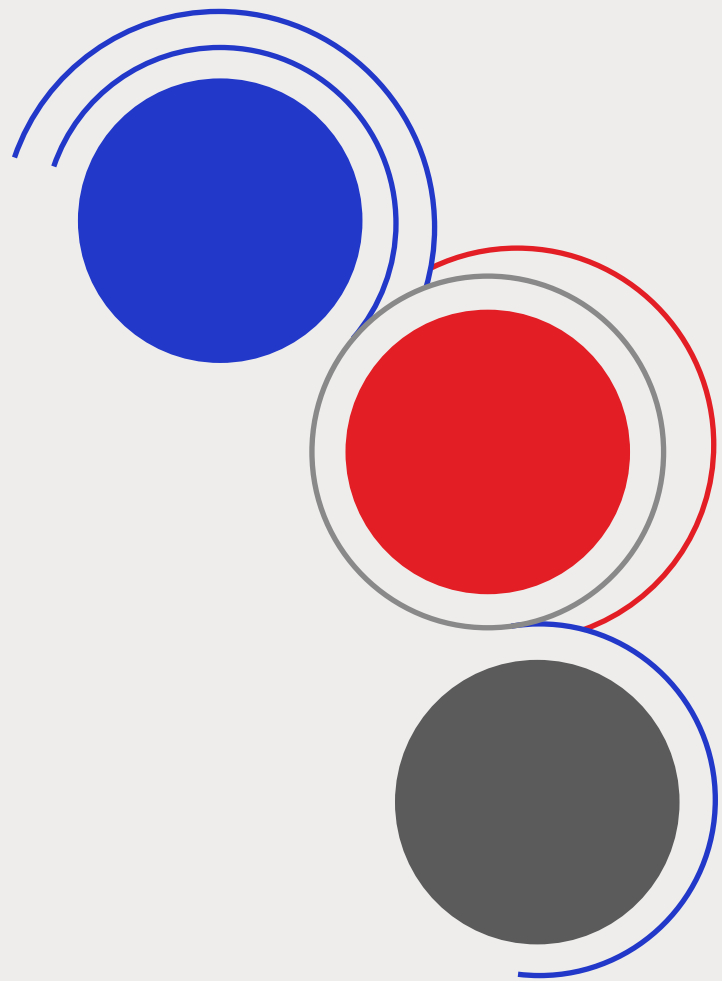




CUTS International Washington DC Center ANNUAL REPORT 2022





About CUTS WDC

The Center has been established to promote civic engagement in expanding India-U.S. economic and strategic relations.



It seeks to advance forward-looking narratives and policy interventions on various trade and strategic issues focusing on improving bilateral relations between India and the U.S., as well as in the larger Indo-Pacific region.



**INDO-
PACIFIC
STRATEGY**

Secretary General's Message

2022 has been a fulfilling and productive year at the CUTS International Washington DC Center. We built on our previous work and made forays into new areas. At the heart of our Centre's work lies CUTS' core strength - retaining and nurturing our grassroots connect even when dealing with international policy matters.

The year saw various activities under the Defense News Conclave: Stories of U.S.-India Defense Partnership project, supported by the U.S. Department of State. This is an endeavour to highlight the prospects and potential of the growing India-U.S. defence partnership, primarily among media personnel. One key focus area is to expand outreach to journalists and media professionals working in the Indian language space, along with traditionally underserved areas, such as Northeast India. Our firm grassroots foundations, combined with our global footprint, enable us to offer unique perspectives in our work.

In September, we launched the Indo-Pacific Civil Society Forum (IPCSF), a coalition of civil society organisations operating in the Indo-Pacific region, including think tanks. The Forum is envisaged as a platform for joint advocacy, networking and trust-building, generating awareness, and information dissemination regarding relevant regional developments in the dynamic Indo-Pacific region. This Forum will anchor much of our work in the Indo-Pacific region in the coming years.

Global trade policy continued to be an important area of our work. We organised multiple brainstorming events with groups of eminent global experts on diverse

subjects, such as the 12th Ministerial Conference, the future of the WTO, and the prospects of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). These were later contextualised with discussions on India's role in the multilateral trading system and its domestic trade policies.

