

CUTS Annual Report-2018

Inputs from CUTS CART

1. IMPACT

A. URBAN GOVERNANCE

1. **Project: Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform (RCMLP)**

Support: The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Period: April, 2017-April, 2018 (Phase I)

Period: January, 2018-July, 2018 (Phase II)

Phase I: The object is to create a platform of sharing and learning based approaches to enhance knowledge of mayors from various cities of Rajasthan by way of organizing Mayor's conferences, Knowledge Enhancement Workshops and Exposure Visits for Mayors and concerned persons of DLB office.

([http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Rajasthan_City_Mayors_Learning_Platform.htm))

The phase II of the project also got started

Phase II: This Project addresses the issue focusing on the objective to create space for Mayors to discuss the common issues of ULBs towards improvement on 'Sharing & Learning' basis.

([http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform-Phase2.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Rajasthan_City_Mayors_Learning_Platform-Phase2.htm))

Event report can be viewed at:

[http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/National Conference on 25 Years of 74th CAA RCMLP-2-July10-2018.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/National_Conference_on_25_Years_of_74th_CAA_RCMLP-2-July10-2018.pdf)

After so much of efforts, a formal platform for City Mayors was created and was well recognized by the Mayors of Rajasthan. They considered it as an important event, which could really enhance knowledge on various topics. Mayors took it as the first ever chance at a non-government platform to interact with other city mayors in the State itself.

One of the major outcome is that this intervention has enhanced knowledge of elected representatives especially of Mayors through sharing of information with each other, which resulted into regular interaction with each other.

Event report can be viewed at:

[http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Report of Mayors Conference held in Jaipur2017.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Report_of_Mayors_Conference_held_in_Jaipur2017.pdf)

Under phase II, to serve the purpose, a conference was held on July 10, 2018 at Jaipur in association with National Institute for Transforming India Commission (NITI Aayog), where experts from other corners of India, working on urban local self-governance also presented their work and shared their experiences.

2. Project: Civil Society Organizations Capacity Building on Self-Governance (CiSCAG Project)

Support: US Embassy in India

Period: September, 2017-August, 2018

The project aims to build capacities of Civil Society Organisation on Self-Governance (CiSCAG Project) by way of organising workshops and bring together representatives from leading US and India think tanks, CSOs to share best practices for enhancing self-governance transparency.

<http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/CISCAG/index.htm>

Event Report of 1st can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/CISCAG/pdf/EventReport-workshop-sept17-18-2018Jaipur.pdf>

3. Project: Study of Residential Rooftop Solar in Jaipur

Support: World Resources Institute, India

Period: November, 2017-January, 2018

The aim is to understand the consumer experience with rooftop solar, specifically, pain points for consumers, who have installed/wish to install rooftop solar in Jaipur. *On January 10, 2018, WRI and CUTS co-organised a small closed door consultation meeting in Jaipur. The meeting was organised to disseminate the findings of study of 'Status of Acceptance of Solar Rooftops in Jaipur'.*

Two workshops have been organized on September 17 and 18, 2018, Jaipur on September 20 and 21, 2018, New Delhi. This intervention has been able to enhance the internal governance and transparency of organisations to run non-profit activities smoothly in the country for development.

Event Report 2nd can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/CISCAG/pdf/EventReport-workshop-sept20-21-2018Delhi.pdf>

The intervention helped in increasing prevalence of solar rooftops by working to reduce issues people face before, during and after its installation and the campaign has gained it. *Paper published by WRI can be viewed at:*

<https://www.wri.org/publication/here-comes-the-sun>

B. CONSUMER PROTECTION

4. Project: Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic II)

Period: April, 2017-March, 2021

Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)

One of the basic idea of the project is to promote sustainable consumption and production, which are important aspects of sustainable regime. This is largely consistent with the environmental and social factors, and education and empowerment of consumers. In 'ProOrganic II' project, focus is on the aspect of sustainable food and farming, and to formulate an agenda to achieve it. This will be acquired through promoting organic production of farm products on one hand, and promoting organic consumption, on the other. Consequently, this would lead to sustainable development in agriculture and environmental sector, as a whole.

ProOrganic II started from April 01, 2017 to March 31, 2021 in 192 gram panchayats of 96 blocks of ten selected districts of Rajasthan. The second year has been a success in terms of completing the annual stakeholder's consultation; village level activities, farmer's trainings, successfully establishing kitchen gardens and compost units in 20 schools in ten districts, thus bringing school children also among the stakeholders of the project. *Event reports can be viewed at:* <http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic-II/index.htm>

4.1 Project: Green Action Week-Jaipur Campaign, 2018 (It's part of ProOrganic II)

Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)

Period: September-October, 2018

This year, the theme of GAW is "Sharing Community". Focusing on the theme, activities have been planned in the community for community kitchen gardening, composting and sharing the yield with the neighborhood community. The community will also develop common kitchen garden in waste land. In addition to avoid food wastage, sharing of left out food among the needy is also planned in the community.

