

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust
Minutes of the 58th Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) meeting held on 30th October, 31st October and 01st November, 2023 through video conferencing

The 58th meeting of Technical-cum-Cost Committee [TCC] of National Mineral Exploration Trust [NMET] was held through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Ravi, Dy. Director General, Geological Survey of India (DDG, GSI) and Chairman, TCC, NMET on 30th & 31st October and 01st November, 2023.

Members of TCC-NMET and representatives from MECL, MPSMC Ltd., DMG Karnataka, GSI, OMC, Directorate Industries & Commerce, Geological & Mining Section, Tripura CMPDI, DGM Odisha, DGM Chhattisgarh, M/s. United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd., DGM Maharashtra and M/s. Gemcokati Exploration Pvt. Ltd., have attended the meeting through their respective VC modes.

The list of participants is at **Annexure-1**.

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


Dr. S. Ravi, DDG, GSI and Chairman, TCC, welcomed the members of TCC and participants representing various Notified Exploration Agencies [NEAs]. In his opening remarks, the Chairman advised the agencies to be innovative in their approach and bring out proposal targeting critical minerals. Taking cognizance of the opinions from various members of the TCC, the chairman advised the NEAs and NPEAs to timely complete the projects and also propose work components within their capabilities.

Subsequently, the proceeding of meeting was initiated as per circulated agenda.

Agenda 58.1: Technical evaluation of new project proposals:

Agenda 58.1.1. Reconnaissance survey (G-4 stage) for diamond in adjacent area of Angira-B and Angira –A block (10.0 sq.km area), district- Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh [Implementing Agency: MECL]

- a) The proposed block is located within the Meso-Proterozoic Kaimur group platformal sediments extending into the Palaeoproterozoic Bijawar group metasediments to the north. The geology of the area is defined by lithologies of the Bundelkhand Craton and overlying Proterozoic sedimentary basins. The oldest rock types include granitoid gneiss with enclaves of dolerite, gabbro, amphibolite and quartz reefs - all of which have been grouped as the 2500 Ma Bundelkhand Craton.
- b) MECL conveyed that based on the available database; they have carved out 10.0 sq. km along with Angira-A block which is notified by DGM, Madhya Pradesh in the Name of MECL for detailed Diamond exploration and adjoining area of Angira-B block for G-4 level exploration.


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ore zones delineated by GSI during the geological mapping were based on the sulphide minerals, field evidences and analytical results for gold values. Out of the four zones, three zones namely Zone-I, Zone-II and Zone-III falls in the GM block of GSI.

- b. It has been conveyed that Geological Memorandum (GM) of the Sirigeri block (Code: SR-KA-07-Block-17-Sirigiri, Commodity: Gold), spanning an area of 25.1 sqkm, was officially handed over to the Karnataka State Government by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) on November 29, 2021. This block was placed for a second attempt auction but was annulled. Consequently, the exploration division of the Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka has identified a 2 sqkm portion within the larger 25.1 sqkm GM block for G3 stage gold exploration. This zone was traced over a strike length of 900m with a width ranging from 100-150 m.
- c. Further it has been conveyed that DMG team of geologists carried out pre-field investigation from 13-9-2022 to 17-9-2022, and the team had observed shear zone with the indication of sulphide mineralization. Two BRS samples collected during the traverse was analyzed for gold, out of which one sample had indicated gold value of 300 ppb and the other had indicated nil value.
- d. GSI followed by DMG, Karnataka reported presence of ancient working for gold in form of pounding marks and pestle stones. DMG team has noticed shear zone bearing the indication of alteration zone with dissemination of sulphides which is extending over a strike length of 900 m.
- e. After the detailed deliberation, the committee suggested DMG, Karnataka to carry out the G3 item in the proposed block. The committee also suggested to explore simultaneously the remaining area of GM block through geophysical survey and surface sampling.
- f. Review of the project will be held after six months.

Recommendation of TCC:

The committee recommended the proposal for approval of EC for “Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for Gold & Associated Minerals in Sirigeri Block, (District-Ballari Karnataka” with an estimated cost of Rs. 345.19 lakh (including GST) within time schedule of 12 months for carrying out the proposed work and submission of report as perannexure-4A & 4B.

