

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

F.No.117/1/2015-NMET/886

New Delhi, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

**Subject: Circulation of minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee of NMEDT held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2026 for your kind perusal.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

[Geetika Sharma]  
Director (Projects) & HoD, NMEDT

**To all attendees of PSC Meeting**

1. Shri Anshoo Pandey, Director, NCMM, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. Shri N K Panda, Regional Director, Southern Region, Atomic Mineral Exploration and Research Directorate, Nagarbhavi, Bangaluru
3. Shri Jayanta Kumar Naik, Director, NM-II, Geological Survey of India, Nagpur
4. Shri Abhay Agrawal, Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur
5. Shri Ranjan Kumar Das, Chief Manager, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
6. Shri Ravi Dutt, Cost Accounts Officer, NMEDT, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Shri Gopal Ram, Additional Director Geology (HQ), DMG, Rajasthan
8. Shri Vinod Bagdey, Additional Director, Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
9. Shri Suresh Naitam, Sr. Geologist, DGM Maharashtra, Govt. of Maharashtra
10. Shri. Ponnumani, Addl. Director, (Geology and Mining) Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
11. Shri Bhagwati Prasad Raturi, Ex -GM (Exploration), MECL, Lane N0-7, New Garhwal Colony Near Malsi Puliya, Balawala, Dehradun-248019, Uttarakhand
12. Shri Pankaj Satija, NTH Complex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, A-2 Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg,

Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi

13. Shri Hanuma Prasad Modali, Deccan Gold Mines Limited, No 77, 16th Cross, Sector IV, HSR Layout, Bangalore 560102
14. Prof. T. K. Biswal, B- 4, 101, IIT Bhubaneswar Campus, Argul, Jatni, Khordha, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 752050
15. Dr. P Krishnamurthy (Technical Expert, PSC), Flat No. 103, A Block, IGV Apts., Ideal Homes Township, RR Nagar, Bengaluru

**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 Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
5. The Principal Secretary (Industry and Mines), Government of Gujarat.
6. The Commissioner Secretary (Industries and Commerce), Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
7. The Secretary (Industries, Mines and Geology), Government of Jharkhand.
8. The Secretary, (Industries and Commerce), Government of Karnataka.
9. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
10. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries and Mines), Government of Maharashtra.
11. The Commissioner and Secretary, Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya.
12. The Principal Secretary (Steel and Mines), Government of Odisha.
13. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Rajasthan.
14. The Principal Secretary (Industries and Mines), Government of Telangana.
15. The Secretary (Mines and Geology), Government of Uttar Pradesh.
16. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Uttarakhand.
17. The Secretary (Industry, Commerce and Enterprises), Government of West Bengal.
18. Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
19. Shri. Pradeep Singh, Dy. Director General and Chairman, TCC-2 (Invitee), GSI, CHQ, 27 JLN Road, Kolkata-700016.
20. Dr. S Ravi, Dy. Director General and Chairman, TCC-1 (Special Invitee, PSC), GSI Training Institute, Hyderabad

21. Shri S. Dhanendran, Director/Member Secretary, TCC-1, GSI Training Institute, Hyderabad
22. Shri Sanjay Singh, Director/Member Secretary, TCC-2 (Special Invitee, PSC), GSI, Western Region, Jaipur
23. M/s Critical Mineral Trackers, Concourse, No 406, 7-1-58/CC/406, Opp Lal Bungalow, Greenlands, Hyderabad - 500016 INDIA
24. M/s PRB Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd., S-3, 2nd Floor, Ratan Height, Medical Square, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
25. The Managing Director, MECL, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur-440006.
26. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDIL, Gondwana Road, Kanke Road, Ranchi, Ranchi-834031.
27. M/s NRD, Tata, Room No. 349, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Commercial Centre, General Office, Bistupur, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
28. M/s Eartnenviro Lab Pvt. Ltd., Shop no. 36 BDA PH-II CSPUR Sailashree Vihar, Khorda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
29. M/s MMPL Pvt. Ltd., 21, CLM Lane, Raniganj, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal, India
30. M/s Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd., 15-17-909/9,5th Cross Shivabagh, Kadri, Mangalore-575005, Karnataka
31. M/s Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd., Anaya Chambers, 3rd Floor, Block GN, Plot 38/5, Salt Lake, Sector V, Kolkata,

**Copy for kind information to:**

1. PSO to Secretary, Mines/Chairman EC, NMEDT, Ministry of Mines.
2. PPS to Director General, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust, Ministry of Mines.
3. PPS to JS&FA, Ministry of Mines.

