



## Progress Report: January to March 2019

**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 Report covers the January-March (Q4) period.**

**Your comments/inputs are welcome!**

### RESEARCH

1. **CUTS Washington Monthly Brief:** Each month, the Center disseminates a monthly brief, which is a collation of global news stories and opinions with respect to its focus work areas: Trade, Energy and Strategic Issues, with an 'Editor's Note' on a trending and critical issue of the month ([http://cuts-wdc.org/monthly\\_briefs.htm](http://cuts-wdc.org/monthly_briefs.htm))
2. **Policy Notes:** Two page Policy Notes on contemporary issues with respect to the Center's focus work areas published during the reporting period:
  - a. **U.S. Withdrawal of GSP Benefits to India: Need to look at the bigger picture** - PN#9 (<https://bit.ly/2uzRAVU>)
  - b. **Net Neutrality Contradicting postures in the U.S. and India** - PN#8 (<https://bit.ly/2HSGOT7>)

### OUTREACH

1. **Website:** The Center's website is regularly updated (<http://cuts-wdc.org/>)
2. **Number of Website Hits:** Unique Visits – 459; Returning Visits – 86
3. **Email Forum:** 3137 Members and counting...
4. **Social Media:** 81 Followers on [Twitter](#) and 96 Likes on [Facebook Page](#)

### IN MEDIA

1. '**\$500bn India-US Bilateral Trade? Possible, Says Experts**'- India Post, March 07, 2019
2. '**Dept of Commerce Urges for A Paradigm Shift in Indo-US Trade and Investment Relations**'- Knowledge and News Network, February 27, 2019
3. '**What Should the role of G-20 Countries be in Reforming the WTO?**'- The Wire, February 08, 2019
4. '**India is Very Important to Us, says Harinder Sidhu**'- Daily News and Analysis, January 28, 2019
5. '**Trade Deficit Can't Be a Determinant of Indo-US Relations, Says Top Think-tank**'- The Economic Times, January 09, 2019

## EVENTS

1. **Australia-India Relationship and the India Economic Strategy 2035, Talk by Harinder Sidhu, Australia's High Commissioner to India:** CUTS International as part of its Washington DC Center, organised a dinner talk by the Australian High Commissioner to India, Harinder Sidhu on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January in Jaipur. The talk was attended by around 50 eminent persons from business, polity, civil society and socio-culture spheres of life. Through the talk, Ms. Sidhu stressed upon her country's desire to improve trade and strategic ties with India.

**Media Coverage:** <https://bit.ly/2YIg9xK>

**Video:** <https://bit.ly/2FNKX7B>

2. We organised a Discussion on "**Advancing United States and India Relations - Mission US\$500 Billion Bilateral Trade**" on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.

**Frank Islam**, Founder, FI Investment Group, USA and Member, International Advisory Board, CUTS Washington DC Center delivered the [Keynote Address](#). The Panel Discussion comprised of distinguished speakers: **Phil Shaw**, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India Pvt. Ltd.; **Ambika Sharma**, Managing Director – India, U.S.-India Business Council; **Santosh Kumar Sarangi**, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India and **Robert Garverick**, Minister Counsellor for Economic Affairs, Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. The Panel Discussion was moderated by **Pradeep Mehta**, Secretary General, CUTS International. The event was attended by approximately 80 participants comprising of trade experts, industry players, academia, law firms, civil society groups, diplomats, government officials, media etc.

The **Event Report** can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/2CRT2rg> **YouTube Video:** <https://bit.ly/2UkHKpr>

**Media Coverage:** <https://bit.ly/2I6WoKr>

## PLANNED ACTIVITY

- **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, potential partnership is being explored with like minded organisations.

**The complete list of International Advisory Board members can be accessed at -**

<http://bit.ly/2CAJ25H>

The **past Quarterly Progress Reports**, covering April-June (Q1), July-September (Q2), October-December (Q3) periods can be downloaded from this link - <https://bit.ly/2KONOiI>