devangere District, Karnataka	MECL	2.45	12	1.96	Public agitation
6	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for coal in West of Ghughus & Bellora Block, Wardha Valley CF, Maharashtra	CMPDI	2.16	12	1.73	No coal seams have been encountered in 2 bore holes.
7	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Iron, Manganese and Associated Minerals in Tindni area (7.4 Km <sup>2</sup> ) Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	3.69	15	0.30	Low Iron values in the block
8	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Iron- PGE and associated minerals in Chitrangi Block (5.00 km <sup>2</sup> ), Districts: Singrauli, State: Madhya Pradesh	MECL	1.96	12	0.42	Low Iron values in the block
9	Reconnaissance Survey for Coal in Khapia block, North Karanpura CF, Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand	CMPDI	1.61	12	0.65	Local Agitation

**Decision of EC:** EC accorded approval for pre-closure of above 08 (except Sl. No. 4) exploration projects.

As regard, preclosure of preliminary exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Jaharitola (3.34 km<sup>2</sup>) & Mundatola Blocks (4.34 km<sup>2</sup>), Sundargarh District, Odisha, MECL informed that initially the block was taken up for limestone exploration, but during exploration it was

observed that the block contains dolomite (which is a minor mineral). Subsequently, MECL has applied for preclosure of the block citing the reason that dolomite is a minor mineral. **EC instructed MECL to take special permission from NMET to explore dolomite (a minor mineral) and complete the project.** EC further instructed that if there is any other such block where dolomite is present instead of limestone and exploration has been started, special permission can be taken from NMET to complete that exploration project too.

**[NMET and MECL]**

#### **Agenda 43.7: Approval of timeline extension of ongoing projects**

TCC-1 and TCC-2 have recommended the following 31 ongoing proposals for extension of timeline for approval of EC:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Block/Project</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Scheduled date of completion</b>	<b>Required timeline (up to)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for polymetallic mineralization (Au, Cu, Ni, Co) in Dharwar Shimoga Schist Belt of Nagavanda area Davangere, Haveri and Shimoga District, Karnataka	KIOCL	31.5.2025	31.7.2025 (2 months)	GR submission
2	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Iron and Manganese mineralization in Ramghad Block, Bellari District, Karnataka	Ecomen Mining Pvt. Ltd.	09.06.2025	09.12.2025 (6 months)	For completion of project
3	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Glauconitic sandstone in Parsada-Nawapara-Gurur area (146.27 sq.km), Balod District, Chhattisgarh	MECL	09.06.2025	09.09.2025 (3 months)	For completion of drilling and submission of report
4	Procurement of Ore/Polarizing Microscope with Transmitted/Incident Light and oil immersion objectives	DMG Karnataka	31.03.2025	15.06.2025 (2.5 months)	For completion of procurement project
5	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Alda Block, Raipur & Balodabazar- Bhatapara Districts, Chhattisgarh	DGM Chhattisgarh	30.06.2025	31.07.2025 (1 month)	GR submission

6	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for gold and associated minerals in Sirigeri Block, Ballari district, Karnataka	DMG Karnataka	14.06.2025	14.12.2025 (6 months)	For completion of drilling and submission of report
7	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Kanapulisi Graphite Block (98.3 sq.km.), District Rayagada, Odisha	MMPL	30.06.2025	15.07.2025 (15 days)	GR submission
8	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Graphite in Darukona area, District Rayagada, Odisha	MMPL	30.06.2025	15.07.2025 (15 days)	GR submission
9	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Gold in Kudrekonda area by Geophysical Survey, Devangere District, Karnataka	MECL	26.02.2025	15.07.2025 (1.5 months)	GR submission
10	Preliminary exploration (G3) for limestone in Adegaon Block (5.35 sq. km.), District Yavatmal, Maharashtra	MECL	21.06.2025	31.07.2025 (1month)	GR submission
11	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Gold in Bargur area, Bargur belt of Kolar Schist belt, District Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu	MECL	26.05.2025	25.10.2025 (5 months)	For completion of project
12	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Graphite in Arasanur East Block (1.93 sq. km.), District Shivaganga, Tamil Nadu	KIOCL	09.06.2025	31.12.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
13	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Iron Ore in Arewada – Hitapadi Block (27 sq km), District Gadchiroli, Maharashtra	Gemco Kati Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	05.07.2025	31.08.2025 (2 months)	GR submission
14	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Ramghad Iron and Manganese mineralization near Ramghad Village, District Ballari, Karnataka	Ecomen Mining Pvt Ltd.	09.06.2025	31.12.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
15	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Lodhva Block, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat	CGM Gujarat	21.06.2025	31.12.2025 (6 months)	For completion of project