Digitally signed by  
Geetika Sharma  
Date: 11-03-2026  
19:55:34

**Ministry of Mines**  
**National Mineral Exploration & Development Trust**  
**Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) meeting, NMEDT**  
**held on 02.03.2026**

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) was held under the chairmanship of Shri Pankaj Garg, Director General, NMEDT, on 2nd March, 2026, at Mini Conference Hall, 4th Floor, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi, in hybrid mode. The list of participants is given in Annexure-1.

Smt. Geetika Sharma, Director (Projects) & Member Secretary, PSC, extended a warm welcome to all the members and informed them that the project proposals recommended in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC meetings, 90<sup>th</sup> meeting of TCC-1 and 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> meetings of TCC-2 were placed before the Committee for consideration and decision.

**Joint TCC**

**Agenda 6.1: Approval of Regional Mineral Targeting (RMT) Projects recommended by Joint TCC**

PSC was apprised that the Joint TCC at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting recommended 01 RMT project with an estimated cost of Rs. 7.22 crore for the approval of PSC. The details of the project are given below:

<b>Amount in Rs. Crore</b>						
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Project/Block Name</b>	<b>Area (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Duration (months)</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Regional Mineral Targeting in Parts of Lalitpur and Jhansi Districts of Uttar Pradesh and Shivpuri and Tikamgarh Districts of Madhya Pradesh <b>[6<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	1000	M/s Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd.	REE and associated minerals	24	7.22

**Discussion**

Shri N. K. Panda, Regional Director of AMD and member of the PSC, inquired about the phase-wise work recommended by the Joint TCC. The Chairman of TCC-2 explained that the project will be executed in four phases:

1. In the first phase, data integration will be carried out.
2. In the second phase, sampling and chemical analysis will be conducted.
3. The third phase will involve geophysical studies.
4. Finally, in the fourth phase, drilling will take place.

The project will be reviewed regularly, and the next phase will only commence based on the outcomes of the current phase. If the results are not encouraging at any stage, the project will be considered for pre-closure.

Shri Pankaj Satija informed the Committee that significant work has already been completed by GSI in the area and asked about the expected Return on Investment (RoI) for the proposed project. He also informed the committee that in Australia 1 USD investment in exploration results in 11 USD return in revenue whereas in India such data are not available.

The Chairman of TCC-I stated that the area displays geological characteristics similar to the porphyry copper system found in Malanjkhanda, Madhya Pradesh. He further noted that the region hosts a giant quartz reef system, which has potential for Rare Earth Element (REE) mineralization. Additionally, he mentioned that Bundelkhand is the only region with commercial-scale diamond deposits, making it a promising site for regional mineral exploration.

The Chairman of TCC-II remarked that determining the Return on Investment (RoI) for the proposed project would be challenging. He added that several studies have already been conducted by GSI in the Bundelkhand region, including one project executed by Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd., though the results were not very encouraging.

Shri T. K. Biswal, a Technical Expert, pointed out that comparing the Malanjkhanda Granite (approximately 2400 million years old) to the Bundelkhand granitoids (around 3000 million years old) may not be appropriate. He emphasized that most copper mineralization in the Bundelkhand craton is disseminated, suggesting that the area might not be very promising for significant mineral deposits, unlike the Malanjkhanda craton, which is relatively rich in mineralization.

Shri P. Krishnamurthy, another Technical Expert, noted that the study area lies within the OGP-2 region and that GSI likely possesses a considerable amount of deep geophysical data. He mentioned that this available data could be integrated and that the regolith horizon in the granitic terrain might be considered for targeting Heavy Rare Earth Elements (HREE) and Transition Rare Earth Elements (TREE) mineralization.

The Chairman of the PSC inquired about the scope of work proposed for the AI-ML studies. A representative from Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd. explained that legacy geological and aerogeophysical data would be compiled and analyzed to delineate the mineral systems in the area. He further mentioned that the region may host three to four different mineral systems, including a possible porphyry system, which could exhibit good REE and Rare Metal (RM) potential. The representative also stated that fertility vectors for the various mineral systems would be identified using AI and machine learning techniques using Large Language Model.

The Chairman of the PSC sought clarification on the specific algorithms and machine learning methodologies and the utility of Large Language Model proposed by the agency to achieve the desired outcomes. The agency suggested that the AI-ML component be dropped, while considering other components related to fieldwork.

**Decision of the PSC:** The PSC decided to defer the project and instructed the Joint TCC to re-evaluate it based on the suggestions from the Technical Experts and request of the agency to drop AI/ML component.

