

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/ 767
2026

New Delhi, 2nd February

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 45th meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMEDT) held on 27th January 2026-reg.

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of 45th meeting of Executive Committee of NMEDT held on 27th January 2026 for your kind perusal.

Encl: As above

[Geetika Sharma]
Director – Projects & HoD, NMEDT

To all EC Members

1. The Additional Secretary, Mines, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.
2. The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Coal & Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. The Director General, Geological Survey of India, 27, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata.
6. The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, 2nd Floor, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
7. The Director, Atomic Mineral Exploration and Research Directorate, Begumpet, Hyderabad.
8. Director General, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust, 3rd Floor, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. The Principal Secretary, Mineral Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal.
10. The Principal Secretary, Industries, Energy and Labour Dept., Govt. of Maharashtra, 114 Annex Building Mantralaya, Mumbai.

11. The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Mines and Petroleum, Government of Rajasthan, Main Building Secretariat, Jaipur.
12. The Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Dept., Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Industries Department Secretariat, Chennai.
13. Dr. P Krishnamurthy, Flat No. 103, A Block, IGV Apts., Ideal Homes Township, RR Nagar, Bengaluru.
14. Prof. Tapas Kr. Biswal, B- 4, 101, IIT Bhubaneswar Campus, Argul, Jatni, Khordha, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
15. Shri Bhagwati Prasad Raturi, Ex -GM (Exploration), MECL, Lane N0-7, New Garhwal Colony Near Malsi Puliya, Balawala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
16. Shri Pankaj Satija, NTH Complex, 4th Floor, A-2 Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi.
17. Shri. Hanuma Prasad Modali, Deccan Gold Mines Limited, No.77, 16th Cross, Sector IV, HSR Layout, Bangalore.

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 for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, Mines/Chairman EC, NMEDT, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi.
2. Director, Technical, Ministry of Mines, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.

Digitally signed by
Geetika Sharma
Date: 02-02-2026
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Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration & Development Trust
Minutes of 45th Executive Committee Meeting
Held on 27.01.2026

The 45th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) was held under the chairmanship of Shri Piyush Goyal, Secretary, Ministry of Mines/Chairman, EC, on 27th January 2026 in hybrid mode in New Delhi.

The list of participants is placed at Annexure 1.

The agenda items discussed and decisions taken during the meeting are detailed below.

Agenda 45.1: Overview of work of Project Sanctioning Committee of NMEDT

The EC was briefed on the functioning of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of NMEDT.

The EC was informed that since its inception, four (04) meetings of the PSC have been held in which 71 project proposals with a sanctioned cost of ₹215.57 crore have been approved. These include 62 mineral exploration projects with a sanctioned amount of ₹185 crore; of these, 39 projects are of critical minerals and 25 projects of NPEAs.

It was informed that the number of projects sanctioned to MECL is relatively lower compared to those approved in the previous financial year. Further, some NMEDT-funded projects are experiencing delays due to the non-availability of forest clearance and resistance at the local level.

Decision of EC:

EC noted the progress in sanctioning projects and reiterated that the exploration projects funded by NMEDT must be expedited. Chairman, EC instructed that DO letters be sent to the Chief Secretaries of States where there is a significant delay in receipt of forest clearance.

[Action: NMEDT]

Agenda 45.2: Financial Sanction for carrying out aero-geophysical survey over NAGMP Blocks 13, 18 & 21

EC was informed that GSI had submitted a proposal to carry out a Multi-Sensor Aero-geophysical Survey over NAGMP blocks 13, 18 and 21, covering an area of 1,49,938 sq.km with 5,49,778 Line km. Accordingly, the Executive Committee of NMEDT at its 36th meeting had approved the project with a cost of ₹1,018,989,058/- by engaging M/s Xcalibur McPhar Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. Later, the tender was cancelled, since the PIA M/s Xcalibur McPhar Private Limited refused to sign the contract/MoA. Consequently, a fresh tender was floated on 09.06.2025. The Tender Evaluation Committee (Technical) of GSI qualified three bidders on 17.10.2025.