16	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Matana Block, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat	CGM Gujarat	21.04.2025	31.12.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
17	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Simar Block, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat	CGM Gujarat	21.04.2025	31.12.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
18	Detailed Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Bolas Block, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat	CGM Gujarat	21.04.2025	31.12.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
19	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Glauconitic Sandstone in Deulha Block (8.5 sq. km), Satna District, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	03.03.2025	30.09.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
20	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Glauconite Sandstone in Jhari Block (5.1 sq. km), Satna District, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	03.03.2025	30.09.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
21	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite, Titanium and associated minerals in Anvrapat Block (1.00 sq. km), Lohardaga District, Jharkhand	MECL	22.06.2025	30.09.2025 (3 months)	For completion of project
22	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Manganese and associated minerals in Katori Jhiriya Block (140.22 sq. km), Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	31.03.2025	30.10.2025 (7 months)	For completion of project
23	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for PGE, Gold & REE in Maneri-Sitapala Block, Balaghat District, MP	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	31.03.2025	30.06.2025 (3 months)	GR Submission
24	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for PGE, Vanadium & associated minerals in Bhursadongari - Murum Block (100 Sq Km), Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	30.06.2025	29.08.2025 (2 months)	GR Submission

25	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Graphite in Ranibandh Area, Bankura, West Bengal	MMPL	10.07.2025	31.07.2025 (21 days)	GR Submission
26	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Mailar Base Metal-Gold Prospect Block in Mailar area, Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh	Geovale Services Private Limited	11.06.2025	31.10.2025 (4.5 months)	GR Submission
27	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Basemetal in Thal Didihat- Askot region, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand	Geovale Services Private Limited	11.06.2025	31.10.2025 (4.5 months)	GR Submission
28	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE Exploration in Bhuj Clay Prospect Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat	Geovale Services Private Limited	30.06.2025	31.10.2025 (4 months)	GR Submission
29	Financial Assistance from NMET funds to procure Machinery Laboratory Equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration Activities ( <b>Project 1</b> )	DGM Assam	31.05.2025	30.09.2025 (4 months)	For project completion
30	Financial Assistance from NMET funds to procure Machinery Laboratory Equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration Activities ( <b>Project 2</b> )	DGM Assam	31.05.2025	30.09.2025 (4 months)	For project completion
31	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Iron Ore in Mahakoshal Group around Chakdiya, Kushaniya, Jobra and Tusgaon area, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh	M/s GeoExpOre Pvt. Ltd.	26.05.2025	25.11.2025 (6 months)	GR Submission

**Decision of EC:** While EC accorded approval of timeline extension of 31 exploration projects, it expressed its displeasure over the delay in several sanctioned projects on account of unnecessary delay in ongoing projects due to forest clearance, as reported by agencies. In view of several such instances in the state of Madhya Pradesh, EC instructed

that a DO letter be written to Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh to resolve the matter. For other States also, NMET was instructed to follow up with state DGMs for timely issue of Forest Clearance.

[NMET]

**Agenda 43.8: Approval of new RMT (Regional Mineral Targeting) project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committees (joint TCC)**

TCC-1 and TCC-2 at their joint meeting had recommended the following 5 RMT projects with an estimated cost of Rs 39.62 crore and duration of 24 months for each proposal for approval of EC:-