**Agenda 6.2: Approval of new exploration project proposals in Siwana Ring Complex recommended by Joint TCC meeting**

PSC was apprised that the Geological Survey of India had submitted 06 exploration projects of REE and associated rare metals in the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district of Rajasthan, for Preliminary Exploration (G3 stage) to be carried out by the NPEAs. Since all the 06 blocks fall within a similar geological terrain and cover comparable areas, a uniform methodology, parameters, and evaluation criteria were adopted across all the blocks. Accordingly, standardised quantum of work, project timelines and cost parameters have been considered while allocating the blocks to various NPEAs. Based on the evaluation, blocks exhibiting encouraging results may subsequently be upgraded to the next stage of exploration.

PSC was further apprised that the work will be carried out in 02 phases. In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, all available geoscientific databases will be integrated, followed by 04 drill holes. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, systematic drilling will be carried out depending on the outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of work. Accordingly, Joint TCC at its 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> meetings, recommended 06 exploration projects to various NPEAs with a total cost of Rs. 39.35 crore.

Details of the projects are given as follows:

<b>Cost in Rs. Crore</b>								
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Project/Block Name</b>	<b>Area (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Duration (months)</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Decision of PSC</b>
1	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated Rare Metals in the NB 16 block (2.0 sq. km.) in the northern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Hindmetal Exploration Services Pvt. Ltd.	REE and associated Rare Metals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
2	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated Rare Metals in the NB 17 block (2.0 sq. km.) in the northern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Hindmetal Exploration Services Pvt. Ltd.	REE and associated Rare Metals	G3	12	6.56	Approved

3	Preliminary exploration (G3) for REE and associated Rare Metals in the NB 18 block (2.00 sq. km) of the northern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, District-Balotra, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s NRD Tata	REE and associated Rare Metals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
4	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated Rare Metals in the SB 1 (2.0 sq. km.) in the southern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Geomarine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	REE and associated Rare Metals	G3	12	6.55	Approved
5	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated Rare Metals in the SB 2 (2.0 sq. km) in the southern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Mining Tech Consultancy Services Ltd.	REE and associated Rare Metals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
6	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated Rare Metals in the SB 3 (2.0 sq. km) in the southern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Mining Tech Consultancy Services Ltd.	REE and associated Rare Metals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
Total							39.35	

**Discussions:** Shri B. P. Raturi, Technical Expert, pointed out that the geological conditions in various blocks may vary slightly and accordingly, the quantum of work and cost may differ for each block. Chairman, TCC-1 apprised the house that all the blocks fall within the Siwana Ring Complex, where the geological conditions are similar across all the blocks. Further, the dimensions of all the blocks are also the same, i.e. 2 sq. km. Accordingly, the quantum of work has been kept uniform for all the blocks so that at a later stage, all the blocks can be integrated and amalgamated seamlessly. He

further informed the house that all the blocks will be monitored frequently and, depending on the outcome of the study, the quantum of work will be revised.

Dr C. P. Dadhich, Senior Geologist, DGM Rajasthan, requested that the KML file of all the blocks sanctioned in the Siwana Ring Complex be shared with DGM, Rajasthan, to enable a check for any overlap with other exploration projects.

Shri N. K. Panda, Regional Director, AMD and member of the PSC, informed that the area hosts a good concentration of Zirconium, and the same should be studied. He further informed that the title of the projects may be suitably modified to “.....REE and associated critical minerals.....”. Chairman, TCC-1 apprised the house that the analysis of Zirconium has already been included in the study.

**Decision of PSC:** The PSC approved the above 06 projects in the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra District of Rajasthan, for Preliminary Exploration (G3 stage) to be carried out by the NPEAs, with a total cost of 39.35 crore. The PSC further instructed that the title of the projects be suitably modified to incorporate the term “REE and associated critical minerals”.

The projects with modified titles are given below:

<b>Cost in Rs. Crore</b>								
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Project/Block Name</b>	<b>Area (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Duration (months)</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Decision of PSC</b>
1	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated critical minerals in the NB 16 block (2.0 sq. km.) in the northern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Hindmetal Exploration Services Pvt. Ltd.	REE and associated critical minerals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
2	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated critical minerals in the NB 17 block (2.0 sq. km.) in the northern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Hindmetal Exploration Services Pvt. Ltd.	REE and associated critical minerals	G3	12	6.56	Approved

3	Preliminary exploration (G3) for REE and associated critical minerals in the NB 18 block (2.00 sq. km) of the northern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, District-Balotra, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s NRD Tata	REE and associated critical minerals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
4	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated critical minerals in the SB 1 (2.0 sq. km.) in the southern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Geomarine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	REE and associated critical minerals	G3	12	6.55	Approved
5	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated critical minerals in the SB 2 (2.0 sq. km) in the southern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Mining Tech Consultancy Services Ltd.	REE and associated critical minerals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
6	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated critical minerals in the SB 3 (2.0 sq. km) in the southern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[7<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	2	M/s Mining Tech Consultancy Services Ltd.	REE and associated critical minerals	G3	12	6.56	Approved
Total							39.35	

