

## About CART

Established in 1983 as a small voluntary group of concerned citizens, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) expanded its activities and CUTS CART was set up in 1996 as a programme centre to pursue the cause of common consumers, initially being undertaken by CUTS as the mandate.

The programmes of the Centre are primarily aimed at generating awareness, creating a more responsible society and encouraging changes at the policy level by advocating with the government machinery and sensitising it to the issues of concern of the common man. The Centre has spearheaded several campaigns and pioneered consumer empowerment.

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### CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART)

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park,  
Jaipur 302 016, India  
Ph: 91.141.2282821  
Fx: 91.141.4015395, 2282485  
Email: [cart@cuts.org](mailto:cart@cuts.org)  
Website:  
[www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)

## People's participation and user charges are must for Quality Municipal Services

**"F**or getting the quality municipal services people not only need to pay the required minimum user charges but also participate effectively in the planning process", Professor V S Vyas, former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Rajasthan said in the fourth Mayors' Conference organised at Jaipur by CUTS in collaboration with Directorate of Local Bodies, Government of Rajasthan under Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform.

Vyas further mentioned that Local Self Government need to further explore possibilities of introducing some more taxes, such as professional etc. which requires fewer efforts from urban local bodies (ULBs) and ensures maximum revenue collection. Narayan Chopra, Mayor of Bikaner Municipal Corporation said that Mayors of Rajasthan need more capacity building workshops and exposure to enhance their effectiveness and decision making process. He suggested CUTS to provide a set of recommendations to the State Government to empower Mayors, introduce best practices of other states in Rajasthan and make ULBs more financially viable. He also suggested that more and more Mayors should participate in such conferences for sharing their experiences.



In various technical sessions, Saroj Badgujar, Deputy Director of Pune-based organisation *Janwani*, shared her experiences related to Zero Garbage Project under which a *Swachh* Cooperative has been formed and scientific disposal of the solid waste is managed.

Sunil Nair, Project Manager of Bangalore-based organisation *Janaagraha* shared community participation using civic data and digital tools in city of Bangalore. It was difficult for the migrant population of the Bangalore to know about facilities available in their respective wards. Initiatives like 'I Change My City' have been proved very helpful for the migrant people to know not only about their wards but also to register their complaints and suggestions.

D Sudhakar, Executive Engineer (Retd.), Hyderabad Municipal Corporation shared his valuable experiences about the Solid Waste Management practices in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. He said that his municipality is known in the country for taking several innovative practices, such as night sweeping, decentralised garbage disposal of kitchen waste, centralised scientific disposal of municipal solid waste, self-disclosure of land and building taxes etc. He further spoke about recently amended solid waste management rules and some technical key provisions in *Swachh Bharat* Mission etc.

George Cherian, Director, CUTS shared his experiences of some best practices of solid waste management in Kerala and provided a set of recommendations for the Government of Rajasthan related to strengthening the position of Mayor, activating ward committees, ensuring financial viability of ULBs and decentralised solid waste.

Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS provided an overview of activities of City Mayors learning platform and key achievements and said that there is strong need to institutionalise this platform. The conference was attended by Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Municipal Committees' chairpersons, Councilors and NGO representatives.

Third Mayors Conference was organised under RCMLP at Bharatpur on July 26, 2016.

## Depositor Education Awareness Programme

The second Depositor Education Awareness (DEA) Programme with the support of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was held at Sawai Madhopur on July 15, 2016. More than 52 participants including representatives of voluntary consumer organisations (VCOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and media etc. participated.

The third DEA Programme was conducted at Bhilwara on July 22, 2016. More than 123 participants including women SHGs, bankers, VCOs and NGO representatives participated.

The fourth DEA Programme was conducted at Chittorgarh on August 31, 2016. More than 75 participants including representatives of NGOs, civil society organisations (CSOs), women SHGs and bankers participated.

The fifth and the final awareness programme was held at Kota on September 22, 2016. The event was attended by around 56 participants, which included bankers, representatives of CSOs and NGOs and media.



## Knowledge Enhancement Workshops



The third Knowledge Enhancement Workshop (KEW) was organised at Jaipur on August 22, 2016 which was attended by 19 officials from various ULBs of Jaipur division. Purushottam Biyani, Director-cum-Joint Secretary, Department of Local Self Government (LSG) delivered inaugural address. Himani Tiwari, Coordinator of City Managers Association of Rajasthan (CMAR) made opening remarks. D Sudhakar, Executive Engineer, Hyderabad Municipal Corporation delivered sessions on solid waste management and best practices as resource person.

Fourth KEW was organised at Ajmer on August 23, 2016 which was attended by 33 officials from Ajmer Municipal Corporation and various ULBs of Ajmer division. Three presentations were made by resource persons. Sudhakar delivered sessions on Solid Waste Management; K K Vaishnava presented Public Procurement and Amar Deep Singh made presentation on Civic Engagement.

## Documenting Urban Best Practices

To document the best practices of ULBs, the team visited some of the cities. Cheriyan and Madhu Sudan Sharma visited Thiruvananthapuram to document the best practice of decentralised solid waste management of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation and Attingal Municipality of Kerala during August 30-September 02, 2016. The Centre for Environment and Development provided local support to the team.

The second visit was made by Amar Deep Singh to Pune, Maharashtra during August 31-September 02, 2016. Janwani which is a Pune-based organisation facilitated the visit and showed their project on waste management with people's participation in Pune city.



