

CUTS International organised an event in New Delhi on May 28, 2023, to discuss the challenges before G20. The event was the second in the series being organised to commemorate the 40th anniversary of CUTS.

Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa; Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS; Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Chief Coordinator for India's G20 Presidency; and Pradeep Mehta, founder and Secretary General of CUTS International, spoke at the event. The event was attended by over 85 distinguished participants and over 200 on YouTube

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=tut_8oCcOE)

The first one on international trade policy was organised at the World Trade Organisation, Geneva with its dynamic Director General, Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala on April 06, 2023. It was a grand success attracting over 150 physical participants and nearly 700 persons worldwide on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/3ZJsbVS>).

As CUTS work on a wide bandwidth of topics, future events will be organised on different themes, such as competition & regulation, consumer protection and governance.

Here are a few statements made by prominent personalities during the event:

Overcoming Trade Challenges: *Empowering the Underprivileged*

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Pradeep Mehta and the entire team at CUTS for achieving this significant milestone. CUTS embodies the spirit of a bootstrapped start-up, having grown and expanded without extensive support from external sources.

Pradeep's unwavering determination to pursue groundbreaking work, especially in the realm of trade, is truly commendable. It was during a time marked by rampant protectionism that hindered both economic growth and our capacity to uplift those living in poverty.

It is often overlooked, but trade has played a crucial role in lifting significant portions of the population out of poverty. However, a recurring pattern throughout history has shown that after experiencing a pandemic, the following five years are characterised by a rise in protectionism. Regrettably, we are currently witnessing a similar trend.

The USA serves as a notable example, with the introduction of the Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS Act, both of which can be identified as classic instances of protectionist measures. Sadly, such actions are likely to impede global growth and development.

Amitabh Kant, *G20 Sherpa of India*



CUTS Impact on the G20 *Leading the Way in Think Tank Contributions*



I am delighted that CUTS International has shown keen interest in the G20 and is making substantial contributions through various channels, notably as part of the Think20 (T20) Initiative.

I was involved in several initiatives led by CUTS, including a remarkable compilation of targeted export promotion endeavours. It is

no surprise that CUTS today is one of our country's most prominent think tanks with a global outreach.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, *India's G20 Chief Coordinator*

A Remarkable Contribution in Africa

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to CUTS for its remarkable and invaluable contribution. Over the years, it has effectively filled a significant void, and as someone who has closely observed their work since the early 1990s, including a pivotal role at the Cancun WTO Ministerial, it is evident that CUTS has left an indelible mark. Thus, I wholeheartedly commend CUTS for its outstanding efforts.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my congratulations to the organisation for its exceptional work in Africa, where its positive impact has been widely recognised and appreciated.

Sachin Chaturvedi, *Director General, RIS*



Pioneering a Global Trade Architecture

India assumed the G20 presidency in December 2022. It has set three priorities for its one-year term as the group's chair: strengthening global economic recovery, promoting free and fair trade, and addressing global challenges. It has started pushing for an equitable global trade architecture.

India has put forth a visionary proposition for the establishment of a revamped global trade architecture, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity and fairness. Simultaneously, it aims to champion regional trade agreements and tackle the prevalent issue of protectionism.

India views its G20 presidency as a pivotal platform to tackle critical global economic challenges, particularly in the realms of trade and investment.

To take forward the discussions at G20 in India, CUTS has conceptualised two proposals in partnership with research bodies in Brazil and South Africa to work on jobs, skills, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

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40 Years of CUTS in Public Action

