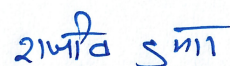


F. No.- 6/2/2015-NMET-Part(1)/634
Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust

9th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building,
25, K.G. Marg, New Delhi.
Date: 07.10.2026

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 47th meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) held on 25th September 2026- reg.

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of 47th meeting of Executive Committee of NMEDT held on 25th September 2026 for your kind perusal.



(Rajiv Kumar)
Joint Director (Admn. & Legal)

Encl.: As above

To all EC Members,

1. The Joint Secretary (in-charge of Exploration), Ministry of Mines, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.
2. The Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Coal & Mines, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.
3. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, 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 Chairman, Department of Atomic Energy, OYC Building, C.S.M. Marg, Mumbai.
8. The Director General, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust, 9th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building, 25 K. G. Marg, New Delhi.
9. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Mantralay Mahanadi Bhavan, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
10. The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Steel and Mines, Govt. of Odisha, Odisha State Secretariat, Sachivalay Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
11. The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Petroleum and Petroleum, Government of Rajasthan, Sashan Sachivalay, Ashok Nagar, C Scheme, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
12. The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Mines and Geology, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Anjaneya Towers, D. No. 7-104, E-Block, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.
13. Dr. P. Krishnamurthy, Flat No. 103, A-Block, IGV Apts., Ideal Homes Townships, 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 NO-7, New Garhwal Colony Near Malsi Puliya, Balawala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

16. Dr. 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 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. PPS to Joint Secretary (in-charge of Exploration), Ministry of Mines, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.
3. PS to Director General, NMEDT, Ministry of Mines, 9th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building, New Delhi.

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust
Minutes of 47th Executive Committee meeting of NMEDT
Held on 25th September, 2026 at Ministry of Mines, New Delhi

The 47th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Keshav Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Mines/Chairman, EC, on 25th September, 2026 at 3:00 PM in hybrid mode in New Delhi.

The list of participants is placed at Annexure.

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

Agenda 47.1: Overview of work of Project Sanctioning Committee of NMEDT

The EC was apprised of the functioning of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of NMEDT. Since 46th meeting of the Executive Committee held on 29.04.2026, 16 meetings of Technical-cum-Cost Committees (TCCs) and 5 meetings of the PSC have been convened.

EC was informed that during the period, a total of 130 project proposals involving a total cost of Rs. 457.80 crore were approved. These comprised 84 mineral exploration projects with an approved cost of Rs. 149.48 crore, 30 mineral exploration projects of GSI with an approved cost of Rs. 83.21 crore, 07 procurement projects with an approved cost of Rs. 211.45 crore, 08 S&T PRISM projects with an approved cost of Rs. 11.33 crore and 01 Special Study by IBM with an approved cost of Rs. 2.33 crore.

It was further apprised that out of the 84 mineral exploration projects, 03 projects pertain to sub-surface exploration of the Siwana Ring Complex and 02 projects relate to Regional Mineral Targeting. The detailed break-up of mineral exploration projects approved for NPEAs and NEAs was also placed before the EC as per table-1.

Table-1: Detailed break up mineral exploration projects sanctioned to NPEAs and NEAs :

Sl. No.	Agency	Critical Mineral		Bulk Mineral	
		No. of projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Cr.)	No. of projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Cr.)
1	NPEAs	43	96.53	30	35.52
2	NEAs				
2a	MECL	08	10.99	00	00
2b	OMC	00	00	02	5.67
2c	TGMDC	00	00	01	0.77
	Total	51	107.52	33	41.96

EC was further apprised that NMEDT has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 157.30 crore (including expenditure incurred on administrative activities) during the first two quarters of FY 2026-27 up to 09.09.2026, as compared to Rs. 77.70 crore incurred during the corresponding period of FY 2025-26. An expenditure of Rs. 2.55 crore has

also been incurred for NCMM activities from NMEDT funds. Further, all endeavours are being made to match the quarterly expenditure target of Rs. 185 crore under the NMEDT Programme Component by the end of the second quarter of FY 2026-27.

The agency-wise expenditure incurred during the first two quarters of FY 2026-27 was also placed before the EC as per table-2.

