Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership: Shaping the Future of Technology, Sustainability and Supply-Chain Resilience

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Following a meeting between Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2025, the trilateral Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership was announced. The initiative aims to strengthen cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, complementing existing bilateral frameworks while leveraging the unique capabilities of the three countries. Its primary focus areas include green energy innovation, resilient and diversified supply chains, and strategic collaboration toward net-zero objectives, alongside large-scale adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) for social and economic advancement.[1] India's AI Impact Summit in February 2026 has advanced discussions on AI, a key component of ACITI, furthering the partnership's momentum.

The recent visit of the Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, to India during 27 February-02 March 2026, followed by the India-Canada Joint Statement, signals a strategic reset and provides renewed momentum to the partnership.[2] The joint statement underlined the progress made under the ACITI partnership, noting the meeting of the three countries during the India AI Impact Summit 2026. A joint work plan has been committed to advancing practical trilateral collaboration in AI, spanning digital infrastructure, semiconductor and electronics manufacturing, high-performance computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, and startup ecosystems. This vision was formalised through the signing of a trilateral MOU on Cooperation in Technology and Innovation, which codified a roadmap for tangible, innovation-driven outcomes.[3,4]

The ACITI Partnership draws on the complementary strengths of each country. India brings a large talent pool in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM), AI, and industrial research and development (R&D), coupled with growing domestic manufacturing capabilities and expertise in scaling technology solutions. Australia contributes a wealth of critical minerals, expertise in clean energy research, and applied resource and deep-tech innovation ecosystem, together with strong Environment & Social Governance (ESG) standards and a strategic position in the Indo-Pacific. Canada provides foundational AI research, advanced governance frameworks for AI, clean energy technologies, nuclear expertise, and an innovative ecosystem anchored by universities and industry hubs. Across three countries, critical minerals, clean energy technologies, AI, and advanced manufacturing remain priority areas. By combining these capabilities, the ACITI Partnership could create a functional, end-to-end framework for innovation, resilient supply chains, and green energy transition.

The partnership's emphasis on critical minerals, clean energy technologies, AI, and advanced manufacturing reflects a strategic response to global supply-chain vulnerabilities, particularly due to concentration in a few countries. In light of the joint initiatives such as the Canada-Australia Joint Declaration on Critical Minerals[5] and India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership (CMIP)[6], the three countries, through the ACITI, can help diversify supply chains, advance clean energy solutions, and operationalize AI for societal and economic impact, integrating efforts that no single country could achieve alone.

The trilateral framework is anchored in their respective bilateral relationships. India-Australia ties are strengthened under a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Strategic collaboration has increasingly centred around science, technology, energy and critical minerals. The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) anchors long-standing scientific cooperation, supporting applied research across clean energy, water security, health, advanced technologies, and downstream processing of critical minerals. Engagements in civil space science, technology, and education include collaborative space projects, mission support, satellite launches, and commercial partnerships. In energy and resources, energy security dialogues, joint task forces on solar and green hydrogen, renewable energy partnerships, and the Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)- Critical Mineral Facilitation Office (CMFO) joint-investment framework on critical minerals can be significant for resilient, diversified clean-energy supply chains.[7] Australia is also a member of key India-led initiatives, including the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuel Alliance.

India-Canada collaboration in science and technology, clean energy, civil nuclear cooperation, space, and innovation ecosystems has shown resilience and strategic continuity. Bilateral frameworks include the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS) Program, energy and nuclear dialogues, and collaboration in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, ICT, clean technology, and critical resources.[8-10] Canada is also a member of the International Solar Alliance and the Global Biofuel Alliance. With substantial reserves of critical and rare-earth minerals, Australia and Canada on 01 November 2025 signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Critical Minerals Cooperation, formalising a strategic agenda to promote and strengthen cooperation across the entire critical minerals value chain, from upstream production to midstream processing, refining, recycling and low-carbon technologies, while promoting investment facilitation, policy and regulatory alignment, and ESG and indigenous-inclusive governance. By institutionalising mechanisms for co-investment, sharing of best practices, and ministerial oversight, the agreement seeks to strengthen diversified, resilient, and standards-based supply chains.[11]

