

CUTS Annual Report-2024 Inputs from CUTS CART

1. PROJECT and IMPACT

<p>1. Green Action Week-Rajasthan Campaign, 2024</p> <p>Period: August, 2024-December, 2024</p> <p>Support: CI (Consumer International)</p>	<p>Objective: Campaign focuses on encouraging cultures of sharing and collaboration by discussing and implementing ways that can bring more equal and sustainable access to goods and services for the benefit of the people and the planet, through sharing and collaboration.</p> <p>Impact: The campaign will increase awareness about sustainable consumption among common consumers, reduce waste in Jaipur city, and enhance the demand for organic food.</p>
<p>2. Project: Advocacy for Scientific and Consumer Friendly FoPL for HFSS in All Foods in India.</p> <p>Period: November, 2023-June, 2024</p> <p>Support: Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI)</p>	<p>Objective: To advocate for scientific and consumer friendly FoPLs in all packaged foods with food manufacturers/industry associations for soliciting support for the best practices for FoPL publicly.</p> <p>Impact: CSOs, Government Officials and Packaged Food Manufacturers are being sensitised about the seriousness of the FoPLs from consumers' perspective.</p>
<p>3. Project: ROSA IV</p> <p>Period: February, 2024-April, 2025</p> <p>Support: Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)</p>	<p>Objective: To support the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Govt. of India, State Governments and other concerned agencies for effective rulemaking to ensure smooth implementation of MVAA, 2019.</p> <p>Impact: Effective Motor Vehicle Act is in place. Effective rules are in place with increased effective enforcement of laws.</p>
<p>4. Project: Motivations and Impact of Grassroots Philanthropy in Rajasthan, India</p> <p>Period: October, 2023 to September, 2026</p> <p>Support: Ford Foundation</p>	<p>Objective: To enhance understanding of grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan, India, by conducting a comprehensive landscape analysis elucidating the motivations, mechanisms, and impact of community giving, thereby providing insights into its role in fostering inclusive development and addressing socio-economic disparities.</p> <p>Impact: Creation of a robust knowledge base on grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan, the establishment of a network for knowledge exchange and the formulation of a credible and replicable research model to foster a more informed and impactful approach to community-driven development initiatives in the country.</p>
<p>5. Project: Scoping Study and Stakeholder Mapping for Localisation for Sustainable Development in India</p> <p>Period: May, 2024 to March, 2025</p> <p>Support: GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)</p>	<p>Objective: Provide a comprehensive understanding of the landscape and context related to the SDGs localisation in the states of HP, Meghalaya, and Madhya Pradesh.</p> <p>Impact: In-depth understanding of the stakeholder landscape in targeted states with detailed profiles and assessments. Identification of collaboration opportunities and potential issues.</p>
<p>6. Project: Improving Access to Quality Health Services Through Community Engagement</p> <p>Period: August, 2024 to July, 2026</p> <p>Support: The Commonwealth Foundation</p>	<p>Objective: To create a healthier and equitable health system in selected tribal districts of Banswara and Pratapgarh in Rajasthan, where every citizen has unimpeded access to quality healthcare services.</p> <p>Impact: Transformed the healthcare landscape and achieved a comprehensive implementation of the health schemes, leading to improved healthcare outcomes; reduced denial of treatment, and minimal instances of unethical practices in targeted districts of Rajasthan.</p>

<p>7. Project: Consumer Awareness Programmes (CAP) Period: April, 2024 to March, 2025 Support: TRAI, New Delhi</p>	<p>Objective: To build awareness among local telecom consumers regarding emerging consumer issues and grievance redressal mechanisms in the telecom sector Impact: Better and consumer friendly services of telecom services and better redressal of grievances.</p>
<p>8. Project: Depositor Education and Awareness Programme Period: April, 2024 to March, 2025 Support: DEA Fund of RBI, Mumbai</p>	<p>Objective: To imparting education and awareness for the promotion of depositors' interest and providing safe and secured deposit lessons to various depositors in selected districts of Rajasthan Impact: Expected to increase awareness of depositors in selected districts of Rajasthan with good knowledge on various aspects of safe and secure deposits and leading to a safe deposit practice.</p>