**Agenda 6.3: Approval of cost revision of ongoing RMT project and NB-1 block of Siwana Ring Complex recommended by Joint TCC**

PSC was apprised that the 01 RMT project had been sanctioned to M/s MMPL Pvt. Ltd. in the 43rd EC meeting with a tentative cost of Rs. 17.82 crore, with the observation that the project cost would be revised once the new Schedule of Charges of NMEDT was finalised. PSC was further apprised that the Schedule of Charges of NMEDT has been revised w.e.f 15.12.2025, and accordingly, the Joint TCC at its 6th meeting, re-evaluated the project cost of the RMT project allotted to M/s MMPL Pvt. Ltd.

Further, Joint TCC at its 6th meeting, reviewed the ongoing projects of the earlier sanctioned Siwana Ring Complex projects and recommended revision of the project cost of the NB-1 block by including drone survey, for approval of PSC.

Details of the projects for cost revision are given below:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Revised cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Change in Cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Remarks	Decision of PSC
1	Regional Mineral Targeting (RMT) in parts of AMGC and associated granites for identification of prospecting blocks in West Khasi Hill and East Garo Hill Districts, Meghalaya. <b>[6<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	M/s MMPL Pvt. Ltd.	1781.90	1124.44	(-) 657.46	Initially the project was approved with tentative costing to initiate the work. After finalization of revised SoC, final costing was carried out. Revised costing was carried out considering the change in higher rates in NER and Himalayan Terrain	Approved
2	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for REE and associated critical minerals in the NB 1 block (2.00 sq. km.) in the northern part of the Siwana Ring Complex, Balotra district, Rajasthan <b>[6<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC]</b>	M/s Hindmetal Exploration Services Pvt. Ltd.	621.44	621.60	0.16	Cost enhanced due to inclusion of drone survey in place of DGPS survey.	Approved

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the revised cost of 02 projects.

## Project Proposals Recommended by Technical-cum-Cost Committee-1 (TCC-1)

### **Agenda 6.4: Undertaking geochemical analysis of mine samples of Siwana Ring Complex, by IBM through NMEDT fund.**

PSC was apprised that during a meeting chaired by the Addl. Secretary (Mines) on 30th January 2026 regarding the REE potential of the Siwana Ring Complex (SRC) with MoM, DGM Rajasthan, GSI, AMD and IBM, it was observed that there are 117 active leases (98 granites, 19 masonry stone) covering ~231 ha area in SRC. These mines have potential for REE mineralisation. The Siwana Ring Complex, which is a part of the Malani Igneous Suite, hosts peralkaline granites enriched in REE and associated critical elements and is therefore considered a promising indigenous target to help bridge India's REE demand–supply gap. Considering that critical and strategic minerals are a national priority, systematic evaluation of REEs from the 117 active leases (98 granites and 19 masonry stones) located in SRC was proposed.

Accordingly, IBM submitted a project proposal to undertake geochemical analysis of samples collected from granite and masonry stone leases associated with the Siwana Ring Complex, Western Rajasthan, for assessment of REE potential through the NMEDT fund. Systematic sampling will be undertaken from 117 mines, and 386 samples (294 from granite leases, 57 from masonry stone leases, and 35 check samples) will be collected for geochemical analysis. The samples will be outsourced to MECL and JNARDDC due to heavy in-house laboratory workload. The analysis will cover major oxides (XRF), trace elements (Nb, Ta, Zr, Hf, Y, Sc, U, Th, Sn, Rb, etc.) and 14 REEs by ICP-MS (La–Lu) to identify REE enrichment trends and geochemical signatures. The study will identify REE-enriched granite and masonry stone leases, generate a baseline geochemical database for SRC, support prioritisation of blocks for detailed REE exploration and contribute to the national critical minerals roadmap.

TCC-1 at its 90th meeting, recommended the proposal titled “Undertaking Geochemical Analysis of mine samples of Siwana Ring Complex, Rajasthan” by IBM through NMEDT fund for approval of PSC, with an estimated cost of Rs. 70.01 lakh (including GST) within the time schedule of 3 months for carrying out the proposed work and submission of report, along with following instructions:

That representative sampling from mine faces, stockpiles and processing residues will be carried out following NMEDT SoC protocols, with uniform methodology, parameters and evaluation criteria across all blocks, aligned with the approach earlier adopted for SRC block allocation.

