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EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

India at Evian: Shaping the G7's Global Agenda

INDIAN EXPRESS

17 June 2026 · IR · GS2 · GS3

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India at Evian: Shaping the G7's Global Agenda

 **The Indian Express** 17 June 2026 **GS2** **GS3**

Source: ujyari.com — researched, fact-checked & UPSC-mapped



INTERVIEW ANGLE

"Can India credibly speak for the Global South at the G7 while deepening its strategic ties with the West?"

Source: [Original editorial](#)  [The Indian Express](#)

 **Every fact web-verified against primary sources** (<https://ujyari.com/how-we-verify/>)

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

India attended the 52nd G7 summit at Evian, France, held from June 15 to 17, as an outreach partner. The invitation confirms India's standing as an indispensable interlocutor (<https://ujyari.com/vocab/interlocutor/>) between the industrialised West and the Global South. But the agenda, dominated by critical minerals, AI governance, CBAM and climate finance, also spotlights India's deepest strategic weakness: dependence on imported minerals.

THE CRUX IN 60 WORDS

India joined the G7 at Evian as an outreach partner, positioned to bridge Western and Global South interests on critical minerals (<https://ujyari.com/terms/critical-minerals/>), AI governance, the EU's CBAM and climate finance. The role offers voice and visibility. Yet India's near-total import dependence on lithium, cobalt and nickel reveals that diplomatic standing must be matched by domestic capability to carry real weight.

THE ISSUE, DECODED

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ELEMENT	WHAT IT IS	WHY IT MATTERS
G7 outreach	Invited non-member participation at the summit	Gives India voice on global rule-making without membership
Critical minerals	Lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earths	Power the energy transition; India imports almost all of them
CBAM	EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism	Taxes carbon-heavy imports, hitting developing economies
Climate finance	Funds promised by rich to developing nations	Chronically short of the pledged commitments

THE ANALYSIS: BRIDGE WITH A WEAK FOUNDATION

- ❶ **Dual identity is India's strength.** Few states can credibly speak both as a major economy and as a voice of the Global South, giving India unique convening value.
- ❷ **The agenda favours rule-shaping.** On AI governance and critical minerals, India wants to help write the rules rather than inherit them, a shift from rule-taker to rule-maker.
- ❸ **CBAM is a flashpoint.** The EU's carbon border tax threatens developing-country exports, and India can carry that grievance into the room.
- ❹ **Import dependence undercuts leverage** (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/leverage/>). A country that imports nearly all its lithium, cobalt and nickel bargains from a position of vulnerability (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/vulnerability/>), not strength.

DATA AND INSTITUTIONS VAULT

52nd G7, Evian, France, June 15 to 17, 2026; India invited as outreach partner.

US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan, plus the EU.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, an EU carbon tariff on imports.

Near-total import dependence on lithium, cobalt and nickel.

Mineral Security Partnership for diversified critical-mineral supply.

THE DEBATE

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Argument for the role: Outreach access lets India shape the global agenda on minerals, AI and climate, amplifying Global South concerns inside the most powerful economic club.

Argument against: Outreach partners have voice without vote. India risks legitimising a club that still excludes it, while its mineral dependence limits real bargaining power.

Balanced verdict: The G7 platform is worth using, but only if India converts visibility into rule-shaping and simultaneously fixes its supply-chain vulnerability at home.

HOW TO THINK ABOUT THIS (TRANSFERABLE SKILL)

When assessing a country's diplomatic influence, test whether . A seat at the table without underlying economic or technological strength yields symbolism, not leverage. Influence equals standing multiplied by self-reliance.

DIAGRAM-IN-WORDS

Outreach invite -> Bridge West and South -> Shape rules -> (constraint) Mineral dependence -> Build capability

THE WAY FORWARD

- ① **Build domestic mineral processing** to reduce reliance on imported and processed critical minerals.
- ② **Secure diversified supply partnerships** through the Mineral Security Partnership and **bilateral** (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/bilateral/>) deals.
- ③ **Use G7 access for agenda-setting** on **equitable** (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/equitable/>) CBAM rules and adequate climate finance.
- ④ **Champion inclusive AI governance** that serves developing economies, not just the advanced ones.

THE TAKEAWAY BOX

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Case study for India's multilateral (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/multilateral/>) diplomacy, critical-mineral security and Global South bridge-building.

“Voice without capability is incomplete.”

G7 members, CBAM, Mineral Security Partnership, Evian summit dates.

Can India ethically represent the Global South while pursuing its own great-power ambitions?

GS2 questions on India and multilateral groupings; GS3 on resource security.

Energy transition, strategic autonomy (<https://ujjyari.com/terms/strategic-autonomy/>), climate diplomacy, supply-chain resilience.

Sources: *Indian Express* (<https://indianexpress.com/section/opinion/>), *Mint* (<https://www.livemint.com/opinion>)

Source: India at Evian: Shaping the G7's Global Agenda — Ujjyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Editorial Analysis

KEY ARGUMENTS AT A GLANCE

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India's outreach role at the 52nd G7 positions it as a bridge on critical minerals, AI governance, CBAM and climate finance, but its import dependence limits its bargaining power.


SUPPORTING

- India can voice Global South concerns on CBAM and climate finance that the G7 often overlooks.
- Critical minerals and AI governance are areas where India seeks rule-shaping, not rule-taking.
- Near-total import reliance on lithium, cobalt and nickel weakens India's negotiating leverage.


COUNTER

Critics argue outreach partners have voice without vote, and India risks legitimising a club that excludes it.


WAY FORWARD

Build domestic mineral processing, secure supply partnerships and convert G7 access into agenda-setting on equitable rules.


MAINS ANSWER FRAMEWORK

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QUESTION

Discuss India's evolving role as a bridge between the West and the Global South at multilateral forums like the G7, in the context of critical mineral security. (250 words)

INTRODUCTION

The 52nd G7 summit at Evian invited India as an outreach partner, reflecting its growing weight as a bridge between the industrialised West and the Global South on issues from critical minerals to climate finance.

BODY

India's value at the G7 lies in its dual identity. It can carry Global South anxieties about the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which threatens developing-country exports, and about the chronic shortfall in climate finance, into a forum that sets the rules of the global economy.

On AI governance, India argues for inclusive, development-friendly norms rather than restrictive frameworks designed by and for the advanced economies. Yet India's leverage is constrained by a stark vulnerability: it imports almost all of its lithium, cobalt and nickel, the minerals that power the energy transition and digital economy.

A bridge-builder that cannot secure its own supply chains negotiates from weakness. The strategic task is therefore twofold: use outreach access to shape equitable rules on minerals, carbon and AI, while urgently building domestic processing capacity and diversified supply partnerships through platforms like the Mineral Security Partnership.

Voice without capability is incomplete.

CONCLUSION

India's G7 presence is an opportunity to translate diplomatic standing into rule-shaping influence. But influence abroad must be matched by self-reliance at home, especially in the critical minerals that underpin both ambitions.


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