

Mehta a "living treasure" for the World



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CUTS is celebrating its 25th anniversary. I am sorry that I cannot be present on this occasion.

Pradeep Mehta has built up what is arguably the most influential developing-country NGO in the world, all from modest beginnings and without pandering to the nonsense propagated by populists like Stiglitz and ill-informed NGOs like Oxfam who have done more harm than good to the cause of development and of the world trading system.

Pradeep has retained his integrity and produced first rate research and informed activism. As a result, the trade community worldwide regards him now as an authentic developing-country voice that must be listened to by the rich countries. Not just for India, but for developing countries and indeed the world, he is what the Japanese call a "living treasure". I am happy to salute him on this occasion.