All samples will be collected by IBM officers following established protocols to ensure representativeness and data quality.

**Discussion:** Chairman, PSC expressed concern about the timeline of the project. Shri. Abhay Agarwal, Controller of Mines, IBM and Member, PSC, informed that the project would be taken up on a priority basis and will be completed within the stipulated timeline.

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the special studies project of IBM titled “Undertaking geochemical analysis of mine samples of Siwana Ring Complex, Rajasthan by IBM through NMEDT fund” with a cost of Rs. 70.01 Lakh (inclusive of taxes) and a timeline of 03 months.

**Agenda 6.5: Approval of cost revision of ongoing exploration projects with timeline extension (if any).**

PSC was apprised that TCC-1 at its 90<sup>th</sup> meeting recommended the cost revision of following 01 mineral exploration project along with timeline extension for approval of PSC.

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Revised cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Change in Cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Time line extension	Remarks	Decision of PSC
1	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for REE and associated minerals in Nellikudur area Mahabubabad and Warangal districts, Telangana <b>[90<sup>th</sup> TCC-1]</b>	M/s Critical Mineral Trackers	103.15	57.48	(-) 45.67	28.02.2026	REE values are not encouraging; hence drilling target dropped. Timeline extension required for submission of GR.	Approved

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the cost revision of the project along with the timeline extension.

**Agenda 6.6: Approval of timeline extension of ongoing exploration project:**

PSC was apprised that TCC-1 at its 90<sup>th</sup> meeting recommended the timeline extension of following 01 mineral exploration project, for approval of PSC.

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Scheduled date of completion	Required timeline (up to)	Sanction Order and originally approved timeline details	Remarks	Decision of PSC
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Iron Ore in Nawagarh-Nelsod-Antagarh area, District Uttar Bastar Kanker, Chhattisgarh <b>[90<sup>th</sup> TCC-1]</b>	M/s PRB Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd.	2.01.26	31.5.26	S.O issued on 03.03.25 Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 2.01.26	For completion of drilling and submission of GR	Approved

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the timeline extension of the above exploration project.

**Project Proposals Recommended by Technical-cum-Cost Committee-2 (TCC-2)**

**Agenda 6.7: Approval of new exploration project proposals**

PSC was apprised that TCC-2 has recommended following 07 mineral exploration project proposals with estimated cost of Rs. 10.41 crore for approval of PSC.

<b>Amount in Rs. Crore</b>								
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Project/Block Name</b>	<b>Area (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Duration (months)</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Decision of PSC</b>
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE, Zircon and Associated Minerals in Maravanur Area, District-Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu. <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	46.33	MECL	REE, Zr and associated minerals	G4	12	0.92	Approved
2	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE in Wandhaya Area, Kachchh District, Gujarat <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	111	Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd.	REE	G4	10	1.35	Approved
3	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for chromite and associated minerals around Patna-Chinguripal Chromite Block, Jajpur District, Odisha <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	3.90	M/s NRD Tata	Chromite and associated minerals	G3	12	4.18	Approved
4	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) For Graphite in Gokhra Area (Cluster 16) (72 sq.km), Districts: Kalahandi, Odisha <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	72	CMPDIL	Graphite	G4	10	1.24	Approved
5	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) For Copper in Jiawan Area (45 sq. km), District: Singrauli, State: Madhya Pradesh	45	CMPDIL	Copper	G4	10	0.92	Approved

	[23 <sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]							
6	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Graphite and associated Minerals in Mankota North Area, District: Upper Siang, Arunachal Pradesh [23 <sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]	79.4	M/s Eartnenviro Lab Pvt. Ltd.	Graphite and associated minerals	G4	6	0.76	Approved
7	Preliminary Exploration for Graphite & Vanadium in Angu Block, West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh [23 <sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]	3.51	M/s MMPL Pvt. Ltd.	Graphite and Vanadium	G3	12	1.04	Approved
<b>Total Cost (A)</b>							<b>10.41</b>	

**Discussion:** Chairman, PSC enquired about the presence of any existing mining lease within the Patna-Chinguripal Chromite block (at Sl. no. 3). Chairman, TCC-2 informed that a 3.90 sq. km area has been carved out from the total 11 sq. km area by excluding the leasehold area. However, there is a leasehold area adjacent to the existing block, which has been taken over by the State Government. The adjacent area will be included once the State Government issues NoC for the said area.

Chairman, PSC, further enquired about the status of determining commodity-wise threshold values, based on which the feasibility of exploration can be ascertained. Chairman, TCC-2 informed that a committee comprising members from GSI, IBM and a few NPEAs has submitted a report to GSI, which will be issued/circulated shortly.