Amount in Rs. Crore						
Projects recommended by joint TCC						
Sl. No	Project/Block Name	Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )	Agency	Commodity	Duration (in months)	Cost
1	Regional Mineral Targeting and integrated mineral system studies to target potential mineralization in Proterozoic rocks of Amgaon Gneissic Complex, Dongargarh Granites, Dongargarh Supergroup, Bijli Rhyolite, Bailadila Group, in parts of Kanker, Rajnandgaon Narayanpur Districts, Chhattisgarh	1560	UEIPL	REE, RM, Critical Minerals, Iron, Copper & Gold	24	5.43
2	Regional Mineral Targeting in Madanpur-Rampur-Kankatru areas to identify prospective blocks of REE, Base Metal & other mineralization in Kalahandi District, Odisha	1087	NRD-TATA	REE, Base Metal & other mineralization	24	5.24
3	Regional Mineral Targeting in parts of AMGC and	2175	MMPL		24	17.82

	associated granites for identification of prospecting blocks in West Khasi Hill and East Garo Hill Districts, Meghalaya			Sillimanite, REE, Tungsten, Molybdenum, and Lithium		
4	Regional Mineral Targeting for Manganese, Graphite, Tungsten, Cobalt, REE and associated critical minerals in parts of Alluri Sitharama Raju District, Andhra Pradesh	1450	CMT	Manganese, Graphite, Tungsten, Cobalt, REE and associated critical minerals	24	6.21
5	Regional Mineral Targeting and integrated mineral system studies for identification of prospective blocks for Graphite, Niobium, REE and associated mineralisation in Yellikod-Azhikod areas, near Achankovil shear zone, Southern Granulite Terrain, Kerala and Tamil Nadu	999	Geomarine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Graphite, niobium, REE and associated mineralisation	24	4.92
					<b>Total</b>	<b>39.62</b>

**Decision of EC:** EC instructed that (i) atleast one DDG level officer from the respective region may be nominated as mentor for each project to assist the NPEAs in carrying out exploration in these RMT blocks; (ii) the project cost at Sl. No. 3 may be kept as tentative and the cost may be further re-evaluated once the new Schedule of Charges of NMET is finalized.

#### **Agenda 43.9: Ratification of projects**

Chairman, EC had accorded approval for following proposals for early execution and timely completion of the projects :

Sl. No.	Title of the project	Agency	Type of project	Duration	Approved amount (Rs. in cr.)
1	Procurement of Magneto-Telluric (MT) instruments, semi-rugged laptops, software and workstations by GSI	GSI	Procurement	14	31.16
2	Establishing Advanced Geophysical Laboratory at Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI)	GSI	Procurement	12	3.53
				Total	<b>34.69</b>

**Decision of EC:** EC ratified the two projects.

### **Additional Discussion**

- a. **Shri Alok Sharma, Technical Expert** pointed out that NMET has taken up around 550 exploration projects in last 10 years, creating a dearth of blocks for mineral targeting. Taking up RMT projects through NPEAs is a good initiative in this direction. It will improve availability of areas for prospecting, but will need to be executed in best way for good results.
- b. **Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Technical Expert** informed that a number of mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned by the Government. While this is encouraging, it also needs to be ensured that mining in these blocks is expedited so that revenues could be generated. The hurdles that these blocks are facing in terms of statutory clearances need to be addressed by the Government to enable early start of mining. Chairman, EC informed that this year the Government is trying to operationalize a number of auctioned blocks and Ministry of Mines has announced an interesting scheme that if any State operationalizes 10% of the auctioned blocks then an incentive of Rs. 300 crores will be given to the State.

- c. **Shri L. S. Shekhawat, Technical Expert** informed that (a) processed lamproite rocks from which diamonds have already been extracted like Chelima lamproite where such processed material is present over 3 square kilometres together with non-diamondiferous lamproites like lamproites of Damodar valley coal fields, should be investigated further for their critical elements content as is envisaged for tailings of basemetals and precious metals in the National Critical Mineral Mission document; (b) further, based on study/review of two reports of investigations funded by NMET it was observed that there is unacceptable level of difference in the values of individual elements of interest in the analytical data of samples and corresponding analytical data of check samples. NMET was requested to address the issue by means of developing a suitable Standard Operational Procedure (SOP). EC advised (i) to develop a mechanism/SOP to monitor the results of check samples to minimize the discrepancies and maximize the outcome; (ii) further, EC advised **DG, NMET to take a review of the CMPDI and IBM project on *geochemical analysis of samples drawn from mine faces, mineral stacks, dumps, tailings, process samples and smelter slags across the country***, to assess whether more such projects can be taken up for funding.