2. HIGHLIGHTS/SPECIAL ENDEVOUR/EVENTS

Experts Reject Draft Regulations on FoPL

The State Level Consultation on the Importance of Front of Pack Labelling was organized on March 20, 2024 at Indore, M.P. against the backdrop of rising concerns regarding non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the need for informed consumer choices. With the collaboration of CUTS International and CECOEDECON, the event aimed to delve into the significance of front-of-pack labelling (FoPL) as a means to empower consumers with essential information about the nutritional content of packaged food items. By fostering discussions and knowledge sharing, the event sought to advocate for policies that promote transparent labelling practices, ultimately contributing to public health and well-being. The event witnessed participation from various stakeholders including representatives from government bodies, NGOs, industry experts, and academia. Key participants included Manju Bala Joshi, CEO of CECOEDECON, Jaipur; Pushyamitra Bhargav, Mayor of Indore; Dr Tarun Gupta, Chief Medical Health Officer, Indore; Dinkar Sabnis, Rashtriya Sanghtan Mantri, *Grahak Panchayat*; Harish Gangrade, Fortification Expert, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of MP; and Manoj Panchal, Vice President, Laghu Udhhyog Bharti, MP, along with around 80 attendees. The active participation of students from the Government New Law College, Indore, added a youthful and dynamic dimension to discussions. Similarly,

Chief Secretary of Rajasthan Discusses Road Safety with CUTS

CUTS was invited by Shri Sudhansh Pant, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, to discuss the state's road safety scenario and to propose future strategies for improvement on June 11, 2024. The CUTS presented a detailed overview of its national and state-level road safety initiatives. Mr. Pant inquired specifically about actionable recommendations for Rajasthan. Key discussions included the urgent implementation of the Rajasthan Road Safety Bill, 2022 and adoption of 'Rajasthan Speed Management Guidelines' similar to those recently enacted by the Government of West Bengal and the creation of a time-bound, result-oriented smart road safety action plan.

Consumer Awareness Programmes for Telecom Consumers

CUTS conducted Consumer Awareness Programmes at New Gayatri Vidhya Mandir Senior Secondary School Jobner, Jaipur on February 22, 2024 with the presence of almost 106 students; at Nursing College, Sawai Madhopur on June 14, 2024, which was attended by approximately 110 nursing students; at Tagore Shiksha Science and Arts College, Surajgarh Mandi, Jhunjhunu, on July 15, 2024, with more than 100 students and representatives from BSNL and Vodafone; at Biff and Bright College of Engineering, Dhandoli, Dudu, on September 17, 2024, with 110 students and representatives from BSNL, Reliance Jio, and VI; at Bhanpurkalan, Jamwaramgarh, Jaipur on Nov. 22, 2024; at KGR

Mahavidyalaya in the presence of 105 students and at Navrang Mahavidhyalay in Maid village, Viratnagar, Jaipur on Dec. 20, 2024 in the presence of 145 students and teaching staff. Supported by TRAI, these events aimed at informing participants about new rules and regulations regarding mobile number portability, do not disturb services, apps related to speed and call quality and other mobile phone-related issues. Representatives from local Telecom Service Providers were also present. The sessions were conducted using videos and PowerPoint presentations.

Importance of FoPL: Stakeholder's Consultation at Chittorgarh

On August 23, 2024, CUTS organised a Stakeholders' Consultation in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, focusing on the importance of Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL) in combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The event aimed to highlight FoPL's role in empowering consumers with clear nutritional information and promoting public health. The consultation brought together around 82 participants, including representatives from government, NGOs, industry, and health professionals. Key speakers included Umesh Kumar Vyas, former MD of Saras Dairy, and Dr Digvijay Singh, Dietician. Vyas emphasised that FoPL, particularly octagon-shaped warnings for products high in critical nutrients, helps consumers quickly and easily identify unhealthy food. He stressed its role in tackling the rise of NCDs. Dr. Singh highlighted the increasing death toll from NCDs and the need for warning labels on packaged foods to help those affected and prevent future cases. He urged the audience to adopt healthier lifestyles and prioritise NCD prevention through better dietary choices. Other experts, such as Mukesh Vijayvargiya, Deputy CMHO of Chittorgarh, and nutritionists Meena Sen and Nidhi Jain, discussed the broader health impacts of food consumption patterns and the need for proactive measures to promote healthier living through transparent labelling.