As regards the project at Sl. 07, Chairman, TCC-2 apprised the house that there exists a mining lease of quartzite (a minor mineral) within the proposed area. Shri. Abhay Agarwal, CoM, IBM and Member, PSC, informed that the exploration can be carried out in the proposed area, leaving the lease area in which quartzite (a minor mineral) mine is located.

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the exploration projects mentioned at S. No. 1 to 6; the 7th Project was also approved based on the observation of IBM. The total cost of all the 7 projects will be Rs. 10.41 crore.

**Agenda 6.8: Approval of cost revision of ongoing exploration and procurement projects with timeline extension (if any).**

**Agenda 6.8a: Approval of cost revision of ongoing exploration projects with timeline extension (if any).**

PSC was apprised that TCC-2 has recommended cost revision along with timeline extension (if any) of 04 exploration projects, for approval of PSC.

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Revised cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Change in Cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Time line extension	Remarks	Decision of PSC
1	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite, Gallium, Vanadium, and REE Minerals in the Naredi Bauxite Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	M/s Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	233.33	189.03	(-) 44.30	-	Reduction of drilling from 910m to 567m.  ICPMS analysis of additional 42 samples	Reduction of drilling target is approved.  Additional cost for ICPMS analysis of 42 additional samples has been referred back to TCC-2 to examine to whether prior permission was taken by the agency or not.  Accordingly, cost may be revised and be placed in the next PSC meeting.
2	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Graphite in Korapara East Area, Bankura District, West Bengal <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	M/s MMPL Pvt. Ltd.	125.17	170.47	45.3	9.6.2026	Additional area of 6.78 km <sup>2</sup> has been added.  Timeline extension is required due to delay in obtaining	Approved

							forest clearance.	
3	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Gold, copper, graphite and associated minerals in Jamtola-Khandapar Block (96.62 sq.km.), Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh. <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	MECL	231.91	239.53	7.62	11.6.2026	Additional drilling of 50m and associated borehole deviation survey.  Timeline extension required to complete the drilling.	Approved
4	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Bauxite, Titanium and associated minerals in Anvrapat Block, Lohardaga District, Jharkhand <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	MECL	180.81	181.33	0.52	-	Analysis of check samples against the approved additional elemental analysis for V & Ga	Approved

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the cost revision along with timeline extension (if any) of 03 exploration projects (Sl. No. 2, 3 and 4). Chairman, PSC observed that the proposal at Sl. No. 1 has been placed for providing ex-post facto approval of additional cost of 42 additional samples for carrying out ICPMS analysis. PSC expressed displeasure for recommending ex-post facto approval of any component associated with exploration activities. Accordingly, PSC deferred the cost revision of the exploration project at Sl. No. 1 and instructed TCC-2 to examine whether the agency had taken prior approval for collection of additional 42 samples. Further, PSC instructed both the TCCs to recommend for post facto approval only as an exception, for any component associated with exploration activities. The PSC reiterated that no deviation in the line components of an approved project (even within the approved cost) shall be allowed without the prior sanction of EC/PSC.

#### **Agenda 6.8b. Cost revision of procurement project of DGM, Mizoram**

PSC was apprised that DGM, Mizoram has submitted a proposal for approval of additional cost of Rs. 17,90,163/- for procurement of Handheld GPS and Fusion Bead Machine. The details are given below:

Project 1								
S. No	Items	Quantity	Total approved cost	Approved at	Later Modification, if any	Modification approved at	Cost after modification, if any	Proposal for 4th PSC
1	Digital Camera DSLR	1	1,25,000	27th EC meeting	-	-	1,25,000	
2	Brunton compass	10	1,00,000	27th EC meeting	-	-	1,00,000	
3	Geologists Hammer	10	72,000	27th EC meeting	-	-	72,000	
4	<b>Handheld GPS</b>	10	80,000	27th EC meeting	Cost modification Addl. 4,39,200/-	39th EC meeting	5,19,200	<b>Addl. Cost of Rs. 30800/-</b>
5	Scintillometer	1	6,00,000	27th EC meeting	-	-	6,00,000	
6	Rock processing unit (Polishing, grinding, mounting)	1	10,00,000	27th EC meeting	-	-	10,00,000	
7	Pulverizer	1	6,00,000	27th EC meeting	Addl. Cost of 11,11,000 was approved during 42 <sup>nd</sup> EC. Pulverizer was replaced with Vibratory Cup Mill to be procured at same rate during 3 <sup>rd</sup> PSC	1. 42 <sup>nd</sup> EC meeting 2. 3 <sup>rd</sup> PSC meeting	17,11,000	

