

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust

No. 6/3/2015-NMET (Part-1)/49

dated: 17/04/2026

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 7th meeting of the Governing Body of National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust held on 25th March, 2026- reg.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 7th meeting of Governing Body of NMEDT held under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines/Chairman, GB on 25th March 2026 at GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi for your kind perusal.

Action taken report on relevant paras may kindly be forwarded to this office.

Yours faithfully,

(Geetika Sharma)
Director (Projects)

To:

1. PS to Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines
2. PS to Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas
3. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Atomic Energy
4. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal and Mines
5. PS to Hon'ble Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
6. PS to Hon'ble Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
7. PS to Hon'ble Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
8. PS to Hon'ble Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Odhisha, Bhubaneshwar
9. PS to Hon'ble Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
10. PS to Hon'ble Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

Copy to:

1. Joint Secretary and Designated Officer, Ministry of Mines
2. The Director General, Geological Survey of India
3. Joint Secretary (E), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
4. Director General, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust
5. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MECL
6. Director, AMD
7. Director, CSIR-IMMT
8. Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh
9. Secretary (Geology & Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh
10. Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Minerals, Government of Assam
11. Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh
12. Principal Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar
13. Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa
14. Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of Himachal Pradesh
15. Chief Secretary (Department of Mines & Geology), Government of Haryana
16. Principal Secretary (Industry & Mines), Government of Gujarat
17. Administrative Secretary (Mining Department), Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir
18. Secretary (Industries, Mines & Geology), Government of Jharkhand
19. The Secretary, (Industries & Commerce) Government of Karnataka
20. The Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Kerala
21. The Principal Secretary (MRD), Government of Madhya Pradesh
22. The Commissioner (Textiles, Commerce & Industry), Govt. of Manipur
23. The Principal Secretary (Industries & Mining), Government of Maharashtra
24. The Secretary, Mining & Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya
25. The Secretary, Mines & Geology, Government of Mizoram
26. The Principal Secretary, Geology & Mining, Government of Nagaland
27. The Principal Secretary (Steel & Mines), Government of Odisha
28. The Principal Secretary, Mines & Geology, Government of Punjab
29. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Rajasthan
30. The Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Tamil Nadu
31. The Principal Secretary (Industries & Mines), Government of Telangana
32. The Secretary (Industries & Commerce), Government of Tripura
33. The Secretary (Mines & Geology), Government of Uttar Pradesh
34. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Uttarakhand
35. The Secretary (Industry, Commerce & Enterprises), Government of West Bengal
36. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh
37. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Sikkim

Copy for kind information :

1. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines
2. Sr. PPS to JS & FA, Ministry of Mines

**Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust**

**Minutes of 7th Governing Body meeting, NMEDT
Held on 25th March, 2026 at 15:00 hours**

Venue: Conference Hall, GPOA-3, Ministry of Mines, 4th Floor, GPOA-3, Netaji
Nagar, New Delhi

The 7th meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) was convened on 25th March, 2026, in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal & Mines. The list of participants is at Annexure I.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Convener, GB, NMEDT, welcomed all the dignitaries and other delegates and apprised the house about the achievements of NMEDT during the financial year 2025-26.

Shri Pankaj Garg, Director General, NMEDT, presented the agenda of the GB meeting.

Agenda 7.1: Confirmation of minutes of the 6th Governing Body meeting held on 12th August, 2024.

The Governing Body was apprised that the minutes of the 6th GB meeting were circulated to all members of the Governing Body on 3.10.2024.

Decision of GB: Governing Body confirmed the minutes of the 6th GB meeting held on 12th August, 2024.

Agenda 7.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 6th GB meeting held on 12th August, 2024.

The Action Taken Report (Annexure II) on the minutes of the 6th GB meeting held on 12th August, 2024, was presented before the Governing body.

It was informed that two blocks in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir have already been handed over to the Ministry of Mines for auction, which would be put up for auction in the upcoming tranche of auction. Further, exploration is progressing in the Panasa Block and Jangalgali Block. Director General, GSI, informed that the deposit is quite promising, being surficial in nature, with approximately 5.53 metric tonnes of lithium oxide (Li₂O) with a mine life span of around 05-10 years.