[http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green Action Week 2018-Sharing Community.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green_Action_Week_2018-Sharing_Community.htm)

5. Project: Global Green Action Week Fund, India

Support: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

Period: September, 2017–February, 2018 (Phase 2017-18)

Theme: Safer, More Sustainable Food for All'

[http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green Action Week Fund-India-2017.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green_Action_Week_Fund-India-2017.htm)

Period: June, 2018-February, 2019 (Phase 2018-19)

Theme: 'Sharing Community' (as shared in 4.1)

([http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green Action Week Fund-India-2018.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green_Action_Week_Fund-India-2018.htm))

Objective: CUTS International is also partnering and supporting 12 organisations in 12 states, for conducting GAW campaign. The partnering states are: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. This will help in creating a network of organisations working on organic farming and strengthen the advocacy for furthering the cause of organic consumption and farming and the theme of sharing community.

25 households were identified in selected communities (Ramnagar and Meenavala) of Jaipur under the campaign. Women were trained to develop kitchen gardens and were trained on segregating wet and dry waste composting units set up at common places for five households each and community members were encouraged to put wet waste in these units. A 'Wall of Kindness' and Community Library was also set up in each community under the campaign, where people can put their used and unused household items like clothes, Crockery items, books etc. to share with other community members. *Event reports can be viewed at: Under preparation*

GAW (India) proved as a catalyst to persuade people to adopt a more organic life to achieve the ultimate goal of 'Safer, More Sustainable Food for All' and could able to ignite cultures of sharing and collaboration, as a way to create sustainable access for more people and at the same time reduce stress on the planet. *Campaign reports of 2017-18 can be viewed at: [http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green Action Week Fund-India-2017.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green_Action_Week_Fund-India-2017.htm)*

Campaign reports of 2018-19 can be viewed at: Under Preparation.

6. Project: Documenting Practices of Sustainable Culture and Lifestyles in India

Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)

Period: October, 2017-September, 2018

This intervention will help regaining and retaining traditional and cultural practices in relation to sustainable culture practiced in India since ages and establish a clear context of their use in urban modern day setting.

<http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/scpl/>

Documentation report can be viewed at: http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/scpl/pdf/Research_Report-SCPL.pdf

7. Project: Depositor & Education Awareness (DEA) Programme

Support: Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai

Period: November, 2017-January, 2018 (*Phase II-Quarter I*)

Period: August, 2018-October, 2018 (*Phase II-Quarter II*)

The objective of the pilot programme is imparting education and awareness for the promotion of depositor's interest and to provide safe and secured deposit lessons to various depositors in five selected districts of Rajasthan. In addition, the programme also aimed to encourage public to have a bank account, discourage public from keeping money in illegal non-bank entities, demystify KYC requirements and provide information about customer rights as a depositor.

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Financial_Consumer_Protection.htm

Synthesis report of quarter II can be viewed at: Under preparation

8. Project: Enhancing Financial Protection of Consumers in Particular Women through Financial Literacy Initiatives (FCP)

Support: Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India.

Period: May, 2017-March, 2018 and January to December, 2019

The objective of this intervention is to enhance Financial Protection of Consumers in Particular Women through Financial Literacy Initiatives (FCP) by way of building the capacities of rural consumers, especially women in terms of

Documentation of the project was done and printed and was well received at various platforms and has been shared on global platform for wider outreach and dissemination, which will suggest the ways and ideas to the world to turn to a sustainable lifestyle. This intervention also helped in regaining and retaining traditional and cultural practices in relation to sustainable culture practiced in India since ages and establish a clear context of their use in urban modern day setting.

CUTS jointly with RBI has tried to ensure and able to produce a mass awareness with regard to safe and unriskey investments. Participants in all the workshops did take part with lot of enthusiasm and there was zeal and zest felt among them. The response from bankers at all the places was commendable. Successfully completed second and the third phase consisting of in all 19 programmes in various cities, sub-towns and villages.

