

of Coal every year under promotional activities for exploration of coal and lignite. In response, GSI informed that it provides policy-level advice to the Ministry of Coal and is also responsible for maintaining the national inventory of coal resources. Further, the exploration framework and codes relating to coal are deliberated and developed by GSI in consultation with other stakeholders under CGPB Committee-V. GSI also clarified that it undertakes coal exploration only up to the G3 stage, whereas detailed exploration at the G2 stage is carried out by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited.

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved 18 exploration projects of GSI, as mentioned in Table-2, with a total cost of Rs. 6242.22 lakh.

**Agenda 9.3: Approval for procurement of machinery/equipment/software by DMM, West Bengal from NMEDT Fund for enhancement of exploration activities**

PSC was apprised that the Directorate of Mines and Minerals (DMM), West Bengal had procured ArcGIS software (ArcMap version) under NMEDT funding in 2024 for undertaking GIS-based activities, including preparation and scrutiny of geological maps, District Survey Reports (DSRs), and development of a State-wide Minor Mineral Data Repository. PSC was further apprised that the currently available 2D ArcMap version has become obsolete, and support and updates for the software have been discontinued by ESRI with effect from 1st March 2026. It was further informed that ESRI now provides support and updates only for the ArcGIS Pro platform.

Accordingly, DMM, West Bengal has submitted a proposal for upgradation of the existing software license to ArcGIS Pro, along with the Spatial Analyst, 3D Analyst, and ArcGIS Online extensions. The proposed upgrade is intended to strengthen the agency's capabilities in advanced mineral exploration and geospatial analysis, including terrain analysis, mineral prospectivity mapping, 3D geological modelling, preparation of geological cross-sections, and volumetric estimation of mineral resources. The details of the software proposed to be upgraded by DMM, West Bengal are provided in Table-3.

| <b>Table-3: Details of the software proposed to be upgraded by DMM, WB</b> |   |            |                                     |
|--|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Sl. No.</b>   | <b>Product Name</b>                                 | <b>Qty</b> | <b>Approximate Price (with GST)</b> |
| 1  | UOL Upgrade to Indo ArcGIS Desktop Standard         | 1          | ₹6,94,167                           |
| 2  | Indo ArcGIS Pro Extension – SA                      | 1          | ₹4,35,000                           |
| 3  | Indo ArcGIS Pro Extension – 3D                      | 1          | ₹4,35,000                           |
| 4  | ArcGIS Online Creator User Type Annual Subscription | 3          | ₹5,98,260                           |
| <b>Total</b>   |   |            | <b>₹21,62,427</b>                   |

**Discussion:** Dr. Pankaj Satija, Technical Expert suggested that, whenever such proposals are submitted, the expected outputs and scope of work should be quantified in measurable terms. This would enable a more objective assessment of the proposal and facilitate evaluation of the benefits and outcomes envisaged from the proposed procurement

DMM, West Bengal agreed to the suggestion.

**Decision of PSC:** PSC approved the procurement proposal of DMM, West Bengal for upgradation of software, as per table-3.

**Agenda 9.4: Approval of cost revision of the project entitled “Establishing Advanced Geophysical Laboratory at Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI)”**

PSC was apprised that the proposal for Establishing Advanced Geophysical Laboratory at GSITI was approved by Chairman, EC followed by ratification in 43<sup>rd</sup> EC meeting of NMEDT held on 14.08.25. The approved cost of the project was Rs. 3.53 crore with a timeline of 12 month. The details of approved components for Advanced Geophysical Laboratory at GSITI is given below in Table-4:

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Components</b>  | <b>Estimated Cost (INR) (including GST)</b> |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1.             | Computer systems (25 No.)  | Rs. 92,12,496                               |
| 2.             | One Work station and UPS   | Rs. 6,51,569                                |
| 3.             | INTREPID and GEOMODELLER software (25 licenses) including training for 2 years | Rs. 2,42,49,000                             |
| 4.             | 86 inch Digital display (1 No.)  | Rs. 2,45,000                                |
| 5.             | Infrastructure   | Rs. 9,44,150                                |
|                | <b>Total</b>   | <b>Rs. 3,53,02,215/-</b>                    |

GSITI informed the committee that during the procurement and execution phases, additional functional requirements, infrastructural changes, and market-driven cost escalations were identified. Consequently, certain modifications to the originally approved proposal and inclusion of additional components became necessary to ensure that the laboratory fully meets its functional, operational, and training objective. Accordingly, GSITI has requested for approval in the specification of earlier approved items, cost enhancement and procurement of additional items, as mentioned in table-5.