Secretary, Mines, apprised the Governing Body that the Siwana Ring Complex in

Balotra district of Rajasthan, spanning more than 700 sq. km., is a very promising area for REEs, where several blocks have been allotted to Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs), to fast-track the exploration of REEs in Siwana Ring Complex through the NMEDT fund. Further, GSI, being an expert agency, will hand-hold these agencies to expedite REE mineral exploration activities in the country.

The Governing Body discussed about the Research and Development projects sanctioned to Start-ups and MSMEs. Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines and Chairman, GB, stressed about the outcome of those projects and directed that the results of these projects need to be closely monitored.

[Action: JNARDDC/NMEDT]

Agenda 7.3: Nomination of Ministers in charge of Mines and Geology from six State Governments as ex officio members of the Governing Body

Governing Body was apprised that the Ministers in charge of Mines and Geology from the States of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Telangana and Jharkhand were nominated by Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines as members of the Governing Body on 15.10.2024 for a tenure of two years.

Agenda 7.4: Amendment in NMEDT Rules, 2015

The Governing Body was informed:

- a. The Trust has now been renamed as the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust to reflect its expanded mandate.
- b. The amendment has also increased the lessee contribution from 2% to 3% of royalty.

The Chairman, Governing Body, sought information on the amount of royalty received from State Governments in FY 2025-26 and whether payments are being credited to the NMEDT fund in a time-bound manner. It was informed that around 1055 crore have been received as royalty and except Uttar Pradesh, payments are being received from the State Governments. Secretary, Mines, advised that the matter of remittance of NMEDT contribution be rigorously followed up with the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[Action: NMEDT]

Agenda 7.5: Adoption of rules/regulation/guidelines issued by Government of India (from time to time) for functioning of NMEDT

Governing Body was apprised that for the smooth functioning of NMEDT,

the rules/regulations/guidelines issued by the Government of India (from time to time) for office procedure, pay & allowances and service conditions of the officers appointed on deputation have been adopted on a mutatis mutandis basis, with the approval of Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines and Chairman, Governing Body. These include:

- i. Rules/Regulations/Guidelines related to office work: GFR-2017, Manual of Procurement of Goods & Services, DFPR- 2024, Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure etc.
- ii. Service conditions applicable to Government employees: Central Civil Services (Conduct Rules) 1964, Central Civil Services (Classification, Control, Appeal) Rules 1965 etc.
- iii. Facility/benefits to employees: Allotment of Government Residence & Accommodation Rules, Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 2021, National Pension Scheme Rules 2021, Central Government Health Scheme Rules (CGHS) etc.
- iv. Allowances regulated with mutual consent of the lending and borrowing organization as per DoPT OM dated 17.06.2010: HRA and Transport Allowance, Joining Time and Joining Time Pay, Travelling Allowances and Transfer T.A., Children Education Allowance, LTC etc.
- v. Others: Leave Salary/Pension/NPS Contribution, etc.

Decision of GB: Governing Body ratified the adoption of rules and regulations of Government of India for smooth functioning of NMEDT.

Agenda 7.6: Constitution of Project Sanctioning Committee to fast track the approval of project proposals

Governing Body was informed that a Project Sanctioning Committee of NMEDT has been constituted to sanction projects with a financial limit of Rs. 20 crore for each project, under Rule 11 sub-rule (1) of NMEDT Rules, 2015, to fast-track the approval of projects.

The Project Sanctioning Committee consists of following members:

S. No.	Members of Project Sanctioning Committee of Executive Committee of NMEDT	Position
1	Director General, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust	Chairperson, ex officio
2	An officer not below the rank of Director, Department of Atomic Energy	Member, ex officio

3	An officer not below the rank of Director, Ministry of Coal	Member, ex officio
4	An officer not below the rank of Director, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member, ex officio
5	DS/Director, IFD, Ministry of Mines or Coal	Member, ex officio
6	Director, Mission-II, Geological Survey of India	Member, ex officio
7	Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines or his nominee not below the rank of Regional Controller of Mines	Member, ex officio
8	One representative from Department of Geology and Mining of the State Government from four State Government as decided by Central Government on rotation basis for a term not exceeding two years at a time, with the eligibility for renomination	Member, ex officio
9	Director, National Critical Mineral Mission, Ministry of Mines	Member, ex officio
10	Director – Projects, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust	Member Secretary, ex-officio
11	Cost Accounts Officer, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust	Member, ex officio
12	Five technical experts as nominated by the Chairperson, Executive Committee for the Executive Committee	

Chairman, GB has approved the constitution of the Project Sanctioning Committee of NMEDT on 19.09.2025.