Synthesis report of quarter I can be viewed at: http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Event_Report-DEA_Programme_Pilot_Project-2017-18_Phase_2.pdf

Through the intervention, the rural financial consumers, especially women were trained and made capable of making decisions on financial issues. The activities could able to enhance awareness, knowledge and skills among the target community on the financial decisions about savings, investments, borrowings, income and expenditure. The first year activity has been commendable with huge number of awareness grassroot meetings in all the 23

<p>financial literacy there-by enhancing their financial inclusion and overcome vulnerability and ensure the economic security.</p> <p><i>Project activities can be viewed at:</i> http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/FCP/index.htm</p>	<p>blocks of two districts. The year also witnessed successful two stakeholder’s consultations at Bhilwara and Chittorgarh respectively with participation of all the stakeholders.</p>
<p>9. <u>Project:</u> Giving the Poorest Consumers Greater Voice in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia (ProVoice) <u>Support:</u> Consumers International (CI) with the support from IKEA Foundation</p> <p><u>Period:</u> April, 2017-March, 2018 (<i>Phase I</i>) <u>Period:</u> April, 2018- July, 2018 (<i>Extended Phase</i>) <u>Period:</u> October, 2018-September, 2019 (<i>Phase II</i>)</p> <p>The purpose of this intervention is to develop a scale-able model to enable low-income households to access safe and sustainable household products which would eventually ensure children are brought up in safe and healthy homes in the targeted communities Netawalgarh and Eral (Chittorgarh)</p> <p>10. <u>Project:</u> ‘Support Strong Food Labelling Regulations and Elimination of Trans-fats in India’ (RESOLVE) <u>Support:</u> Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI)</p> <p><u>Period:</u> June, 2018 to September, 2018.</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> The objective of the project is to support strong and effective formulation of the “Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2018 and promote elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in India as part of REPLACE technical package.</p>	<p>People have started giving a thought about internal air, electricity and quality of water and safety. People have now started asking about using quality electricity goods, consumer complaint redressal centre and process of complaint redressal. They are aware about the products, they purchase almost daily. <i>Project details and activities can be viewed at:</i> http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Giving t he Poorest Consumers Greater Voice in India.htm</p> <p>After the intervention, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to form a three-member committee to look into the draft food labelling and display regulations. The regulations have proposed making red colour-coded labels mandatory on packaged food products which are high in fat, sugar and salt contents. <i>Project details and activities can be viewed at:</i> http://cuts-international.org/cart/ssflr/</p>

C. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

11. Project: Road Safety Advocacy (ROSA)

Support: Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)

Project Period: October, 2016-September, 2017 (Phase I)

Project Period: November, 2017-October, 2019 (Phase II)

The intervention aims to garner support from parliamentarians, media and other stakeholders for supporting smooth passage of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and post Act, enhancing Road Safety in India through advocacy for speedy rule making and effective implementation of Road Safety Laws in India clubbing it with road safety awareness activities.

Project details and activities can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/rosa/index.htm/>

This particular intervention, has helped in bringing CUTS into the limelight of road safety work in the country. The intervention has helped CUTS is coming closer to public representatives and making submissions before Parliamentary Standing Committee through a Bill Blow on the Act. Through advocacy meetings at the national, regional and the divisional level, it has helped in imparting and generating awareness on new provisions in the proposed amendments in the Bill. The second phase was mainly woven around advocacy related activities to garner parliamentarians for a smooth passage of M V Bill in Rajya Sabha.

2. HIGHLIGHTS/SPECIAL ENDEVOUR

Commemoration of World Consumer Rights Day on March 15, 2018

96 percent consumers made an online purchase for at least once in their lifetime amongst all the awarded consumers of the online platforms in Jaipur. Out of those, 70 percent consumers find online shopping safe, yet 63 percent prefer cash on delivery. 56 percent online consumers faced problem post purchase. Findings of the survey on 'Digital Consumer Satisfaction' conducted by CUTS International was released on 'World Consumer Rights Day, 2018' observed by the organisation through an event in Jaipur on March 15, 2018. The day was observed worldwide on the theme 'Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer'. Mugdha Sinha, Secretary Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies, Govt. of Rajasthan, addressed the event as the Chief Guest. She appealed for 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance' through doorstep delivery of goods, services and knowledge to the consumer. *Detailed report can be viewed at:* [http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Event_Report-](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Event_Report-Making_Digital_Market_Places_Fairer_World_Consumer_Rights_Day2018.pdf)

[Making Digital Market Places Fairer World Consumer Rights Day2018.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Event_Report-Making_Digital_Market_Places_Fairer_World_Consumer_Rights_Day2018.pdf)

