



**Chintan  
Research  
Foundation**



**Australian Government**

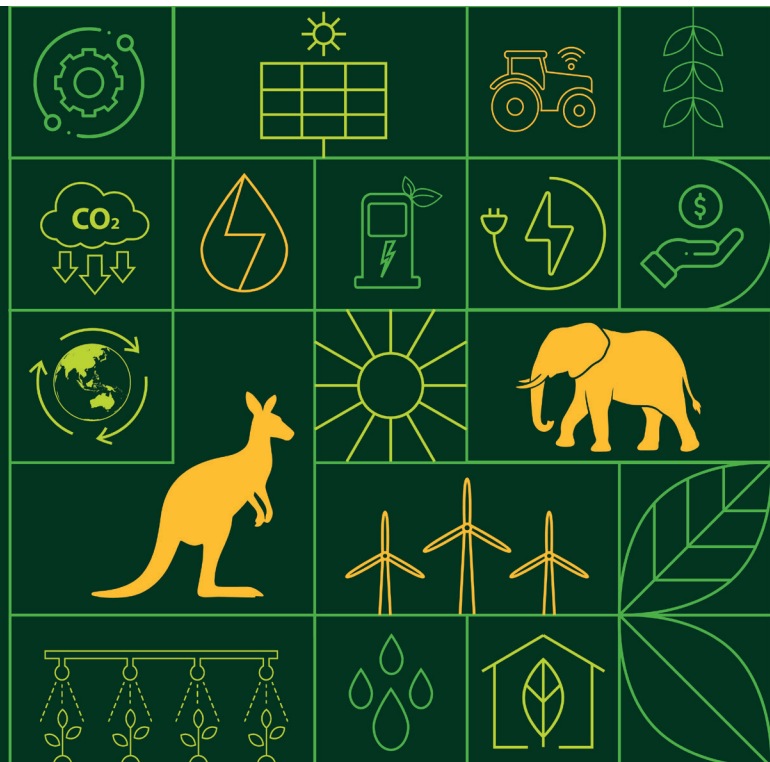
**A Pre-COP Dialogue on**

# **PARTNERS IN GREEN TRANSITION**

**Advancing Ambition, Action  
and Partnerships for COP31**

**23 September 2026**

**New Delhi**



As the world enters a decisive decade for climate action, the upcoming COP31 presents a critical opportunity to translate commitments into implementation, mobilise investments, and accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies, focusing on the Global South. In 2026, Australia assumes the role of **President of Negotiations for COP31**, providing it with a unique mandate to shape global climate negotiations, build consensus among Parties, elevate Pacific priorities by highlighting the developmental ambitions of Global South, the presidency aims to advance practical outcomes on climate action, finance, and clean energy transitions. Against this backdrop, the **Chintan Research Foundation (CRF)**, in partnership with the **Australian High Commission**, is organising a one-day symposium aimed at fostering dialogue on emerging climate and energy transition priorities relevant to the broader Indo-Pacific region and beyond. The symposium will serve as a strategic platform to explore opportunities for collaboration in the lead-up to COP31 and contribute to discussions on implementation-oriented climate action.

The symposium will focus on three interconnected pillars central to COP31's climate and energy transition agendas. Climate-resilient infrastructure is one of the ten priority themes of the COP31 Action Agenda, reflecting a broader shift in international climate discussions toward practical, implementable resilience measures for the most exposed nations. The first session on “**From Vulnerability to Resilience: The Infrastructure Imperative**” will examine the evolving architecture of global climate governance as the international community moves toward COP31. It will have a particular focus on climate-resilient infrastructure, energy access, and electrification, in line with COP31's core thematic priorities. It will explore how the goal of resilient infrastructure is

being translated into functioning projects, from early warning systems – a priority underscored by the August 2026 Nepal floods, where stronger monitoring coverage for fast-moving glacial lake outburst floods could have saved many more lives and livelihoods – to the hardening of critical infrastructure, and what this experience suggests about designing and delivering resilience programmes for Pacific SIDS in particular and other vulnerable nations broadly. Bringing together national priorities from across the panel, the discussion will connect on-the-ground implementation efforts to the broader governance architecture under negotiation at COP31, offering a grounded perspective on delivery alongside the summit's formal negotiating agenda.

In line with COP31's implementation-focused Action Agenda and the proposed Climate Implementation Bridge, the second session **"Financing Climate Ambition for Green Transitions"** will examine how climate commitments and national priorities can be translated into investable projects and financing solutions that deliver tangible outcomes. It will explore the barriers that continue to constrain the flow of capital towards mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and consider how public, development and private finance can be better aligned with NDC implementation and wider economic and development priorities. Particular attention will be given to scaling capital for adaptation and resilience across multiple areas such as coastal resilience and blue economy, water and food security, climate-smart agriculture, coastal resilience and among others, where financing remains particularly challenging. The session will also explore how India and Australia can work together to strengthen project pipelines, mobilise private and institutional capital, and support climate-vulnerable economies in the Pacific and the wider Global South, contributing practical pathways for turning climate ambition into implementation on the road to COP31.

