

Strengthening UK–India Ties: A Landmark Visit for the Future of Technology Minerals

Last week, our Chairman Robin Brundle joined Prime Minister Keir Starmer and a distinguished delegation of 126 UK business leaders, tech entrepreneurs, SMEs, and Vice-Chancellors on a historic trade mission to India – the largest UK trade delegation to visit the country to date.

Why the Visit Mattered

The visit represented a pivotal opportunity to strengthen UK–India trade relations, turning earlier commitments into concrete actions and greater detail. It provided a platform to deepen collaboration, attract investment, and drive innovation across a range of emerging industries.

It was an honour to be selected to represent the UK’s growing circular economy and critical minerals sectors on such a significant stage. Beyond the formalities, this mission opened the door to meaningful networking and partnership opportunities – particularly for SMEs looking to connect with high-quality Indian partners. These conversations are helping build the confidence and frameworks needed to establish joint ventures and collaborative projects across the minerals, battery, and wider technology ecosystems.

Our Chairman engaged directly with decision-makers from India, alongside senior figures from major UK and global corporations. He also met representatives from a leading Indian bank who expressed interest in supporting future exploration and development activities. These discussions underscored a shared ambition to build sustainable and responsible mineral supply chains for the decades ahead.

Strategic Relevance for Technology Minerals

India is rapidly establishing itself as a region of growing strategic importance for mineral exploration. Foundational work, including satellite-based land scanning, has now mapped much of the country’s mineral resources and indicative quantities, creating a robust platform for future international collaboration.

For TMI, this presents an exciting opportunity to contribute to and validate this exploration through our expertise, advancing the next stage of the value chain. Importantly, these efforts align with the global objective of reducing dependency on China for critical minerals and battery metals, ensuring a more secure and diversified supply for the energy transition.

Building Global Partnerships for Sustainable Growth

The delegation also marked the announcement of the UK–India Critical Minerals Processing and Downstream Collaboration Guild—an initiative designed to strengthen and diversify supply chains, stimulate investment, and promote shared economic growth. The Guild represents the formal culmination of over two and a half years of collaboration and is focused on turning strategy into tangible action.

Alongside this, Phase 2 of the UK–India Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory was launched — expanding mineral coverage, integrating advanced technologies, and unlocking new bilateral investment opportunities. A new satellite campus at IIT–ISM Dhanbad will further deepen academic and industrial collaboration in this space.

As part of the initiative, six key Indian territories presented their mineral research and resources — signalling a proactive approach to partnership and transparency in mineral development.

This visit underscored a shared vision: to collaborate internationally, innovate responsibly, and empower the next generation with sustainable opportunities. TMI is proud to be part of this journey towards a secure, diversified, and circular critical minerals future—one that actively challenges global dominance in the sector by China. India's resources support the geopolitical strategy of establishing a second supply solution, reducing reliance on China and strengthening global supply resilience.

A Note of Thanks

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the UK Government and the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) for their leadership and responsiveness throughout the mission. Their support also ensured that the delegation's goals were met with efficiency and purpose.

While Technology Minerals remains politically agnostic, we are proud to work constructively with all governments, departments, and partners that share a commitment to building a secure, sustainable, and collaborative global minerals future.