Australia's Critical Minerals Strategy 2023-2030[12], Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy (2022)[13], and India's National Critical Mission (2025)[14] together reflect a convergence in national policy priorities that ACITI Partnership is uniquely positioned to harness. Australia's strategy focuses on expanding upstream extraction and downstream processing capacity, embedding high environmental, social, and governance standards, and building international partnerships. Canada's approach seeks to position the country as a reliable global supplier of responsibly sourced critical minerals, emphasising clean energy, advanced technologies, and commercialisation through research ecosystems.[13] India's National Critical Mineral Mission complements these strategies on the demand and manufacturing sides, aiming to secure supply chains, strengthen value chains, and support large-scale deployment of clean energy and advanced manufacturing.[14] Viewed collectively, these national frameworks recognise the significance of critical minerals. They show that shared climate goals, clean energy, and net-zero emissions commitments are interdependent components of a broader supply-chain ecosystem.

ACITI complements existing multilateral and minilateral initiatives, such as the Minerals Security Partnership, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, and the EU-US Trade and Technology Council, while remaining distinct in its operational focus. Across these alliances, energy transition, supply-chain security, and technological sovereignty remain key drivers. Unlike the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), which is primarily anchored in a strategic and security cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific,

ACITI is designed as a functional, innovation-driven framework centered on technology cooperation, resilient supply chains, and sustainability. The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) closely aligns with ACITI's objectives in promoting diversified critical-mineral supply chains, and ACITI can add value by linking mineral cooperation with downstream processing, clean-energy technologies, and industrial innovation. Similarly, the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) provides a governance framework for ethical and human-centric AI adoption. ACITI can operationalise this through applied research, deployment, and innovation ecosystems. India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) offer a South-South science and technology collaboration. ACITI should be seen within the broader trend of strategic supply-chain realignment, aimed at securing critical minerals through partnerships and cooperation among like-minded countries. In this context, ACITI occupies a unique space between bilateral mechanisms and broader multilateral strategic frameworks, creating a platform to translate shared strategic intent into innovation outcomes and supply-chain resilience.

The ACITI roadmap ahead needs to take into account different development priorities, regulatory mechanisms, asymmetries in capacities, together with geopolitical concerns. For the ACITI Partnership, operational mechanisms could include joint feasibility studies on processing facilities, pilot research programmes on battery materials, and coordinated ESG and traceability standards for critical minerals. Collaborations in AI, particularly in public sector applications such as health, agriculture, and cybersecurity, offer low-risk, high-benefit opportunities. Talent mobility, including trilateral fellowships, short-term research residencies, joint doctoral supervision, and industry-linked programmes, can foster knowledge circulation and support the creation of an innovation ecosystem from research to commercialisation. Together, fellowships, joint R&D, and tech entrepreneurship can create an innovation ecosystem from talent and ideas to deployment and market adoption. Private sector engagement is equally critical. Predictable funding models, co-investment frameworks, and risk-sharing arrangements can accelerate innovation, build confidence, and ensure the establishment of the ACITI Partnership as a functional and delivery-oriented framework.

For India, Australia, and Canada, the partnership serves multiple strategic purposes, which include reducing dependence on any single global supplier, accelerating clean-energy transitions, and establishing leadership in ethical AI, industrial R&D, and critical-mineral governance. ACITI, as a minilateral partnership, can collaborate effectively by combining talent, industrial capacity, and innovation ecosystems to shape resilient, sustainable global technology frameworks. It positions the three countries at the forefront of global technology governance. The broader strategic logic underpinning the ACITI partnership was reinforced at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, which further highlighted the need for cooperation on technology governance, the clean energy transition, and resilient supply chains to pursue shared objectives for a secure and sustainable future. The escalating instability in West Asia and regional tensions have further accentuated the persistent vulnerabilities of global energy markets due to geopolitical disruptions. Given the regional role in oil and gas production and the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting the risks of concentrated energy supply routes, and recognising the growing intersection of geopolitics, economic security, and strategic governance of energy supply chains, ACITI further highlights the significance of such partnerships for fostering cooperation in critical minerals, clean-energy technologies, and advanced innovation ecosystems.

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