JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

ON

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CRITICAL MINERALS

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF MINES OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

AND

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) of the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Participants" and separately as a "Participant") confirm their mutual interest in developing and reinforcing their cooperation in the field of critical minerals, mutually considered by both Participants as critical minerals, on the basis of this Joint Declaration of Intent (JDoI). They recognize the need for global cooperation to build resilient and responsible critical mineral supply chains and that this JDoI establishes a framework for cooperation concerning the field of critical minerals, on subjects of mutual interest.

They desire cooperation in the field of critical minerals, as mutually considered between the Participants, specifically in exploration, mining, research and innovation, integration 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,

The Participants have the following intent:

Section 1

OBJECTIVE

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

Section 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

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

a. **Research and Innovation:** Identification of joint research and development projects, building on the expertise of Indian and German knowledge institutes and exchanging knowledge about technologies for exploration, mining, processing and circularity of critical minerals and substitution.

b. **Investment and Infrastructure Development:** Facilitate investments in exploration, mining, circular economy solutions and infrastructure development for critical minerals in both countries and other resource-rich countries, leveraging shared expertise to strengthen supply chains and sustainable resource development.

c. **Integration of value chains:** Collaboration in supply chain diversification and in facilitating supply chain integration identifying projects in India, or Germany, or other geographical regions.

d. Promotion of **midstream** and **downstream value addition** of critical minerals.

e. **Supply chain resilience:** identification of (potential) supply chain disruptions for specific critical items relevant to both Germany's and India's 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 develop specific project proposals to cater for the respective needs of both countries.

f. **Circularity:** Identification of projects to promote circular economy solutions, e.g. with regard to critical and rare earth elements.

g. **Responsible and transparent supply chains**: Promotion of transparency and traceability in minerals supply chains and knowledge exchange on digital tools and solutions.

h. Cooperation on **strategic stockpiling** approaches, consistent with domestic laws.

i. **Mineral Recovery from Unconventional Sources:** Cooperation to support efforts to explore the technical and economic feasibility of small pilot-scale facilities to produce critical minerals from e-waste, mine tailings/dumps, etc.

j. **Geoscientific exploration:** 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.

k. and any other activity within the objective of this JDoI as mutually concurred by the Participants in writing.

Section 3

FORMS OF COOPERATION

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

a. To facilitate cooperation between industry partners in establishing resilient value chains including offtake-agreements in India or Germany or other resource-rich countries and sharing of knowledge about exploration, extraction, processing and circularity of critical minerals.

b. 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.

c. To facilitate collaboration between the national geological survey agencies of both the Participants in the areas of geological survey, critical mineral exploration and research through geoscientific intelligence on the occurrence, distribution and resource potential of critical minerals in India, Germany and other geographical regions.

3.2 All activities and actions requiring financing by the Participants – regardless of whether they are listed in this JDoI – can only be carried out if the corresponding budgetary funds are available.

Section 4

CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

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

a. In the case of the Republic of India, Ministry of Mines; and
b. In the case of Germany, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE).

Section 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 JDoI, 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. The progress will be reviewed annually.

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.

e. Synergies will be sought between the JWG and existing fora, such as the Indo-German Platform for Investments in Renewable Energies Worldwide.

Section 6

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

The subsistence and travel expenses of Participants in different programmes of co-operation and in meetings of JWG contemplated in this JDoI will be borne by the sending country, while the other expenses will be borne according to the provisions decided upon by the Participants.

Section 7

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Participants will fully respect intellectual property rights of the Participants which are relevant to this JDoI 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 JDoI if and when needed.

Section 8

PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

a. No information/data shared under this JDoI will be used for any other purposes than this JDoI 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 JDoI, subject to their respective national laws and policies.

c. All information and documents to be exchanged pursuant of this JDoI 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 Participants.

d. All Confidential Information will remain the exclusive property of the disclosing Participant. The Participants have the mutual understanding that this JDoI 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 JDoI will not be transmitted to a non-participant, unless otherwise decided by the Participants in writing.

Section 9

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any disputes between the Participants arising out of interpretation or implementation of this JDoI will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation.

Section 10

AMENDMENT

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

Section 11

COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

11.1 This JDoI will be implemented from the date of its signature by the Participants for a period of five (5) years. This JDoI may be renewed for further term as mutually concurred by the Participants in writing, This JDoI can be terminated by either

Participant by giving three (3) month's advance written notice to the other Participant through diplomatic channels.

11.2 The termination of this JDoI will not affect the completion of any ongoing projects at the moment of its termination, unless otherwise consented to by the Participants in writing.

11.3 This Joint Declaration of Intend does not create legal or any rights or obligations under national and international law. Implementation of this JDoI will be subject to national laws, rules and regulations of the Participants

Signed by the duly authorised representatives of the Participants in two copies at Delhi on 10 January 2026.

On behalf of the Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India	On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany
(Shri Piyush Goyal)	(Dr. Philipp Ackermann)
Secretary	German Ambassador to India