Agenda 58.1.10. Reconnaissance Survey (G4 stage) for Iron in Burhipada Block (Area – 75.8017 Sq. Km), District-Keonjhar, Odisha. [Implementing Agency: OMC]

- a) The proposed block belongs to Tomka-Daitari IOG Belt. The litho assemblages occupying in this entire belt comprises actinolite chlorite schist, talc tremolite schist, BHQ/ BMQ/ BHJ with pockets of iron ore, lenticular patches of conglomerate, gritty quartzite, carbonaceous phyllite, ferruginous shale and phyllite which are surrounded by granite towards both east, west and north. Dolerite dykes are found to occur as the intrusive rock to all these lithounits.
- b) The project proposal was send to GSI for comments. In response to this GSI has informed that as per the available information, about 80% of the proposed area is overlapping with the area earlier explored by GSI under G-4 stage during 2005-06. During FS 2005-06, LSM of 50.0 sq.km and detail mapping of 2.0 sq.km on 1:2000 scale around Burhipada, Pangaposhi & Madhyapur blocks have been carried out. During FS 2006-07, 04 BHs were drilled in Pongaposhi (02 BHs) and Madhyapur blocks (02 Bhs). Based on the above studies, two nos of Geological Memorandum (ER_OD_18_Pangapashi_Burhipada_IV & ER_OD_18_Madhyapur_IV) of the DM blocks (Madhyapur and


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Burhipada_Pangaposhi) have been handed over to the State Govt. for auction as Composite License. As mentioned in their proposal, the CL block of Burhipada have been excluded from the proposed block. However, the CL block of Madhyapur have not been excluded from the proposed block for G-4 stage investigation under NMET funding.

- c) The committee suggested to select block within the proposed area upgrade the block to G3 stage of exploration by tracing the band of BIF.
- d) Accordingly, OMC has modified the proposal and identified 3 blocks out of which Madhyapur block has been recommended to be executed presently.
- e) The committee agreed to take up the project at G3 Stage of exploration in Madhyapur block (6.5 sq.km), which involves detailed mapping at 1:4000 scale and boreholes are suggested to be drilled at 800 m spacing, vertical depth of intersection of the zone should be 30 m.
- f) The project will be reviewed after 6 months

Recommendation of TCC:

The committee recommended the proposal for approval of EC for “Reconnaissance Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for Iron Ore in Madhyapura Block (6.5 sq.km) , Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha.” with an estimated cost of Rs. 197 lakh (including GST) within time schedule of 12 months for carrying out the proposed work and submission of report as per annexure-5A & 5B.

Agenda 58.1.11 Reconnaissance Survey (G4 stage) for Gold in Mankarchua Block (Area – 29.1568 Sq. Km), District -Angul-Deogarh, Odisha [Implementing Agency: OMC]

- a) The proposed area for gold exploration belongs to Bonai – Keonjhar IOG Belt. The project area is represented by Quartz Pebble conglomerates (QPC) which were deposited in a fluvial system over a cratonised Granite-Greenstone basement. The same Granite-Greenstone association is also seen in the previously applied blocks of Salaikena and Dimirimunda in Keonjhar district. The QPC are late Archean to Early Proterozoic in age. As per studies conducted by Atomic Minerals Directorate the QPC have been found to be uraniferous. In Singhbhum craton, QPC occurrences in the Iron Ore Group (IOG) basins surrounding the Singhbhum Granite batholith, and the basal sediments of the Dhanjori volcano-sedimentary basin, show presence of gold.
- b) The project proposal was send to GSI for comments. In response to this GSI has informed that as per the available data, the proposed area is completely overlapping with the earlier G-4 stage investigation for gold carried out by GSI during FS 2019-20. A G-3 block, carved out from the G-4 stage investigation was taken up for investigation during FS 2022-23 for gold and associated elements in Mankarhachua Block, Angul District. Although, detailed geological mapping was completed, drilling could not be initiated due to local resistance. The G-3 block is also coming under the G-4 block proposed by OMC.
- c) **In view of above, the committee suggested to drop the item to avoid duplication of exploration work.**

Recommendation of TCC:


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- c) Application for Forest clearance was submitted on 05.06.2023 and got permission on 21.07.2023.
- d) Subsequently, drilling was started on 12.08.2023 (delay was due to incessant rains in the region) and till date only two boreholes could be completed and the third boreholes is running. Cumulative drilling achievement is 220.00m in three boreholes. Two boreholes have indicated copper mineralization through visual estimation.
- e) Owing to collection of revenue data, forest clearance and rainy season drilling got delayed, remaining two boreholes are falling in cultivation land i.e. paddy, likely to harvest by December'23.
- f) Farmers are protesting and denied drilling activity in these locations. Hence, the drilling program have been suspended till December' 2023.
- g) MECL requested for extension of time line for a period of three months for drilling to be commenced in the month of December' 2023 i.e. up to March-2024.