## Orientation on Public Procurement

A special session on procurement was organised for 29 Junior Engineers of Jaipur Division including districts of Jaipur, Sikar, Alwar, Jhunjhunu and Dausa on August 22, 2016. It was facilitated by Arvind Deewan, Chief Accounts Officer, State Procurement Facilitation Cell, Finance Department, Government of Rajasthan. He spoke about the Rajasthan Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2012 (RTPP Act, 2012) and Rajasthan Transparency in Public Procurement Rules, 2013 (RTPP Rules, 2013).

Another session was organised in Ajmer on August 23, 2016 for municipal officials of various municipalities of Ajmer division which includes Ajmer, Bhilwara, Nagaur and Tonk districts. It was facilitated by S S Vaishnava, Consultant to Finance Department, Government of Rajasthan. He mainly spoke about the RTPP Act, 2012 and RTPP Rules, 2013.





## Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

The training programme under the project entitled, 'Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan' was organised by *Ram Krishna Mission Sansthan* at Kota on August 11-12, 2016. Total number of participants was around 60, which included five women. The entire subject experts focussed on the importance of organic farming and the present need to adopt this.



A District Level Workshop was organised at Jaipur on September 28, 2016. Total number of participants was 45

which included 10 women. K K Sharma, Professor, College of Agriculture Lasot, Dausa interacted with participants and shed light on hazardous effects of chemical farming and benefits of organic farming.

## Green Action Week 2016

A total number of six school workshops and four cottage meetings were held in ten different localities of Jaipur targeting urban consumers under 'Green Action Week' (GAW) 2016 during September 2016. In each of these meetings, participants were made aware of the importance of consuming organic food. An expert from *Kisan Call Centre* facilitated the theme of 'Organic Food and Farming for All' as a resource person.



A total number of 10 street plays were organised at various market places to reach out to a wider audience in an attempt to modify consumer behaviour in favour of organic products. For conducting the plays, *Ras Rang Manch*, a Jaipur-based street play group was given the responsibility. A signature campaign was also organised.

## CART Mini Retreat

CART Mini Retreat was organised at CUTS Conference Hall, Jaipur on July 23, 2016. The objective of the retreat was to review the progress of CART's Strategic Business Plan and make appropriate changes. Prof. V.S Vyas made the opening address.



## CART Advisory Committee Meeting

CART Advisory Committee Meeting was organised at CUTS Conference Hall, Jaipur on July 30, 2016. P N Bhandari chaired the meeting and was attended by eight members of the committee including CUTS staff.

## New Project

Campaign for enhanced Road Safety in India through advocacy for enactment of Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016 in partnership with GRSP

## VISITS

- Anna Winstrom, Programme Manager from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency visited CUTS on September 21, 2016 to know CUTS work in the field of sustainable consumption. She also visited State Institute of Agriculture Management and met with Sheethal Prasad, Director, SIAM.



- Suzanne E. Siskel, Executive Vice President and COO of The Asia Foundation along with Mandakini Surie, Senior Programme Officer visited CUTS on July 28, 2016. Cheriyan made a presentation on urban governance and challenges and also briefed them about CUTS urban interventions with The Asia Foundation. They visited Jaipur Municipal Corporation and had a meeting with Manoj Bhardwaj, Deputy Mayor.





## REPRESENTATION IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ETC.

### Smart Cities Conference

Amar Deep Singh participated in 'Smart Cities: Revenue Generation and Procurement Agenda' jointly organised by Department of LSG, Government of Rajasthan and Smart City Council India on July 01, 2016.

### Multi Stakeholder Consultation on Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

Manisha Joshi attended Multi Stakeholders Consultation on Water, Sanitation, Hygiene organised by Centre for Advocacy and Research at Jaipur, on August 09, 2016.

### CI Partners-IKEA Foundation Meet

Cheriyen attended the CI Partners meeting with IKEA Foundation and CI staff at Ahmedabad on August 17-18, 2016.

### BRICS Smart Cities Conference

Amar Deep Singh participated in 'BRICS Smart Cities Conference' at Jaipur on August 19, 2016.

### UNGCP Task-force Meetings

Cheriyen attended the first and second meeting of the Task Force on United National Guidelines for Consumer Protection at New Delhi on August 22 and September 22, 2016, respectively.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Special Meeting

Cheriyen attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Special Meeting of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India on August 22-23, 2016 respectively.

### Consumer Education & Outreach Workshop

Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Manisha Joshi participated in Consumer Education Workshop and Outreach Programme organised by Tata Docomo and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India at Jaipur and Dausa on August 26 & 30, 2016 respectively.

### Long-Range Energy Alternatives Planning System Tool

Deepak Saxena attended a half-day workshop on 'LEAP (Long-Range Energy Alternatives Planning System) tool' organised by World Resource Institute, India jointly with Stockholm Environment Institute on September 16, 2016.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Central Advisory

Cheriyen attended the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of Central Advisory Committee of FSSAI, at New Delhi on September 29, 2016. He also attended a special session in connection with 20<sup>th</sup> session of Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia on 'Feast, Flavors & Fusion of India'.

## MEETINGS

- Cheriyen and Madhu Sudan Sharma met with CR Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India at New Delhi on July 15, 2016 to brief him about consumer protection activities and discuss emerging consumer issues.
- Cheriyen, Amrat Singh and Madhu Sudan Sharma met with Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) team on September 20, 2016 to discuss the feedback of CUTS' proposal on advocacy work on Road Safety. Cheriyen attended the GRSP Grantees Meeting at New Delhi on September 22, 2016.
- Cheriyen met with Rangasayee Ramakrishna, Rajya Sabha MP on September 29, 2016 to discuss CUTS' advocacy work on Motor Vehicles' Bill, 2016. He also met with P J Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha at New Delhi on September 30, 2016 to discuss CUTS' advocacy work.



## CART IN MEDIA

