

**Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust
Sanction Order**

F.No.23/605/2025-NMET/ 1044

New Delhi, 19th March, 2025

Subject: Approval of mineral exploration project and release of 1st Advance from Grant-in-Aid (General) for the project "Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE and Phosphorite in Sumarsar area (107.46 sq.km), Kachchh District, Gujarat ".

Agency:- MECL

On the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 41st meeting held on 11th March, 2025 has approved mineral exploration project to be executed by MECL. The details of the block are given below:-

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (including GST)
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for REE and Phosphorite in Sumarsar area (107.46 sq.km), Kachchh District, Gujarat	REE & Phosphorite	G-4	10 Months (up to 18.01.2026)	₹1,77,60,058/-

2. The mineral exploration project will be funded by NMET as per the cost recommended by the TCC and approved by the EC. The Implementing Agency shall complete the same as per the approved cost estimates and time schedule, enclosed in **Annexure**, as summarized below: -

•	Field Mobilization	1 st month (up to 18.04.2025).
•	Exploration (Camp Setting, Sampling, Survey, Pitting/ Trenching & Drilling, Camp winding)	2 nd to 08 th month (up to 18.11.2025).
•	Laboratory Studies	3 rd to 09 th month (up to 18.12.2025)
•	Report Writing with Peer Review and submission to NMET	8 th month to 10 th month (up to 18.01.2026)

3. The Implementing Agency shall submit progress on monthly basis to NMET Secretariat. The TCC, NMET shall review the progress of project and provide update to the Executive Committee.

4. Sanction is also hereby conveyed for release of the 1st instalment of 40% of the estimated project cost i.e. exploration" the 1st instalment of 40% of the approved project cost i.e. **₹71,04,023/- (₹ Seventy one thousand four hundred twenty three only)** as an advance in terms of conditions stipulated in this office letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/176 dated 16th December 2021 and letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/217 dated 19th January 2022 regarding "Release of funds to State Government / NEAs for mineral exploration".

5. The expenditure will be debited to '2853' Non-Ferrous Mining and Metallurgical Industries (Major Head) 02-Regulation and Development of Mines (Sub-Major head) 102-Mineral Exploration (Minor Head) 05-National Mineral Exploration Trust Fund Activities (Sub-Head) 00- National Mineral Exploration Trust Fund Activities (Detailed-Head) 05.00. 31-Grant-in-aid (General) under Demand No. 69, Ministry of Mines during the financial year 2024-25.

6. Certified that the pattern of assistance, under which the Grants-in-Aid (General) has been sanctioned, has the prior approval of Ministry of Finance.

7. MECL is a registered agency on EAT module of PFMS. In terms of **Rule 230, 235, 236 and 238 of GFR**, MECL should maintain subsidiary accounts of the Government Grants and furnish the same to the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry. The account shall be open to inspection by the Sanctioning Authority and audit, both by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and internal audit by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry of Mines, whenever the Organization is called upon to do so.

8. The exploration agency has to furnish the utilization certificate in respect of amount disbursed as Grant-in-aid for the project on utilization of disbursed amount or after completion of one year from the date of disbursement of advance, whichever is earlier. The next installment of advance will be released after submission of utilization certificate and progress report in respect of the 1st installment.

9. **The uploading of Geological Report (GR) on NGDR portal is sole responsibility of the exploration agency. The final payment will be made only after receiving the confirmation of the same. The screenshot/acknowledgement of successful uploading of GR is to be submitted to NMET with the final bill.**

10. Shri Arun Kumar Chail, Section Officer in the Ministry will be the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for this purpose. It is requested that the payment of exploration" the 1st instalment of 40% of the approved project cost i.e. **₹71,04,023/- (₹ Seventy one thousand four hundred twenty three only)** may kindly be made to the Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur – 440006 through RTGS in State Bank of India, Industrial Finance Branch, Nagpur (IFSC Code – SBIN0000432, Account No. 10374783387)

11. This has concurrence of JS & FA, Mines vide Note# 11 dated 18.03.2025 (E file No. 3077803).

Yours faithfully,



(Geetika Sharma)
Deputy Secretary & HoD, NMET

To
The Pay & Accounts Officer,
Pay & Accounts Office,
Ministry of Mines,
New Delhi

Copy for information and further necessary action:-

1. The Chairman & Managing Director, Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd. (MECL), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur – 440006.
2. I.F. Division, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Executive Committee (EC) Meeting file (F.No.6/2/2015-NMET)
4. The Chairman, Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) meeting, NMET.
5. Grant-in aid Sanction order file.

Estimate Cost of Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) For REE & associated minerals in Sumarasar Area, District: Kachchh, State: Gujarat Total Area - 100 sq km; Scout Boreholes: 10 Nos for REE), Average Depth: 30 m for Coring and 100 Nos Auger, Average depth and 7 m for Auger Completion Time -10 Months, Review after 5th Month Implementing Agency : MECL							Annexure 5A	
ANNEXURE-I								
S.N	Item of Work	Unit	Rates as per NMET SoC 2020-21		Estimated Cost of the Proposal		Remarks	
			SoC- Item -SI No.	Rates as per SoC	Qty.	Total Amount (Rs)		
A	GEOLOGICAL WORK							
a	Charges for Geologist at HQ for data processing	day	1.3	9,000	60	5,40,000		
b	Charges for Geologist at field for LSM mapping at 1:12500 scale, Surface sampling, Pitting and Scout Drilling	day	1.2	11,000	180	19,80,000		
c	Labour Charges for Geologist at Field Base rate - Rs. 526/ per day	day	5.7	526	360	1,89,360	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher	
d	Charges for Sampler for geochemical, channel, Pit and BH Core Samples	one sampler per day	1.5.2	5,100	49	2,48,944		
e	Labour Charges for Sampling Work; Base rate - Rs. 526/ per day	day	5.7	526	195	1,02,702	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher	
	Sub-Total A					30,61,005		
B	PITTING							
a	PITTING (Total 5 Nos of Pit)	Cu m	2.1.2	3,800	20	76,000	A total 10 Nos of Orientation Pit with average 2.00 m Depth = 20 cu.m	
	Sub-Total B					76,000		

