

Building an India–Australia Energy Security Corridor for Indo-Pacific Resilience

22nd July 2026
Wednesday

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
(IST)
(High Tea at 5:00 PM)

Mini Audi
Rajasthan International
Centre, Jaipur

Background Note

1. Background and Context

1.1 Energy security has emerged as one of the defining policy and strategic challenges of the Indo-Pacific decade. Conflicts in the Middle East, persistent disruptions to global shipping lanes, and the surging electricity demands of artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure are collectively reshaping how governments and the private sector think about the security, diversity, and resilience of energy supply chains. For countries across the Indo-Pacific, these pressures are no longer abstract risks but live operational realities.

1.2 Australia and India – two of the region’s most consequential democratic economies – sit at complementary points on this spectrum. Australia is a globally significant exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG), coal, uranium, and critical minerals, yet its domestic liquid-fuel system is structurally import-dependent, with imported crude and refined products accounting for roughly 91 per cent of all domestic fuel consumed. India, meanwhile, is one of the world’s fastest-growing energy markets: crude oil import dependence stands at approximately 88–89 per cent of consumption, whilst LPG imports have risen from 1.7 million tonnes in 1998–99 to over 20.6 million tonnes by 2024–25, of which more than 90 per cent originates from the Middle East. When geopolitical tensions escalated in early 2026, India faced what was described as its ‘worst cooking gas supply crisis’ in recent memory.

1.3 Japan offers a third, complementary dimension: an advanced economy with primary energy self-sufficiency of only 12.6 per cent (FY 2022), a growing nuclear and renewables portfolio, and a data-centre sector projected to consume as much electricity as 15–18 million households by 2034. Singapore, as a critical maritime and refining hub, provides the connective tissue that links these national energy systems to broader Indo-Pacific supply chains.

1.4 Against this backdrop, CUTS International is convening a fireside chat that will examine how Australia and India can work together to build a strategic energy security and supply chain corridor – one that enhances resilience across critical minerals, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and maritime logistics. The discussion will also explore how collaboration with key Indo-Pacific partners, particularly Japan and Singapore, can harness the combined strengths of all four countries to support a more secure, resilient, and interconnected Indo-Pacific economy.

1.5 In this context, Singapore offers a compelling precedent for what an Australia–India green energy partnership could look like. Under the Australia–Singapore Green Economy Agreement, the two countries are co-developing renewable energy supply chains, green hydrogen corridors, and low-emissions technology frameworks – demonstrating that bilateral energy partnerships can be structured around shared climate commitments, regulatory alignment, and long-term offtake certainty. A comparable partnership between Australia and India would require: a clear policy framework for

renewable energy trade and investment; harmonised certification standards for green hydrogen and critical minerals; government-backed financial instruments to de-risk private capital; and a joint infrastructure roadmap linking Australian supply capacity with India's growing industrial and grid-scale demand.

2. Agenda

Time	Session
5:00 PM	Registration and High Tea
5:30 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks By <i>CUTS International</i>
5:40 PM	Special Remarks By <i>Lisa Singh, CEO, Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne</i>
6:50 PM	Fireside Chat <i>Followed by discussion with Amitabh Mattoo, Founding Director/CEO of the Australia India Institute and Dean of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (Discussant) and Pradeep S Mehta (Moderator)</i>
7:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks By <i>RIC</i>

About the Speaker:

Lisa Singh is a former Australian Senator and was the first woman of South Asian heritage to be elected to the Australian Parliament. She is also a former Tasmanian Member of Parliament and Minister in the Tasmanian Government. She is currently the CEO of the Australia India Institute at the University of Melbourne, and a scholar of international relations, human rights and gender equality. She leads a team at the Institute advancing Australia-India relations and Indo-Pacific engagement across key themes including education, sustainability, geopolitics and security and cultural diplomacy. She has previously served as Deputy Chair on the Australian Government's Australia-India Council and on the advisory board of Asialink at the University of Melbourne. She is also a Board director of Beyond Blue, Australia's well known mental health organisation, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

About the Discussant:

Professor Mattoo was the founding Director/CEO of the Australia India Institute and served on the Institute's Advisory Board until 2024. Professor Amitabh Mattoo is the Dean of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Chair of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament and Director of the Energy Studies Program. He also serves as Honorary Professorial Fellow at the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne, and as Deputy Chair of the Academic Advisory Board of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies.

About the Moderator:

Mr Mehta is the founder Secretary General of the Jaipur-based Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), a global economic policy research, advocacy and networking, NGO,

established in 1983 in India, with centres in Nairobi, Lusaka, Hanoi, Accra, Geneva and Washington DC. Currently he is a Member of the WTO DG's NGO Advisory Board, for the third time. He also serves on the G20/B20's Council on Africa's Economic Integration. He has served on the GOI's Board of Trade; Better Regulatory Advisory Group; Steering Committee on Ecomark etc. Recipient of the M R Pai Award in 2007 and the SKOCH Excellence Award in 2021 for his dedication to promoting competition and consumer protection.