

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT)
Minutes of the 82nd Technical-cum-Cost Committee-1 (TCC-1) Meeting held on
14th October, 2025 through video conferencing

The 82nd meeting of the Technical-cum-Cost Committee-I (TCC-1) of the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) was held via video conferencing under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Ravi, Deputy Director General (DDG), Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) and Chairman, TCC-1, NMEDT, on 14th October, 2025.

Members of TCC-1, NMEDT and representatives from-DGM Assam, DMG Goa, DGM, Maharashtra, MECL, JEMCL, Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd, United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd., Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd., M/s GeoExpOre Pvt. Ltd. and Critical Mineral Trackers have attended the meeting through their respective VC modes.

The list of participants is enclosed in Annexure-2.

Shri C. Parthasarathi, Director, GSI and Member Secretary, TCC-1, NMEDT, welcomed Dr. S. Ravi, Dy. Director General, GSI and Chairman, TCC-1, NMEDT, Members of the TCC-1 and participants representing various Notified Exploration Agencies (NEAs) and Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs).

Dr. S. Ravi, Chairman of TCC-1, NMEDT, extended a warm welcome to all members of TCC-1 and participants representing various NEAs and NPEAs and conducted the proceedings as per circulated agenda.

Agenda 82.1: Technical evaluation of new project proposals

Agenda 82.1.1. Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE, Mica and associated minerals in
Deithar Block, (Area 31.80 Sq. Km.), Karbi-Anglong, District, Assam
[Implementing Agency: Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd.]

- a. The proposed block falls in SOI TS No. 83F/10 and exposes porphyritic granite and mica-rich gneiss belonging to the Assam Meghalaya Gneissic Complex (AMGC).
- b. AMD comments indicated that the proposed area does not have any overlap with their past or ongoing work.
- c. GSI has informed that the proposed block has 100% overlapping with the G4 block (REE) of FS 2021-22.
- d. The committee reviewed the proposal and opined that the chemical values of REEs demonstrated by the agency is not encouraging and hence the area is not recommended for further exploration.

Summary of comments received from other agencies		
Agency	Comments received (yes/no)	Brief summary
GSI	Yes	100% overlap with GSI's previously explored block of same commodity (REE) at same exploration stage (G4)
AMD	Yes	No overlap
State DGM/DMG	NA	--
MECL	No	

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Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee did not approve the proposal.

Agenda 82.2: Review of New Procurement Proposal

Agenda 82.2.1. Financial Assistance from NMET funds to procure Machinery, Laboratory Equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

[Implementing Agency: DMG, Goa]

- a. The agency informed the committee that they are proposing to establish an advanced mineral testing (MT) laboratory to facilitate mining industries and associated departments to fulfil their requirements with regard to quality checks and reliability. The proposed lab also aims at determination of grades of the ores during and after production levels.
- b. The agency also informed that the proposed laboratory is to be set up with in the campus of Goa College of Engineering, Farnagudi, Goa.
- c. The agency presented the proposal. The presentation was made by Head of the Department, Mining Engineering Department, Goa College of Engineering.
- d. The committee reviewed the proposal and enquired about the ownership of the lab. DMG informed that the 100% ownership of the proposed laboratory would be of DMG, Goa.
- e. Upon review of the proposal, the committee opined that the proposal is promising and can be worked out. The payback data indicates that 99% of the utilization pertains to DMG.
- f. However, the Committee raised concerns regarding the availability of provisions under NMEDT for funding such joint proposals.
- g. The committee suggested that the relevant rules and guidelines of NMEDT may need to be reviewed and discussed to clarify the eligibility and funding mechanisms for such projects.
- h. NMEDT policy constraints were noted in the discussion. It was advised that the matter be taken up with the Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, to seek necessary policy clarity.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

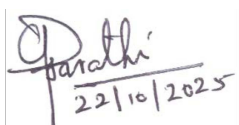
The committee deferred the proposal and advised the agency that the matter be taken up with the Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India to seek necessary policy clarity.

Agenda 82.3: Review/Timeline extension of Ongoing Procurement Project

Agenda 82.3.1. Procurement of machinery, laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities

[Implementing Agency: DGM, Maharashtra]

- a. DGM, Maharashtra informed the committee that the procurement proposal was approved in the 27th EC Meeting held on 10th January, 2023. The Sanction Order was issued on 24th March, 2023 with timeline of 12 months (i.e., up to 23.03.2024) and


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approved cost was INR 4,42,61,500/- (Rupees Four Crore Forty-Two Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Five Hundred only).

