

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust
Minutes of the 76th Technical-cum-Cost Committee-1 (TCC-1) meeting held on
30th April and 01st May, 2025 through video conferencing

The 76th meeting of the Technical-cum-Cost Committee-I (TCC-1) of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) 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, NMET, on 30th April and 1st May, 2025.

Members of TCC-1, NMET and representatives from DGM Maharashtra, DMG, Karnataka, DGM Odisha, DGM, Chhattisgarh, GSI, MECL, IBM, CMPDI, OMC Ltd., Maheshwari Mining Pvt Ltd, Ecomen Mining Pvt. Ltd., Mining Tech Consultancy Services Limited (MTCS), Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Bhushilp Mines and Minerals Private Limited, Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd, Kartikay Exploration and Mining Services Pvt. Ltd have attended the meeting through their respective VC modes.

The list of participants is enclosed in Annexure-1.

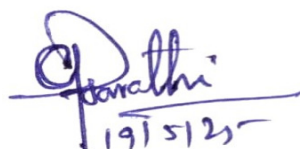
Shri C. Parthasarathi, Director, GSI and Member Secretary, TCC-1, NMET, welcomed Dr. S. Ravi, DDG, GSI and Chairman, TCC-1, NMET, Members of the TCC-1 and participants representing various Notified Exploration Agencies (NEAs) and Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs).

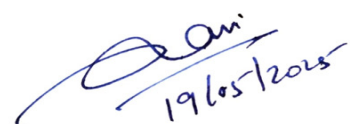
Dr. S. Ravi, Chairman of TCC-1, NMET, extended a warm welcome to all members of TCC-1 and participants representing various NEAs and NPEAs and conducted the proceedings as per circulated agenda. While welcoming the participants, the chairman suggested all the agencies to supply adequate technical inputs in the proposal and seek guidance if needed from the NMET. He further advised the official of NMET to assist the agencies whenever sought in preparation of proposals.

Agenda 76.1: Technical evaluation of new project proposals

Agenda 76.1.1. Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Manganese in Kawalewada Sakkardara Block, Tumsar Tahsil, Bhandara District, Maharashtra.
[Implementing Agency: DGM Maharashtra]

- a) The proposed block falls in Survey of India Toposheet No. 55 O/14 and exposes lithounits of Sausar Belt.
- b) GSI has carried out geological exploration in the area, identifying manganiferous horizons as detached lenticular bands along the contact between biotite gneiss and muscovite schist. Gonditic manganese ore was also observed in trenches and old pits, representing the eastern extension of the ore horizon from the Chikhala MOIL Mine.
- c) MOIL's Chikhala and Sitasaongi deposits lie on the northern range. While past mining occurred east of Chikhala, most of the 5 km ore zone is now inactive. The southern zone was mined near Sakkardara. The manganese ore in the proposed block is the eastern continuation of the Chikla Extension (MOIL) mine, itself an extension of the Chikla 'A' (Main) deposit. The main reef, originally 5–6 m thick, attenuates to about 1 m eastward, while in the proposed block, thickness ranges from 1.5 to 2.5 m. Workable ore mainly comprises secondary oxides, psilomelane and pyrolusite, found as thin, discontinuous lenses within the gondite.


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- d) The proposed Kodom Block, (2.00 sq km) has been carved out from the larger Kasaragod East Block. Three bedrock samples from the area report vanadium (V) concentrations ranging from 355 to 745 ppm, gallium (Ga) between 23 to 37 ppm, and alumina (Al_2O_3) content from 22.7% to 27.8%. Additionally, five pit samples reveal Al_2O_3 values varying between 22.37% and 30.20%.
- e) Similarly, in the proposed Kallar Block, three bedrock and two pit samples showed vanadium values of 407–531.9 ppm, gallium 29.30–32.60 ppm, and alumina content of 26.94–30.64%.
- f) Based on these encouraging results reported by MECL, Kodom and Kallar blocks are proposed for G3 stage investigation.
- g) The committee noted that MECL's G4 map shows patchy laterite distribution with no clear demarcation of mafic/ultramafic rocks. Moreover, satellite imagery indicates dense vegetation. Random bedrock samples showed Al_2O_3 values of 25.46% (Kodom) and 28.96% (Kallar), indicating aluminous laterite.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee did not recommend the proposals due to the lack of systematic data in G4 level and poor lithological clarity. It unjustifiable to recommend G3 exploration at this stage.

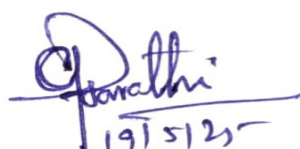
Agenda.76.1.9. Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Dongargaon-Kasara Block (5.59 sq. km), Yavatmal District, Maharashtra.