Celebration of Road Safety Week, 2018 on April 23-30, 2018

The road safety week was observed by CUTS during April 23-30, 2018. The theme of the Road Safety Week 2018 was "Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha". CUTS was connected with the RTO and Transport Department in observing the RSW 2018. The inaugural event of RSW in Jaipur was attended by CUTS team at Jawahar Circle, Jaipur. As part of the drive of 'Making Cities **Honk Free**', CUTS started the campaign from Jaipur on the occasion of Road Safety Week. Horns are the sound making devices that can be equipped at the vehicles, the sound these devices make generally resembles "Honk". The concept behind this honk is to call the attention of the people about the approaching vehicle. Horns should only be used in the case of emergency but the actual scenario is totally different. *Campaign report can be viewed at:* http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Road_Safety_Week-2018.pdf

Commemoration of World Environment Day on June 5, 2018
Session in Manipal University, Jaipur

To address the issue and commemorate this year's World Environment Day on the theme 'Beat The Plastic Pollution', two back to back events were organised on June 5, 2018. The first one was an event organised for students of Manipal University, Jaipur Campus, a session was organised for 200 students presenting the importance and need of the issue of plastic waste disposal. A pledge was also taken on the occasion.

An Event at Rajasthan Gau Sewa Sangh, Jaipur

An event was organised at Gau Sewa Sangh on the same day for representatives of NGOs and volunteers. Jyoti Khandelwal, former Mayor of Jaipur and Ramcharan Bohra, Member of Parliament were the special guests on the event. Around 30 participants from different organisations participated in the event. The cows were garlanded with placards depicting slogans on 'Beat the Plastic Pollution'. Cows have been the sufferers of plastic pollution because they end up consuming non-degradable plastic with food.

National Conference on 25 Years of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act on July 10, 2018

India adopted a three-tier planning and governance structure after the introduction of 74th Constitutional Amendment in 1992, which came into force on June 1, 1993. The year 2018 marked the 25th year of 74th CAA which gave constitutional backing to the existence of Municipal/Local governments as the third tier of the governance system. 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) was historic and landmark, however still not properly implemented in India even after 25 years of its enactment. Municipal governments feel dependent on state, even for funds and decisions making.

In order to celebrate the decentralisation and brainstorm the progress in last 25 years, CUTS organised the 'National Conference on 25 Years of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act' in association with NITI Aayog on July 10, 2018 in Jaipur. CUTS also conducted the study on 'Urban Local Governance in Rajasthan-Role of Multiple Development Agencies' and findings were disseminated in the conference in presence of representatives from NITI Aayog, Policy Think Tank of Government of India; National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi; various CSOs and policy think-tanks and councilors. The conference and study were part of phase II of Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform supported by The Asia Foundation. *Detailed report can be viewed at:* http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/National_Conference_on_25_Years_of_74th_CAA_RCMLP-2-July10-2018.pdf

FSSAI Ropes in Expert Panel to Look into Draft Labeling Regulations
CUTS Consultation on August 17, 2018

'The front-of-package labels are required for people to be aware of healthy and unhealthy food, said Pawan Agarwal, CEO, Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), while addressing the National Consultation on Food Labelling Regulation for Safe and Healthy Food organized by CUTS International in participation of FSSAI on August 17, 2018 at New Delhi. Agarwal announced the formation of expert panel to look into draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2018, which were announced in April, 2018 by FSSAI. The regulations are at present at the stage of consideration by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. India is still at a comfortable stage, where it can control the menace of unhealthy eating by working on public policy unlike countries like the US, where the huge amount of money is spent just on tackling diseases like obesity in public health. *Detailed report can be viewed at:* http://cuts-international.org/cart/ssflr/pdf/Event_Report-National_Consultation_on_Food_Labelling-Aug17-2018.pdf

GRSP Partner's Meeting and Strategy Planning Workshop Hosted by CUTS

CUTS hosted the fourth GRSP partners meet cum strategic planning meeting held in Jaipur from September 10-13, 2018. In the meeting all the GRSP India partners participated including Taifur Rehman, Nalin Sinha and Meena from GHAI. In the partner's meet not only the past activities were evaluated but future course of action for all the GRSP partners was also discussed and decided in close consultation with all the team members of all the partner organisations. All the sessions were facilitated by representatives of the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), GRSP and partner organisations and CUTS International being the host of the event. In the partner's meet, representatives of GHAI, GRSP, CUTS International, Jaipur; Consumer VOICE, Delhi; CAG, Chennai; PARISAR, Pune; Institute of Public Health (IPH), Bangalore; CEE, Ahmedabad and SaveLIFE, New Delhi were present. *Detailed report can be viewed at: http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/rosa/pdf/Event_Report-GRSP_Partners_Meet-Sept10-13-2018.pdf*