8	Research Polarising Microscope with software attached camera for Transmitted and Reflected light with accessories	1	12,00,000	27th EC meeting	Additional cost of Rs. 1,92,400/- for procurement of Research Polarising Microscope with Vertical illuminator, LED light & fixed polariser for reflected light path	3rd PSC meeting	13,92,400	
9	WD-XRF	1	40,00,000	27th EC meeting	The item was removed later from Project 1 and placed in Project 2	29th EC meeting	(-) 40,00,000	
10	<b>Fusion bead machine</b>	1	20,00,000	27th EC meeting	-		20,00,000	<b>Addl. Cost of Rs. 17,59,363 / -</b>
11	Press pellet machine	1	3,90,000	27th EC meeting	-		3,90,000	
12	Hot Plates	1	10,000	27th EC meeting	-		10,000	
13	Muffle furnace	1	1,00,000	27th EC meeting	-		1,00,000	
14	Air Oven	1	55,000	27th EC meeting	-		55,000	
15	GIS software	1	13,00,000	27th EC meeting	The cost was enhanced and the item was removed from Project	29th EC meeting	(-) 13,00,000	



							in lakh)		
1	Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) for graphite in Patimal Block (4.00 sq.km), Balangir district, Odisha <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	MECL	37 <sup>th</sup> EC (SO issued on 22.10.2024)	12	207.65	46.50	(-) 161.15	Pre-closure recommended due to lack of encouraging values of graphite.	Approved
2	Reconnaissance survey for Potash & Halite in Ramsara - Amarkot - Dalmir- Khera area in Fazilka District, Punjab <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	M/s Ocean Drilling and Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	43 <sup>rd</sup> EC (SO issued on 04.09.2025)	10	1049.40	42.22	(-) 1007.18	Overlapping of the project area with a few blocks of GSI which are currently submitted for auction	Approved

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the pre-closure of the above 02 exploration projects along with the revision of cost.

**Agenda 6.10: Approval of change of title of ongoing exploration projects along with cost revision (if any) and timeline extension (if any):**

PSC was apprised that TCC-2 has recommended change of title along with cost revision (if any) and timeline extension (if any) for following 02 exploration projects for approval of PSC.

Sl. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Change in title	Approved cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Revised cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Change in Cost (Rs.) (in lakh)	Time line extension	Remarks
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Graphite in Korapara Area,	M/s MMPL Pvt. Ltd.	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Graphite in Korapara Area,	122.34	124.82	2.48	9.6.2026	Additional cost due to change in pitting and

	Bankura District, West Bengal <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>		Purulia & Bankura District, West Bengal					trenching quantum from 100m to 150m.  Associated samples from 250 to 281 nos.
2	Preliminary Exploration (G- 3) for Limestone in Bhatara Block (1.5 sq.km.), Satna district, Madhya Pradesh <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	MPSMC	Preliminary Exploration (G- 3) for Limestone in Bhatara Block (1.5 sq.km.), Maihar & Katni districts, Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	The agency requested for change in project title as the name of the mentioned district has been modified vide gazette notification no. Rev.-6- 0030- 2023-Sec- 7, dated 5th October 2023.

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the change of title along with cost revision and timeline extension (sl. no. 1) for the above 02 exploration projects.

**Agenda 6.11: Approval of timeline extension of ongoing exploration/ procurement projects :**

PSC was apprised that TCC-2 has recommended timeline extension of following 08 mineral exploration/procurement projects, for approval of PSC.

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Scheduled date of completion	Required timeline (up to)	Sanction Order and originally approved	Remarks	Decision of PSC
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					timeline details		
1	<p>Financial assistance from NMEDT funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.</p> <p><b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC]</b></p>	DGM Bihar	<p>Project-1 31.01.26</p> <p>Project-2 31.01.26</p>	<p>Project-1 30.04.26</p> <p>Project-2 30.04.26</p>	<p><b>Project-1</b> S.O issued on 17.04.23</p> <p>Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 16.04.24</p> <p><b>Project-2</b> S.O issued on 27.02.24</p> <p>Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 26.02.25</p>	Tender bidding and procurement under processes	Approved
2	<p>Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for mineral-Rock Phosphate in Randha, Jaisalmer District, Rajasthan</p> <p><b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b></p>	FAGMIL	<p>12.09.2025</p>	<p>15.02.2026</p> <p>15.05.2026</p>	<p>S.O issued on 13.09.24</p> <p>Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 12.09.2025</p>	Due to re-analysis of 20 samples as suggested by the peer reviewer	<p>PSC was informed that the report was not scrutinized by the NMEDT approved peer reviewer.</p> <p>PSC suggested that the report be scrutinized by the NMEDT</p>

