

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust
Minutes of the 71st Technical-cum-Cost Committee-I (TCC-I) meeting held on
25th and 26th November, 2024 through video conferencing

The 71st meeting of the Technical-cum-Cost Committee-I (TCC-I) 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 (GSI) and Chairman, TCC, NMET, on 25th and 26th November, 2024.

Members of TCC-I, NMET and representatives from Geo Exploration and Mining Solutions, Mining Tech Consultancy Services Limited, Critical Mineral Tracker, GSI, IBM, DGM, Chhattisgarh, DGM, Maharashtra, DMG, Goa, DGM, Odisha, MMPL, CSIR-IMMT, MECL, OMC, Kartikay Exploration and Mining Services private Limited, Maheshwari Mining Pvt Ltd, Gemcokati, GeoMarine, Tata Steel Ltd and PRB Infra Projects 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-I, NMET, welcomed Dr. S. Ravi, DDG, GSI and Chairman, TCC, NMET, Members of the TCC and participants representing various Notified Exploration Agencies (NEAs) and Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs).

Dr. S. Ravi, Chairman of TCC-I, NMET, extended a warm welcome all TCC members and participants representing various NEAs and NPEAs. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of timely submission of proposals by all NEAs and NPEAs. He explained that early submission provides the committee and associated agencies adequate time to thoroughly examine the proposals, and give detailed feedback.

Subsequently, the proceedings of meeting were initiated as per circulated agenda

Agenda 71.1: Technical evaluation of new project proposals

Agenda 71.1.1. Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Tungsten and associated Minerals between Kuhi and Khobna Block, Nagpur District, Maharashtra.

[Implementing Agency: MECL]

- a) The block lies at the southern margin of CITZ and the northern margin of the Bastar Craton and falls in part of SOI toposheet no. 55O/08
- b) The proposed block is strategically located within two tungsten-rich zones, Kuhi and Khobna, where the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted extensive studies and established significant tungsten resources viz. 2.046 MT X 0.132% WO₃ in Kuhi Sub Block (Zone I), 3.36 MT X 0.304% WO₃ in Khobna Block both explored up to the G2 stage.
- c) MECL conducted further G4 exploration, including mapping, bedrock sampling, channel sampling, and scout drilling in the Kuhi-Khobna-Agargaon Gap Area. Utilizing geophysical anomalies identified by GSI beneath soil cover, MECL drilled scout boreholes, intersecting tungsten-mineralized zones with grades of 400 ppm in all boreholes.

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- c) The committee observed that some of the higher values reported from the amphibolite are falling in close proximity with the railway line and may pose feasibility issue later for further exploration. In view of above, the committee agreed for pre-mature closure of the project. The revised cost sheet may be presented in the final review.

Recommendation of TCC-I

The committee commended to complete the requisite target and submit the report on or before 27th February, 2025 .

Agenda 71.3.4. Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 stage) for Gold in Bargur Block, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu.

[Implementing Agency: MECL]

- a) MECL informed that the project was approved in the 33rd EC Meeting held on 19th February, 2024. The sanction order was issued on 27th February, 2024 with timeline of 12 months (up to 26.02.2025) and approved cost was INR 2,50,28,266/-.
- b) The project was reviewed and found that encouraging Au values have been reported from the quartz veins observed in close proximity to the old workings dug over amphibolite.
- c) As the area in the extension of the old workings are under soil cover, MECL was advised to initiate geophysical surveys at the earliest so as to plan drilling.

Recommendation of TCC-I

MECL is recommended to complete the IP, SP and Resistivity survey and come back for review along with drilling plan

Agenda 71.3.5. Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for Manganese ore in Dhavalapur Block, Nagpur District, Maharashtra.

[Implementing Agency: MECL]

- a) MECL informed that the project was approved in the 35th EC Meeting held on 16th May, 2024. The sanction order was issued on 10th June, 2024 with timeline of 12 months (up to 09.06.2025) and approved cost was INR 2,31,59,625/-.
- b) Upon review, it was found that MECL could not complete the target due to non-availability of FC.