Stakeholder Consultation with Students at Pratapgarh on August 24, 2024

CUTS organised a Stakeholders' Consultation with Students on the Importance of front-of-pack labelling in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at APC College, Pratapgarh district, Rajasthan, on August 24, 2024. The event, attended by over 80 students, highlighted how FoPL empowers consumers with nutritional information and promotes public health through transparent labelling. Key speakers included Dr. Sanjay Geel, Principal, Professor Pankaj Sharma from APC College, and Arjun Lal Prajapat from the Nursing College. Deepak Saxena, Associate Director of CUTS, discussed how FoPL enables consumers to make informed decisions by easily identifying unhealthy ingredients. He pointed out flaws in FSSAI's proposed Indian Nutrition Rating (INR) system, noting that unhealthy products can still receive high scores due to healthy ingredients offsetting harmful ones like sugar and salt. Saxena stressed FoPL's role in addressing key mortality risks such as high blood sugar and obesity. Arjun Lal Prajapat elaborated on how FoPL's nutritional warnings help consumers quickly identify unhealthy products, stressing the importance of such labels in curbing NCDs. He also discussed the harmful effects of salt, sugar, and fats, urging students to pay attention to nutritional labels to prevent disease.

Enhancing Access to Health Facilities is Crucial for Better Healthcare in Rajasthan

People want to go to nearby Primary Health Centres, but factors like staff unavailability and treatment affordability often push them to district hospitals or private facilities. This will only change, when people demand better facilities and rights in nearby health centres. During the state-level project inception meeting organised by CUTS at Jaipur on October 1, 2024, Rajendra Bhanawat, a retired IAS officer, expressed these views. The meeting brought together health professionals, civil society representatives, and academic institutions to discuss strategies for CUTS' project, 'Improving Access to Quality Health Services through Community Engagement in Pratapgarh and Banswara districts of Rajasthan'. The project focuses on enhancing access and building awareness about government health schemes. Dr. Anil Agarwal, Health Specialist at UNICEF Rajasthan, mentioned the

need for motivation among healthcare providers, advocating for consistent supervision and monitoring to ensure initiative success. He added that even small impacts can lead to meaningful change, reinforcing that every effort counts in the fight for better health. As eminent journalist Rajendra Bora noted, the importance of awareness was also a recurring theme. He stressed, “We need to build confidence in people so that by the end of this project, they not only understand their rights but feel empowered to claim them’. Vikram Singh Raghav, Technical Consultant, UNICEF spoke about the challenges faced by children in tribal districts and Om Prakash Arya, State Manager, Global Health Strategy, shed light on nutrition challenges, emphasising the need for food diversification. Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer at CUTS, referred to NHSRC data on healthcare, which shows that Rajasthan's out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) is higher than the national average. Hence, there is a need to improve the accessibility of government health schemes in Rajasthan.

Green Action Week-2024

The Green Action Week (GAW) 2024 campaign got accomplished by way of diverse activities targeting women, youth, and community stakeholders in Jaipur. The activities were carried out in two locations of Jaipur named Alankaar Vihar and Triveni Nagar. The main activities during the campaign were training on ‘Best Out of Waste’, distribution of kitchen garden kits to promote kitchen gardening, awareness meetings with school students, follow up meetings and community level stakeholder’s consultation meetings. These activities enabled to reach out to approximately 300 people directly. Training on ‘Best Out of Waste’ was organised on both the locations to orient target groups about making different items with waste plastic material, clothes and other waste materials. Participants were also oriented about the importance of kitchen gardening and tools and seeds were distributed to them. In the community level meetings, other local representatives and officials of Nagar Nigam were invited and exhibitions of the products made by women groups were displayed during the meeting.

Reducing Waste Through Partnership, Collaboration and Coordination Can Promote Efficient Use of Resources