Secretary, Mines, apprised the Governing Body that the Technical-cum-Cost Committees meet weekly to evaluate and recommend the project proposals and the Project Sanctioning Committee meets monthly to take decisions on the project proposals.

Decision of GB: Governing Body ratified the proposal.

Agenda 7.7: Overview of NMEDT activities during FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26

It was brought to the notice of Governing Body that during 2024-25 & 2025-26, NMEDT has approved 303 projects with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1294.52 crore. It was also informed that since inception, NMEDT has funded 681 projects of exploration and related activities with an approved cost of Rs. 3500.52 crore. Also, 327 projects have been completed so far. Governing Body was further informed that 45 NMEDT funded exploration blocks have been auctioned, out of which 10 blocks pertain to critical minerals.

Agenda 7.8: Grant of Incentive to State Governments in respect of Auction of

Mineral Blocks during FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26

Governing Body was apprised that NMEDT provide an incentive of Rs. 20 lakh for each successful auction of mineral blocks and reimbursement of Rs. 5 lakh towards Transaction Advisor Fee for annulled blocks to the State Governments. In FY 2024-25, NMEDT has released an amount of Rs. 18.40 crore to 11 States towards auction incentives.

The State-wise details of incentives released during F.Y. 2024-25 are as under:

S. No.	State	Incentive Released in FY 2024-25 (₹ in Crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.40
2	Assam	1.0
3	Bihar	0.20
4	Chhattisgarh	0.40
5	Goa	0.60
6	Gujarat	1.40
7	Karnataka	0.20
8	Madhya Pradesh	5.0
9	Maharashtra	0.80
10	Rajasthan	8.0
11	Telangana	0.40
	Total	18.40

Agenda 7.9: Formulation of guidelines for Pilot Projects for Recovery of Critical Minerals from overburden/tailings/fly ash/ red mud etc.

The Governing Body was informed that the Guidelines for funding Pilot Projects aimed at the recovery of critical minerals from overburden, tailings, fly ash, red mud, and similar materials were issued by NMEDT on 14th November, 2025, after approval from the Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Chairman Governing Body.

As per the Guidelines, the pilot projects will be implemented by:

(a) The Centres of Excellence of the Ministry of Mines, with Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC) as the Project Management Agency, or

(b) Through the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

According to these Guidelines, NMEDT will provide funding support of up to ₹20 crore per project, with a minimum of 10% contribution from the industry partner.

Decision of GB: Governing Body ratified the proposal.

Agenda 7.10a: Procurement of Equipment Through NMEDT Fund for Capacity Augmentation in CMPDIL

The Governing Body was apprised that Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL), a PSU of Ministry of Coal, had submitted a proposal to procure advanced equipment from NMEDT fund. The Governing Body was also informed that the Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Chairman, Governing Body provided in-principle approval for procurement of the equipment on 27.06.2024.

Following this in-principle approval, the Executive Committee of NMEDT reviewed and sanctioned the proposal during its 37th meeting on 23.09.2024. Details of the approved equipments and their cost are given below:

S. No.	Name of Equipment	Rate (₹ in Crore)	Unit	Amount (₹ in Crore)
1	ICP-MS Facility including Microwave Digestion Unit and Water Purifier System.	1.60	1	1.60
2	Rock cutting, polishing and mounting unit	0.39	1	0.39
3	Transmitted and reflected light polarizing research microscope with Camera, Image Analyses Software and Workstation	0.19	1	0.19
Total				2.18
Total (including GST)				2.57

Decision of GB: Governing Body ratified the proposal.