							approved peer reviewer and also extended the timeline for 3 months
3	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 stage) for Polymetals (Cu-Pb-Zn & Au-Ag) in Amritpur Block (56.62 sq.km), Nainital District, Uttarakhand <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	MECL	18.01.2026	17.04.2026	S.O issued on 19.03.25  Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 18.01.2025	To complete sampling, analysis and GR submission.  (Field work completed and sampling is under progress.)	Approved
4	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Glauconitic Sandstone in Mudhan-Khatiya Block (129.00 sq.km), Kachchh District, Gujarat <b>[22<sup>nd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	MECL	28.02.2026	17.04.2026	S.O issued on 22.10.24  Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 21.08.2025	For submission of GR	Approved
5	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Limestone in Bhatiya Area in the Village Bhatiya-Gokalpur, District-Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	M/s PRB Infraprojects Ltd.	2.03.2026	2.04.2026	S.O issued on 03.03.25  Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 2.11.2025	To complete the project and submission of GR	Approved
6	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Copper Bearing Minerals around Musabani,	M/s NRD Tata	28.02.2026	30.6.2026	S.O issued on 31.10.24	Local agitation	Approved

	Dumriya, Maheshpur areas in East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>				Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 29.08.2025		
7	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Nickel, Cobalt and PGE in Botad area, Botad District, Gujarat <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	M/s Critical Mineral Trackers	22.02.2026	31.03.2026	S.O issued on 23.03.25  Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 22.01.2026	For completion of project and submission of GR	Approved
8	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Rare Earth Elements (REE) & Rare Metals (RM) in Meghawas-Nagana area, Barmer District, Rajasthan <b>[23<sup>rd</sup> TCC-2]</b>	M/s Mining Tech Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.	28.02.2026	30.04.2026	S.O issued on 01.07.25  Original approved Scheduled Date of Completion was 30.11.2025	For submission of GR	Approved

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the timeline extension of 07 projects. PSC extended the timeline extension of project at Sl. No. 2 for further three months i.e. upto 15.5.2026 with instruction to FAGMIL to get the report examined by an NMEDT approved peer reviewer.

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

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## List of participants

Sl. No	Name of the person	Position	Mode
1	Shri Pankaj Garg	DG, NMEDT and Chairman	Physical
2	Shri N K Panda	Head Drilling, AMD	Online
3	Shri Ranjan Kr Das (Representative of) Birendra Thakur	Chief Manager	Physical
4	Shri Anshoo Pandey	Director, NCMM	Physical
5	Smt Geetika Sharma	Director – Projects, NMEDT & Member Secretary	Physical
6	Shri Abhay Agrawal	Controller of Mines, IBM	Online
7	Shri Jayanta Kumar Naik	Director, NM-II, GSI, Nagpur	Online
8	Shri Ravi Dutt	Cost Accounts Officer	Physical
9	Shri Gopal Ram	Additional Director Geology (HQ), DMG, Rajasthan	Online
10	Shri Vinod Bagde	Addl. Director, MRD, M.P., Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	Online
11	Shri Suresh Naitam	Sr. Geologist, (Representative) DGM Maharashtra Govt. of Maharashtra	Online
12	Ponnumani (Representative Shri Thiru D Mohan, IAS)	Addl. Director (Geology and Mining) Govt. of Tamil Nadu	Online
13	Prof. T K Biswal	Technical Expert	Online
14	Dr. P Krishnamurthy	Technical Expert	Online
15	Shri Pankaj Satija	Technical Expert	Online
16	Shri Hanuma Prasad Modali	Technical Expert	Online
17	Shri B P Raturi	Technical Expert	Online
<b>Invitee</b>			
18	Dr. S Ravi	Dy. DG and Chairman, TCC-1	Online
19	Shri Pradeep Singh	Dy. DG and Chairman, TCC-2	Online
20	Shri S Dhanendran	Director and Member Secretary, TCC-1	Online
21	Shri Sanjay Singh	Director and Member Secretary, TCC-2	Online
<b>Agency Representatives</b>			
22	MECL		Online
23	NRD Tata Steel		Online
24	Eartnenviro Lab Pvt. Ltd.		Online
25	Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd.		Online

26	MMPL Pvt. Ltd.	Online
27	Hind Metal Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	Online
28	Geomarine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Online
29	Mining Tech Consultancy Services	Online
30	Ocean Drilling & Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	Online
31	Critical Mineral Trackers	Online
32	PRB Infraprojects	Online
33	CMPDIL	Online
34	DGM Mizoram	Online
35	MPSMC	Online
36	DGM Bihar	Online
37	FAGMIL	Online