

TESTIMONIAL

Arvind Panagariya

Professor of Economics
Columbia University, USA

Leading Advocate of Developing Country Interests at the WTO

I first heard of CUTS years ago from my friend and guru, Professor Jagdish Bhagwati. Jagdish had met Pradeep Mehta at an UNCTAD conference in Midrand, South Africa in 1996 and, knowing that I came from Jaipur, asked if I knew him. I did not at the time but was later happily surprised to find out that his father-in-law was our neighbour and he and my father had gone on morning walks for years during my stay in Jaipur!

Later, I met Pradeep at a Conference at Columbia University just prior to the ill-fated Seattle WTO ministerial and learned a great deal about CUTS and its activities through various publications he gave me. Since the issues CUTS had been addressing were close to my own heart, I quickly developed deep interest in its activities. Since then, I have visited the CUTS offices in Jaipur twice and also given speeches at events organised by them in Jaipur as well as Washington DC.

In a very short period, CUTS has turned into a leading advocate of developing country interests at the WTO. There are a few WTO related events of importance to developing countries on the international stage that do not have the CUTS presence these days. CUTS has done a remarkably great job of articulating the poor country's interests and concerns on the subject of a link between trade and labour and trade and environmental standards.