Agenda 7.10b: Financial assistance for procurement of machinery/equipment/chemical analysis instruments aimed at enhancing the exploration activities

The Governing Body was informed that NMEDT had issued guidelines on 23.03.2022 to provide financial assistance to Central Government Organisations like IBM, GSI, etc. and to State DGMs/DMGs for procurement of machinery/equipment/chemical analysis instruments aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. This guideline was amended from time to time, vide OMs dated 08.06.2022, 09.02.2023 and 09.10.2023 for removing the difficulties faced in the disbursement of funds.

Governing Body was further informed that the guidelines issued vide letter dated 23.03.2022, were being interpreted to include only IBM & GSI for providing financial assistance. However, NMEDT, with the approval of Chairman of the Governing Body, has also approved financial assistance for the procurement of machinery and equipment to other central organisations like MECL and CMPDIL.

NMEDT has now received a proposal from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar, for the procurement of an Advanced Mineral Liberator Analyser (AMLA) with estimated cost of Rs. 13.50 crore, including GST, customs duty, warranty and post-warranty AMC with a timeline of 12 months.

Accordingly, the following were proposed for approval of Governing Body:

- a. Approval for procurement of Advanced Mineral Liberator Analyser with estimated cost of Rs. 13.50 crore, including GST, customs duty, warranty and post-warranty AMC with a timeline of 12 months.
- b. The provision of financial support for the procurement of machinery/equipment/chemical analysis instruments aimed at enhancing exploration activities may also be extended to all Central Government organisations engaged in mineral exploration, PSUs of the Ministry of Mines, Central Government institutes, Central Government autonomous bodies, etc.
- c. To fast-track the process for sanctioning of such project proposals which may be received in future, the Governing Body may authorise the Executive Committee/Project Sanctioning Committee of NMEDT to approve such projects on a case-by-case basis.

Discussions: Dr Ramanuj Narayan, Director, CSIR-IMMT, presented before the Governing Body the utility of AMLA for strengthening the mineral processing and research capabilities for low-grade complex ores. He further informed that the instrument will be imported and the procurement will take approximately 8-10 months.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State directed CSIR-IMMT to make concerted efforts to develop such a machine indigenously in India for the future.

Decision of GB: Governing Body approved all the proposals.

[Action: CSIR-IMMT/NMEDT]

Agenda 7.11: Initiatives Taken to Facilitate Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) in Exploration Activities

The Governing Body was apprised that the Scheme for Engagement of NPEAs in Mineral Exploration has been revised from time to time to enable them to directly submit both in-principle proposals and Detailed Project Reports for all major minerals to NMEDT for evaluation and recommendation.

As a result, during FY 2024–25 and FY 2025–26 (up to 02.03.2026), 106 projects from 19 NPEAs were sanctioned across 16 States, reflecting an increase of over 100% compared to FY 2023–24.

Additionally, several measures have been undertaken to streamline processes, including the launch of the 'NMEDT-CONNECT' online portal for project

submission, organisation of workshops to support NPEAs in proposal formulation, weekly meetings of Technical-cum-Cost Committees and monthly Project Sanctioning Committee meetings for expedited approvals, extension of NPEA notification validity from 3 to 5 years, designation of nodal officers for each NPEA and allocation of GSI-identified critical mineral blocks to NPEAs for exploration.

Decision of GB: Governing Body instructed Director General, GSI to designate nodal officers from all the State Units/Regions to handhold and guide NPEAs in executing exploration activities.

[Action: GSI]

Agenda 7.12: Annual Plan and Annual Budget for F.Y. 2025-26 and 2026-27

The details of budget estimates and actual expenditure incurred by NMEDT in FY 2023-24 to FY 2024-25 (up to 02.03.2026) were presented before the Governing Body for information, and the annual budget for FY 2026-27 was presented for approval from the Governing Body:

(Rs in Cr.)