- b. Timeline extension to complete the procurement was accorded up to 30.09.2024, 15.03.2025, 31.08.2025 in 64th TCC, 39th EC and 42nd EC meetings respectively.
- c. DGM, Maharashtra informed the committee that while all the procurements were completed within approved timeline, invoice in respect of procurement of ICP-MS could be generated only on 18.9.2025 due to administrative and logistic delays. Since, the date of Invoice falls outside the approved timeline, formal approval has been sought from the committee.
- d. The agency also informed that the installation of the instrument (ICP-MS) is currently in progress and is expected to be completed shortly. The installation certificate will be submitted immediately upon completion of the installation process.
- e. The agency sought an extension of timeline up to 30.11.2025 for completion of procurement project.
- f. The committee reviewed the progress and approved timeline extension up to 30.11.2025.

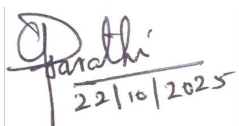
Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee recommended timeline extension upto 30.11.2025 (i.e. three months) for approval of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of NMEDT. The timeline extension is recommended for completion of procurement process.

Agenda 82.4: Project Evaluation for in-Principle Approval

Agenda 82.4.1. Reconnaissance Survey for VTM (Fe-Ti-V) and PGE (Pt, Ir, Os, Pd, Ru, Re, Au) in and around Barpung area, Karbi Anglong district, Assam [Implementing Agency: Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd.]

- a. The proposed block falls in Survey of India Toposheet Nos. 83F/7 and 83F/11 and the area has a circular ultramafic-alkaline intrusive complex composed of pyroxenite, magnetite-bearing units, alkali syenite, and fenitized country rock.
- b. DGM, Assam in their comments have stated that there is no major ML in the proposed area. MECL has also informed that there is no overlap of proposed area with MECL.
- c. GSI, however, in their comments have informed that the area has been already proposed for G4 exploration for REE and RM during the FS 2026-27 and the same has been discussed & approved during the Internal peer review and CGPB Sub-Committee meetings.
- d. Upon being informed that GSI has already proposed the area for G4 level exploration, the agency stated that they have already assessed the area and identified zones with potential for G3 stage exploration.
- e. The Committee opined that such a decision would be possible only if the agency demonstrates robust and compelling data that justifies the requirement for G3 level exploration.
- f. The agency presented the preliminary report of the work carried out by them, along with supporting information generated by universities and the Geological Survey of India (GSI).


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- g. The agency has been advised to collate all relevant data along with analytical values particularly of Vanadium and PGE, modify the presentation, and resubmit it for in-principle approval for G3 level of exploration.

Summary of comments received from other agencies		
Agency	Comments received (yes/no)	Brief summary
GSI	Yes	The area has been proposed and approved for FS 2026-27
AMD	NA	---
State DGM/DMG	NA	There is no major ML in the proposed area.
MECL	Yes	No overlap

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The Committee did not approve the proposal in its current form. The agency was advised to collate all relevant data, including analytical values—particularly for Vanadium and PGE (Platinum Group Elements), modify the presentation, and resubmit it for in-principle approval for G3 stage exploration, if any potential zones have been identified.

Agenda 82.4.2. Reconnaissance Survey for VTM (Fe–Ti–V) and PGE (Pt, Ir, Os, Pd, Ru, Re, Au) in and around Koilamati area, Karbi Anglong district, Assam. [Implementing Agency: Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd.]

- The proposed block falls in Survey of India Toposheet Nos. 83F/11 and 83F/15 and lies within the Mikir Hills (part of Shillong Plateau), hosting Archean–Proterozoic gneisses, granitoids, ultramafic–mafic intrusives, and alkaline–carbonatite complexes.
- DGM, Assam in their comments have stated that there is no major ML in the proposed area. MECL has also informed that there is no overlap of proposed area with MECL.
- GSI in their comments have stated that an STM item is approved for FS 2026-27, however, no exploration work has been done in the proposed area.
- The agency presented details of previous findings from the area, as gathered from available literature. A preliminary report of the work carried out by the agency was shared, along with supporting information generated by universities and the Geological Survey of India (GSI). However, the agency did not provide any analytical data to substantiate the proposal.
- The agency has been advised to collate all relevant data along with analytical values particularly of Vanadium and PGE, modify the presentation, and resubmit it for in-principle approval.

Summary of comments received from other agencies		
Agency	Comments received (yes/no/NA)	Brief summary
GSI	Yes	No exploration work has been carried out in the proposed area. STM work is approved for FS 2026-27.
AMD	NA	---

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State DGM/DMG	Yes	There is no major ML in the proposed area.
MECL	Yes	No overlap

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The Committee did not approve the proposal in its current form. The agency was advised to collate all relevant data, including analytical values—particularly for Vanadium and PGE (Platinum Group Elements), modify the presentation, and resubmit it for in-principle approval.

Agenda 82.4.3. Preliminary exploration for REEs and associated mineral in Bobia block, Papumpare District of Arunachal Pradesh [Implementing Agency: Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd.]