Adopting partnerships, collaboration and coordination, we can reduce waste, promote resources efficiency, and build an equitable society, said Manish Pareek, former Deputy Mayor of Jaipur Municipal Corporation. He was speaking at a city level stakeholder consultation and visioning exhibition organised by CUTS in Jaipur on November 13, 2024. The event was the culmination of a three-month campaign in two areas of Triveni Nagar and Alankar Vihar under the Green Action Week campaign, which is observed every year in the first week of October. In Jaipur, the campaign involved training in '*Kabad se Jugad*'; awareness sessions in local schools; stakeholder consultation meetings at the community level and follow-up meetings conducted by experts, 50 women's groups participated in making creative and effective items from plastic waste. Highlighting the connection between rising consumption and waste generation, Saurabh Singhal, Business Head, Greenhub said that his company segregates solid and waste and uses the wet waste to make compost and gas. He said around 200-250 grams of waste is generated per household in Jaipur per day and urged the community to separate solid and wet waste so that the wet waste can be converted into beneficial products like compost. Ward Councillor Govind Singh discussed the ever-growing problem of plastic waste and said that despite government restrictions, plastic use remains a part of our daily lives. He stressed the importance of sustainable and responsible consumption and the need for more training and awareness programs for proper disposal of waste in Jaipur. Sunil Yadav, an industry representative promoting biodegradable plastic bags, presented an innovative initiative to make plastic – like looking but eco-friendly and biodegradable packaging bags by using natural materials like corn-starch and sugarcane residue. This consultation meeting provided a collaborative platform for the participants to share ideas and solutions, thereby fostering a collective vision for a sustainable and empowered Jaipur. More than 50 participants attended the event.

Commemorating World Day of Remembrance on November 17, 2024

CUTS team culled out last year's social media road safety creatives, which were developed by the team based on the road safety related burning advocacy issues and messages. The team made necessary corrections in these creatives as per given theme for this year as per, hashtags and tagging details. Total 20 creatives were finalized, for postings on CUTS social media pages on November 16, 2024 on the eve of WDoR and on November 17, 2024 on WDoR.

Depositor Education Awareness Programme

First DEA Program of 2nd quarter at Khatu Shyam ji, Reengus, Sikar was organized on Nov. 18, 2024 in the presence of 64 participants comprising senior school, college students, farmers, SHG women, small businessmen and consumers. Munish Kothari, Ex Regional Director, RBI as the key subject expert and Shaishav Mathur, Branch Head Axis Bank and Manju Kumari, Astd. Manager, SBI, both Khatu Shyam ji branches being other resource persons. Similarly, the second DEA programme at Jhunjhunu was organised on Nov. 29, 2024 with a presence of 115 participants comprising students, farmers, businessmen, pensioners, NGOs and women. Among speakers, K N Verma, retd. AGM, RBI; Chandradeep Saxena, Branch Manager ICICI; Shiv Kumar Jangid, Manager, Central Cooperative Bank; Mukesh Chahar, Manager, BOI; Dara Singh, Manager, PNB Bank and Anil Kumar, Manager, HDFC were present. Gaurav N K, Manager, FIDD, RBI, Jaipur as observer was also present. In these programmes, key issues related to normal banking with highlights on modern and digital banking and safety aspects in these were discussed and told to participants.

Find Pothole: Win Prize CUTS Contest

In all 191 pics of potholes from 10 contestants from 41 different locations/areas of Jaipur were received. These photos are taken out in print and converted into an album form and along with a covering letters]', these photo albums with mention of road and area below each photo has been handed over at the office of JDC and the two commissioners of both JMCs in person on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024. The follow up with regard to repairing of roads will be done at constant intervals. The certificates and cash awards to the top two contestants were given on the occasion of GAW Stakeholders Consultation organised at Hotel Zone by Park, Jaipur on November 13, 2024. The winners are Mr Arun Joshi as the first winner and Mr Banwari Lal Saini as the second.

3. GRAHAK SAHAYTA KENDRA

In the year 2024, GSK entertained a good number of complaints, the details of which are explained through graphs and below, the sector wise figures.



4. PUBLICATIONS/OUTREACH

- **Wall Newspaper** <https://cuts-cart.org/gram-gadar/>
Gram Gadar (Twelve issues of wall newspaper)
- **E-Newsletters** (<https://cuts-cart.org/e-newsletter/>)
- *Paanchvan Stambh (three issues of quarterly newsletter in Hindi)* _ Fourth will be out in January 2025.
- *Catalyst (three issues of quarterly e-newsletter)* _Fourth will be out in January 2025.
- *City Matters (three issues of quarterly newsletter)* _ Fourth will be out in January 2025
- **Occasional News Wrap** (<https://cuts-cart.org/occasional-news-wraps/>)
3 issues of ONW (Health Regulations) _Fourth will be out in January, 2025.