Recommendation of TCC:

Considering the limitations, the committee recommended timeline extension up to 31st March 2024.

List of participants from NMET in the 58th Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) meeting held on 30th,31st October and 1st November 2023 through video conferencing

S.NO	Name and Designation	Status	Remarks
1	Dr. S. Ravi, Dy. Director General, SU: Karnataka & Goa, GSI Bangalore.	Chairman, TCC	Through VC
2	Shri I.R. Kirmani, ADG (Retd.), GSI.	Member	Through VC
3	Shri Hemraj Suryavanshi, Addl. Director General (Retd.), GSI	Member	Through VC
4	Shri K. Koteswar Rao, Dy.D.G. (Retd.) GSI.	Member	Through VC
5	Dr. S. K. Kulshrestha, DDG-RMH-III, NER, GSI, Shillong	Member	Through VC
6	Shri S.K. Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist, IBM, Nagpur.	Member	Not Attended
7	Dr. E.V.S. S.K Babu, Scientist (G), NGRI.	Member	Through VC
8	Shri K.L. Mundra, Head-RMRE, AMD, Hyderabad	Member	Through VC
9	Shri A.R. Sengupta, Director (IFD), Ministry of Mines.	Member	Not Attended
10	Shri Vivek Kumar Sharma, Director, NMET, Ministry of Mines.	Member	Through VC
11	Shri P.K. Maharana, AGM (Finance), NALCO, Bhubaneswar.	Member	Through VC
12	Shri Ravi Kumar Gupta General Manager (Finance) HCL, Kolkata.	Member	Through VC
13	Smt. Vandana, Cost Accounts Officer, RSAS, Bangalore, GSI.	Member	Through VC
14	Shri C. Parthasarathi, Director, GSI & Member Secretary, TCC- NMET, GSI, Bengaluru	Member Secretary	Through VC


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Annexure-1

List of participants attended 58th Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) meeting of NMET Dated: 30th, 31st October and 1st November 2023 through videoconferencing

Sl. No.	Name/Designation	Email ID	Contact No	Organization
1.	Dr. S. Ravi, Dy. Director General, SU: K&G, GSI Bangalore	s.ravi1@gsi.gov.in	9441138834	Chairman, TCC
2.	Shri I.R. Kirmani, ADG (Retd.), GSI	irkirmani@yahoo.com	9414014723	Member TCC
3.	Shri Hemraj Suryavanshi, Addl. Director General (Retd.), GSI	hemrajgsi@gmail.com	7477042176	Member TCC
4.	Shri K. Koteswar Rao, Dy.D.G. (Retd.) GSI.	kkrao1957@gmail.com	9000117969	Member TCC
5.	Dr. S. K. Kulshrestha, DDG-RMH-III, NER, GSI, Shillong	s.kulshrestha@gsi.gov.in	9413330658	Member TCC
6.	Dr. E.V.S. SK Babu, Scientist (G), NGRI.	evsskbabu@ngri.res.in	9441535852	Member TCC
7.	Shri K.L. Mundra, Head-RMRE, AMD, Hyderabad	headrmre.amd@gov.in	9414785663	Member TCC
8.	Shri Vivek Kumar Sharma, Director, NMET, Ministry of Mines	vksharma.ofb@gov.in	7024570055	Member Ex-office
9.	Shri P.K. Maharana, AGM (Finance), NALCO, Bhubaneswar	pmaharana@rediffmail.com	8500669500	Member TCC
10.	Shri Ravi Kumar Gupta General Manager (Finance) HCL, Kolkata	ravi_g@hindustancopper.com	9433274328	Member TCC
11.	Smt. Vandana, Cost Accounts Officer, RSAS, Bangalore, GSI.	vandana@gsi.in	8660939235	Member TCC
12.	Shri C. Parthasarathi, Director, GSI & Member Secretary, TCC-NMET, GSI, Bengaluru	c.parthasarathi@gsi.gov.in	9483186932	Member Secretary
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14.	Shri J Kabilavasthu, Technical consultant	kabilavasthu.57@gmail.com	8197703740	DMG Karnataka
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16.	Shri Ravi Kumar M R, Geologist	ravikumar.mr01@gmail.com	9880030510	DMG Karnataka



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52.	Shri Hemant Yerpude Mines Forman	mpsmc@mp.gov.in	983662100	MPSMCL
53.	Shri Bhupendra Aswal Data Management Assistant	mpsmc@mp.gov.in	8823038443	MPSMCL
54.	Shri Niraj Kumar Chowdhary Appointed Consultant	mpsmc@mp.gov.in	9179084301	MPSMCL
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