- The proposed block falls in Survey of India Toposheet No. 83E/8 and is a part of Lesser Himalayan Sequence and exposes the rocks of Bomdila Group consisting of Khetabari Formation and intrusive Ziro Gneiss.
- GSI in their comments stated that the proposed area falls in Bubiya-Leporiang (G4) block. G3 stage exploration for REE and associated precious metals has been carried out in adjacent Lodoso East block.
- State DGM and MECL in their respective comments confirmed that there is no overlapping with the areas.
- AMD confirmed that no exploration work has been carried out in the proposed block. However, AMD has carried out G4 level exploration for Uranium in the area north of proposed block and indicated surface radioactivity around Dedollo village.
- The item was proposed based on the work carried out by GSI in the adjoining Lodoso East area, specifically through Large-Scale Mapping (LSM).
- However, the agency failed to demonstrate the presence of mineralized bands, or provide analytical values and supporting evidence indicative of mineralization that would justify G3 stage of exploration.
- The agency cited accessibility challenges in the area and sought approval for G3 stage exploration, beginning with a geophysical survey.
- The Committee advised the agency to modify the presentation and provide clear evidence of mineralization to substantiate the need for G3 level of exploration.

Summary of comments received from other agencies		
Agency	Comments received (yes/no)	Brief summary
GSI	Yes	The area falls in Bubiya-Leporiang (G4) block. G3 for REE and associated precious metal in adjacent Lodoso east block has been carried out during 2019-2022.
AMD	Yes	The proposed area does not overlap with already explored block.
State DGM/DMG	Yes	There is no overlap or any ML or CL in the proposed area.
MECL	Yes	No overlap

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Recommendations of TCC-1:

The Committee did not approve the proposal in its current form. The agency was advised to collate analytical values modify the presentation, and resubmit it for in-principle approval.

Agenda 82.4.4. Reconnaissance Survey (G4) of iron ore in Morli and Rani Metta area of Gadchiroli District, Maharashtra

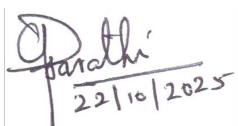
[Implementing Agency: Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd.]

- a. The proposed block falls in Survey of India Toposheet No. 65A/06 and is a part of Western Bastar Craton which hosts numerous Iron Ore deposits along three distinct parallel arcuate ridges starting from Surjagad Hill range in the north (65A/06) to Bhamragad Hill Range (65A/11) in the southern most part.
- b. GSI in their comments confirmed that there is no overlap with the proposed area.
- c. The agency informed the Committee that the proposal was earlier reviewed during the 74th TCC-I meeting, but it was deferred due to the absence of comments from the State DGM.
- d. The comments from the State DGM are still awaited; however, during the meeting, the representative from DGM Maharashtra assured the Committee that the comments on the proposal would be provided shortly.
- e. Comments from MECL is also awaited.
- f. The Committee opined that obtaining comments from the State DGM is essential, as the commodity falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government. The DGM, Maharashtra was therefore advised to provide their comments at the earliest.
- g. The Committee reviewed the proposal but reserved its decision pending receipt of comments from the State DGM and MECL.

Summary of comments received from other agencies		
Agency	Comments received (yes/no)	Brief summary
GSI	Yes	GSI does not have any overlap in the proposed area.
AMD	NA	---
State DGM/DMG	No	DGM Maharashtra's representative present in the meeting informed that the comments regarding this proposal would be provided soon.
MECL	No	

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The Committee reviewed the proposal but reserved its decision for want of comments from the State DGM and MECL.


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Agenda 82.5: Review of Ongoing Projects/ Completed Project & Timeline Extension

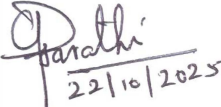
Agenda 82.5.1. Preliminary Exploration (G3, Phase-I) for Ni, Co, PGE and associated minerals in J.C. Pura Mafic-Ultramafic Schist Belt near Rampura and Gollarahatti Block, Hassan District, Karnataka (Block area: 2 sq. km.) [Implementing Agency: M/s GeoExpOre Pvt. Ltd.]

- a. GeoExpOre informed that the project was approved in the 29th EC Meeting held on 31st March, 2023. The Sanction Order was issued on 17th April, 2023 with timeline of 10 months (i.e up to 16.02.2024) and approved cost was INR 82,87,108/- (Rupees Eighty-Two Lakhs Eighty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Eight only). Timeline extension was given upto 31.05.2024 during 35th EC meeting.
- b. The agency apprised that they have requested for surrender of project during 64th TCC meeting, but EC during its 35th meeting suggested that another attempt can be made to start exploration by sorting out the issue with local people after elections.
- c. The project was reviewed during the 81st Meeting of TCC-I held on 25th -26th and 29th September, 2025, wherein the agency was advised to submit a detailed formal note to NMEDT outlining all efforts made to execute the project and seek permission for surrender of project. The agency was also instructed to submit revised cost sheet.
- d. The agency again apprised the committee that eight meetings were held in connection with the project, but no substantial progress was achieved. The agency has again been instructed to submit detailed documentation outlining the outcomes and follow-up actions from these meetings.
- e. The committee opined that the revised cost sheet is to be reviewed, and the cost must be recalculated, considering only the essential work components such as Geophysics and minimum Drilling Meterage (DM).
- f. The committee also observed that project report is yet to be submitted and hence advised the agency to submit the GR.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee recommended the surrender of project for approval of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of NMEDT, subject to submission of a detailed documentation outlining the outcomes and follow-up actions of meetings with local authorities. The item is recommended to PSC for ratification of cost from Rs. 82.87 lakh to Rs. 18.98 lakh with a change in amount of (-) Rs 63.89 lakhs (~77.10 % de-escalation) as per Annexure-1.

