

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
Metal-4 Section

Minutes for 1st Meeting of Apex Committee under S&T PRISM held on 12.02.2024 at 3 pm at Khanij Kaksh, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

1st Meeting of Apex Committee under S&T PRISM was held on 12.02.2024 at 3 pm at Khanij Kaksh, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines. The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-A.

2. At the outset, Dr. Anupam Agnihotri, Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre and Member Secretary, Apex Committee welcomed the members to the 1st Meeting of Apex Committee under S&T PRISM. Initiating the proceedings of the meeting, the Member Secretary briefed the Apex Committee about the evaluation process of the project proposals conducted by Technical Expert Committee (TEC) before recommending these to the Apex Committee. It was briefed that an announcement inviting proposals was published with last date 15th December, 2023. A total of 56 proposals were received. JNARDDC organized the TEC Meeting. The TEC adopted a two-stage review process to evaluate the proposals for recommendation to Apex Committee. The first stage comprised of preliminary screening of the proposals done by TEC on 8th January 2024 through VC. The TEC shortlisted 16 proposals for physical presentation on 17th January 2024 at JNARDDC, Nagpur. TEC has recommended 6 proposals to Apex committee. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up for discussion. The details of the discussion and the decisions taken on the project proposals and other agenda items are discussed in the following Paras.

3. Agenda Item No. 1 – Consideration of proposals recommended by Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC):

i. The Member Secretary made a detailed power point presentation on the proposals recommended by TEC before the Apex Committee.

ii. After detailed deliberations the Apex Committee approved 5 project proposals. One proposal (with ref no. PRISM/35/2023) which was recommended by the TEC was deferred by the Apex Committee. The details of the 5 approved and 1 deferred project proposals are as under:

1. Project No.: PRISM/38/2023:

Project Title	Establishment of Pilot Plant (TRL-7) for Extraction of Neodymium - Praseodymium (Nd-Pr) metal from Neodymium - Praseodymium oxide (Nd-Pr oxide) through Calcio-thermic reduction route for NdFeB Base Permanent Magnet Application
Company Name	Ashvini Rare Earth Pvt. Ltd., Pune, Maharashtra

Project Lead	Mr Vikram Ajit Dhoot, Mobile No: 9325422113 E-mail: vikram@ashvinimagnets.com
Project Cost & Duration	₹ 386.51 lakhs (₹ 150 lakhs (MoM) + ₹ 236.51 lakhs (Ashvini Rare Earth Pvt. Ltd.)) 2 Year
Industry Contribution	Ashvini Rare Earth Pvt. Ltd. ₹ 236.51 lakhs
Apex Committee Remarks	Approved. MoM Contribution - ₹ 150 lakhs* JNARDDC will define the Milestones and mention them in the Sanction order. The associated timelines for release of grant in 4 instalments as mentioned in the guidelines of S&T-PRISM will be communicated by JNARDDC to MoM and Project Lead. *JNARDDC will ensure that the amount to be spent by Startup/ MSME on items other than items being considered for release under S&T-PRISM shall not be less than 25% of the sanctioned amount and the Startup / MSME has the financial capability to meet these expenses.

2. Project No.: PRISM/31/2023:

Project Title	Lithium ion-electro fusion reactor for alkali metals
Company Name	Saru Smelting Pvt Ltd., Meerut, UP
Project Lead	Shashank Jain, Mobile No 9837041182 E-mail shashank@sarumetals.com
Project Cost & Duration	₹ 116.5 lakhs 15 months
Industry Contribution	NIL
Apex Committee Remarks	Approved. MoM Contribution - ₹ 116.5 lakhs* JNARDDC will define the Milestones and mention them in the Sanction order. The associated timelines for release of grant in 4 instalments as mentioned in the guidelines of S&T-PRISM will be communicated by JNARDDC to MoM and Project Lead. *JNARDDC will ensure that the amount to be spent by Startup/ MSME on items other than items being considered for release under S&T-PRISM shall not be less than 25% of the sanctioned amount and the Startup / MSME has the financial capability to meet these expenses.

3. Project No.: PRISM/8/2023:

Project Title	Efficient and Sustainable Production of Alumina Hydrates by Electrolysis of Sodium Carbonate and Produce Hydrogen.
Company Name	LN Indtech Services Pvt Ltd, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
Project Lead	Dr. Subash Chandra Mallick, Mobile No +91-9922498715 Email ID- lnindtech@gmail.com
Project Cost & Duration	₹ 40.5 lakhs 2 Year
Industry Contribution	NIL
Apex Committee Remarks	Approved. MoM Contribution - ₹ 40.5 lakhs* JNARDDC will define the Milestones and mention them in the Sanction order. The associated timelines for release of grant in 4 instalments as mentioned in the guidelines of S&T-PRISM will be communicated by JNARDDC to MoM and Project Lead. *JNARDDC will ensure that amount to be spent by Startup/ MSME on items other than items being considered for release under S&T-PRISM shall not be less than 25% of the sanctioned amount and the Startup / MSME has the financial capability to meet these expenses.

