

**Minutes of meeting with Principal Secretary Dept of
Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka under
chairmanship of Hon'ble Oversight Authority held on 18 Feb
2025 at 4:00 PM.**

The meeting was chaired by Justice Shri B. Sudershan Reddy, Hon'ble Oversight Authority (KMERC).

The list of participants is enclosed.

At the outset MD, KMERC welcomed Hon'ble OA, Advisor to OA, the Principal Secretary, Dept of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, and gave a brief account of fund allocation under CEPMZ. It was informed that a fund allocation of Rs. 15.00 Cr. is provisioned for Science & Technology Park for Chitradurga District. However, as there is immense scope for seeking innovative proposals under this sector, the sector needs to be looked at from the present perspective particularly in fostering a spirit of scientific and technological innovation among the youth."

Hon'ble OA asked the Principal Secretary, Dept of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T to present the proposals in brief.

The Principal Secretary gave a brief account of the Science Park Bengaluru. She presented the current activities being conducted in the science gallery, particularly science exhibitions.

It was noted that new topics for science exhibitions are introduced every eight months to engage the public and share real-time information about science and technology, with sponsorship from reputable private organizations.

The Principal Secretary made a detailed presentation on the proposal for establishing Science Parks in two-mining affected districts viz., Chitradurga and Vijayanagara (near Hampi), with budget estimates of Rs. 20.00 Cr. and Rs. 50.00 Cr., respectively.

Additionally, a proposal for a Bio-Incubator in Vijayanagara District was also presented, with an outlay of Rs. 75 Cr.

The salient features of the presentation are as follows:

Proposal for Science Park in Chitradurga and Vijayanagara Districts:

The details of the proposed parks in the **Vijayanagara** district are as follows:

- **Phase 1** includes features such as a Mathematical Structure, Live Experience, and Demonstration areas, a 360-degree Dome Theatre, an Escape Room, and a Marketplace.
- **Phase 2** will feature an Eco Park, a Butterfly Park, Lecture Halls, an Amphitheatre, and a Theatre.

Similarly, the proposed Science Park in **Chitradurga**, would comprise a Reading Area and Library, Live Experiments and Demonstration areas, a Sound Park, Lecture Halls, an Escape Room, a Crafting Hall, a VR Experience, and a Theatre.

The Secretary further explained each facility and highlighted that the science park would generate employment to people in mining-affected areas of the district apart from acting as a knowledge center. It is also designed to enhance students' learning experiences, foster scientific interest, and aid in monitoring environmental degradation caused by mining through scientific methods.

Additionally, the environmental components, such as the Butterfly Park and Botanical Gardens, are intended to educate local residents about insect life cycles and their connection to environmental degradation, as well as to provide insights into the district's biodiversity.

Proposal for Bio-Incubator at Vijayanagara District

The Secretary made a detailed presentation on the proposed Bio-Incubator project in Vijayanagara District, covering the project's cost, opportunities, objectives, and expected outcomes. The details are as follows:

- **Project Cost:** The project is estimated at Rs. 75 Crore.
- **Opportunities:**
 - Environmental restoration (bioremediation, eco-friendly mining)

- Healthcare solutions (occupational health, disease prevention)
- Agricultural revitalization (soil restoration, sustainable farming)
- **Key Focus Areas:**
 - Environmental Biotechnology: Bioremediation of mining-affected areas, bio-energy solutions
 - Industrial Biotech: Eco-friendly mining solutions, waste recycling
 - Healthcare & Medical Technology: Occupational health solutions
 - Precision Agriculture: Revitalizing soil affected by mining activities
- **Infrastructure:**
 - 5000 sq. ft. incubation space
 - Central Instrumentation Facility for biotech R&D
 - Shared office space, training, and mentoring facilities
- **Objectives:**
 - Support over 75 startups in biotech and environmental restoration within five years
 - Develop more than 18 innovative products in industrial biotech, healthcare, and sustainable agriculture
 - Create over 3200 skilled jobs in bio-entrepreneurship and environmental restoration
 - Foster academia-industry collaboration with local universities and industries
 - Enable knowledge transfer and training for MSMEs and local enterprises
- **Alignment with KMERC Objectives:**
 - Bioremediation projects for soil and water recovery

- Development of eco-friendly mining technologies (e.g., bioleaching, biosorption)
- Healthcare solutions for workers exposed to mining pollutants
- Waste-to-value technologies for utilizing mining waste in agriculture and construction

Further, it was noted that students from local institutions in and around Vijayanagara District would benefit from the project. The presence of mining companies and industries in the Ballari-Vijayanagara region provides collaboration opportunities for industrial biotech and sustainable mining solutions.

The Advisor to the Hon'ble OA opined that this project would help enhance the scientific knowledge of students from mining-affected areas, improve their competency and critical thinking skills, and elevate the standard of education by exposing them to practical fieldwork.

The Hon'ble OA expressed that the concepts behind the proposals were impressive, particularly in their aim to tackle the various issues faced by communities in and around mining regions by improving scientific skills and knowledge.

He instructed the Department to prepare and submit a comprehensive proposal detailing all aspects of the initiatives as per the guidelines of CEPMIZ.

Sd-
Justice B. Sudershan Reddy
Oversight Authority

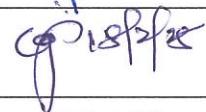
KARNATAKA MINING ENVIRONMENT RESTORATION CORPORATION

ATTENDANCE

18th OA Meeting

Date: 18.02.2025 Time: 3.30 PM

Venue: Board Room, KMERC

Sl.No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Hon'ble Justice B. Sudershan Reddy	Hon'ble Oversight Authority	
2	Sri. Balasubramanian, IAS., (Rtd)	Advisor, Hon'ble OA	
3	Smt. Uma Mahadevan, IAS.,	ACS & DC and Chairman, KMERC	
4	Dr. Sanjay S. Bijur, IFS	Managing Director, KMERC	
5	Lingaraja. S S, IFS	Member Secretary KSPCB	
6	Salma. Fahim	Secretary Animal Husbandry	
7	Vijith Karthik Segan	Chief Enr. Officer - 3 (a) KEDC	
8	Jayabrekeri B	A.I.O; KSPCB	
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