Table-2: Comparative details of quarterly expenditure

Sl. No.	Agency	FY 2025-26			FY 2026-27		
		Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Total	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2 (till 9.9.26)	Total
1	NPEAs	0.86	3.22	4.08	23.23	11.69	34.92
2	MECL	16.72	7.37	24.09	8.90	-	8.90
3	NEAs	3.68	7.07	10.75	15.52	17.65	33.17
4	GSI	20.11	18.67	38.78	59.52	18.02	77.54
	Total	41.37	36.33	77.7	107.17	35.67	154.53

Decision of EC: EC noted the information.

Agenda 47.2: Approval for imposing Liquidated Damage (LD) Charges for delay in executing exploration activities approved by NMEDT

The EC was apprised that NMEDT funded projects face delays on account of various reasons like delay in obtaining forest clearance, standing crops, local agitation and other delays attributed to the execution by exploration agencies.

EC was apprised that with a view to ensure timely completion of the projects, a Force Majeure Clause was incorporated in the Revised Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMEDT. The existing provision provides for debarment of an agency from submitting new project proposals during the period of delay.

EC was further apprised that merely debarring an exploration agency from submitting new project proposals during the period of delay may not adequately address the issue of delay in completion of ongoing projects. Accordingly, a project-linked Liquidated Damage (LD) mechanism has been proposed as per the Manual for Procurement of Non-consultancy Services, 2025, issued by Ministry of Finance. The proposed LD mechanism is given in table -3.

Table-3: Proposed Liquidated Damage Mechanism for NMEDT funded projects

Period of Delay	Proposed LD
Up to 20 weeks	0.25% of approved cost of the project for every week or part thereof
Beyond 20 weeks	1% of approved cost of the project for every week or part thereof, subject to a maximum of 10% of the approved cost

EC was also apprised that the provision would apply to all new NMEDT-approved mineral exploration projects of implementing agencies, including MECL, State DMGs/DGMs, NEAs and NPEAs, while excluding GSI.

Discussions:

Shri Sanjay Kankane, Joint Director, MRD, Chhattisgarh, requested that since GSI has been excluded from the applicability of LD charges, State DGMs may also be excluded from the imposition of LD charges.

Director General, NMEDT responded by stating that GSI has been excluded from the applicability of LD charges since payments in respect of GSI projects are made directly to the vendors and the tenders floated by GSI contain the provision for imposition of LD charges.

Decision of EC: EC approved the proposal for imposing Liquidated Damage charges for delay in executing exploration activities approved by NMEDT. This provision would be applicable with effect from the date of issue of these minutes. EC further instructed that a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) may be prepared, clearly outlining the procedure for assessment, imposition and recovery of LD charges, after issuance of a notice to the agency. The SoP should include the mechanism for examination of reasons for delay, including those given by the agency and consideration of Force Majeure conditions.

Agenda 47.3: Approval for reimbursement of demand by the State Forest Departments towards the payment of Net Present Value for carrying out exploration in forest areas

The EC was apprised that NMEDT has received requests from MECL, M/s Ecomen Lab. Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Gemcokati Exploration Pvt. Ltd. for reimbursement of Net Present Value (NPV) and Compensatory Afforestation Charges levied by the Forest Departments of respective State Governments for undertaking exploration activities in forest areas.

The EC was informed that as per the revised Schedule of Charges of NMEDT dated 15.12.2025, only administrative fees levied by the State Governments for granting permission to undertake mineral exploration activities in forest areas are presently payable to exploration agencies on actual basis.

The EC was further apprised that as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) dated 17.12.2024 and 10.09.2025, NPV is chargeable in cases where tree felling is involved during survey and exploratory drilling, whereas proposals not involving tree felling may be exempted from payment of NPV. Further, activities such as pitting and trenching forming part of initial reconnaissance surveys are permitted without payment of NPV and Compensatory Afforestation charges, subject to the applicable provisions.

It was explained that such statutory charges are directly linked to obtaining forest permission for undertaking approved exploration activities and may be beyond the control of the exploration agency. Non-payment of such charges may consequently delay

the grant of forest permission and adversely affect the execution and timely completion of NMEDT-funded exploration projects.

Accordingly, it was proposed that statutory Forest Clearance charges/levies, including NPV, Compensatory Afforestation charges and other applicable statutory charges, imposed by the respective State Governments in connection with approved NMEDT-funded exploration projects, may be reimbursed to the exploration agencies on an actual basis, subject to prior approval of NMEDT.

Decision of EC: The EC approved the proposal for reimbursement of the demands raised by the Forest Department towards payment of Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory Afforestation Charges and other applicable statutory charges for undertaking exploration activities in forest areas by NMEDT to concerned exploration agencies. This provision would be applicable with effect from the date of issue of these minutes.