****The agency is due for re-notification. The comments, recommendations and cost revision are valid only after re-notification of agency.**


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Revised cost-sheet for “Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Ni,Co, PGE and REE /Associated Minerals in J.C. Pura Schist Belt Near Rampura Gollarahatti Block, Hassan District, Karnataka (2 Sq.Km)”									Annexure-1
S. No.	Item of Work	Unit	Rates as per NMET SoC 2020-21		Approved Cost of the Proposal		Amount to be claimed		Remarks
			SoC-Item -SI No.	Rates as per SoC					
A	GEOLOGICAL WORK				Qty.	Amount (Rs)	Qty	Revised cost	
i	Geologist Party Days (HQ)	Days	1.3	9000	60	5,40,000	12	1,08,000	
ii	Geologist Party Days (2) (Field)	Days	1.3	11000	120	13,20,000	20	2,20,000	
iii	Labour Days (2) Field	Days	5.7	477	240	1,14,480	40	19,080	
iv	Sampler Party Days	Days	1.5.2	5100	20	1,02,000	2	10,200	
v	Labour Sampling	Days	5.7	477	80	38,160	8	3,816	
vi	Survey Party Days (1 Party)	Days	1.6.1a	8300	15	1,24,500	10	83,000	
vii	Labour for Survey party	Days	5.7	477	60	28,620	40	19,080	
	Sub Total- A					22,67,760		4,63,176	
B	GEOPHYSICAL INVESTIGATION								
i	Geophysical Investigation- Gravity 2 Profiles Spacing 100 meters -10 stations on each profile (10X20=200)	Per Station	3.1a	3800	200	7,60,000	200	7,60,000	
	Sub Total- B					7,60,000		7,60,000	
C	PITTING / TRENCHING								
	Pitting/Trenching	Per Cu.m	2.1.2	3800	150	5,70,000	-	-	
	Sub Total- C					5,70,000	-	-	
D	CHEMICAL ANALYSIS								

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i	Chemicals Analysis - Geochemicals, BRS, Trench /Pit for Ni, Cr,Cu, PGE (Ni-Fire Assay)	Per Sample	4.1.5d	11800	200	23,60,000	15	1,77,000	
ii	Check Samples- Ni,Cr, Cu,PGE, Au(15%) Ni-Fire assay	Per Sample	4.1.5d	11800	30	3,54,000	-	-	
iii	Preparation of thin sections	Per Sample	4.3.1	2353	10	23,530	-	-	
iv	Complete petrographic /ore microscopic study/Mineragraphic studies	Per Sample	4.3.4	4232	10	42,320	-	-	
v	Preparation of Polished Sections	Per Sample	4.4.1	1549	10	15,490	-	-	
vi	EPMA Studies	Per Hour	4.3.2	8540	10	85,400	-	-	
vii	Whole Rock Analysis	Nos	4.1.15a & b	7568	10	75,680	-	-	
	Sub Total- D					29,56,420		1,77,000	
	Sub Total (A+B+C+D)							14,00,176	
E	PREPARATION OF EXPLORATION PROPOSAL	Per Project	5.1	131084	1	1,31,084	1	28,004	
	Sub Total- E					1,31,084		28,004	2% of Approved cost or 5 lakhs, whichever is lower
F	PEER REVIEW	As per EC	-	10000	1	10,000		30,000	
	Sub Total- F					10,000		30,000	*
G	GEOLOGICAL REPORT PREPARATION 5 HARD COPIES + 2 SOFTCOPY (@5%)	Per Project	5.2	327709	1	3,27,709		1,50,000	For project with cost up to 50 lakhs, minimum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs or 5% of work, whichever is more
	Sub Total- G					3,27,709		1,50,000	
H	Total Estimated Cost without GST(A+B+C+D+E+F+G)					70,22,973		16,08,180	
I	Provision for GST (18%)					12,64,135		2,89,472	