World Day of Remembrance on November 18, 2018

CUTS commemorated WDR for road accident victims on November 18, 2018. The activities on November 18, 2018 were organised at *Jawahar Circle* in collaboration with EHCC Hospital, Jaipur and 3M Reflector. The activities started with a brief discussion about the road safety scenario in the country, the legislative amendment process in the MVAB. The participants followed by a walkathon around the Circle in which more than 200 people participated including the medical and nursing professionals of the EHCC, CUTS team, morning walkers, traffic police representatives and others. A medical checkup camp was also organised by the EHCC hospital staff in which more than 70 people got their health checkups and reports instantly. The project team also pasted safety stickers on more than 50 bicycles at the two bicycle renting stands at *Jawahar Circle*. Cyclists were also oriented about the importance of pasting of reflectors.

Making Food Systems More Sustainable: Role of Consumer Organisations

George Cheriyan attended a Global Project Meeting on June 4-5, 2018 at Ghana, Accra organized by Consumers International and UN-FAO on 'Making Food Systems More Sustainable: Role of Consumer Organisations'. In the event, he made a presentation on 'CUTS Work on Food Safety & Sustainability'. Furtherance to it, George & Aakansha attended the International Conference on 'People Powered Sustainable Consumption' held in Accra itself on June 6, 2018 organised by SSNC & IBON International jointly with CI. George & Aakansha then together attended the second meeting of Think Tank on Sustainable Consumption held in Accra on June 7-8, 2018.

Strengthening the Cooperation between Government Bodies, Financial Regulators and NGOs in the Field of Financial Consumer Protection

George Cheriyan represented CUTS as an expert in the round table on 'Strengthening the Cooperation between Government Bodies, Financial Regulators and Non-Government Organizations in the Field of Financial Consumer Protection' in Moscow, Russia on September 27-28, 2018, which was organized by the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation jointly with the World Bank.

Money Matters: Public Finance and Social Accountability for Human Capital

George Cheriyan visited Washington DC from October 29-November 2, 2018 mainly for attending the 5th GPSA Global Partners Forum on the theme 'Money Matters: Public Finance and Social Accountability for Human Capital', held on October 30-31 & November 1, 2018 at the World Bank. Making use of the opportunity, George also had several meetings with relevant Bank staff and also with PTF (Partnership for Transparency Fund) and Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) of the Bloomberg Philanthropies. George also visited the office of GHAI and Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) of the Bloomberg on November 1, 2018 and had details discussions and introduced CUTS and its activities in various programmatic areas/countries.

3. EVENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders' Consultation on February 28, 2018 at Jaipur under ProOrganic II project. 	http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic-II/pdf/Report-State Level Stakeholders Consultation Feb28-2018.pdf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Level Partner's Orientation Meeting under ProOrganic II project on May 3, 2018 at Jaipur. 	http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic-II/pdf/District Level Partners Meeting-May3-2018.pdf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaipur Block Level Partner's Orientation Meeting under ProOrganic II project on May 4, 2018 at Jaipur. 	http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic-II/pdf/Event Report on Block Level Partners Orientation Meeting-May4-2018.pdf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CUTS Comments to FSSAI on Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2018 under RESOLVE project. 	http://cuts-international.org/cart/ssflr/pdf/Summary of Comments on Draft Regulations.pdf .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Stakeholder's Consultation and Dissemination Meeting on September 25, 2018 at Chittorgarh under FCP project. 	http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/FCP/pdf/Report on FCP Annual Stakeholders Meeting-Chittorgarh.pdf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Stakeholder's Consultation and Dissemination Meeting on September 27, 2018 at Bhilwara under FCP project. 	http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/FCP/pdf/Event Report on FCP Annual Stakeholders Meeting-Bhilwara.pdf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer Awareness Programme at Kapasan, Chittorgarh under TRAI-CAG on September 30, 2018 and at Kotri, Bhilwara on December, 2018. 	http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Consumer Outreach Programme Chittorgarh September30 2018.pdf <i>Kotri report underway</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner's Meeting on December 14, 2018 under GAW-India at Jaipur. 	<i>Report underway</i>