Recommendation of TCC-I

MECL is recommended to pursue the matter with Dept. of Forests and also seek help from DMG, Maharashtra to obtain forest clearance

Agenda 71.3.6. Ground Gravity-Magnetic survey under NGPM programme.

[Implementing Agency: GSI]

- a) GSI informed that project was approved and sanctioned Rs. 327 Crore (Rs. 385.86 Crore including GST) for outsourcing of NGPM survey in 2099 toposheets covering 13.5 lakh sq km area in 36 months (08.09.2021 – 07.09.2024). Project has been extended up to 07.09.2026 vide NMET OM dated 29.08.2024.


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Minutes of the 79th Technical-cum-Cost Committee-1 (TCC-1) meeting held on
28th & 29th July, 2025 through video conferencing

The 79th 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 28th & 29th July, 2025.

Members of TCC-1, NMET and representatives from—DGM Maharashtra, DMG, Karnataka, DGM Odisha, DGM, Chhattisgarh, DGM Goa, GSI, NGRI, MECL, IBM, CMPDI, OMC Ltd., KIOCL, Maheshwari Mining Pvt Ltd, United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd., Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd., NRD, TATA, Bhushilp Mines and Minerals Private Limited, Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd, Kartikay Exploration and Mining Services Pvt. Ltd., Critical Mineral Trackers, Eartnenviro Lab 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.

Agenda 79.1: Technical evaluation of new project proposals

Agenda 79.1.1. Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Gold in Bhagvati block, Bagalkot District, Karnataka.

[Implementing Agency: Kartikay Exploration and Mining Services Private Limited]

- a) The proposed block falls in Survey of India Toposheet 47 P/16 and belongs to Hungund - Kushtagi Schist Belt, Karnataka.
- b) This block was handed over to the DMG, Karnataka, by the Geological Survey of India under Geological Memorandum category for auction. Although the state government listed the block on the auction platform under CL and annulled subsequently State Govt. want upgradation for sufficient number of bidders.
- c) The block was discussed in technical committee meetings at state level and ultimately decided to get it upgraded through further exploration. Accordingly, the block was allotted to M/s Kartikay in the 7th Technical Committee meeting convened by DMG, Karnataka.
- d) Earlier the GSI evaluated geochemical anomalies for gold in the Hungund-Kushtagi and Hagari Schist Belt (Bagalkot, Koppal, Raichur, and Bellary districts, Karnataka) during 1999–2000. Shear zones in granite showed 22–651 ppb of Au over 100–650 m widths. In metabasalt and quartz-chloritic schist, values ranged from 47–138 ppb over 100–400 m. In BIF formations, gold ranged from 40–108 ppb over 100–300 m.

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- a) MECL informed that the project was approved in the 31st EC Meeting held on 12th September, 2023. The Sanction Order was issued on 5th October, 2023 with timeline of 12 months (up to 04.10.2024) and approved cost was INR 4,48,27,471/-. Timeline extension upto 04.04.2025 was approved by 39th EC.
- b) MECL apprised the committee that during Phase I work, Detailed Geological Mapping (1:2000 scale), BR/Channel sample (200 nos.) collection/analysis and trenching (60 cu.m.) were completed.
- c) Ground geophysical survey (comprising of I.P. cum Resistivity, SP, Magnetic (25 Lkm) & TDEM survey) was completed during Phase II work.
- d) The TCC was informed that Forest Clearance was applied for 10 BH on 30.12.2024 which is still under process and drilling can be commenced only after forest clearance is received.
- e) MECL sought an extension of timeline upto 04.04.2026.
- f) The TCC-1 discussed the project and suggested MECL to seek FC for 20 BHs, instead of 10 BH as infilling borehole may be needed, as discussed in the 71st TCC meeting.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee did not approve timeline extension at this stage and suggested MECL to complete all the formalities regarding Forest Clearance first. The committee also instructed that after getting Forest Clearance, MECL to present drilling plan and borehole cross sections before initiation of drilling work.

