



## Progress Report: April to September 2018

This Quarterly Progress Report captures the progress of CUTS WDC, since its launch in April 2018, and provides an overview of activities (research and outreach) that have been undertaken, along with an insight into future plan. This First Report covers the April-June (Q1) and July-September (Q2) periods.

Your comments/inputs are welcome!

### RESEARCH

- CUTS Washington Monthly Brief:** Each month, the Center disseminates a monthly brief that is a collation of global news stories and opinions with respect to the focus work areas, with an 'Editor's Note' on one trending and critical issue of the month ([http://cuts-wdc.org/monthly\\_briefs.htm](http://cuts-wdc.org/monthly_briefs.htm))
- Policy Notes:** We have identified contemporary issues with respect to the Center's focus work areas and have developed the following notes using in-house resources:
  - India's possible take on U.S. Sanctions on Iran - #5 (Under Review)
  - SIMP versus Shrimp: The Changing Dynamics of US-India Shrimp Trade - #4 (Under Review)
  - 'India and The U.S. GSP Programme' *Cul de Sac or a Road Ahead!* – #3 (<https://bit.ly/2NliZGO>)
  - Barriers to US-India Bilateral Trade' *Time to develop joint narratives* - #2 (<https://bit.ly/2MNwPMW>)
  - 'India-United States Bilateral Trade' *Trade deficit: Myth and reality* - #1 (<https://bit.ly/2xyrZxp>)
- Discussion Paper on Air Transport Connectivity:** This Paper attempts to contextualise possible solutions to air connectivity problems in the regions of Himalayas. The objective is to garner discourse and acceptance about fostering a doable and seamless air connectivity access into the region. (<https://bit.ly/2MMk1Gy>)
- External Writers:** We have identified a number of subject-matter experts and have initiated conversations with them to develop Policy Notes on issues such as Defence & Security, Entrepreneurship & Innovation and the Indo-Pacific Strategy.

## OUTREACH

1. **Website:** The Center's website has been launched and is regularly updated (<http://cuts-wdc.org/>)
2. **Email Forum:** 3240 Members and increasing....
3. **Social Media:** 41 Followers on [Twitter](#) and 55 Likes on [Facebook Page](#)

## MEDIA ARTICLES

1. **Trump's Trade Wars are starting to backfire** – The Wire, September 13, 2018
2. **Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue a Chance to Address Specifics in Context of Larger Geo-Political Goals** – The Wire, September 02, 2018
3. **Don't strangle Indian e-commerce** – Live Mint, August 27, 2018
4. **US must work towards reviving 2+2 dialogue without any preconditions** – The Asian Age, July 11, 2018
5. **With an Eye on User Privacy, India Strives to Store Data Locally** - The Quint, July 09, 2018
6. **For Trade Talks, Suresh Prabhu Must Go to the US With Sleeves Rolled Up** - The Wire, June 08, 2018
7. **Time to focus on Indo-US bilateral trade** - Live Mint, May 07, 2018
8. **Stronger economic bond must to realise full potential of India-US ties: CEA** - The Hindu Business Line, April 21, 2018

## EVENTS

1. **Australia's Pivotal Role in the Indo-Pacific Region**, New Delhi, August 21, 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2plBdck>)
2. **Future Activities:**
  - **Indo-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership Conference (IIPC), Spring 2019, Washington DC:** This will be a full day conference, which would include an Opening Session and parallel track sessions with representatives from industry, government officials, multilateral development banks, subject experts, etc, that have a role to play in infrastructure development in South and South East Asia. Speakers and participants will consider opportunities for infrastructure investment and also consider how the industry can form partnerships among themselves and with governments to be able to collectively implement the Indo-Pacific strategy. A tentative agenda has been drafted and partnership opportunities are being explored with USINPAC and USIBC.
  - **Innovation Summit, Fall 2019, California:** This will be a full day summit looking at the global innovation landscape with respect to regulations, competition, investments and opportunities. Currently, a position paper is being conceptualised in-house, with support from external subject matter experts.

## MANAGEMENT BOARD

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3. **Jessica Seddon**, Director, Integrated Urban Strategy, World Resources Institute
4. **Richard Rossow**, Senior Advisor & Wadhvani Chair in US-India Policy Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies
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## IMPORTANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Ambassador Pradeep Kapur was appointed as a Senior Advisor to the Center in March 2018 and had recently decided to move on from this role due to personal reasons. Hence, he is no longer associated with the Center. We are in the process of identifying a relevant person to take up this role and would welcome suggestions, if any.

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