The price bids of qualified bidders were opened on 21.10.2025, and the L1 price for carrying out aero-geophysical survey in NAGMP Block 13,18 and 21 comes to ₹ 93,48,31,516/- inclusive of GST. The block-wise breakup of the price is given below:

A – Break-up of price for NAGMP Block-13			
1	Area	53,583	Sq. Km.
2	Line Km of the Block	1,96,473	Line Km
3	Rate quoted per Line KM excluding GST	1441	INR
4	Contract Price excluding GST	28,31,17,593/-	INR
5	GST @ 18%	5,09,61,167/-	INR
6	Total Project contract price inclusive of GST	33,40,78,760/-	INR
B – Break-up of price for NAGMP Block-18			
7	Area	44,941	Sq. Km.
8	Line Km of the Block	1,64,785	Line Km
9	Rate quoted per Line KM excluding GST	1441	INR
10	Contract Price excluding GST	23,74,55,185/-	INR
11	GST @ 18%	4,27,41,933/-	INR
12	Total Project contract price inclusive of GST	28,01,97,118/-	INR
C – Break-up of price for NAGMP Block-21			
1	Area	51,414	Sq. Km.
2	Line Km of the Block	1,88,520	Line Km
3	Rate quoted per Line KM excluding GST	1441	INR
4	Contract Price excluding GST	27,16,57,320/-	INR
5	GST @ 18%	4,88,98,318/-	INR
6	Total Project contract price inclusive of GST	32,05,55,638/-	INR
A + B + C = The Grand total contract price of the project for three NAGMP Blocks 13, 18 & 21 is ₹93,48,31,516/- (Rupees Ninety Three Crore Forty Eight Lakh Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixteen only) (inclusive of 18% GST).			

GSI submitted the proposal for approval of ₹ 93, 48, 31,516/- (inclusive of GST) to

carry out Multi-Sensor Aero-geophysical Survey over NAGMP blocks 13, 18 & 21 by engaging M/s Saarthi Airways Private Limited, India in collaboration with M/s GPX Surveys Pty. Ltd. (Australia), M/s Thomson Airborne Pty Ltd (Australia) and M/s GPX Surveys Pvt. Ltd., India using NMEDT fund. The proposal was recommended by TCC-1 at its 88th meeting for the approval of EC, with a timeline of 36 months from the date of signing of the MoA.

Decision of EC:

- i. EC expressed its displeasure over the inordinate delay in the finalization of the tender and instructed GSI to ensure that responsibility for the delay is duly reflected in the APARs of all officers concerned.
- ii. EC accorded financial sanction of ₹93,48,31,516/- (Rupees Ninety-Three Crore Forty-Eight Lakh Thirty-One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixteen only) (inclusive of 18% GST), for carrying out NAGMP survey over Blocks 13, 18, and 21 by engaging the consortium led by M/s Saarthi Airways Private Limited, India, in collaboration with M/s GPX Surveys Pty. Ltd. (Australia), M/s Thomson Airborne Pty. Ltd. (Australia), and M/s GPX Surveys Pvt. Ltd., India, using NMEDT funds. EC further instructed GSI to ensure that:
 - a. The project is completed within the stipulated timeframe.
 - b. Performance Guarantee be obtained from the implementing agency, failing which the EMD be forfeited, and fresh tenders be called; the entire action be completed within the stipulated time ie one month.

[Action: NMEDT/ GSI]

Agenda 45.3: Ratification of Exploration Projects in the State of Telangana.

EC was informed that following the amendments in the MMDR Act in 2021, a total of 19 Prospecting Licence Reports (Pre-2015) became ineligible and required re-evaluation under the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 in Telangana State. Subsequently, the State Government decided to further explore the area and validate the existing data. Accordingly, DGM Telangana has handed over following three blocks to the MECL to carry out further exploration in order to facilitate the auction of these blocks.

Sl. No	Project Title	Area (in km ²)	Duration (in months)	Recommended cost (in ₹ Lakh)
1	Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) for limestone in Mukteswarapuram Block, Suryapet district, Telangana	4.57	7	92.94
2	Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) for limestone in Pedaveedu East Block, Suryapet district, Telangana	4.17	7	86.46

3	Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) for limestone in Pedaveedu West Block, Suryapet district, Telangana	7.78	7	88.96
			Total	268.36

The proposals pertaining to these three projects were recommended by TCC-1 at its 77th meeting held on 20.06.2025. To expedite the projects, approval was accorded by the Chairman, EC on 25.06.2025.

Decision of EC:

EC ratified the 3 proposals as per the details given in the table above.