C	DRILLING						
1	Drilling in soft rock (upto 300) (REE in Sandstone)	m	2.2.1.1b	7,168	300	21,50,400	Drilling of REE in Sandstone (10 Bh X 30 m Depth)
2	Auger drilling for soft strata upto 150m	m	2.2.2	4,760	700	33,32,000	Auger Drilling for REE (100 Bh X 7m avg depth) One Auger Drilling each for per sq km Area.
3	Fixation of borehole and determination of co-ordinates & Reduced Level (RL) of the boreholes by DGPS (including charges for labours deployed for the work)	Per point of observation	1.6.2	19,200	10	1,92,000	(10 Nos Core BH for REE)
4	Land / Crop Compensation (in case the BH falls in agricultural Land)	per BH	5.6	20,000	10	2,00,000	
5	Construction of concrete Pillar (12"x12"x30")	per borehole	2.2.7a	2,000	10	20,000	
6	Transportation of Drill Rig & Truck associated per drill	Km	2.2.8	36	2,400	86,400	Approx 2400 km to & fro from Nagpur (for 1 rigs)
7	Monthly Accommodation Charges for drilling Camp (up to 2 Rigs)	month	2.2.9	50,000	3	1,50,000	
8	Drilling Camp Setting Cost	Nos	2.2.9a	2,50,000	1	2,50,000	
9	Drilling Camp Winding up Cost	Nos	2.2.9b	2,50,000	1	2,50,000	
10	Road Making (Flat Terrain)	Km	2.2.10a	22,020	5	1,10,100	
11	Drill Core Preservation	Per m	5.3	1,590	200	3,18,000	
	Sub-Total C					70,58,900	
D	Heavy Mineral Separation						
1	Heavy Mineral Separation by	per sample	4.3.6a	2380	30		30 Samples from Pit from different Soil




	liquid		4.3.6b	13820		71,400	Horizon
2	Gravity and Magnetic separation	per sample	4.3.6b	13820	30	4,14,600	30 Samples from Pit from different Soil Horizon
	Sub-Total D					4,86,000	
E	LABORATORY STUDIES						
1	Chemical Analysis						
i	Primary Samples for REE associated Trace Elements (34 Element) by ICPMS	Nos	4.1.14	7,731	355	27,44,505	REE associated Trace Elements (34 Element) by ICPMS BRS: 50 Pit Sample- 30 Samples collected from REE Scout BH: 150 Samples from Auger Drilling: (100 X 3) = 125 Nos
ii	External Samples for REE associated Trace Elements (34 Element) by ICPMS	Nos	4.1.14	7,731	36	2,74,451	
2	Physical & Petrological Studies						
i)	Preparation of thin section	Nos	4.3.1	2,353	10	23,530	
ii)	Complete petrographic study report	Nos	4.3.4	4,232	10	42,320	
iii)	Preparation of polish section	Nos	4.3.2	1,549	10	15,490	
iv)	Complete mineragraphic study report	Nos	4.3.4	4,232	10	42,320	
v)	Digital Photographs	Nos	4.3.7	280	20	5,600	
vi)	EPMA Study	Hour	4.4.1	8,540	15	1,28,100	
vii)	XRD Study	Nos	4.5.1	4,000	20	80,000	
	Sub-Total -E						




F	Sub Total A to E							33,56,316	
								1,40,38,221	
G	Geological Report Preparation	5 Hard copies with a soft copy	5.2	For the projects having cost more than 50 Lakhs but less than 150 Lakh, A minimum of Rs 2.5 Lakh or 5% of the work whichever more and Rs 3000/- per each additional copy			7,01,911		EA has to submit the final Geological Report in Hard Copies (5 Nos) and the soft copy to NMET.
H	Peer review Charges		As per EC decision				30,000		
I	Preparation of Exploration Proposal (5 Hard copies with a soft copy)	5 Hard copies with a soft copy	5.1	2% of the Cost or Rs. 5.00 Lakhs whichever is lower			2,80,764		EA has to submit the Hard Copies and the soft copy of the final proposal along with Maps and Plan as suggested by the TCC-NMET in its meeting while clearing the proposal.
J	Total Estimated Cost without						1,50,50,896		




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Annexure 5B

Time Schedule/ Action plan for Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) For REE & associated minerals in Sumarasar Area, District Kachchh,

Gujarat

	1	2	3	4	5	Review					6	7	8	9	10
1	Camp Setting														
2	Geological Party Days														
3	Pitting, Trnching & Sampling														
4	Heavy Mineral Separation/ Sample Preparation														
5	Laboratory Studies														
6	DGPS survey /BH Fixation														
8	Dilling (Auger+Scout BH)														
9	Camp Winding														
10	Geologist Party days, HQ														
11	Geological Report Writing														
12	Peer Review														

Sugrath Singh

Sugrath Singh