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J	Total Estimated Cost with GST	82,87,108		18,97,652	De- escalation amount is Rs. 63,89,456/-
	Rs. (in lakhs)	82.87		18.98	De- escalation amount: Rs. 63.89 Lakhs (~ - 77.10%)
Note:					
1	Strict adherence to the Ministry of Finance's and GFR guidelines is mandatory. Every transaction must adhere to GFR rule 21.				
2	In case of delay/non- performance, the appropriate action will be taken by competent authority against delinquent agency as per prevailing govt. of India rules/guidelines on procurement.				
3	If any part of the project is outsourced, the amount will be reimbursed as per the Paragraph 3 of NMEDT SoC and Item no. 6 of NMEDT SoC. In case of execution of the project by NEA on its own, a Certificate regarding non outsourcing of any component/project is required.				
4	Necessary efforts should be made to minimize any adverse impact on the environment during exploration activities.				
5	Any item of work not mentioned above shall be added as per SoC.				
6	All the Geological Reports and data are to be uploaded on NGDR as per MERT template by the agency				

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**Agenda 82.5.2. Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Dhunki-Chilai Block,
District: Yavatmal, Maharashtra
[Implementing Agency: MECL]**

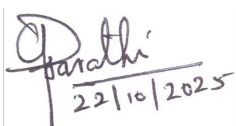
- a. MECL informed the committee that the project was approved in the 40th EC Meeting held on 21st February, 2025. The Sanction Order was issued on 5th March, 2025 with timeline of 8 months (up to 04.11.2025) and approved cost was INR 97,95,299/- (Rupees Ninety-Seven Lakhs Ninety-Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Nine only).
- b. MECL apprised the committee that Geological mapping of 4.63 sq.km. on 1:4000 scale has been completed. The majority of the area is blanketed by soil and with exposures of limestone and dolomite which belongs to Putnur-Mangurda Formation of Penganga Group.
- c. 20 BR samples have been collected and analysed. Out of 20 BRS samples analysed, 5 samples have yielded CaO values more than 40%.
- d. MECL informed the committee that drilling could not be initiated due to standing crops and adverse weather (heavy rainfall). MECL sought timeline extension upto 03.03.2026.
- e. The Committee reviewed the progress and opined that the agencies are taking up multiple items simultaneously but are unable to deploy adequate manpower for effective execution. As a result, even relatively small and simple projects are being unduly delayed.
- f. The agency informed that the block includes forested and agricultural areas. Execution will begin at the earliest, subject to the availability of Forest Clearance (FC) and successful negotiations with landowners.
- g. Considering the overall situation, the committee approved a Timeline Extension (TLE) up to 31st January 2026 for completion of all project targets, including the Geological Report (GR) submission. The agency was also advised to present the Geological Report (GR) before the TCC in December 2025 for review.

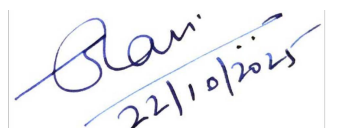
Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee approved timeline extension of three months upto 31.01.2026 for completion of drilling and GR submission.

**Agenda 82.5.3. Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Dongargaon, Kasara Block, Yavatmal District, Maharashtra
[Implementing Agency: MECL]**

- a. MECL informed the committee that the project was approved in the 42nd EC Meeting held on 2nd June, 2025. The Sanction Order was issued on 23rd June, 2025 with timeline of 10 months (i.e up to 22.04.2026) and approved cost was INR 1,22,58,051/- (Rs. One Crore Twenty Two Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Fifty One only).
- b. MECL apprised the committee that Geological mapping of 6.06 sq.km. on 1:4000 scale has been completed. The majority of the area is covered by soil and with scanty exposures of limestone and dolomite belonging to Putnur-Mangurda Formation of Penganga Group.
- c. Twenty bedrock samples have been collected and analysed. Out of these 20 samples analysed, 08 samples have yielded CaO values more than 45%.


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- d. The agency proposed drilling of 9 nos. of boreholes of 50 m depth each. All the planned borehole location falls in Ruikot Reserved Forest and FC is to be obtained for drilling.
- e. The committee approved the drilling plan submitted in 800x800 m grid pattern along with 50 m depth in each borehole and advised to expedite drilling at the earliest.
- f. The agency was advised to actively pursue Forest Clearance (FC) and ensure completion of the assigned targets within the stipulated timeline.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee approved the drilling of 09 nos. of Boreholes, each of 50 m depth.

Agenda 82.5.4. Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Glauconite, Phosphorite and REE in Ambara Maru Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat.

[Implementing Agency: MECL]

- a. The agency informed the committee that the agenda was wrongly sent to NMEDT Secretariat.
- b. The agenda has already been discussed in 14th TCC-II meeting.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The agenda was not taken up for discussion, as it was sent erroneously by the concerned agency.

Agenda 82.5.4. Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Glauconite, Phosphorite and REE, in Ambara West Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat.