Agenda 45.4: Ratification of timeline extension of NAGMP block 7 and 9

The EC was apprised that the NAGMP survey for Block-9 was approved in the 14th EC meeting held on 09.11.2018 at an approved cost of ₹2,35,37,487 with a 24-month timeline. The study for Block-7 was approved in the 31st EC meeting held on 12.09.2023 at an approved cost of ₹35,74,623, with a 24-month timeline.

Subsequently, Memoranda of Agreement (MoA) for Blocks 7 and 9 were signed between GSI and M/s Xcalibur McPhar Pvt. Ltd. (PIA) on 03.08.2023 and 11.08.2023, respectively, with a contract validity up to 30.06.2025, amounting to a total contract period of 21 months.

Due to the PIA's failure to mobilize the aircraft, the surveys could not be completed as per the approved schedule. Accordingly, GSI submitted a proposal seeking a timeline extension of 21 months for completion of the surveys in Blocks 7 and 9.

The proposal was approved by the Chairman, EC on 15.07.2025, granting a timeline extension of 17 months, as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Scheduled date of completion	Required timeline (upto)
1	Multi-sensor aero-geophysical survey over Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) Block 7 & 9	GSI	30.6.2025	30.11.2026

Decision of EC:

Timeline extension for Multi-sensor aero-geophysical survey over Obvious

Geological Potential (OGP) Block 7 & 9 up to 30.11.2026, was ratified by the EC with the following observations:

- i. GSI should have ensured due diligence before obtaining a timeline extension.
- ii. DG, GSI to issue showcase notice to the PIA for not having deployed aircraft in Block 9 and to direct the PIA to deploy the aircraft for immediate start of survey work;
- iii. DG GSI to do a capacity assessment of the PIA with respect to the completion of the survey in Block 7 and Block 9 within the extended timeline and thereafter decide on the continuation of the contract, or otherwise, as per the contract conditions;
- iv. No further extension of the timeline would be allowed. A comprehensive review of the NAGMP project shall be undertaken to assess its progress and the potential benefits.

[Action: GSI]

Agenda 45.5: Ratification and minor amendment in the revised Schedule of Charges of NMEDT

The EC was informed that the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) follows a Schedule of Charges (SoC) for costing of exploration projects, which is carried out by the Technical-cum-Cost Committees (TCCs) while recommending projects for approval.

The previous SoC for various components of exploration projects, effective from 01.04.2020, was valid for a period of five years, i.e. up to 31.03.2025, or until further orders, whichever was earlier.

Subsequently, the EC at its 41st meeting held on 12.03.2025 approved extension of the validity of the existing SoC up to 30.11.2025, and review and updation of the SoC by constituting a committee.

Accordingly, a committee was constituted under the joint chairmanship of the chairpersons of TCC-1 and TCC-2. The committee submitted its report on 28.11.2025, proposing the revised SoC to be effective from 15.12.2025 for a period of five years. The Chairman, EC, NMEDT approved the revised SoC on 30.11.2025.

Thereafter, MECL, CMPDI and IBM submitted their representations for modification in the revised SoC.

The representations were examined by the chairpersons of TCC-1 and TCC-2, and their recommendations were put up to EC. Further, the chairpersons have also

recommended minor modifications to their original recommendations in respect of certain items requiring additional clarity as given below:

Sl. No. of SoC	Existing Work/ Activity	Unit	Cost in Rupees	Suggested modifications
2.2.1.1f.	Dry Drilling	Per m	This was not included in Revised SoC	₹10000 (the rate was left out inadvertently)
2.2.7	Construction of concrete Pillar (12"x12"x30")	per borehole	₹2,000	These charges shall be applicable for both in-house as well as outsourced drilling.
2.2.8	Borehole plugging by cement	Lumpsum per borehole	₹10,000	
2.2.9	Miscellaneous Charges (Transportation of Drilling Rig, Accommodation for Drill Camp, Camp setting and winding, construction of Approach road and Drill core	Lumpsum	<p>1. For Drilling cost less than 50 Lakhs: 25% of the Drilling Cost.</p> <p>2. For Drilling cost more than 50 Lakhs and less than 1 Crore: 20% of the Drilling Cost with a maximum ceiling of ₹ 15 lakh.</p> <p>3. For Drilling cost more than 1 Crore and less than 2 Crores : 15% of the</p>	<p>Miscellaneous Charges (Transportation of Drilling Rig, Accommodation for Drill Camp, Camp setting and winding and construction of Approach road)</p> <p>*Drill core preservation</p>