5. OPEDS/ARTICLES/PODCASTS/BRIEFING PAPERS/DOSSIERS

- **From Thar to Triumph: Rajasthan's Quest for Road Safety Leadership**
Policy Circle, January 23, 2024
Madhu Sudan Sharma
<https://www.policycircle.org/policy/road-safety-in-rajasthan/>
- क्यों जरूरी है पैकेट पर भी सरल और स्पष्ट लेबल
By Pradeep S Mehta and Simi TB
Rajasthan Patrika, February 08, 2024
<https://www.patrika.com/opinion/why-is-it-important-to-have-a-simple-label-on-the-packet-as-well-8715668>
- **Warning Labels for Informed Choices Over Food: How to Navigate Challenges**
Deccan Chronicle and The Asian Age, March 11, 2024
By Pradeep S Mehta and Simi TB
[Warning label for informed choices over food: How to navigate challenges](#)
- **Why Fair and Responsible AI is Non-negotiable for Consumer Welfare**
The Economic Times, March 16, 2024
By Pradeep S Mehta
<https://tinyurl.com/y69syc2j>

- **Empowering Consumers for Sustainable Development: Exploring the Link Between UNGCP and SDGs**
<https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/bp-empowering-consumers-for-sustainable-development-exploring-the-link-between-ungcp-and-sdgs.pdf>
- **Road Safety Crisis: Infrastructure Boom to Public Health Emergency**
Policy Circle, April 09, 2024
By Madhu Sudan Sharma
<https://www.policycircle.org/opinion/road-safety-motor-vehicles-act/>
- **Urgent Action is Required at All Levels to Tackle Plastic Pollution**
Deccan Chronicle, April 21, 2024
By Pradeep S. Mehta and T.B. Simi
<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/opinion/columnists/pradeep-s-mehta-and-simi-tb-urgent-action-is-required-at-all-levels-to-tackle-plastic-pollution-890559>
- Simi T B's quote in an article was published titled '[Regulating food standards: Food safety laws in India are sufficient but lacking in enforcement](#)' in The Tribune on April 28, 2024. The article was widely disseminated through social media.
- **Smart Road Safety Ahead: India's Quest for Road Safety with AI**
Policy Circle, July 30, 2024
By Madhu Sudan Sharma [Smart roads ahead: India's quest for road safety with AI | Policy Circle](#)
- International Youth Day: Need to Protect Youth from Junk Food Menace
Policy Circle, August 12, 2024
By Simi TB [International Youth Day: Need to protect youth from junk food menace](#)
- **Unlocking Health: The Essential Role of FOPL in Tackling NCDs-CUTS Podcast**
with Dr. Anjali Phatak, an award winning dietitian, clinical nutritionist and lifestyle expert, CUTS aim to shed light on the significance of FOPL in promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing the burden of preventable diseases.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLtgXvv1ihQ>
- **'A Way to Protect, Promote and Support Good Nutrition and Public Health'**
A podcast with Dr. Seema Mehta, Prof IIHMR, on the topic "[FOPL- A Way to Protect, Promote and Support Good Nutrition and Public Health](#)".
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfHrV86eMiU&t=16s>)
- Briefing paper titled "[Combatting Greenwashing in India: Contextualising Global Good Practices to Drive Sustainable Consumption in India](#)" jointly published by CUTS and CRB was released at the CRB annual sustainability summit held on Nov. 13-15, 2024 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- Organic Consumption and Production Work-A Decade of CUTS Initiative's on Educating Farmers and Consumers-A Dossier (https://www.cuts-cart.org/pdf/dossier_organic_consumption_and_production_in_rajasthan.pdf)
- CUTS Grahak Sahayta Kendra Performance of Last Five Years-A Dossier ([gsk-dossier.pdf](#))

5.1 APPOINTMENTS

Nomination in Two High Level Government Committees

- **Amar Deep Singh**, Senior Programme Officer has been appointed as an expert in the Working Group on Urban Governance Reforms constituted by the Ministry of Housing

and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India to represent CUTS International. This working group will collaborate to drive sustainable and progressive governance reforms aimed at enhancing the structure, authority, and democratic empowerment of city governments across India. With a strong background in urban governance, CUTS has been actively engaged in policy research to promote effective, inclusive, and accountable urban governance. MoHUA's working group underscores the Government's commitment to inclusive policy-making and the importance of evidence-based approaches to reform. The initiative is set to address critical areas of governance reform, aiming to empower city governments through structural and power adjustments that reinforce local democracy and accountability across states. Singh's participation will contribute to CUTS' vision for transparent, responsive, and accountable urban governance, and will bring insights from its extensive experience in the sector to support MoHUA's mission.