11. PUBLICATIONS/OUTREACH

- Catalyst (*three issues of quarterly e-newsletter*) _Fourth will be out in January 2019.
- Gram Gadar (*Twelve issues of wall newspaper*)
- Paanchva Stambh (*three issues of quarterly newsletter in Hindi*) _ Fourth will be out in January 2018.
- City Matters (*three issues of quarterly newsletter*) _ Fourth will be out in January 2018
- Consumer Dialogue (*two issues of tri-annual e-newsletter in English*) _ Third will be out in January 2018.
- GSK Alert (*three issues of quarterly e-newsletter*) _Fourth will be out in January 2018.
- IEC material published and printed under ProOrganic and Green Action Week.
- IEC material published under ROSA.
- IEC material published under FCP and DEAF.
- Briefing Paper: Food Labelling Regulations in India: Need of Strong Front of Package Labels (<http://cuts-international.org/cart/ssflr/pdf/Briefing Paper-Food Labelling Regulations in India.pdf>)

12. STAFF REPRESENTATION

- George attended a Conference of State Health Secretaries & Health Ministers respectively on 'Promoting Preventive Health through Convergence and Concrete Action', as a special invitee on January 8-9, 2018 in Delhi. The conference focused on issues related to food safety and regulatory compliance in States/UTs in the context of observations made by CAG in its recent Report and develops an action plan.
- George, Deepak and Dharmendra attended a meeting with Secretary, Consumer Affairs, Ms. Mugdha Sinha on January 15, 2018 at Rajasthan Secretariat, Jaipur on various consumer issues.
- George along with Jeetali attended the seminar on "Consumer Protection in Digital Era" on January 19, 2018 organised by TRAI, Jaipur at Jaipur.
- Deepak and Dharmendra attended a 'Forest Food Festival' jointly organised by Nature Club of Rajasthan and Department of Forest and Environment on 28 January, 2018 at 'Vishwa Vaniki Udhyan', Jaipur.
- Jeetali attended the meeting on 'Salt Iodization' by Nutrition International on January 29, 2018 at Lavan Bhawan Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur.
- George attended one-day workshop/interactions with NGOs, Citizens and Civil Society on Air Pollution organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EE Division), Government of India at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi on February 21, 2018.
- Deepak attended the third Global Road Safety Leadership Course (GRSLC) from March 4-16, 2018, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, facilitated by Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit (JHU) and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and conducted by Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP).
- Amardeep attended SMART city conclave held at Jaipur on March 16, 2018 organised by FICCI, Jaipur Municipal Corporation and Department of Local Self Government, Rajasthan
- George attended the Clean Energy@Connect Karo 2018 organized by the World Resource Institute at India Habitat Center, New Delhi on April 5, 2018
- Deepak along with Jeetali attended a meeting on April 12, 2018 called by Department of Consumer Affairs of Rajasthan at Rajasthan Secretariat, Jaipur to discuss 'Guidelines for Direct Selling', which has been notified for discussion by the department.
- George along with Dharmendra attended an inaugural session of "International Rural Development Immersion Camp 2018" organised by Lok Sahbhagi Sansthan, Khoraladkhani, Jaipur at Jaipur on April 16, 2018.
- Madhu Sudan represented CUTS in the National Conference on 'Twenty-Five Years of Panchayati Raj' in India, organised by Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Govt. of Kerala on April 24-25, 2018 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Madhu Sudan represented CUTS in the 'NGOs Meet on Road Safety' organised by The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India organised during the 'Road Safety Week', at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on April 27, 2018.
- Dharmendra attended TRAI Consumer Outreach Programme on May 3, 2018 at Auditorium of Administrative Building National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Anta, Dist. Baran, Rajasthan.
- Jeetali along with Nimisha attended the workshop on "Mahila Bol" a nationwide initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development and United Nations Women against sexual harassment of women at workplace in Jaipur on May 4, 2018.
- Dharmendra & Jeetali attended the workshop at Jaipur organised by Department of Consumer Affairs of Govt. of Rajasthan on May 9, 2018.
- George on May 15, 2018 attended the meeting of Central Advisory Committee of FSSAI held at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Dharmendra attended TRAI Consumer Outreach Programme on May 25, 2018 at Internal Security Academy Central Reserve Police Force, Mount Abu, Dist. Sirohi (Rajasthan).
- Amar along with Kunwar Dheer attended a conference on Partnership to scale up innovative solutions for urban sanitation organised by PRIA at Jaipur on May 30, 2018.
- Madhusudan and Satyapal participated in a meeting called by CEO, FSSAI, Govt. of India on May 31, 2018 in Delhi.

