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The San Francisco Declaration: 10 Countries Including India to Secure AI Supply Chains



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Why in the news

On 15 November 2026, the United States and nine other participants of the Pax Silica initiative signed the 'San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity' in San Francisco. It declares the safeguarding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) supply chains a 'shared endeavour'. The declaration was signed at the 'Pax Silica Founders Retreat' convened by the US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, Jacob Helberg.

Who is involved

Signatory countries (10 in all): the United States, Australia, India, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

What is the Pax Silica initiative

Introduction: Pax Silica is a US-led initiative announced in December 2025. Its goal is to secure supply chains for silicon and other minerals essential to semiconductor production and, by extension, to AI and other advanced technology industries. India and the United States signed the Pax Silica declaration in February 2026.

'Super Intelligence' (SI): After a presidential executive order, the US government refers to AI as 'Super Intelligence'; the declaration uses this term.

Key points of the declaration

Economic security = national security: The declaration affirms that economic security is fundamental to national security, and that protecting the sensitive technologies and critical infrastructure underpinning SI supply chains is a shared responsibility.

Five working groups: (1) pro-innovation policy frameworks (2) SI adoption in key sectors (3) supply chain cooperation across the SI stack (4) safe harbours and supply chain security hubs (5) SI security and resilience.

Message: 'No nation can secure the foundations of the SI era alone' - agreement on shared security baselines will give partner nations a strong foundation to innovate, invest and grow.

What it means for India

Strategic technology partnership: The declaration places India within a secure coalition for advanced AI and semiconductor supply chains - at a time of intensifying competition with China in emerging technologies. Its complementarity with India's own Semiconductor Mission and AI Mission is significant from the exam point of view.

Way forward

Once the five working groups are formed, concrete policy measures - such as secure supply hubs and safe harbour arrangements - will follow. The question will be how countries like India balance open access to innovation with strategic autonomy within this coalition.

Frequently asked questions

Q1: When was the San Francisco Declaration signed and by how many countries?
Answer: On 15 November 2026, by the United States and 9 partner countries - 10 in all, including India.

Q2: What is the Pax Silica initiative?
Answer: A US-led initiative (announced December 2025) that secures supply chains for silicon and minerals essential to the semiconductor and AI industries.

Q3: How many working groups does the declaration propose?
Answer: Five - policy frameworks, SI adoption, supply chain cooperation, safe harbours/security hubs, and SI security and resilience.

Prelims practice questions

Question 1: Consider the following statements with reference to the countries that signed the San Francisco Declaration (November 2026):
Statement 1: India, Japan and Australia are among them
Statement 2: France and Germany are also signatories

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer and explanation
Correct answer: (a)
Statement 1 is correct - the 10 signatories are the United States, Australia, India, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, Singapore, the UAE and the United Kingdom
Statement 2 is incorrect - France and Germany are not part of it

Question 2: The Pax Silica initiative is primarily related to which of the following?

(a) Cooperation in space debris removal
(b) Securing semiconductor and AI supply chains
(c) Promoting Paralympic sports
(d) Regulating ocean fishing quotas

Answer and explanation
Correct answer: (b)
Pax Silica is a US-led initiative to secure supply chains for silicon and other minerals that underpin the semiconductor and AI industries

Sources

- US Department of State, media note: the San Francisco Declaration (15 November 2026): www.state.gov
- US Department of State, Pax Silica: www.state.gov

Related reading

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