- **Deepak Saxena**, Associate Director has been nominated as a member from the consumer segment in the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to represent CUTS International in the committee. CUTS has played a significant role in mobilising stakeholders and advocating for strong food labelling regulations and the elimination of trans fats in India. The organisation has provided consolidated feedback on draft regulations, collaborated with FSSAI in national consultations, and exerted pressure to safeguard consumer interests during the formulation of labelling regulations. CUTS has been working on issues related to consumers and food safety in India and other countries for the last several years. The tenure of Saxena will be up to July, 2025.

5.2 STAFF REPRESENTATION/ORIENTATION

- Deepika Ranawat attended BIS Foundation Day Ceremony organised at Jaipur on January 06, 2024.
- Amrat Singh and Varidhi Singh participated in the CII National CSR Summit in Delhi on January 11, 2024. They also participated in the Livelihoods India Summit organised by Access Development Services in New Delhi on January 17, 2024.
- Simi TB and Deepak Saxena attended GHAI webinar on January 18, 2024 for its Indian partners, featuring key speakers from Argentina, Mexico, and Colombia. The session focused on sharing country experiences and the latest evidence in the policy process for FoPL regulations.
- Amar Deep Singh participated as a speaker in the 'Multi Stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption' organised by Citizen consumer and civic Action Group in Chennai, on January 23-24, 2024.
- Amrat Singh, Deepak Saxena and Simi TB attended the introductory meeting with Grace Mathebula of Alliance for Innovative Regulations on February 06, 2024 related to CUTS' work on digital finance related efforts.
- Rajdeep Pareek attended Indigenous Food Festival organised by CECOEDECON at Chaksu, Jaipur on February 07, 2024.
- Simi TB and Deepika Ranawat attended a webinar organised by GHAI on February 21, 2024, discussing the importance of Nutrient Profile Models:
- Deepika Ranawat and Deepak Saxena attended second webinar, 'Strategies for Short, Medium and Long Term,' part of the series "Accelerating Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the Asia Pacific" organised by GIZ India's Indo German Programme on Universal Health Coverage (IGUHC) on February 21, 2024.
- Simi TB, Deepika Ranawat and Irham Qureshi attended a zoom meeting with IIMMR Bangalore team Jyoti Vijay, Assistant Professor) on February 27, 2024, regarding

collaboration for the preparation of a proposal for implementation of health promotion and sustainable nutrition approach.

- Madhu Sudan participated in a specific group discussion to finalise the work plan within the working group of GRSP partners on March 04, 2024.
- Deepika Ranawat attended a webinar on Catalysing Social and Economic Empowerment for Women Confirmation organised by American Indian Foundation on March 07, 2024.
- Simi TB and Deepak participated in the three days' GHAI workshop and partners meeting in Kolkata from March 11-13, 2024. The team was updated about the discussions and learnings from the workshop.
- Bureau of Indian Standards honoured CUTS on March 15, 2024, in Jaipur, on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day for their efforts in raising awareness on consumer information in rural areas of Rajasthan. Amardeep Singh recd. the honour on behalf of CUTS.
- Simi TB and Deepika Ranawat attended the Social Media webinar titled 'Social Media Mastery for Changemakers' on March 15 and 22, 2024.
- Simi TB, Deepak Saxena and Deepika Ranawat attended a webinar on 'Hypertension and Its Determinants among Adolescents' organised by the School of Public Health, AIIMS Jodhpur on April 08, 2024. The webinar focused on addressing the increasing burden of hypertension in Indian adolescents and provided insights into control and mitigation strategies.
- Deepika Ranawat and Krishank Jugiani participated in an Open House Discussion on the Consultation Paper titled 'Review of Quality-of-Service Standards for Access Services (Wireless and Wireline) and Broadband Services (Wireless and Wireline)' organised by TRAI on April 09, 2024.
- Deepika Ranawat participated in an event to launch GHAI's revised Advocacy Action Guide hosted by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) on April 10, 2024. The webinar brought together experts from the Global Health Council and GHAI to underscore the significance of country-level advocacy in realising public health objectives.
- Simi TB attended a webinar series on 'Social Media Mastery for Changemakers' - Module 4, organised by GHAI, on April 12, 2024. The series aimed to explore effective strategies for content creation, storytelling, and impactful advocacy on social media platforms such as 'X', Facebook, and Instagram, empowering participants through practical exercises and discussions.
- Amar Deep Singh and Debashree Hazarika, participated in a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) workshop organised by Shakti Foundation in New Delhi, on April 18-19, 2024. He also attended the National Conference 'Cities for Youth - Leadership for Urban Wellbeing,' organised by SafetiPin and Botnar Foundation at Jaipur, on May 09, 2024.
- Simi TB attended a webinar titled 'Integrating Research, Policy and Innovation in Hypertension Management', on the occasion of the World Hypertension Day organised by AIIMS Gorakhpur, on May 17, 2024.
- Amrat Singh attended the 'Viksit Rajasthan 2047' conference on Vision Document - State Level 2nd Meet held at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur on May 31, 2024.
- Simi TB attended a webinar on "Food Safety: Preparing for the Unexpected Experiences in the Asia-Pacific Region" organised by FAO and WHO held on the occasion of World Food Safety Day, on June 11, 2024.
- Amrat Singh, Pritika Nayak and Shreni Jani participated in the webinar on 'Solving Complex Education Challenges for Rural & Underserved Millions at Scale from