[NMET]

- d. **Prof. Sahendra Singh, Technical Expert** suggested to include all the high-resolution techniques like LA-ICP-MS for trace elements analysis, High Resolution Transmission Spectroscopy, Focussed Ion Beam -Scanning Electron Microscopy, High Resolution Transmission Spectroscopy, Atomic Force Microscopy, X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy, Core Hyperspectral Scanning, Mineral Liberation Analyzer, TESCAN Integrated Mineral Liberation Analysis for the investigation of ore samples at nanoscale in the Schedule of Charges being revised by NMET.

[NMET]

- e. **Dheeraj Pande, Director AMD** mentioned that the list of equipments along with their specifications can be posted on NMET website on the pattern of Department of Science and Technology (DST) portal. This would be beneficial for all the agencies to frame the specification of instruments while make procurements. He also pointed that RMT blocks comprise of huge area upto 2000 km<sup>2</sup> and within the block there is

every possibility that a number of exploration projects might have been executed. Accordingly, **the overlapping areas should be excluded from the RMT blocks and exploration be targeted only in the leftover areas.**

**EC instructed to upload the details of instrument** along with specifications on NMET website and also on the website of DST.

In the concluding remarks, Chairman, EC commented that with the proposed amendment in the MMDR Act, the scope of NMET is going to increase exponentially to include exploration in offshore areas and overseas. Accordingly, NMET should be ready to take up the new challenges.

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**Annexure-1****List of Participant**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>List of Members</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name of Member in Position</b>	<b>Mode of Joining</b>
1	Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Chairperson, ex officio	Shri VL Kantha Rao	Physical
2	Director General of Geological Survey of India	Member, ex-officio	Shri Asit Saha	Online
3	Director General National Mineral Exploration Trust	Member Secretary, ex-officio	Shri. Pankaj Garg	Physical
4	Representative Controller General of Indian Bureau of Mines or any representative	Member, ex officio	Shri S K Adhikary, Chief Mining Geologist	Online
5	An officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy	Member, ex officio	Shri Dheeraj Pande, Director, AMD	Online
6	Representative of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal	Member, ex officio	Birendra Kumar Thakur Director	Online
7	Representative of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member, ex officio	Shri. Alok Kumar Dy. Secretary	Online
8	Representative of Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor of Ministry of Mines or Coal	Member, ex officio	Shri Alok Kumar, Dy. Secretary	Physical
9	Madhya Pradesh	Members, ex officio	Vivek Nema Deputy Director DGM, MP	Online



10	Maharashtra	Members, ex officio	Dr. T R K Rao DG	Online
11	Rajasthan	Members, ex officio	O. P. Jangid, Sr. Geologist	Online
12	Tamil Nadu	Members, ex officio	K Deepa, Jt. Director Mythili, Asst. Director	Online
<b>Technical Expert</b>				
13	GM (Exploration) (Retd.), CMPDIL		Shri Alok Sharma	Online
14	Head (Business Development & Planning) (Retd.), MECL		Shri Naresh Nautiyal	Online
15	Scientist-H, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (Retd.)		Dr. Yamuna Singh	Online
16	Dy. Director General (Retd.), Geological Survey of India		Dr. Laxman Singh Shekhawat	Online
17	Professor, Department of Applied Geology, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM)		Dr. Sahendra Singh	Online
<b>Invitee</b>				
18	Dy. Director General & Chairman, TCC-1	Invitee	Dr. S Ravi	Physical
19	Dy. Director General & Chairman, TCC-2	Invitee	Shri Pradeep Singh	Physical
20	Director (Tech), MoM	Invitee	Shri Yogendra Singh Bhamboo	Physical
21	CMD, MECL	Invitee	Shri I. D. Narayan	Online
22	QCI-Nabet	Invitee	Jagminder Katariya	Online
<b>NMET Secretariat</b>				

23	Smt. Geetika Sharma	NMET	Director (Project) & HoD, NMET	Physical
24	Sebabrata Das	NMET	Sr. Geologist	Physical
25	Palak Kapoor	NMET	Sr. Geologist	Physical
26	Ravi Dutt	NMET	Cost and Account Officer	Physical
27	Dr. Rajesh Sharma	NMET	Sr. Geologist	Physical