Work on the second edition of our flagship publication on India's experiences with economic diplomacy, told through the eyes of diplomats and practitioners, commenced this year. Being published a decade after the first edition, the book will be a repository of experiences and anecdotes and a guide to navigating the next generation of economic diplomacy. It is expected to be published by mid-this year.

In August, in my intervention at the India Think Tank Forum, I spoke about how India's G20 Presidency offers a chance for India to demonstrate its commitment to multilateralism through action. This theme will be an overarching agenda for our Center in 2023.

With this, I extend my gratitude to all those who have supported the work of our Center this past year. I also recognise the efforts of my colleagues who have collectively contributed towards all our initiatives, and look forward to an even more promising and productive 2023.

Pradeep S Mehta
Secretary General
CUTS International



Principles



GOAL

As a 40-year-old Global think and action tank, CUTS International, through its 6th Overseas Center in Washington DC (CUTS WDC), aims to enhance U.S.-India relations in the broader Indo-Pacific context.

The four pillars:

1. Trade
2. Energy
3. Strategic Issues
4. Technology & Innovation



Mission

Consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice, economic equality and environmental balance, within and across borders.

Highlights



Defense News Conclave *Stories of U.S. - India Defense Partnership*

Through our ongoing project, Defense News Conclave: Stories of U.S.-India Defense Partnership, supported by the U.S. State Department (U.S. Consulate, Kolkata), amplified the message of the need for a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific. This project ultimately aims to create a group of informed stakeholders who would strengthen the information sharing circuit related to the importance of a robust U.S.-India Defence partnership, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

Implementing a series of virtual workshops, analytical briefing papers, quarterly news wraps and issue-specific webinars on various pertinent security issues led to the building of a positive narrative among target audiences, Indian languages journalists in particular. Combined with other deliverables, a network of 120-150 informed stakeholders has been created, also more than 25 digital and print stories published pan India in English and Indian languages.

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IPCSF members have commended CUTS for initiating a platform for Civil Society Engagement in the Indo-Pacific and expressed a ready willingness to collaborate under the forum. Keeping in mind the hugely encouraging feedback received, CUTS will be holding interactions in the coming months, including theme-based webinars, articles (co-authored by IPCSF members), and E-Group Interactions to elicit the participation of members.



The Indo-Pacific Civil Society Forum (IPCSF), is a unique initiative of CUTS, which brings together reputed Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across the length and breadth of the region, on a common platform to strengthen advocacy on important issues common to the Indo-Pacific. CUTS formally launched IPCSF, along with other like-minded CSOs, on September 30, 2022.

[Click to Read More](#)

Publications

Monthly Brief

Each month, the Center disseminates a monthly brief, which is a collation of global news stories and opinions regarding its focus work areas: Trade, Energy, Strategic Issues and Technology & Innovation, in the context of Indo-U.S. relations with an 'Editor's Note' on a trending and critical issue of the month: http://cuts-wdc.org/monthly_briefs.htm



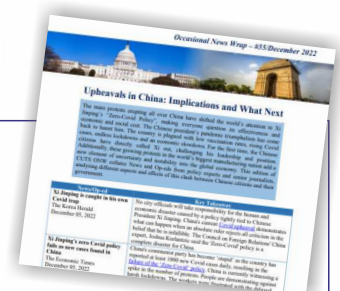
Briefing Papers

A Briefing Paper is a concise summary of research findings, explaining - a situation that needs correcting, identifying any financial implications, and recommending a course of action, including arguments for and against the suggested action. These are to draw public interest to key issues relating to India-U.S. defence relations, engagement in the Indo-Pacific etc.: <http://cuts-wdc.org/briefing-papers.htm>



Occasional News Wrap

A synopsis of news stories and opinions on specific yet trending issues of geo-economic, geo-political and geo-strategic importance has been introduced as ONW: http://cuts-wdc.org/occasional_news_wrap.htm



Advocacy Through Media

[Levy a Tobin tax for the climate loss and damage fund](#)

Livemint, November 30, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta

[India takes the Aatmanirbhar route to enhance Defence Exports](#)

The South Asian Times, November 28, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Purushendra Singh

[Here's how G20 can fix the sustainable development funding problem](#)

The Economic Times, November 26, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta

[India's G20 presidency: Thrust is on reformed multilateralism](#)

Policy Circle, November 21, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Jayesh Mathur

[G20, regional blocks reinvent multilateralism](#)

Policy Circle, November 10, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Komal Gupta

[EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism: Why should Indian industry care?](#)

The Economic Times, November 10, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta, Vinay Piparsania, Julius Waller and Sneha Singh

[A New Era of India-Africa Defence Cooperation](#)

Modern Ghana, November 08, 2022

By Purushendra Singh

[COP27: India's ancient learnings can help climate change mitigation efforts](#)

Policy Circle, November 03, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Purushendra Singh

['Ikigai': Togetherness is the hallmark of expanding India-Japan relations](#)

South Asia Monitor, October 18, 2022

By Saumya Mehta and Purushendra Singh

[Climate Technology: U.S. will seek revamp of India's IP regime](#)

Policy Circle, September 21, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Josephine Shreela Gerard

[Don't be afraid of IPEF: Why India should join all pillars of Indo-Pacific bloc](#)

The Economic Times, September 12, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta

[Celebrating 75 years of India-U.S. defence ties](#)

The Daily Guardian, September 01, 2022

By Bipul Chatterjee and Purushendra Singh

[What is to be done with India's defence offset policy!](#)

The Economic Times, August 26, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Sandra George

Advocacy Through Media

[India@75: Sare Jahan se Accha](#)

The South Asian Times, August 16, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Purushendra Singh

[Restructuring the Indian Military in the 21st century](#)

Indian Defence Review, August 09, 2022

By Purushendra Singh

[Indo-U.S. Joint Defence Production: Trade to Partnership](#)

The South Asian Times, July 25, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Purushendra Singh

[India's soft power in world's hardball capital](#)

The South Asian Times, June 27, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Purushendra Singh

[Freeing trade, opening opportunities: India and FTAs](#)

Deccan Herald, June 25, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta

[India vs China: The advanced industry production race](#)

Financial Express, June 16, 2022

By Robert D Atkinson and Pradeep S Mehta

[Fork in the Road: India at the World Trade Organisation's Twelfth Ministerial Conference](#)

The Economic Times, June 12, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Sneha Singh

[India, U.S. and stories from the Ledo Road](#)

The South Asian Times, May 23, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Advaiyot Sharma

[Defence cooperation hardens the India-Australia relationship](#)

East Asia Forum, May 13, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Sandra George

[The new TRIPS “waiver” solution is misguided](#)

The Economic Times, April 12, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Sneha Singh

[New Wine in New Bottles](#)

World Commerce Review, Spring 2022

By Bipul Chatterjee and Sneha Singh

[Diaspora: A living bridge between India and U.S.](#)

The South Asian Times, February 07, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta and Advaiyot Sharma

Excerpt From Speech During CUTS Events

“Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) is an ambitious and unique framework between the two sides, which needs to move faster to ensure viability of more projects. India-U.S. defence relationship was not entirely transactional - while U.S. companies may lose sales due to India's indigenisation drive that was not the sole driving force for bilateral ties, which had attained a strategic status”.



Richard M. Rossow *Senior Adviser and Wadhvani Chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies, Center For Strategic & International Studies*

“The historical arc of India-U.S. defence relations. The strategic relationship with the U.S. has always been intertwined with transactional and commercial aspects involving arms transfers and the sale of defence equipment”.



Sanjaya Baru *Former Media Advisor to The Prime Minister of India*

“1991 was a crucial year for the India-U.S. strategic relationship, being the year, the Soviet Union collapsed and India opened up its economy - therefore creating a window for India and the U.S. to cooperate across the board”.



Raymond E. Vickery *Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Trade Development*

Management Board

The members of the Management Board are collectively responsible for managing the organisation. The Management Board is responsible for ensuring proper financing of the organisation, managing the risks associated with the organisation's activities and ensuring adequate funding etc.

[Meet our Management Board](#)

International Advisory Board

The International Advisory Board of CUTS WDC consists of members with various backgrounds, including senior policy advisors with policy expertise and research fellows.

[Meet our IAB Members](#)

CUTS Family



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cuts-washington@cuts.org



<https://cuts-wdc.org/>