Primary Education to Jobs' hosted by the WHEELS Global Foundation on June 22, 2024.

- Amar Deep Singh attended a workshop on 'Domestic Hazardous Waste-Possible Solutions and Way Forward,' organised by Toxics Link in Jaipur on July 09, 2024, and presented recommendations in the context of Rajasthan.
- Simi TB, Deepak Saxena and Deepika Ranawat attended a webinar on 'Access to Medicine for Hypertension Care and Control,' organised by AIIMS Rishikesh on July 23, 2024.
- On July 24, 2024, an online meeting was held with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) of India. Attendees included Bipul Chatterjee, Amrat Singh, Amar Deep, and Varidhi Singh from CUTS, Alka Mittal (Member Secretary), S.P. Roy (Secretary), and other CBC officials. The meeting explored a potential partnership leveraging CUTS' expertise in urban governance and its strong presence with urban local bodies in Rajasthan.
- Deepak Saxena attended a Capacity-Building Workshop on Government Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns organised by NICI, Jaipur, on July 26, 2024.
- Deepak Saxena and Dharmendra Chaturvedi visited Sumit Godara, the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs of the Government of Rajasthan, on August 17, 2024, to discuss various consumer issues.
- Deepika Ranawat attended the online Masterclass 2024: Supply Chain Management Confirmation organised by Pune International Centre on August 31, 2024.
- Simi TB attended the online launch of 'Sweetened Profits: The Industry Playbook to Fight Sweetened Beverage Taxes' organised by GHAI on September 05, 2024.
- Simi attended the webinar entitled 'Leveraging Ecolabels and Sustainable Procurement for Biodiversity: A Path for NBSAPs for COP16', organised by UNEP One Planet Network on September 5, 2024.
- Simi attended the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) webinar 'Advancing Consumer Dispute Resolution in the Digital Age' on September 09, 2024.
- Amar Deep Singh attended a National Convention and Release of Urban Governance Index in New Delhi on September 26, 2024, and shared his views on municipal finance and community participation.
- Rajdeep and Deepika attended a virtual bidders conference on October 2, 2024 organised by CFDA for "Request for Concept Notes: Nature-Based Solutions for Agricultural Resilience Window".
- Rajdeep attended a webinar on Organic/Naturally Farmed Food Markets Sharing and Learning organised by Rajasthan Coalition on natural farming on October 25, 2024.
- Deepak participated in an event on World Standards Day on Oct. 14, 2024 at Jaipur organised by BIS, Jaipur. The event was attended by senior BIS officials in the Jaipur office along with representatives from NGOs, VCOs, students, and the media. DS met Ms Kanika Kalia in person and sought her permission to meet him in her office, which she agreed to.
- From October 24-25, 2024, Amrat visited Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to participate in the Chintan Shibir on *Viksit Bharat@2047* for Scheduled Tribes, organised by the Tribal Development Department (TDD) of the Government of Gujarat. Amrat was a speaker in the session on Livelihoods during the event. Additionally, Amrat met with Shri J.P. Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary of TDD, Government of Gujarat, to discuss key matters.