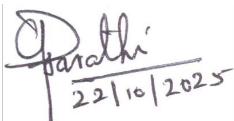
[Implementing Agency: MECL]

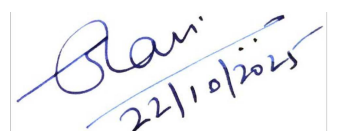
- a. MECL informed the committee that the project was approved in the 38th EC Meeting held on 29th November, 2024. The Sanction Order was issued on 13th December, 2024 with timeline of 12 months (up to 12.12.2025) and approved cost was INR 1,07,77,778/- (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakh Seventy-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight only).
- b. The agency informed that LSM on 1:12500 scale has been completed for an area of 143.15 sq. km. as per assigned target along with collection of 100 bedrock and 94 trench samples for analysis.
- c. The agency presented the results of BRS and showed that 74 out of 100 BRS samples have yielded K₂O above 3%, with an average of 4.19%. Drilling is proposed at 1600 X 1600 m grid interval over glauconite rich horizon only.
- d. The agency sought timeline extension of 3 months.
- e. The committee reviewed the progress and suggested the agency to complete pitting and drilling as per scheduled timeline.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee did not approve request for extension of timeline and advised the agency to execute the work within scheduled timeline.

Agenda 82.5.6. Preliminary exploration (G3) for Aluminous Laterite and Associated Critical Elements (V, Ga, & REE) in Mundalli Block, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka


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[Implementing Agency: Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.]

- a. Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd. informed the committee that the project was approved in the 38th EC Meeting held on 29th November, 2024. The Sanction Order was issued on 30th December, 2024 with timeline of 10 months (up to 29.10.2025) and approved cost was INR 97,03,921/- (Rupees Ninety-Seven Lakh Three Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-One only).
- b. The agency informed that GR has been peer reviewed.
- c. The committee observed that the core recovery in the ore zones is reported to be only 75%.
- d. The committee reviewed the compliance of peer reviewers' comments on GR and suggested that the GR may be submitted with an appropriate discussion on the sand traps encountered in boreholes beneath the laterite zone, which may represent recast materials or possible paleosols.
- e. The committee also suggested that under the recommendations section, the constraints related to Gallium (Ga) analysis must be clearly enumerated.
- f. The report should also address the REE potential and their implication in the genesis of laterite in the area. The very low REE content observed in the block suggests the absence of a granitic basement.
- g. The agency sought a timeline extension upto 29.11.2025 for GR submission.
- h. Timeline Extension up to 29th November 2025 has been approved for finalization and submission of the report. The copy of final report is also to be handed over to the Department of Mines & Geology (DMG), Karnataka.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

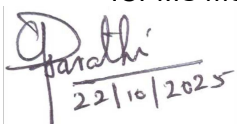
The committee approved timeline extension of one month up to 29.11.2025 for GR submission.

****The agency is due for re-notification. The comments, recommendations and time extension approval are valid only after re-notification of agency.**

Agenda 82.5.7. Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Lithium, Niobium, Tantalum, Titanium & REE Minerals in and around Bengpal–Ellingnar-Kumakoleng Block, Sukhma, and Bastar Districts, Chhattisgarh

[Implementing Agency: United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd.]

- a. UEIPL informed the committee that the project was approved in the 36th EC Meeting held on 29th July, 2024. The Sanction Order was issued on 21st August, 2024 with timeline of 12 months (up to 20.08.2025) and approved cost was INR 93,37,959/-.
- b. The agency informed the committee that a total of 28.75 sq.km area has been mapped on 1:12500 scale. The lithological units encountered include Pegmatite, Granite, Granite Pegmatite, Amphibolite, Metabasic rocks, and Schistose formations (specifically Muscovite-Biotite Schist).
- c. Along with mapping, 100 bedrock samples have been collected during the course of the field investigation. Out of 100 samples, 24 samples have been analysed using ICPMS method. PS has been done for 6 samples.


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- d. The agency apprised the committee, that two samples of Lepidolite from the south-eastern part of the project area have shown encouraging lithium values of 6,338 ppm and 24,926 ppm, respectively. Rubidium values ranging from 1,180 ppm to 33,880 ppm have been recorded from seven samples, collected from both the south-eastern and northern (Darbha Granite) parts of the block. Further in the northern part the leucocratic granite (part of Darbha Granite) is showing 1936 ppm value for LREE.
- e. However, the agency also apprised the committee that work is delayed due to strong local resistance. The agency requested one-year extension to accomplish the remaining targets, citing local issues that have caused inordinate delays.
- f. The committee reviewed the progress of work and suggested that the pegmatite bodies in the area need to be mapped at high resolution, and further categorized into zoned and unzoned types. Additionally, quantification of lepidolite is required.
- g. The agency was instructed to submit all relevant documentary evidence to NMET to justify the delay and support the request for an extension.
- h. After review, the timeline was extended by 6 (six) months i.e., upto 28th February 2026, to enable completion of all remaining targets.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee recommended timeline extension upto 28.02.2026 (i.e. 06 months) for approval of PSC. The timeline extension is recommended for completion of project and submission of GR. The agency was also instructed to submit all relevant documentary evidence to NMEDT to justify the delay and subsequent communication with authorities.