Agenda 47.4: Identification of exploration blocks by GSI for carrying out exploration by NPEAs

EC was apprised that Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) are actively participating in expediting mineral exploration activities through NMEDT by adopting modern exploration technologies. However, NPEAs are facing challenges in formulating exploration proposals due to overlap of the proposed exploration areas with areas already taken up by GSI and other Notified Exploration Agencies (NEAs).

In this regard, it was proposed that GSI, being the premier national agency for geological mapping and mineral exploration, may identify and delineate larger geological provinces having mineral exploration potential, based on the available geological, geochemical, geophysical and other exploration data, and provide at least 50 suitable exploration blocks to NMEDT for sharing with NPEAs within one month.

Discussion:

Smt. Varsha A. Aglawe, Director General, GSI, apprised the EC that since the active field season has commenced and most of the experienced manpower is engaged in field activities, additional time would be required for identification and preparation of the exploration blocks. She informed the EC that the exploration blocks would be prepared and submitted to NMEDT by 30th November 2026.

Smt. Farida M. Naik, Joint Secretary (Exploration), further apprised the EC that GSI would be finalising the exploration blocks under its Field Season Programme for 2027–28 by the end of November 2026. She further stated that 50 suitable exploration blocks could be identified from among the blocks so finalised for sharing with NPEAs.

Decision of EC: EC instructed GSI to identify and provide 50 exploration blocks to NMEDT by 30th November 2026 for further allocation to NPEAs.

Agenda 47.5: Ratification of nomination of representatives from four State

Governments to the Executive Committee of NMEDT

The EC was apprised that as per NMEDT Notification G.S.R. 633(E) dated 14.08.2015, the Executive Committee shall consist of one representative from any four State Governments, as decided by the Central Government, not below the rank of Secretary to the State Government or equivalent, on rotation basis, for a term not exceeding two years at a time, with eligibility for re-nomination.

EC was informed that following completion of the tenure of the nominated representatives from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, the Secretary, Ministry of Mines/Chairman, EC, NMEDT has nominated representatives from the following four States:

- Andhra Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh
- Odisha
- Rajasthan

Decision of EC: EC ratified the nomination of representatives from the four State Governments, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan, to the Executive Committee of NMEDT.

Agenda 47.6: Consideration of the Framework for creation of National Core Repository

The EC was apprised that drill cores generated through mineral exploration are important national geoscientific assets and their systematic preservation and digitisation would prevent loss of geological information, reduce duplication of exploration efforts, and facilitate their utilisation for exploration, research and resource governance. Hence, there is a need to establish a National Core Repository (NCR) with a standardised system for digital capture, preservation, storage and access of drill core data, covering both legacy and ongoing exploration cores.

EC was apprised about the following salient features of the Framework for creation of National Core Repository:

- NMEDT, under the Ministry of Mines, would act as the Nodal Body for the NCR, responsible for defining data standards, funding the required infrastructure and governing access policies, while GSI would be the Technical Custodian responsible for implementation and operation.
- NCR would comprise of integrated digital and physical core repository infrastructure, including systematic digitisation, standardised cataloguing, high-resolution core imaging/logging, LIBS, hyperspectral and allied scanning technologies, scientific curation, preservation and long-term storage of drill cores, core chips and samples.
- Digital capture would include high-resolution optical core imaging/logging supplemented by LIBS, hyperspectral and other multi-sensor technologies. The resulting datasets would include depth-registered optical imagery, elemental/geochemical and mineralogical/spectral information, geotechnical/structural logging, assay and other associated geoscientific data.
- The proposed NCR would employ a tiered digital storage architecture comprising

Hot, Warm, Cold/Archival and Disaster Recovery tiers, along with a searchable digital catalogue and virtual core viewer providing role-based access to stakeholders subject to applicable confidentiality and access provisions.

- The physical core repository would follow a hub-and-spoke model, comprising regional physical core storage and digitisation facilities with standardised core trays, labelling and National Borehole Identifier-based linkage between physical cores and their digital records.
- Initially 3,00,000 metres of legacy core would be digitised on prioritised basis, while cores generated from ongoing exploration programmes would be digitally captured concurrently.

The EC was further apprised that the National Core Repository would be implemented within a time period of 2.5 years (30 months) and the tentative financial implication would be Rs. 303 crore.