- Simi attended virtually the inaugural session of the Eighth South and South-West Asia Sub Regional Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, on Nov. 12, 2024. The event was organised by UNESCAP.
- Simi attended virtually a webinar titled 'Greenwashing and Trust Repair via Intermediation' on Nov 14, 2024 organised by Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- Simi attended virtually UNEP webinar on 'Measuring Environmental Benefits from Eco Labels' on Nov. 14, 2024.
- Amar Deep represented in National Annual Janaagraha's 7th Annual Conclave on Shaping India's Urban Agenda on Nov. 20, 2024 at India Habitat Center, New Delhi.
- Madhu Sudan Sharma attended a virtual discussion focusing on the update about 4th global ministerial conference on road safety in Morocco and role of the Global alliance member in that. The discussion was held on November 13, 2024.
- Madhu Sudan, Amrat and Shreni Jani took part in the GRSP India Partners meeting held at TERI Gram, Delhi from December 02-05, 2024
- Madhu Sudan visited the office of the Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on December 19, 2024 and submitted a memorandum about the pending reports especially report no. 354, proposed amendments of MVAA and revising the national speed limits from 120kmph to 100kmph.
- Amar Deep & Amrat Singh attended a roundtable discussion on tobacco control organised by Global Sustainability Alliance (GSA) at Jaipur on Dec. 23, 2024.
- Deepak and Dharmendra attended an event organised by the Department of Food and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Rajasthan to commemorate National Consumers Day on December 24, 2024 at Rajasthan International Centre.
- Amrat and Rajdeep attended the annual review meeting of FPOs on December 30, 2024 at the CART office with BC and all the FPO team members.
- CART team finalised 'CUTS Top Moments' of 2024 after mutual discussions and shared with Madhuri.

6. CART at SOCIAL NETWORK

- CART is managing four FB pages, one each for MyCity, Insight into Indian States (I3S), ProOb, ProOrganic & CoPSA (Community of Practice on Social Accountability), GSK and three dedicated web portals for (ProOb), COPSA and I3S.
- CART has X account with link: <https://twitter.com/CUTSCART> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cutsintcart> and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/>)
- Besides, CART is also responsible for moderating three google groups:
 1. CUTSConsumersUp: for Consumer Empowerment in India to take the issues of consumer protection forward.
 2. CUTSGovForum: to discuss news and views on governance issues and challenges in India.
 3. CUTSRoadSafety: to discuss and disseminate relevant issues on road safety.

7. INTERNSHIP AT CUTS CART

- Radha Pareek, an intern from USA has done a study on the existing condition of roof water harvesting in Jaipur in the context of policy and implementation and perception of citizens in consultation with Amar Deep Singh.
- Chesta Gupta from Mumbai University (June 03-July 02, 2024), Shivangini Baruah from Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru (May 20-July 12, 2024), and Deepali Kumawat

from the University of Tomorrow, Dehradun (June 05-July 26, 2024) have interned on various topics of interest under different programme staff.

8. VISITS/Meetings/MoUs

- Amrat, Amar Deep, Deepak, Madhu Sudan, along with other team members on March 1, 2024, convened with Sachin Upadhyay, Manager of CFNS, and his colleague at the CUTS conference hall to discuss CFNS's proposal for collaboration. Mr. Upadhyay proposed CUTS to join the CFNS network on food and nutrition security on a pro bono basis.
- Mervyn Christian, MPH, Director, Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening, Road Safety, GRSP, visited the CUTS office on August 22, 2024, to meet the CUTS team, learn about CUTS in detail, and review the GRSP Road Safety Advocacy Project activities.

9. GRAM GADAR AWARD FOR RURAL JOURNALISM

The Gram Gadar Award for promoting rural journalism for the year 2023 was conferred to Amit Baijnath Garg, a local news reporter from Rajasthan Patrika based in the outskirts of Jaipur covering rural news for his articles/opeds and related news on the topic 'Jalvayu Parivartan Ka Arth Vyavastha Par Prabhav' (Impact of Climate Change on Economy of Country). The award was given by Dr Rajendra Bhanawat, retd. IAS and Rajendra Bora, a noted media person at Jaipur's CUTS programme.

10. AFFILIATIONS

- 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.
 - Reserve Bank of India as an affiliated NGO.
 - Central Advisory Committee (CAC) of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
 - Expert in the Working Group on Urban Governance Reforms constituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.
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