**Agenda 82.5.8. Reconnaissance survey (G4) for REE and associated minerals in Nellikudur area Mahabubabad and Warrangal districts, Telangana
[Implementing Agency: Critical Mineral Trackers]**

- a. The agency informed the committee that the project was approved in the 39th EC Meeting held on 24th January, 2025. The Sanction Order was issued on 10th February, 2025 with timeline of 10 months (up to 09.12.2025) and approved cost was INR 1,03,14,572/- (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Two only).
- b. The agency apprised the committee about the progress of work. LSM on 1:12,500 sq. km of 154 sq.km is completed. 100 BRS, 25 SSS and 150 PTS samples collected and analysed. Petrographic study of 30 TS has been carried out.
- c. Mapping work has delineated monzogranites and granodiorites. The agency identified seven potential blocks (A to G) for REE. The TREE in these blocks ranged from 115.8 to 1170 ppm. Photomicrographs also showed presence of zoned allanite crystals.
- d. The committee reviewed the progress of work and opined that only a few samples exhibited anomalous REE values, while the majority showed REE concentrations in the range of approximately 300–350 ppm.
- e. The committee discussed the chemical data and observed that though, several blocks were identified as having potential; the analytical values obtained so far are not encouraging. The highest REE concentration reported is 1170 ppm, observed in bedrock samples, with notable enrichment of Lanthanum (La) and Cerium (Ce).

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- f. The committee was also of opinion that no pegmatites, shear zones, or alteration zones have been identified in the area that could be considered suitable targets for drilling.
- g. The TCC-1 advised the agency to compile and synthesize the available field and geochemical data and submit the final report accordingly. The drilling component has been dropped from the project target.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee advised the agency to submit the GR with field and chemical data and drilling is not approved. Revised cost sheet is also to be submitted for cost reconciliation.

**Agenda 82.5.9. Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite, Titanium, and Associated Minerals Harhapat block, Gumla, Jharkhand
[Implementing Agency: JEMCL]**

- a. JEMCL informed the committee that the project was approved in the 37th EC Meeting held on 23rd September, 2024. The Sanction Order was issued on 28th October, 2024 with timeline of 10 months (up to 27.08.2025) and approved cost was INR 73,85,536/- (Rupees Seventy Three Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Six only).
- b. The agency informed the committee that the project was reviewed in 10th meeting of TCC-II held during 23rd to 25th June, 2025. During the meeting, drilling plan was discussed and TCC-II in their 10th meeting had approved drilling of 8 BH at 400 x 400 m spacing with average depth of 25 m. One borehole to be drilled to the depth of parent rock.
- c. The agency informed that drilling could not be commenced due to adverse weather conditions, specifically heavy rainfall, which led to disturbance and inaccessibility of the approach roads to the drilling sites.
- d. The agency sought a timeline extension of 6 (six) months for completion of project.
- e. The committee reviewed the project and observed that detailed mapping (1:4000 scale) of 1.32 sq. km. along with collection and analysis of pit samples has been completed. BH plan has also been approved by TCC-II.
- f. The committee reviewed the request of agency and approved extension of timeline upto 28.02.2026.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee recommended timeline extension of six months upto 28.02.2026 to Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of NMEDT for approval. The extension is recommended for completion of drilling and GR submission.

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List of participants who attended the 82nd Meeting of Technical-cum-cost Committee (TCC-I) of NMEDT held on 14th October, 2025, through video conferencing mode

