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US gains access to Ukraine's minerals

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Context

- The U.S. and Ukraine on Wednesday signed an agreement granting American access to Ukraine's vast mineral resources, finalising a deal months in the making that **could enable continued military aid to Kyiv.**
- The development comes amid concerns that President Donald Trump might scale back support in ongoing peace negotiations with Russia.
- Mr. Trump said on Wednesday night that the deal, **"in theory," means that the U.S. will get more from Ukraine than it contributed.**
- The US seeks rare-earth elements, titanium, gallium, and other critical minerals for weapons systems, clean energy, and reducing dependence on China.
- Ukraine possesses significant reserves of rare-earth minerals essential for various high tech industries, including aerospace, defence, and renewable energy.
- According to data from the Ukrainian geologic survey, **Ukraine possesses 5% of the world's mineral resources, including 23 of the 50 materials deemed critical by the U.S. government.**

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Critical mineral deposits across Ukraine

■ Titanium, zirconium ■ Graphite ■ Rare earths ■ Lithium