Particulars	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26 (upto 2.3.2026)	FY 2026-27
Budget Estimates (BE)	400	400	400	910
Revised Estimates (RE)	296.50	400	350	-
Actual Expenditure	296.27	398.95	267	-

The object head wise detail of budget allocation (RE) and (BE) for FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 was placed before Governing Body, to meet the anticipated expenditure of NMEDT:-

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Object Heads	Amount 25-26	Amount 26-27
1	Salaries	0.63	1.40
2	Rewards	-	0.01
2	Medical Treatment	0.10	0.12
3	Allowances	0.63	1.40
4	Leave Travel Concession	0.05	0.15
5	Training Expenses	0.05	0.05
6	Domestic Travel Expenses	0.20	0.20
7	Foreign Travel Expenses	0.05	0.10
8	Office Expenses	1.32	5.00
9	Rent, Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	0.35	2.00
10	Printing and Publication	0.05	0.05
11	Rent for others	0.10	0.10
12	Digital Equipment	0.20	0.20
13	Advertising and Publicity	0.15	0.05

14	Minor Civil and Electric Works	3.50	0.05
15	Professional Services	118.00	150.00
16	Repair and Maintenance	0.01	0.05
17	Grant-in-aid-General	224.56	249.02
18	Other Revenue Expenditure	0.05	0.05
19	NCMM Activities funded through NMEDT	-	500.00
Total		350.00	910.00

Decision of GB: Governing Body approved the annual budget of NMEDT for FY 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Agenda 7.13: New Initiatives Taken by NMEDT to Enhance Mineral Exploration Activities during FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26

Governing Body was apprised that during the period 1.04.2024 to 02.03.2026, 12 meetings of the Executive Committee and 06 meetings of the Project Sanctioning Committee were conducted, and a total of 303 projects were approved with an estimated cost of Rs. 1294.52 Cr. The significant initiatives taken in pursuance of the decisions taken in the meetings of the Executive Committee are as follows:

Allotment of G3 stage exploration of REE/RM blocks to NPEAs

16 G3 blocks in Siwana Ring Complex, Rajasthan have been allotted to various NPEAs at a cost of Rs. 104.87 crore.

Approval of Multi-Sensor Aero-geophysical Survey in areas adjoining OGP blocks

Multi-sensor Aero-geophysical Survey amounting to Rs. 188.52 crore was approved for identifying prospective areas in 7 blocks.

Financial Support to Procure High-end Equipment/Machinery/ Software

High-end instruments like EPMA, Digital Core Logger etc. with an approved cost of Rs. 121 crores have been sanctioned to GSI and IBM.

Supporting National Tailing Policy through Special Studies

NMEDT has funded three projects to IBM for geochemical analysis of samples from mines, processing, and smelting plants to assess REEs and critical minerals, at a total cost of Rs. 17.77 crore.

Allotment of Regional Mineral Targeting (RMT) Projects

7 RMT projects have been allotted to various NPEAs for identifying new high-potential zones for mineral prospecting over large geological terrains spanning an area of 999 sq. km. to 2175 sq. km. Of these, 06 projects have been sanctioned.

Agenda 7.14: Annual Report of NMEDT for FY 2024-25

Governing Body was informed that the Annual Report containing the details

of the activities of NMEDT carried out during FY 2024-25 has been released.

Remarks of Members Governing Body

Shri. Alok Jain, Addl. Director (Geology) and CEO, Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET), representing the Hon'ble Minister of State Government of Rajasthan, informed that apart from regular exploration activities, they have undertaken two major initiatives last year. One is an AI/ML-based mineral prognostication system for critical minerals in Rajasthan, and the other is a critical mineral study in key mineral districts of Rajasthan with special reference to the mineral dump site analysis for possible by-product recovery, in association with IIT-ISM Dhanbad.

Shri. P. Madhusudhan Reddy, Joint Director, DMG, representing the Hon'ble Minister of State Government of Telangana, informed that at present 09 projects are being executed by Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited (TSMDC) and 02 projects of critical minerals are being executed through Notified Private Exploration Agencies from NMEDT fund. Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines and Chairman, GB, instructed DMG, Telangana, to follow up with MECL and GSI for exploration of critical minerals in the areas where the capacity of NPEAs is limited.