4. Project No.: PRISM/26/2023:

Project Title	Pilot scale production(25kg/Day) of high purity battery grade silicon material for lithium-ion battery anode
Company Name	Cellark Powertech Pvt. Ltd., Cuttack, Orissa
Project Lead	Ashwani Kumar Pandey, Mobile No +9194541694743 E-mail cellarktechnologies@gmail.com
Project Cost & Duration	₹ 190.8224 lakhs (₹ 170.8224 lakhs (MoM) + ₹ 20 lakhs (Cellark Powertech Pvt. Ltd)) 2 Year
Industry Contribution	Cellark Powertech Pvt. Ltd ₹ 20 lakhs
Apex Committee Remarks	Approved MoM Contribution - ₹ 170.8224 lakhs* JNARDDC will define the Milestones and mention them in the Sanction order. The associated timelines for release of grant in 4 instalments as mentioned in the guidelines of S&T-PRISM will be communicated by JNARDDC to MoM and Project Lead. *JNARDDC will ensure that the amount to be spent by Startup/ MSME on items other than items being considered for release under

	S&T-PRISM shall not be less than 25% of the sanctioned amount and the Startup / MSME has the financial capability to meet these expenses.
--	--

5. Project No.: PRISM/45/2023:

Project Title	GARBH - A Software for Exploration of Rare-earth-elements
Company Name	Caliche Private Limited, Shillong, Meghalaya
Project Lead	Ashutosh Kumar & Amit Priyadarshan, Mobile No +91-9089204360 E-mail: amitpriyadarshan@calicheglobal.com
Project Cost & Duration	₹ 120 lakhs 2 Year
Industry Contribution	NIL
Apex Committee Remarks	<p>Approved.</p> <p>MoM Contribution - ₹ 120 lakhs*</p> <p>At the end of the project, the PL should furnish data of atleast 10 new blocks of REEs to be taken up for exploration.</p> <p>JNARDDC will define the Milestones and mention them in the Sanction order. The associated timelines for release of grant in 4 instalments as mentioned in the guidelines of S&T-PRISM will be communicated by JNARDDC to MoM and Project Lead.</p> <p>*JNARDDC will ensure that the amount to be spent by Startup/ MSME on items other than items being considered for release under S&T-PRISM shall not be less than 25% of the sanctioned amount and the Startup / MSME has the financial capability to meet these expenses.</p>

iii. The Apex Committee deferred the following proposal:

1. Project No.: PRISM/35/2023:

Project Title	CarbonOne
Company Name	Caliche Private Limited, Shillong, Meghalaya
Project Lead	Anandh Mathew & Amit Priyadarshan, Mobile No +91-9089204360 E-mail: amitpriyadarshan@calicheglobal.com
Project Cost & Duration	₹ 120 lakhs 2 Year
Industry Contribution	NIL

Apex Committee Remarks	Deferred. Proposal to be examined with reference to the thrust areas of S&T-PRISM and its suitability for the Mineral/Metal industries
-------------------------------	---

4. Apart from the above, the following matters were also discussed:
- i. The Chairman directed that JNARDDC will inform the PLs of those projects which did not qualify TEC scrutiny on account of low TRL levels may be asked to apply under R&D Component of Science and Technology Programme of Ministry of Mines
 - ii. The Chairman directed that the S&T-PRISM Programme needs to be promoted among relevant stakeholders including Incubation Centers and Higher Education and Research Institutes. Database may be collected from NITI Aayog, Ministry of Education, DPIIT and other relevant organizations.
 - iii. Ministry needs to have a special focus on North-East India. Efforts should be made through North East Council as well for promotion of the S&T Programme of Ministry of Mines.
 - iv. Ministry of Mines and JNARDDC to promote the S&T Programme of Ministry of Mines in March 2024, physically and by email. Next announcement for S&T – PRISM to be made in March, 2024. At least 2 months’ time be given for submission of project proposals.
 - v. JNARDDC to explore the possibility of assigning the Start-ups to already existing incubation centers.
 - vi. Secretary (Mines) suggested to focus on 6 minerals (Lithium bearing minerals, Titanium bearing minerals and ores, Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals, Niobium and Tantalum bearing minerals and Zirconium-bearing minerals) that have been omitted from the list of 12 atomic minerals.
 - vii. Secretary (Mines) will discuss the matter regarding availability of AMD Data in his upcoming meeting with Secretary (DAE).
 - viii. The Chairman directed to study the DCIS Scheme of Department of Telecom with regard to sanction letter and agreement.
 - ix. Director (T) informed that some of the important proposals relating to Autonomous Underwater Vehicles / Marine Robots for deep sea exploration of minerals in sea bed have not been recommended by TEC. The Chairman directed that Director (T) will compile the list of those projects and provide to Director (Metal-4). Ministry will seek the opinion of DDG, GSI Mangalore on those projects. The recommendations of DDG, GSI Mangalore be brought before the Apex Committee in its next meeting.
 - x. Secretary (Mines) opined to discuss with BARC regarding direct Transfer of Technology (ToT) to the upcoming start-ups through S&T PRISM scheme of Ministry of Mines.
5. The Apex Committee meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair, members and the experts.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF 1st APEX COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12th
February, 2024**

Sr.No	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Shri V. L. Kantha Rao	Secretary (Mines) / Chairman	Ministry of Mines / Apex Committee
2.	Shri Sanjay Lohiya	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Mines
3.	Mrs. Farida M. Naik	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Mines
4.	Shri Pradeep Singh	Director (Tech.)	Ministry of Mines
5.	Shri R. P. Gupta	Director	Ministry of Mines
6.	Dr. H.S. Venkatesh	Director	NIRM
7.	Dr. Anupam Agnihotri	Director	JNARDDC
8.	Shri R. N. Chouhan	Sr. Pr. Scientist	JNARDDC
9.	Shri Amitesh Sinha	Vice President	HZL
10.	Shri Dipak Hazra	Dy DG	GSI
11.	Shri R. Saravanabhavan	Dy. Advisor	NITI Aayog
12.	Shri Shaji Varghese	CEO	SINE, IIT Bombay