Discussion:

The EC advised to engage a suitable consultant for providing technical and professional assistance in planning and developing the National Core Repository (NCR). In response, EC was apprised that a stakeholder consultation has been scheduled and a suitable consultant will be engaged as per the directives.

Dr. Pankaj Satija, Technical Expert stated that the National Core Repository (NCR) would serve as a foundational national geoscientific infrastructure, enhancing investor confidence and demonstrating the maturity of India's geoscientific capabilities. He highlighted that advanced national core repositories have been established in countries such as South Africa, Australia and Canada, and suggested that these facilities, including the AI-enabled initiatives being developed in Canada, may be studied to identify international best practices and benchmarks for establishing a world-class NCR in India.

Decision of EC: The EC approved the Framework for creation of the National Core Repository (NCR) by NMEDT with a timeline of 30 months and tentative cost of Rs. 303 crore. NMEDT to engage a suitable consultant for providing technical and professional assistance in planning and developing the National Core Repository (NCR). The possibility of hiring a consultant on turn key basis for setting up of NCR may also be explored. Clear SoP for preservation, digitization scanning and storage to be prepared by NMEDT through consultant. The EC further instructed that the National Core Repository facilities in countries such as Australia, South Africa and Canada may be visited and studied to identify international best practices and develop the NCR in India to international standards. All these activities to be completed within a time frame.

Agenda 47.7: Other agenda with the approval of Chairman, EC

47.7.a: Opening of Assignment Treasury Single Account (TSA) in Reserve Bank of India

EC was apprised that a Treasury Single Account (TSA) has been opened in Reserve Bank of India under CNA model for funding activities performed under NCMM through

NMEDT fund.

Decision of EC: EC noted the information.

47.7.b: Opening of a holding account in UCO Bank

EC was apprised that a holding account has been opened in UCO Bank, Parliament Street for activities under CNA model.

Decision of EC: EC noted the information.

47.7.c: Establishing a Social Media Cell in NMEDT and Hiring of Required Manpower

The EC was apprised that NMEDT presently does not have a dedicated Social Media Cell for disseminating and promoting NMEDT's activities and initiatives through various social media platforms. Hence, it is proposed to establish a dedicated Social Media Cell in NMEDT Secretariat and hire two media professionals on contract basis for its effective functioning.

Decision of EC: EC approved the proposal of establishing a Social Media Cell in NMEDT and hiring of two media professionals on contractual basis.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

S.No	Name	Designation	Position
1	Shri Keshav Chandra	Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Chairperson, ex officio
2	Smt. Farida M. Naik	Joint Secretary in-charge of Exploration, Ministry of Mines	Member, ex officio
3	Shri Ashim Kumar Modi	Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor of Ministry of Mines	Member, ex officio
4	Smt. Varsha Ashok Aglawe	Director General, Geological Survey of India	Member, ex-officio
5	Shri Pankaj Kulshrestha	Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines	Member, ex officio
6	Shri. Pankaj Garg	Director General, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust	Member Secretary, ex-officio
7.	Shri. Mukesh Kr. Meena	Principal Secretary, DMG Andhra Pradesh	Member , ex officio
8	Shri. Gautam Choudhury	Special Secretary, Dept. of Steel and Mines, Odisha	Member, ex officio
9	Shri. Pradeep Singh	Additional Director General, PSS, GSI	Special Invitee
10	Shri. Dheeraj Pandey	Director, Atomic Mineral Directorate for Exploration and Research	Member, ex officio
11	Dr. S Ravi	Dy. Director General and Chairman, TCC-1 &2	Special Invitee
12	Smt. S. Bhuvaneshwari	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Coal	Member, ex officio
13	Shri. K. Reghuram	Under Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member, ex officio
14	Shri. S. Kankane	Joint Director, MRD Chhattisgarh	Members, ex officio
15	Shri. M. P. Meena	Director, DMG, Rajasthan	Members, ex officio
16	Dr. P. Krishnamurthy	Addl. Director (Retd.), AMD	Technical Expert
17	Shri. B. P. Raturi	General Manager (Retd.), MECL	Technical Expert
18	Prof. Tapas Kumar Biswal	Professor & HoD, IIT-Bombay (Retd.)	Technical Expert
19	Dr. Hanuma Prasad Modali	Managing Director, Deccan Gold Mines Ltd.	Technical Expert
20	Shri. Pankaj Kumar Satija	Executive Vice President - Corporate Affairs, JSW	Technical Expert