Dr Gajanan D Kamde, Director, DGM, representing the Hon'ble Minister of State Government of Maharashtra, informed that they have sufficient manpower to carry out drilling and exploration activities, and in a year, they execute 15 to 20 exploration projects. He further informed that the Gadchiroli area of Maharashtra is rich in minerals, and in the recent past, exploration activities in the area could not be undertaken due to local disturbances. However, in the present scenario, the area is feasible for carrying out exploration, and DGM Maharashtra is going to take up more exploration in the Gadchiroli area. Vedanta and Hindalco have taken a lease in the Gadchiroli and Chandrapur areas and are engaged in exploration activities. He further informed that a total of 44 projects were funded through NMEDT, out of which 5 projects are allotted to DGM, Maharashtra, 1 project to NMDC, 4 projects to CMPDIL, 18 projects to MECL and 16 projects to NPEAs. He further informed that 2 NMEDT-funded blocks have also also auctioned.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Atomic Energy, Government of India expressed his appreciation for the achievements made by NMEDT. He advised that local representatives, such as MPs and MLAs of mineral-rich districts/areas, may be involved in facilitating mineral exploration activities in those areas. He further urged the Ministry of Mines to work in synergy with State Governments.

Concluding remarks by Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines and

Chairman, Governing Body

The Chairman of the Governing Body observed that the Government of India has entrusted NMEDT with a significant responsibility to reduce the country's dependence on imports of critical minerals by strengthening domestic exploration activities. He further emphasized the need to encourage Start-ups and MSMEs to actively participate in research and development initiatives in this sector. He also highlighted the importance of incentivizing exploration agencies to promote greater engagement in the exploration of critical minerals. Additionally, he stressed that the Indian mineral ecosystem should place increased focus on the refining and beneficiation of critical minerals to build a more self-reliant value chain.

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

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Annexure-I

List of Participants for 7th GB of NMEDT

Sl. No.	List of Members	Position	Name of Member in Position
1	Union Minister In-Charge of Ministry of Mines	Chairperson, ex officio	Shri G. Kishan Reddy
2	Union Minister In-Charge of Ministry of Coal or his nominee	Member, ex officio	Shri G. Kishan Reddy
3	Minister of State for Atomic Energy or his nominee	Member, ex officio	Dr. Jitendra Singh
4	Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Convener, ex officio	Shri Piyush Goyal
5	Union Minister In-Charge of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas or his nominee	Member, ex officio	Shri. Vinod Seshan Joint Secretary (Exploration), (Representative)
6	Minister In-Charge of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Maharashtra	Member, ex officio	Dr. Gajanan D Kamde Director, Geology and Mining, Maharashtra (Representative)
7	Minister In-Charge of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Rajasthan	Member, ex officio	Shri. Mahaveer Prasad Meena Director, Mines & Geology, Rajasthan (Representative)

8	Minister In-Charge of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Telangana	Member, ex officio	Shri. P Madhusudhan Reddy Joint Director, Mines & Geology, Telangana (Representative)
Special Invitee			
9	Director General, GSI		Shri Asit Saha
10	DG NMEDT		Pankaj Garg
11	Joint Secretary and Designated Officer, Ministry of Mines		Smt. Farida M. Naik
12	Director, AMD		Dr. Dheeraj Pande
13	CMD, MECL		Shri. Indra Dev Narayan
14	Director, CSIR-IMMT		Dr. Ramanuj Narayan

Annexure-II

Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes of minutes of 6th GB meeting held on 12th August, 2024

Sl. No.	Agenda No.	Actionable Point	Action Taken
1	6.2	<p>NMEDT had funded CGM, Gujarat to carry out chemical analysis of GGCM* samples to complete the geochemical mapping in entire Gujarat. CGM Gujarat had submitted the analysis of all the samples to NMEDT.</p> <p>GB advised GSI to submit the report on the basis of analysis of GGCM* samples submitted by CGM Gujarat, by March 2025.</p> <p><i>*(GGCM: Gujarat Geochemical Mapping Program)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">[GSI]</p>	<p>GGCMP report in respect of all the 56 toposheets has been completed, circulated and uploaded in the NGDR portal.</p>
2	6.6	<p>GB advised MECL to expedite the procurement of equipment through NMEDT fund for capacity augmentation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[MECL]</p>	<p>As per the direction of GB, following equipment were sanctioned to MECL by NMEDT for their capacity building. The status of procurement of these equipment is as under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gamma ray spectrometer- procurement completed and instrument received. 2. WD-XRF- Supply order issued.