S.no	Name	Designation	Email ID	Contact No	Organization
1	Dr. S. Ravi	Dy. Director General, GSITI, Hyderabad	s.ravi1@gsi.gov.in	9441138834	Chairman, TCC-1
2	Shri. I.R. Kirmani	ADG (Retd.), GSI	irkirmani@yahoo.com	9414014723	Member TCC-1
3	Shri. Hemraj Suryavanshi	Addl. Director General (Retd.), GSI	hemraj.NMEDT@gmail.com	9425603674 7477042176	Member TCC-1
4	Shri. K. Koteswara Rao	Dy.D.G. (Retd.) GSI	kkrao1957@gmail.com	9000117969	Member TCC-1
5	Shri A. R. Mukundhan	Regional Director, AMD, South Central Region	mukuagaram@rediffmail.com	6303606347	Member TCC-1
6	Dr.E.V.S.S.K. Babu	Scientist (G), NGRI	evsskbabu@ngri.res.in	9441535852	Member TCC-1
7	Shri. S.K. Adhikari	Chief Mining Geologist, IBM, Nagpur	skadhikari@ibm.gov.in	7588690545	Member TCC-1
8	Shri. P.K. Maharana	DGM (Finance), NALCO, Bhubaneswar	pmaharana@rediffmail.com	8500669500	Member TCC-1
9	Shri. Ravi Kumar Gupta	General Manager (Finance) HCL, Kolkata	ravi_g@hindustancopper.com	9433274328	Member TCC-1
10	Smt. Vandana	Cost Accounts Officer, RSAS, Bangalore, GSI	vandana@gsi.in	8660939235	Member TCC-1
11	Shri. C. Parthasarathi	Director, GSI & Member Secretary, TCC- NMEDT, GSI, Bengaluru	c.parthasarathi@gsi.gov.in	9483186932	Member Secretary TCC-1
12	Balkrishan Vishwakarma	Manager Geology	geology@maheshwaree.com/ Balkrishan.v@maheshwaree.com	9651143638	MMPL PVT LTD
13	Moulipriya Bhakta	Dy Manager Geology	moulipriya.bhakta@maheshwaree.com	7890631970	MMPL PVT LTD
14	Bhola Prasad Yadav	Dy Manager Geology	b.prasad@maheshwaree.in	8709723943	MMPL PVT LTD
15	Mr. Subrata Sarkar	VP (Project & Planning)	subrata.sarkar@gemcokati.com	7044208900	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd
16	Dr. Vinay Sahay	Sr. Manager(Geology)	vinay.sahay@geologist.com	9730514284	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd
17	Mr. Chinmay Rout	Geologist	chinmay2007rta@gmail.com	8260086563	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd

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18	Mr. Kaustav Bhattacharjee	Geologist	kaustavbhattacharjee18@gmail.com	8637848584	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd
19	Mr. Ramraj Patel	Jr. Geologist	patelramraj1998@gmail.com	8856991189	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd
20	Mr. Nitin Baghel	Jr. Geologist	nitinbaghel2207@gmail.com	8871529658	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd
21	Miss Devika Nagpure	Jr. Geologist	devikanagpure2018@gmail.com	8408986492	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd
22	Mr. Subhajit Chakraborty	Geologist	csubhajit101@gmail.com	7278706372	Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd
23	Shri Shrikant Sharma	HoD (Exploration/NEM)	shrikantsharma@mecl.gov.in	9131229758	MECL
24	Shri E Kuppusamy	DGM (Exploration)	kuppusamyekambaram@gmail.com	7776958086	MECL
25	Shri Lakshmanarao Kaddala	Sr. Manager (Geology)	lakshman625@gmail.com	9836228449	MECL
26	Shri Bhuneshwar Kumar	Manager (Geology)	bhuneshwarkumar@mecl.gov.in	9237038400	MECL
27	Dr Yerriswamy Pateel	Director	ypateel@geoexpore.com	9980118930	GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd
28	Mr Channamallikarjun Patil	Director	cm@geoexpore.com	9980554498	GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd
29	Ms Mansi Kesarwani	Geologist	mansi@geoexpore.com	8800244745	GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd
30	Mr Shashank S Mahapatra	Geologist	shashank@geoexpore.com	9438430412	GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd
31	Mr Dhanasekaran S	Geologist	dhanasekaran@geoexpore.com	9894757596	GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd
32	Mr Mrutunjay S B	Geologist	mrutyunjaysb@gmail.com	9164296460	GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd
33	Mr Uvaraj M	Geologist	uvarajuva12@gmail.com	9659827698	GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd
34	Vikram K Y	Founder & Partner	criticalmineraltrackers@gmail.com	9849574333	Critical Mineral Trackers
35	Dr. K. Mahender Reddy	Director - Technical & Mineral Exploration	criticalmineraltrackers@gmail.com	9032012955	Critical Mineral Trackers
36	K.Nageswara Rao	Director - Geology , PR & Co-ordination	criticalmineraltrackers@gmail.com	7893847742	Critical Mineral Trackers
37	Representative from DGM, Maharashtra				

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38	Representative from DGM, Assam				
39	Representative from DMG, Goa				
40	Representative from JEMCL				
41	Representative from United Exploration India Pvt.Ltd.				
42	Representative from Geomarine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.				
43	Smt. Anju C.S	Superintending Geologist	nmet-mines@gov.in	8588836933	NMEDT
44	Shri Sebabrata Das	Sr. Geologist	nmet-mines@gov.in	7060508014	NMEDT
45	Ms. Bishakha	Sr. Geologist	nmet-mines@gov.in	8126541605	NMEDT
46	Smt. Palak Kapoor	Sr. Geologist	nmet-mines@gov.in	8851742488	NMEDT
47	Dr. Rajesh Sharma	Sr. Geologist	nmet-mines@gov.in	8377851047	NMEDT
48	Shri Monu Tomar	Sr. Geophysicist	nmet-mines@gov.in	9467728411	NMEDT
49	Shri Akshay Verma	Geologist	nmet-mines@gov.in	9911258955	NMEDT
50	Shri Manish Kumar	Geophysicist	nmet-mines@gov.in	9652258670	NMEDT

Parathi
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