The third session on **"Enhancing Cooperation towards Critical Minerals and Clean Technologies for Energy Security and Decarbonisation"** will explore the growing strategic importance of resilient and diversified supply chains in enabling the global energy transition, which mark a key pillar of COP31's agenda. With intense concentration and consolidation across the mineral value chain ranging from resource endowments, processing capacities, manufacturing capabilities, and technological expertise, remain central concerns with national implications spurred by international developments. As supply chains continue to remain fragmented and vulnerable to geopolitical, economic, and environmental disruptions, addressing these challenges will require stronger and multifaceted international cooperation. The session will explore how governments, industry, financial institutions, and research organisations, particularly India and Australia, can work together to enhance supply chain resilience, promote sustainable and responsible sourcing practices, facilitate technology and knowledge exchange, explore regional stockpiling opportunities, and mobilise investment across emerging and established mineral economies. Discussions will also examine the role of strategic partnerships, diversification strategies, and collaborative frameworks in reducing concentration risks and ensuring that clean energy transitions are both secure and equitable. By convening policymakers, diplomats, industry leaders, financial institutions, researchers, and development practitioners, the symposium seeks to generate actionable insights and strengthen international cooperation in support of a resilient, inclusive, and implementation-focused global climate and energy agenda in the lead-up to COP31.

## Programme Agenda

| Time          | Session                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| 09:00 onwards | Chai aur Chintan - Registration and Networking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:00 – 12:00 | <p><b>Inaugural Session</b><br/><b>Advancing Ambition, Action and Partnerships for COP 31</b></p> <p>Welcome Remarks<br/><b>Mr Shishir Priyadarshi</b>, President, Chintan Research Foundation (CRF)</p> <p>Keynote Address<br/><b>Hon'ble Minister Chris Bowen</b>, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Government of Australia</p> <p>Special Address<br/><b>H.E. Ali Murat Ersoy</b>, Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to India</p> <p>Panel Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>H.E. Philip Green</b>, Ambassador of Australia to India</li><li>● <b>H.E. Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nóbrega</b>, Ambassador of Brazil to India</li><li>● <b>H.E. Nebiyu Tedla</b>, Ambassador of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to India</li><li>● <b>H.E. Jagannath Sami</b>, Ambassador of Fiji to India</li><li>● <b>H.E. Jason Hall</b>, Ambassador of Jamaica to India</li><li>● <b>Ms Rajasree Ray</b>, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India</li></ul> <p><i>In conversation with – Ms Gaurie Dwivedi, Executive Editor, NDTV</i></p> |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | Chai aur Chintan - Session Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 12:20 – 13:35 | <p><b>Session I</b><br/><b>From Vulnerability to Resilience: The Infrastructure Imperative</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Dr Debajit Palit</b>, Centre Head at Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, CRF</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Mr Amit Prothi</b>, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure</li><li>● <b>Ms Elizabeth Atwell</b>, Head of Development &amp; Green Growth, British High Commission in India</li><li>● <b>Mr Amit Kumar, Retd.</b> Senior Director TERI and Former Senior Fellow, Climate Program, WRI India</li><li>● <b>Prof. P.K. Joshi</b>, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University</li><li>● <b>Mr Siddartha Ramakanth</b>, Director, Nangia &amp; Co LLP, Papua New Guinea (online)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 13:35 – 14:15 | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

14:15 – 15:30

## Session II

### Financing Climate Ambition for Green Transitions

#### Special Address

**Mr David Higgins**, First Assistant Secretary, International Climate and Energy Division, Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment

Moderator: **Ms Neha Kumar**, Head, South Asia, Climate Bonds Initiative

#### Speakers:

- **Ms Namrata Mukherjee**, Strategic Planning Specialist, International Solar Alliance
- **Mr Julien Desmedt**, First Secretary, Climate, Environment & Energy, EU Delegation to India
- **Mr Vivek Sen**, India Director, Climate Policy Initiative
- **Dr Manish Srivastava**, Associate Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, TERI

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15:30 – 16:30

## Session III

### Enhancing Cooperation towards Critical Minerals and Clean Technologies for Energy Security and Decarbonisation

#### Special Address

**H.E. Ms. Arlette Gabriela Bustamante Garcia**, Chargés d'affaires, Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Moderator: **Ms Nidhi Srivastava**, Head, Research and Strategy, Dravya, India

#### Speakers:

- **Ms Akanksha Tyagi**, Senior Programme Lead, CEEW
- **Mr Gaylor Montmasson-Clair**, CEO, Southern Transitions, South Africa (online)
- **Mr Aditya Menon**, Deputy Head (Public Policy & Government Affairs), Vedanta Ltd.
- **Ms Priti Shukla**, Portfolio Manager, Energiva Ventures
- **Ms Vanessa Lacayo**, Co-Founder & COO, Novasensa
- **Ms Maria Yamasaki**, Counsellor (Economy and Development), Embassy of Japan

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16:30 – 17:00

## Fireside Chat

### Leading the Global South: India's Role and Capabilities on the Road to COP31

- **H.E. Philip Green**, Ambassador of Australia to India
- **Dr Divya Datt**, Deputy Country Head, UNEP India

*In conversation with – **Mr Shishir Priyadarshi**, President, CRF*

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17:00 onwards

## High-tea and Networking

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