- Deepak attended a GIZ global project Launch Workshop on Private Business Action for Biodiversity which was organised at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on June 12, 2018.
- Deepak along with Dharmendra and Jeetali attended the meeting at secretariat, which was organized to give comments and discuss draft rules and regulations drafted by the department to set guidelines of direct selling on June 22, 2018.
- Dharmendra attended Consumer Outreach Programme on July 26, 2018. The programme was organized by TRAI Regional Office, Jaipur at Zila Parishad Sabha Bhawan, Collectorate Campus, Jalore, Rajasthan.
- Jeetali represented CUTS in the second 'Global Road Safety Leadership Course (GRSLC)' held at Baltimore, Maryland, USA from July 21, 2018 to August 03, 2018.
- George participated in the 23rd Meeting of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) being member, of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) held at FDA Bhavan, New Delhi dated September 07, 2018.
- Aakansha and Jeetali from CART along with MGA from CITEE attended the orientation workshop at the Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT). The team will be working on proposal for the project which will be submitted before September 14, 2018.
- Dharmendra attended workshop on Consumer Protection and consumer welfare at HCM, RIPA, OTS, Jaipur on August 30-31, 2018.
- Amar represented CUTS in seminar on tobacco harm reduction organised by USISPF at IIC, New Delhi on September 27, 2018.
- Amar visited Smart City Expo organised by Smart City Expo India at Jaipur exhibition and convention centre, Sitapura, Jaipur on September 26, 2018.
- Nimisha attended a skill sharing workshop on 'Advocacy on Local to National level, Digital Advocacy, Lobbying and Election Campaigning' from October 1-5, 2018 organised by The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) at Stockholm, Sweden.
- Amar along with Gauhar and Madhusudan attended a project exploratory meeting at Jaipur on October 9, 2018.
- Madhu Sudan participated and facilitated a session on 'Contextualizing LDP with the Findings of the Institutional and Legislative Assessment' done by CUTS with WHO, in National Law University on October 6, 2018.
- George visited Sweden on October 15-17, 2018. On October 15, 2018, George delivered a talk to the staff of SSNC Global Department on 'India in General: Political Situation & Civic Space'. Visited the Swedish Consumer Organisation and met with Jens Henriksson, International Officer and discussed possible collaboration. On October 16, 2018, George travelled to Gothenburg and visited Dept. of Ecolabelling and Green Consumption of SSNC. Jessica. Programme Officer briefed him about GAW campaign in Sweden on the theme 'Fix your Stuff'.
- George attended the meeting of the Council of Consumer International on October 18, 2018 at Hotel New York, Rotterdam. Present Bart Combee chaired the meeting. The council mainly discussed about the selection of new DG and upcoming CI World Congress to be held in Lisbon, Portugal during April 29-May 2, 2019.
- George visited Indian Embassy in The Hague on October 19, 2018 and met Indian Ambassador (and Secretary to Government of India) Venu Rajamony. Discussed about possible collaboration in the area of sustainable consumption.
- Kunwar and Satyapal attended five-day Training of Trainers programme on Consumer Protection organised at IIPA, New Delhi from October 8-12, 2018.
- Amar attended Consultation on 'Swasth Bharat Yatra' organised by FSSAI, New Delhi on October 12, 2018.
- Deepak, Dharmendra and Kunwar Dheer attended seminar on 'World Standards Day 2018' on October 14, 2018 at Jaipur.
- Rajdeep and Dharmendra attended a meeting on World Women Farmers Day' on October 15, 2018 at BARC office, Jaipur.

- George participated in the 5th GPSA Global Partners Forum on the theme ‘Money Matters: Public Finance and Social Accountability for Human Capital’, Oct. 30, 31 & Nov. 1, 2018 in USA.
- George visited the office of Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) and Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) of the Bloomberg Philanthropies in USA on November 1, 2018 and had detailed discussions and introduced CUTS and its activities in various programmatic areas/countries.
- Rajdeep and Kunwar Dheer visited Delhi on November 1, 2018 and attended India Organic Festival organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development of Govt. of India.
- Dharmendra attended Local Advisory Committee Meeting of Ambuja Cement Foundation at Jaipur office on November 2, 2018.
- Deepak attended an AGM of Consumer Coordination Council at New Delhi on November 24, 2018.
- George & Amar along with Dr. Seema Joshi, Member of Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, visited Bhilwara-CUTS Child Line and CHD office in Chittorgarh respectively on November 28, 2018.
- George & Amar along with Dr. Seema Joshi, visited Sajjangarh, Banswara on November 29, 2018 and inaugurated the new office under the project Child Rights in Rajasthan supported by Save the Children.
- George attended a two-day Policy Dialogue and Technical Consultation on ‘Road Safety Legislation and Multi-Sectoral Action’ on December 19-20, 2018 organized by WHO India, along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and other partners at New Delhi. MSS joined on the day II of the consultation.
- Dharmendra, Kunwar and Radhika attended the National Consumer Rights Day Programme, organised by Government of Rajasthan on December 24, 2018 at Indira Gandhi Bhawan, JLN Marg, Jaipur.

