



CUTS INTERNATIONAL WASHINGTON DC CENTER
BUTTRESSING US-INDIA ECONOMIC RELATIONS
 TRADE | ENERGY | STRATEGIC ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

Deeply rooted on the ground and strongly networked with governments and inter-governmental organizations, CUTS International, a 35-year-old independent policy research organization, proposes to address bilateral and multilateral trade and economic matters of strategic importance to India and the US through its Center in Washington DC (CUTS-WDC).

The opening of such a Center in Washington DC (2018), in addition to the ones in Geneva, Hanoi, Accra, Nairobi, Lusaka and New Delhi by CUTS International will be the first by an Indian not for profit organization deeply engaged in impacting social and economic change in India and the Global South.

The organization has consistently followed a **Centrist Approach** with demonstrated capacity in promoting **Consumer Welfare** in an innovative, development friendly and transparent manner.

The Center will actively engage with all stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region, countries of the rekindled quadrilateral, international trade bodies and institutions globally. Washington DC and Geneva are both central to trade policy negotiations and the Center will position itself for discussions on economic issues which impact India, US and the Global South.

"We welcome India's emergence as a leading global power and stronger strategic and defense partner," US National Security Strategy 2017

Research and programs on key subjects with focus on:

TRADE

Road to FTA
 Non-tariff Barriers

ENERGY

Regulatory Environment
 Investments

STRATEGIC ISSUES

High Technology Trade
 Government Procurement

OVERVIEW

CUTS-WDC will be fully supported by the leadership and resources available to the organization globally. The Center will operate using the wide network and human resource base of existing CUTS Centers and associates world-wide.

Sectoral segments would include: energy, high-tech trade in strategic sectors, agriculture, e-commerce, supply chain logistics, information technology and financial services. Regional connectivity and trade in the Indo-Pacific, impact of disruptive technologies and emerging policies posing challenges for international movement of goods and services and businesses operating in the region will be taken up for policy research and advocacy.

Being a reputed Indian think and action tank, CUTS International is confident about keeping itself on the top of emerging issues while maintaining the strategic depth required for impactful interventions.

KEY DIFFERENTIATORS AND PROFILE

- CUTS has a proven track record of addressing public policy issues with consumer welfare and development perspectives in India and the Global South.
- The target audience for outreach programs will be policymakers, global trade bodies, inter-governmental organisations and the informed public.
- CUTS Centers in Geneva, Hanoi, Accra, Nairobi, Lusaka and New Delhi will be plugged into CUTS-WDC leading to a unique **Trilateral Approach** for conducting stakeholder consultations, activities, research, networking and concomitant advocacy.
- Worked extensively with various Governments agencies within India, Asia and Africa.
- Internationally worked with WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, The World Bank, IFC etc.
- Executed several projects supported by the **US State Department** in India and other countries.
- Will have the support of a wide network and resource base comprising around 250 knowledge professionals working in CUTS International and its affiliates.
- To ensure credibility at all times CUTS-WDC will not be affiliated directly to any Government agency or individual benefactors.
- CUTS presently has Memorandum of Understanding with the AU Commission, COMESA Secretariat, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and EAC Secretariats in addition to several national organisations. Another one with the ECOWAS is under finalisation.
- The Secretary General of CUTS International, Pradeep S Mehta, Life Mentor of the Washington DC Center, has been a member of various committees set up by the Government of India, including the high level Board of Trade and international bodies.
<http://www.pradeepsmehta.com/>
<http://www.cuts-international.org/>

The Center will address matters of economic policy impacting US-India relations in the broader Indo-Pacific and South-North engagement and will go beyond bilateral matters.

CUTS-WDC will be a highly credible platform for Indian political and business leaders, officials and media personalities visiting Washington DC seeking interaction with relevant players across continents.

“CUTS has developed from a modest NGO to a pre-eminent position, dealing with issues relating to the world trading system and is now on the frontline of research and advocacy on global trade issues.”

- Jagdish Bhagwati, Columbia University, New York

ENGAGEMENT AREAS: CROSS CUTTING / TRADE / ENERGY / STRATEGIC ISSUES*

CROSS CUTTING



- Supply and value chains: How can US and Indian firms gain greater access to each other's markets while moving up the value chains?
- Intellectual Property Rights: Examine the perceived lack of implementation in India and respond effectively.
- Ease of Doing Business: Identify and suggest improvement on EoDB indicators which impede high growth in the bilateral and Indo-Pacific context.
- Government Procurement: Identify issues at the State and Central levels in India and the US to ensure that the procedures are compliant with WTO rules and other internationally acceptable norms.



STRATEGIC ISSUES

- ✓ High technology trade across Defence, Homeland Security & IT: Identify challenges and opportunities.
- ✓ Enabling agreements.
- ✓ America First and Make in India
- ✓ Government Procurement



ENERGY

- ✓ Plug into the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).
- ✓ Identify opportunities to trade in clean and renewable energy.
- ✓ Policy and regulatory barriers and suggest solutions.
- ✓ Investment concerns.



TRADE

- ✓ Road to US-India FTA: Comparative and contemporary research leading to a future Indo-US free trade and investment agreement.
- ✓ Non-tariff, non-scientific, technical barriers to trade, standards and movement of labor.
- ✓ WTO and Indo-U.S. relations: Strengthen US support for the multilateral trading system and trade facilitation in services. Agriculture, IPR, e-commerce, services, dispute settlement etc. will be analysed through joint studies.
- ✓ Agriculture: Fair access to each country's agriculture markets.

