

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

ON

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CRITICAL MINERALS BETWEEN THE

MINISTRY OF MINES OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND

THE MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY, FINANCE, INDUSTRIAL, ENERGY AND

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE

The Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and the Ministry of the Economy, Finance, Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty of the Republic of France (hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Participants” and separately as a “Participant”) affirm their mutual interest in developing and strengthening cooperation in the field of critical minerals, as mutually identified by both Participants. The Participants recognize the importance of global cooperation in building resilient, sustainable and responsible critical minerals supply chains on the basis of this Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI). This JDI establishes a framework for cooperation between the Participants in the field of critical minerals on matters of mutual interest.

The Participants desire to cooperate in the field of critical minerals, as mutually considered between the Participants, specifically in exploration, mining, research and innovation, diversification of value chains, supply chain resilience, circularity, with the intent of strengthening cooperation between their countries.

Recognising the importance of both public sector and private sector participation to promote the cooperation in the field of critical minerals and believing that such co-operation will further strengthen the friendly relations between the Participants and implement the Horizon 2047 Roadmap signed by the President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India,

The Participants have the following intent:

Paragraph 1

OBJECTIVE

The Participants will endeavour to promote cooperation in the field of critical minerals as mutually intended, with a view to build strategic and resilient critical minerals value chains between the Participants.

Paragraph 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The areas of cooperation under this JDI may encompass the following activities:

- A. Identifying research and development opportunities across the entire value chains of critical minerals including artificial intelligence;
- B. Identification of (potential) supply chain disruptions for specific critical items relevant to both French and Indian economies and identification of projects to reduce related risks and dependencies and enhance security of supply for both countries. In doing so, both Participants will identify specific project proposals that could cater to the respective needs of both countries;
- C. Cooperation in joint extraction, processing, recycling and infrastructure development projects for critical minerals aimed at diversifying and promoting circular value chains in both countries and other resource-rich countries;
- D. Cooperation to support efforts to explore the technical and economic feasibility of mineral recovery from unconventional sources to produce critical minerals from e-waste, mine tailings/dumps, etc.;
- E. Facilitating collaboration between the national geological survey organisations of both countries in the areas of geological mapping and surveys, exploration and assessment of critical minerals, and geoscientific research;
- F. And any other activity within the objective of this JDI as mutually concurred by the Participants in writing.

Paragraph 3

FORMS OF COOPERATION

3.1 Without excluding recourse to other means, the Participants encourage cooperation through the following actions:

- A. Sharing of experiences and application of artificial intelligence in the field of exploration;
- B. Facilitating cooperation between industry partners in establishing resilient and diversified value chains, including offtake-agreements in India or France or other resource-rich countries and sharing of knowledge about exploration, extraction, processing and circularity of critical minerals;
- C. Consultations among relevant stakeholders including government representatives, experts, researchers, companies, and financial institutions to promote collaboration in exploration, mining, processing, circularity, and value chain integration;
- D. Fostering research on critical minerals and metals through scientific projects and instruments such as mobility of researchers and scientific conferences.

Paragraph 4

CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

The lead authorities responsible for the implementation of this JDI will be;

- A. For the Republic of India, Ministry of Mines; and
- B. For French Republic, the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty.

Paragraph 5

IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The lead authorities will be responsible for the identification of implementing agencies, the review of progress, and the evaluation of results to consider any other aspect relevant to the promotion of bilateral cooperation;
- B. In order to implement the cooperation under this JDI, the Participants may constitute a Joint Working Group (JWG) of equal representatives of the Participants. The lead authorities will develop an implementation plan, including determination of priority critical minerals value chains for cooperation and conduct periodical meetings.
- C. While the composition of JWG will be decided by each Participant separately, the JWG may include the representatives of the national geological surveys of both the Participants.
- D. The place, agenda, date and mode (mainly virtual and physical in exceptional cases) of meetings of the JWG will be determined by mutual decision of the Participants.

Paragraph 6

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Participants will fully respect intellectual property rights of the Participants which are relevant to this JDI in line with the laws and regulations of their respective countries. The Participants can make separate arrangements for intellectual property rights originating from the collaboration under this JDI if and when needed.

Paragraph 7

PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- A. No information/data shared under this JDI will be used for any other purposes than this JDI or be shared with third parties without the written consent of the Participants.
- B. The Participants will take necessary measures to maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary or sensitive information exchanged under this JDI, subject to their respective national laws and policies.
- C. All information and documents to be exchanged pursuant to this JDI will be kept confidential and jointly held by the Participants. The Participants will not share such information with non- Participants without the prior written consent of the other Participant.
- D. All Confidential Information will remain the exclusive property of the disclosing Participant. The Participants have the mutual understanding that this JDI and the disclosure of the confidential information do not grant or imply any license, interest or right in respect to any intellectual property right of the other Participant.
- E. Unpublished information, whether oral, in writing or otherwise, discovered or conceived by the scientists or technicians and exchanged under the provisions of this JDI will not be transmitted to a non-Participant, unless otherwise decided by the Participants in writing.

Paragraph 8

AMENDMENT

This JDI may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants.

Paragraph 9

OTHER PROVISIONS

9.1 This JDI will be implemented from the date of its signature by the Participants for a period of five (5) years. This JDI may be renewed for further terms as mutually concurred by the Participants in writing, This JDI can be terminated by either Participant by giving three (3) months' advance written notice to the other participant through diplomatic channels.

9.2 This JDI does not create legal or any financial obligations on either Participant within the framework of national and international law. Implementation of this JDI will be subject to national laws, rules and regulations of the Participants

Signed by the duly authorised representatives of the Participants in two original copies in English, Hindi and French languages, all texts being equally valid.

Done at New Delhi on 17.02.2026.

On behalf of the Ministry of Mines of
the Republic of India



(Shri G. Kishan Reddy)
Union Minister of Coal & Mines

On behalf of the Ministry of the
Economy, Finance, Industrial,
Energy and Digital Sovereignty of the
French Republic



(Mr. Roland Lescure)
Minister of the Economy, Finance,
Industrial, Energy and Digital
Sovereignty