

The World in Flux: Charting India's Course Through Global Transformation

Agenda cum background Note

Jointly Organised by: CUTS International & Rajasthan International Centre (RIC)

Date: January 31, 2026 | Saturday

Time: Evening Session (1.5 hours)

Venue: Mini-auditorium (RIC)

1. Background

1.1 The contemporary global landscape is marked by unprecedented turbulence and transformation. From geopolitical realignments, trade tariffs, regional conflicts to technological disruptions and climate emergencies, the world is navigating through multiple simultaneous crises that are fundamentally reshaping international relations, economic architectures, and governance frameworks.

1.2 Recent developments including shifting power dynamics between major economies, the fragmentation of global supply chains, rising protectionism, US's involvement in the western hemisphere, regional conflicts, and the accelerating impacts of climate change have created both challenges and opportunities for countries, particularly for emerging economies like India. Understanding these complex dynamics and their implications for India's trajectory, especially at the state level, is critical for informed policy dialogue and strategic planning.

1.3 Building upon the Memorandum of Understanding between CUTS International and Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), this discussion aims to bring together distinguished experts to analyse current global trends, assess their impact on India, and explore pathways for navigating this turbulent landscape.

2. Objectives

1. To analyse the key drivers of current global turmoil and their interconnections
 2. To assess implications for India's foreign policy, economic strategy, and security considerations
 3. To facilitate informed dialogue on policy responses and strategic positioning
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Proposed Agenda
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes – 2 Hours
High-tea and registration
Welcome and Context Setting (03 minutes)
Panel Discussion (70 minutes)
Moderator: Mr. Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

Panelists:

- **Shri Dammu Ravi**, Former Secretary, Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- **Major General Sudhakar Jee** (Retd.), VSM and Part of CUTS Brains trust
- **Ambassador Gauri Shankar Gupta**, Former India's Ambassador to Mongolia, Hungary and Bosnia & Herzegovina

Q&A and Open Discussion (10 minutes)

- Audience questions and interaction with panelists
- Cross-cutting themes and synthesis of key insights

Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks (06 minutes)

Shri Nihal Chand Goel, Director, RIC

Key Discussion Themes:

1. **Geopolitical Realignments and Power Shifts**
 - Evolving US National Security Strategy-China dynamics and implications for the Indo-Pacific
 - Upcoming summits like G20, BRICS etc.
 - India's strategic positioning in a multipolar world
2. **Economic Disruptions and Opportunities**
 - Fragmentation of global trade, Trump Tariffs and supply chains
 - Digital economy, technology competition, and innovation
 - Implications for India's economic growth and trade strategy
3. **Security Challenges in a Turbulent World**
 - Regional stability concerns for South Asia, especially Bangladesh, Pakistan and China
 - India's defence preparedness and strategic partnerships
4. **Climate Crisis and Sustainable Development**
 - Global climate action amidst geopolitical tensions
 - Balancing development and sustainability imperatives

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of global trends and their local implications
 - Identification of strategic opportunities for India and Rajasthan
 - Policy recommendations and insights for stakeholders
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