	preservation)		Drilling Cost is already available with a maximum ceiling of ₹ 20 lakh. 4. For Drilling cost more than 2 Crore : 10% of the Drilling Cost with a maximum ceiling of ₹ 25 lakh.	
4.1.15a	Chemical analysis by ICP-MS per additional elements	Per sample	This was not included in Revised SoC	₹421
4.3.6a	Heavy mineral separation by liquid	Per Sample	₹289-	₹2890 as symbol “-“ was typed inadvertently instead of “0” (Both the keys being adjacent)
4.3.13h	Mean Ro%	Per Sample	-	₹5993 (the rate was left out inadvertently)
5.8	Charges for engaging skilled, semiskilled and unskilled workers for attending work associated with the mineral exploration project in the field/camp/HQ.		As per rates prescribed by Central Labour Commission rates or respective State Govt. whichever is higher	As per rates prescribed by Central Labour Commission rates or respective State Govt. whichever is higher. All statutory contributions and taxes, shall be reimbursed separately subject to production of receipts
		One time in case of		

5.9	Tendering Process Cost	outsourced component(s) of project work	This was not included in Revised SoC	2% of the approved project cost or 5 Lakh whichever is lower will be paid one time
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Para No. 4 of SoC	Existing Provision	Modification suggested
Applicability of SoC in Remote and Inaccessible Terrain existing in North Eastern States and Hilly Terrain of Himalaya Region	The multiplication factor of 2x or 1.5x, as the case may be, shall only apply to the drilling cost. No other component shall be considered for higher cost by applying the multiplication factor.	The multiplication factor of 2x or 1.5x, as the case may be, which is recommended based on the guidelines issued by Department of Expenditure, Government of India shall apply to all the field components such as geologist/geophysicist man days, drilling, sampling, geophysical investigations, wages for labour, etc. The non-field components shall not be considered for higher cost by applying the multiplication factor.

The EC expressed displeasure over the errors noticed in the revised SoC and directed that due diligence must be exercised, particularly in matters relating to financial aspects.

Decision of EC:

EC ratified the revised SoC of NMEDT and approved the amendments at Sl. No. 2.2.1.1f, 2.2.7, 2.2.8, 2.2.9, 4.1.15a, 4.3.6a, 4.3.13h, 5.8, 5.9 and Para No. 4 of the revised SoC as proposed by TCCs.

[Action: NMEDT]

Annexure

List of Participants in the 45th Executive Committee (EC) meeting, NMEDT held on 27.01.2026

Sl. No.	Position	Name	Mode of Joining
1.			

	Secretary, Mines - in chair	Shri Piyush Goyal	Physical
2.	Additional Secretary, Mines	Shri Sanjay Lohiya	Physical
3.	Director, AMD	Dr. Dheeraj Pandey	Online
4.	Director General, GSI	Shri Asit Saha	Online
5.	Controller General, IBM	Shri Pankaj Kulshrestha	Online
6.	Director General, NMEDT	Shri Pankaj Garg	Physical
7.	Director – Projects & HoD, NMEDT	Smt. Geetika Sharma	Physical
8.	Deputy Secretary, IFD, Mines	Shri. Alok Kumar	Physical
9.	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	Shri Umakant Umrao Principal Secretary Mineral Resources Department Madhya Pradesh	Online
10.	Govt. of Maharashtra	Dr. Gajanan D. Kamde Director, DGM, Maharashtra	Online
11.	Govt. of Rajasthan	Shri. Alok Jain Addl. Director (Geology) DGM Rajasthan	Online
12.	Govt. of Tamil Nadu	Ms. Deepa, Jt. Director, CGM Tamil Nadu	Online
13.	Technical Expert	Dr. P Krishnamurthy	Online
14.	Technical Expert	Prof. Tapas Kumar Biswal	Online
15.	Technical Expert	Shri Bhagwati Prasad Raturi	Online
16.	Technical Expert	Shri Pankaj Satija	Online
17.	Technical Expert	Shri Hanuma Prasad Modali	Online
Special Invitees			
18.	CMD, MECL Special Invitee	Shri Indra Dev Narayan	Online
19.	Dy. Director General, GSI and Chairman, TCC-1 (Special Invitee)	Dr. S Ravi	Physical
20.	Dy. Director General, GSI and Chairman, TCC-1 (Special Invitee)	Shri. Pradeep Singh	Physical
21.	Director (Tech.) Ministry of Mines, (Special Invitee)	Shri Yogendra Singh Bhamboo	Physical