79.4.6 Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Manganese ore in Dhavalapur block (2.00 sq. km), Nagpur District, Maharashtra

[Implementing Agency: MECL]

- a) MECL informed that the project was approved in the 35th EC Meeting held on 16th May, 2024. The Sanction Order was issued on 10th June, 2024 with timeline of 12 months (up to 09.06.2025) and approved cost was INR 2,31,59,625/-.
- b) MECL informed that geological mapping work has been completed, but drilling and trenching work could not be initiated due to Forest Clearance issue.
- c) MECL apprised the committee that area falls in buffer zone of Pench Tiger Reserve.
- d) TCC was informed that application regarding forest clearance has been rejected and Forest Division has suggested to submit Form-A (Part-I) on 23-06-2025, which requires many compliances (Drone survey, CA land and others) which are not feasible at exploration stage for exploration agencies.
- e) The committee opined that the project may be given forced closure subject to submission of all details and documents (including Form C) pertaining to forest clearance issue to NMET. Timeline for the project got over by 30th June, 2025.
- f) The committee instructed MECL to submit Geological Report of the work completed.
- g) MECL was instructed to submit revised cost sheet in upcoming TCC-I meeting.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

The committee recommended forced closure of the project for approval of EC, subject to submission of relevant documents regarding forest clearance. The

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committee also recommended timeline extension upto 30.09.2025 to submit final GR subject to approval of EC.

79.4.7 Preliminary exploration (G3) for Manganese in Rongha block, Bhandara District, Maharashtra
[Implementing Agency: DGM Maharashtra]

- a) DGM Maharashtra informed that the project was approved in the 25th EC Meeting held on 29th June, 2022. The sanction order was issued on 27th July, 2022 with timeline of 15 months and approved cost was INR 90,17,447/-.
- b) The project was reviewed in 78th TCC-I meeting, wherein it was informed that detailed geological mapping of 38.34 sq. km and topographic survey of 5 sq.km. are completed. It was also apprised that only 150 m of drilling against the assigned target of 300 m could be completed.
- c) TCC-I in its 78th meeting has recommended the closure of item, subject to submission of formal letter by DGM Maharashtra.
- d) After receiving the formal communication from DGM Maharashtra regarding the delay in execution of work, the revised cost sheet of the item was discussed.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

1. ***The committee recommended closure of item titled "Preliminary exploration (G3) for Manganese in Rongha block, Bhandara District, Maharashtra" and extension of timeline upto 30.09.2025 for GR submission for approval of EC. The cost of item is revised from Rs. 90.17 lakh to Rs. 57.52 lakh with a change in amount of (-) Rs 32.65 lakhs (~36.2 % de-escalation) as per Annexure 7.***
2. ***Further, as the timeline for the project was over by 26th October, 2023 itself, the application for pre-closure of the project along with detailed justifications for the delay in execution need to be submitted to EC for approval.***

79.4.8 Preliminary exploration for Limestone in Savalhira block (4.04 sq. km), Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.
[Implementing Agency: DGM Maharashtra]

- a) DGM Maharashtra informed that the project was approved in the 25th EC Meeting held on 29th June, 2022. The sanction order was issued on 21st July, 2022 with timeline of 15 months and approved cost was INR 73,72,848/-. Time line was extended upto 31.03.2024 in 32nd EC meeting.
- b) The project was reviewed in 78th TCC-I meeting, wherein it was informed that detailed geological mapping of 4.04 sq. km and collection and analysis of 400 samples (380 from BH and 20 BRS) was completed.
- c) TCC-I in its 78th meeting has recommended the closure of item, subject to submission of formal letter by DGM Maharashtra.
- d) After receiving the formal communication from DGM Maharashtra regarding the delay in execution of work, the revised cost sheet of the item was discussed.

Recommendations of TCC-1:

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