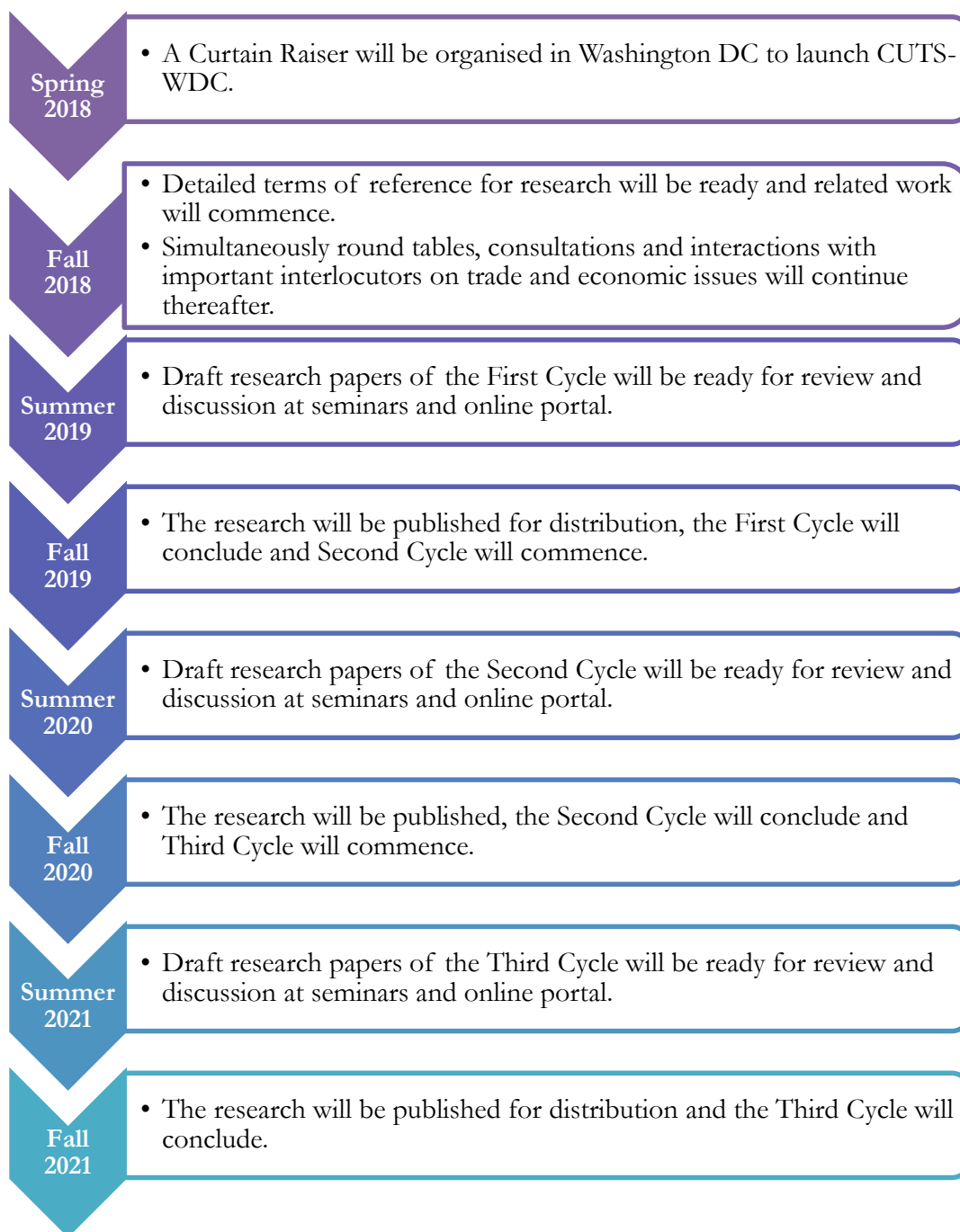
“I want to see a US-India FTA... a strategic view of our economic relationship could eventually lead to a roadmap for a US-India Free Trade Agreement.”

- Kenneth Juster, US Ambassador to India

*Issues will be taken up on the basis of capability and demand as required by exigencies of economic engagement.

RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND PROGRAMS

- The Center will produce position papers, policy documents, briefings and will have a right mix of round tables and events to ensure strategic outreach.
- Articles, blogs, issue notes, podcasts and case studies highlighting the Indo-Pacific and the Global South perspectives on select topical issues.
- Targeted closed-door meetings with relevant policy-makers, business representatives and experts to conduct focussed and meaningful discussions on select topics.
- Public events and conferences, panel discussions with eminent experts and practitioners to present and share grass-roots findings from CUTS projects conducted in India, countries of the Indo-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa. The US based organizations may not have access to such quality information which will add strategic depth while addressing national and regional concerns in the global context.
- Maintain an Indo-US dialogues tracker, regularly updated on the CUTS-WDC website (covering government-to-government, private sector, and civil society engagements).
- Engagement on social media (Twitter, Facebook etc.) to inform followers on pertinent contemporary and trending issues and enhance the Center's visibility.



“Thanks to continuous high-quality research, effective networking and advocacy, CUTS has grown into a highly respected and internationally recognized outfit. The WTO too has benefited from CUTS’ knowledge of the trade challenges”
- Pascal Lamy, Director General, WTO (2005-2013)

For further details: Pradeep Kapur | pkk@cuts.org | +1 301 395 5352 | Rahul Singh | ras@cuts.org | +91 987 133 1417

CUTS International

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur-302016, India | Phone: 91.141.2282821, Fax: 91.141.2282485 | Website: www.cuts-international.org

Also at: Chittorgarh, Kolkata & New Delhi (India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi (Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi (Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland); Washington DC (USA)