The **BROWN** highlighted are the selected ones.

13. **CART at Social Network**

- CART is managing four FB pages, one each for MyCity, Insight into Indian States (I3S), ProOb & CoPSA (Community of Practice on Social Accountability), GSK and three dedicated web portals for (ProOb), COPSA and I3S.
- CART has Twitter account with link: <https://twitter.com/CUTSCART>
- Besides, CART is also responsible for moderating two google groups:
CUTSConsumersUp: for Consumer Empowerment in India to take the issues of consumer protection forward.
CUTSGovForum: to discuss news and views on Governance issues and challenges in India.

14. **VISITS**

- Rospotrebnadzor officials visited CUTS on February 7-8, 2018, where GC made a presentation. The team also visited Reserve Bank of India and the Office of Banking Ombudsman and State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission along with CUTS team.
- Visit of Kaustuv Bandhopadhyay, Director, PRIA along with his colleague Anshuman on March 28 to discuss possibility of jointly organising an event at Jaipur involving multi stakeholders from different 2 cities.
- Maria Klerfelt, Programme Manager, Climate Change visited CUTS Jaipur on May 18, 2018 and also visited Saharia Organic Farm at Maheshpura village, near Chomu block of Jaipur. Maria also visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chomu.
- Srikant and two of his colleagues from Janaagraha met CUTS CART team on June 22, 2018. It was a meeting to share the work of CUTS and Janaagraha with each other to enhance the learning.
- Erica Diya Basu from Kolkata referred by CI, visited CUTS for her dissertation on ‘Role of Civil Societies Organization in Shaping Digital Privacy Discourse and Policies in India’.
- A group of 22 students from University of Florida along with a faculty member visited at CUTS on July 13, 2018. George made a presentation on “NGOs and Development in India”.

- Alexander Sjöberg, Senior Policy Advisor Sustainable Consumption, SSNC visited CUTS on December 12-14, 2018.

15. INTERNSHIP AT CART

- Udita Sharma from Institution-National Law School, Cuttack, Odisha during **May 14 to June 13, 2018**
- Arena Ali from Seedling School of Law & Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur during **July 02 to July 31, 2018**
- Nikita Barreto from Christ University, Bengaluru during **October 23 to November 22, 2018**

16. CART IN ELECTRONIC and PRINT MEDIA

- The theme for the World Environment Day is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
Beat Plastic Pollution”, the theme for World Environment Day 2018, is a call for action and invites us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our cities, water bodies, forests and our own health. Studies show that plastic is produced more than any other human-made material, except cement and steel. *An article jointly by Pradeep S Mehta and George Cheriyan can be viewed at:*
<http://www.asianage.com/opinion/oped/050618/reuse-recycle-for-a-cleaner-healthier-india-and-lets-cut-use-of-plastics-too.html>
<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/opinion/op-ed/050618/reuse-recycle-for-a-cleaner-healthier-india-and-lets-cut-use-of.html>
- CUTS has expressed serious concern by issuing a press release in all the local English and Hindi local dailies over unfortunate delay in passage of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, 2017 in Rajya Sabha due to laxing attitude of the Minister and continued absence in the Rajya Sabha and other long standing issues. *The related link is:*
(https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/consumer-advocacy-group-urges-parliament-to-pass-amendments-to-mv-act-118080600988_1.html)
- GC and MSS authored two Opeds in Asian Age dated August 07, 2018 (<http://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/070818/earliest-passage-of-motor-vehicles-bill-is-crucial-to-saving-thousands-of-lives.html>) and in Deccan Herald dated August 9, 2018 (<http://snip.ly/n1w4br/#https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/panorama/motor-vehicles-amendment-bill-686466.html>) on showing serious concern over unfortunate delay in passage of the MVA Bill, 2017 in the on-going monsoon session in *Rajya Sabha*. Both the opeds were shared with the GRSP partners as well for their information.

10. AFFILIATIONS

- Central Consumer Protection Council, Government of India (CCPC).
- Central Advisory Committee of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Advocacy Forum for Tobacco Control, India.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India as Customer Advocacy Group (TRAI-CAG).
- Bureau of Indian Standards as recognised consumer organisation.
- Global Partner of Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA).
- Member of Roster of Experts and Roster of Practitioners of GPSA.
- Member of Global Think Tank of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).
- Consumer Policy Advocacy Committee of Bureau of India Standards (BIS)
- Reserve Bank of India as affiliated NGO.
- Member, State Advisory Committee of Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC).