

POWERING PROSPERITY AND SECURITY:

U.S.-INDIA ENERGY INNOVATION FOR A FREE AND RELIABLE INDO-PACIFIC

Two-Day Workshop: September 9-10, 2025 | Location: [PHD Chambers, Chandigarh](#)

Co-hosted by: U.S. Embassy New Delhi, University of Connecticut (UConn), IIT Ropar, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (PSCST) and PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI)

This workshop convenes India's top startups, universities, and research institutes with U.S. experts to advance joint solutions that strengthen Indo-Pacific energy security and reliability. Against the backdrop of rapid changes in the energy sector, the program will spotlight U.S. leadership in nuclear safety, LNG logistics, and next-generation energy innovation. Participants will explore how artificial intelligence can enhance predictive maintenance of energy infrastructure, secure resilient grids, and optimize logistics for U.S.-India oil and LNG trade. By linking energy security with innovation, this workshop expands opportunities for Indo-U.S. joint ventures, research partnerships, and technology pilots, which support U.S. energy exports, nuclear cooperation, and supply chain resilience

AGENDA

DAY 1 – ENERGY SECURITY FOUNDATIONS & ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

10:00 – 10:30am

Registration & Arrival Tea

10:30 – 11:00am

Inaugural Session

Opening remarks on U.S.–India work in energy security and innovation, setting the stage for a two-day dialogue connecting startups, academia, and industry.

Speakers:

- Mr. Nicholas DiNardo, U.S. Diplomat, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi
- Dr. Dapinder Bakshi, Joint Director, PSCST, Chandigarh
- Dr. Radhika Trikha, AWaDH – IIT Ropar TIF, IIT Ropar
- Dr. Tolga Turker, Director of Global Entrepreneurial Programs, UConn
- Ms. Bharti Sood, Regional Director, PHDCCI, Chandigarh

11:10 – 11:40am

Voices of Vision: Future of Energy Innovation by Distinguished Guest

Dr. Arun Kumar Nayak, Head, Nuclear Controls & Planning Wing, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Mumbai

11:45am – 12:30pm

Keynote Address: *Energy Innovation at Crossroads: Strengthening U.S.–India Cooperation*

The workshop's keynote address will explore LNG trade, nuclear cooperation, infrastructure resilience, and the role of AI in transforming energy systems.

Speaker: Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, PhD, Brigadier (Veteran)

12:30 - 1:30pm

Session I – Powering the Future

Discussions will focus on nuclear power's role in achieving energy security, advances in safety and technology, and the geopolitical and environmental implications of expanding nuclear capacity.

Speakers:

- Dr. Arun Kumar Nayak, Head, Nuclear Controls & Planning Wing, BARC
- Mr. Abhinav Abhay Jha, Co-founder, ASPL Fusion, India
- Dr. Tolga Turker, Director of Global Entrepreneurial Programs, UConn

Moderator:

Dr. Divya Rajput, In-Country Director, UConn Global

1:30- 2:30pm

Networking Lunch

2:30- 3:30pm

Session II – Energy Innovations

This session will feature a cross-disciplinary dialogue on disruptive energy innovations, AI applications, and global market opportunities.

Speakers:

- Prof. Dhiraj K Mahajan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Ropar
- Prof. Asad Sahir, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Ropar
- Er. Maganbir Singh, Principal Scientific Officer, PSCST, Chandigarh

Moderator:

- Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, PhD, Brigadier (Veteran)

3:30- 3:45pm

Tea Break

3:45 – 5:00pm

Session III – Building Energy Innovation Ecosystems

This session will unpack India's energy entrepreneurship landscape—long-cycle infrastructure projects, role of universities, commercialization pathways, and collaboration with U.S. counterparts.

Speakers:

- Mr. Arjun Mittal, Founder and CEO, Envinova, India
- Dr. Arrik Khanna, Associate Dean, Chitkara University, Punjab
- Dr. Vandit Vijay, Sardar Swaran Singh National Instt. of Bio-Energy, Punjab

Moderator:

- Mr. Saurabh Arora, Head IP & TT, AWaDH, IIT Ropar

DAY 2 – COMMERCIALIZATION, STARTUPS & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

10:00- 10:30am

Morning Introduction by UConn Team

Recap of Day 1 takeaways & framing Day 2 on commercialization and scaling

- Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, PhD, Brigadier (Veteran)
- Dr. Tolga Turker, Director of Global Entrepreneurial Programs, UConn

10:30 – 11:30am

Session IV – Panel Discussion

“Fueling the Future: Startup Ecosystem Driving Energy Security & Growth”

- Mr. Sukhmeet Singh, CEO, A2P Energy Solutions, India
- Mr. Vineet Khurana, CEO, SACC, India
- Mr. Suchin Jain, CEO at iPanelKlean Solar, India

Moderator:

Mr. Rahul Manroa, Program Lead, In-Country Team, UConn Global

11:30am – 1:00pm

Session V – Startup Showcase: Energy & AI at Scale

Startup pitches for energy-focused solutions (AI-enabled grid management, LNG logistics tech, nuclear safety tools, microgrids).

Startups:

- iPanelKlean Solar, Mr. Suchin Jain
- Envinova, Mr. Arjun Mittal
- Ares Systems, Pvt Ltd., Prof. Dhiraj K Mahajan
- Carrus Mobility Solutions, Mr. Ritvik Ranjan
- Huskage Innovations Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rajiv Sharma

1:00 – 1:15pm

Session VI – Valediction: Vote of Thanks

Speakers:

- Mr. Nicholas DiNardo, U.S. Diplomat, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi
- Dr. Tolga Turker, Director of Global Entrepreneurial Programs, UConn
- Dr. Dapinder Bakshi, Joint Director, PSCST
- Dr. Radhika Trikha, AWADH – IIT-Ropar TIF, IIT-Ropar

1:15pm

Lunch & Networking; Workshop Concludes