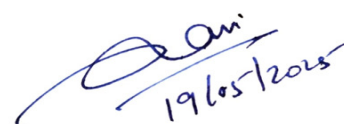
[Implementing Agency: MECL]

- a) The Dongargaon-Kasara Limestone Block, falling under Section 10(A)(2)(B) of the MMDR Act, 2015, lies in and around two lapsed limestone leases—M/s Taj Lime Industries (30.70 ha) and Shri Prabin Wamanrao Kasawar (41.00 ha)—in Dongargaon area. MECL has been requested by DGM, Maharashtra, to carry out exploration through NMET. The block is part of the Penganga Beds (Penganga Series) and falls under Survey of India Toposheet No. 56I/13.
- b) M/s Taj Lime Industries and Shri Prabin Wamanrao Kasawar conducted prospecting over 30.70 ha and 41.00 ha, respectively, in the Dongargaon area.
- c) Taj Lime Industries analyzed 5 samples from trial pits, reporting limestone resources of 3.75 MT with CaO: 31.18–57.07%, MgO: 0.77–23.13%, and SiO_2 : 2.82–5.18%.
- d) Kasawar analyzed 4 samples, estimating 4.25 MT of resources with CaO: 32.62–54.16%, MgO: 0.19–18.58%, and SiO_2 : 0.98–2.09%.
- e) Based on existing data and a field visit, MECL has proposed Preliminary (G-3) Exploration in the Dongargaon-Kasara Block to support the growing limestone demand.
- f) DMG, Maharashtra informed the committee that only 4.05 sq km of the proposed block area is available for exploration.
- g) After detailed review the committee agreed to recommend the proposal to EC for approval.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee recommended the proposal “Preliminary Exploration (G3) For Limestone In Dongargaon-Kasara Block, District- Yavatmal, Maharashtra” for approval of EC with an estimated cost of ₹ 122.58 lakh (including GST) within time


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schedule of 10months for carrying out the proposed work and submission of report as per Annexure - 7A &7B. The item will be reviewed after 5 months.

Agenda 76.1.10.Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Dongargaon-Ruikot Block (4.34 sq. km), Yavatmal District, Maharashtra.

[Implementing Agency: MECL]

- The Dongargaon-Ruikot Limestone Block lies within the two expired limestone lease areas of M/s Taj Lime Industries (30.70 Ha) and Shri Prabin Wamanrao Kasawar (41.00 Ha), granted under Section 10(A)(2)(B) of the MMDR Act, 2015. DGM, Maharashtra, has requested MECL to conduct exploration in these lapsed lease areas (letter no. Tech/1848/2023/260, dated 23/01/2024).
- To the north of the proposed block, M/s Taj Lime Industries (30.70 Ha) and Shri Prabin Wamanrao Kasawar (41.00 Ha) have conducted prospecting and identified limestone, with CaO ranging from 31.18% to 57.07% in trial pit samples.
- MECL geologists visited the area surrounding the lapsed leases, collected geological data, and identified potential exploration zones. Two samples collected yielded 36.84–38.09% CaO, 13.00–13.13% MgO, and 2.46–3.94% SiO₂
- As DMG, Maharashtra informed that they could not verify the overlapping issue, hence the committee decided to review the item after getting comments from DGM, Maharashtra.

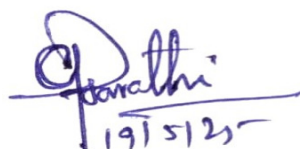
Recommendations of TCC-1:

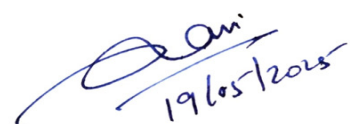
The committee will review the item after obtaining comments from DGM, Maharashtra.

Agenda 76.1.11.Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Nickel (Ni), Chromium (Cr) & Rare Metals (RM), Vemula area, YSR (Kadapa) District, Andhra Pradesh.

[Implementing Agency: MTCS]

- The proposed area falls in SOI toposheet no 57J/7 and it belongs to Lower Cuddapah. The item was given in-principle approval for the item during 74thTCC-1 meeting.
- The NGCM of GSI indicated copper values of 61-104 ppm in 19 composite samples near Midipenta and Rachigaripalle, along with elevated nickel (14-406 ppm) and chromium (up to 774 ppm) values near Vemula. In addition to these, few good values of V and Sc were also reported.
- A G4-level reconnaissance survey (FS 2019–20, FS 2020–21) around Rachigaripalle reported nickel (430 to 1000 ppm in BRS and 88 to 965.8ppm in PCS) and chromium (440 to 800ppm in BRS and 122.1 to 2959.24ppm in PCS) within differentiated gabbro near Vemula.
- Previous gravity and magnetic surveys in the area by GSI indicated presence of ferromagnesian minerals in the area.
- The item was presented in 74th TCC-1 meeting and after detailed review, the committee found the area to be promising for Ni, Cu, and Sc mineralization and advised the agency to conduct a field visit, collect samples from areas not previously explored by GSI, analyze them, and present a DPR with the analytical data.
- The committee reviewed the DPR in 76th TCC-1 meeting and agreed to recommend the proposal, advising that the drilling component to be fixed judiciously after review of phase-I work.


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