			<p>Instrument received and to be commissioned.</p> <p>3. Hyperspectral Core Scanner with XRF- Purchase order issued. Pre-Dispatch Inspection is scheduled on 24.02.2026</p> <p>4. Core Scanner with LIBS – Supply order issued. Instrument commissioned at MECLs premises.</p>
3	6.11	<p>a. Chairperson GB suggested that private agencies and university students should be trained in each State to come up with better results. Further, he suggested to open a unit in GSI office in every State for brain storming sessions to provide encouragement for mineral exploration. [GSI]</p> <p>b. Hon'ble Minister of DAE expressed concern over the slow progress in Lithium exploration in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir and advised to accelerate the work in this project. [GSI]</p>	<p>a. Till 14-01-2026, GSITI conducted nine workshops, seminars, and symposia, engaging a total of 1,043 participants from private agencies, academia, and other organisations. These programmes contributed to the enhancement of technical expertise, research and development, policy awareness, skill development, and the sharing of best practices.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>i. The report of amalgamated Salal-Haimna block (Salal-Haimna block and Salal East block) is handed over to the JS & Designated officer, Ministry of Mines.</p> <p>ii. In additional block named the Kotla block, covering an area of 1.5 sq.km., has been explored under G-3 stage. The report is handed over to the JS & Designated officer, Ministry of Mines.</p> <p>iii. Another Panasa block, covering an area of 1.5 sq. km., has also been explored under G-3 stage. The block is being upgraded to G-2 stage during FS 2026-27.</p> <p>iv. An additional G-4 Jangalgali block is also being upgraded to G-3 stage during FS 2026-27.</p>

4	6.18	<p>a. GB instructed AMD to share data with GSI for uploading on NGDR portal, so that the data can be made accessible to public as per the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy of Gol.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[AMD]</p> <p>b. Sh. G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal & Mines directed to organize a two day workshop for all departments/agencies, including private agencies engaged in mineral exploration regarding technological upgradation, challenges and best practices in the field at GSI/AMD office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[GSI/AMD]</p>	<p>a. As per the directives of GB, following actions have been taken by AMD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 1,54,085 line km data including gamma ray spectrometric, TDEM and magnetic data pertaining to Bijawar Basin, Kaladgi Basin, Kaladgi East Block, Chhotanagpur Granite Gneissic Complex, Singhora Block-I, Singhora Block-II and Satpura Block I&II have been shared by AMD with GSI. • 123 legacy reports generated during the period from F.S. 1961-62 to F.S. 2019-20, have been shared with GSI for uploading the same on NGDR portal. • 25 exploration reports generated from FS 2022-23 onwards were directly uploaded by AMD on NGDR portal. <p>b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 22 trainings and workshops have already been conducted in the year 2025 by GSI for various Govt. Organizations/ NPEAs/ NEAs and Universities focusing on critical minerals and usage of NGDR for exploration activities. • During the FS 2024–25, GSITI conducted 44 training programmes in the areas of mineral exploration and advanced technologies, benefiting a total of 1,525 participants from GSI, DGMs, and other stakeholders. Till 14-01-2026, GSITI conducted 39 training programmes in the areas of mineral exploration and advanced technologies, benefiting a total of 650
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			<p>participants from GSI, DGMs, and other stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSI participated in the 24th & 25th edition of GeoSmart India, held between 2nd-5th, December, 2024 in Hyderabad with the theme: 'Powering Digital Public Infrastructure through Geospatial Knowledge' and between 1st - 4th, December, 2025 in New Delhi
5	Discussion point	Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Atomic Energy advised to encourage startups for their contribution in mineral exploration and also emphasized to enhance the budget utilisation effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since FY 2023-24, NMEDT has sanctioned 27 projects to various Start-ups and MSMEs through JNARDDC under S&T PRISM scheme of Ministry of Mines. Further, NMEDT has made an expenditure of ₹398.95 Crore in FY 2024-25 which is 33% more than the previous year's expenditure of Rs. 296.27 crore.
