

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.

INSIDE

- Projects and Programmes
- Representations
- Visits
- CART in Media



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
Website:
www.cuts-international.org

Parliamentarians Demand for Early Passage of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Parliamentarians cutting across party lines urged for early passage of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2016 at a meeting organised by CUTS International at New Delhi.

The Members of Parliament were speaking at the meeting of Parliamentarians' Forum on Economic Policy Issues (PARFORE), a non-partisan forum conceived and promoted by CUTS.

In the meeting, parliamentarians discussed various issues and proposed amendments and suggested for improvements in driver licencing system and provisions for effective electronic enforcement etc. Parliamentarians strongly put forward the need for scientific investigation of road crashes and omitting the limit on Insurer's liability in third party motor accidents in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

G K Pillai, former Home Secretary and Member, Board of Trustees, Save Life Foundation gave a detailed presentation about the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill and its key proposed amendments. He also provided a set of suggestions which can be part of the proposed bill to make it more strong and useful.

Jose K Mani, MP said that the provision of speed governing system shall be made compulsory since most of road accidents happen because of speeding on National Highways and Expressways.



Dinesh Trivedi, MP and former Railway Minister opined that Indian Road scenario is very scary, so there must be some deterrence and at the same time there has to be introduction of new technology and strict monitoring of the traffic violations, such as air traffic control, then only Indian roads can be made safer. He also added that the proposed bill does not give much hope to him.

Harish Chandra Meena, a member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and former Director General of Police of Rajasthan said that before thinking about the road safety we need to define the roads user since on roads we can see all the marriage processions, demonstrations, kiosks, *dhabas*, domestic animals and bullock carts, so who's safety we are looking for? He also spoke about the designs of roads being such that it divides the village in two parts, so all the time people keep crossing the road by which road safety is affected.

In the meeting several MPs, both from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Rangasayee Ramakrishna, La Ganesan, N K Premchandran, P Bhattacharya and Tiruchi Siva were present and actively participated in the round table discussions.

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International in his opening remarks stated that the Bill addresses various crucial safety elements and risk factors, which are globally recognised and should further be strengthened in the bill. CUTS will capture all suggestions to address gaps and submit its report to the government.

CUTS bags *Swachh* Rajasthan Award 2016

CUTS International received the *Swachh* Rajasthan Award 2016 from Chief Minister of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje for the contribution to improve the quality of urban service delivery through civic engagement and to make Rajasthan 'Clean & Smart'. The award was given in the Conference on 'Clean and Smart Rajasthan' organised by Department of Local Self Government, Government of Rajasthan in partnership with the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India at Udaipur on December 22, 2016.

George Cheriyan and Amar Deep Singh received the award from the Chief Minister, on behalf of CUTS. Gulab Chand Kataria, Home Minister, Government of Rajasthan; Shrichand Kriplani, Minister of Urban Development, Government of Rajasthan; Manjit Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Local Self, Government of Rajasthan and other dignitaries were present in the conference.

CUTS implemented a project named 'MyCity' in Jaipur city with specific objective to improve quality of urban services delivery through enhanced civic engagement. It resulted in enhance community participation in urban services and recognised among various stakeholders including citizens, local non-governmental organisations, resident welfare societies, officials and public representatives of the targeted wards of Jaipur city. Citizens were benefited by the platform provided to them to resolve problems at ward level.

'Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform' was also initiated by CUTS where Mayors and Deputy Mayors of all municipal corporations participate to discuss larger issues of urban local governance and share best and innovative practices by city governments.



Public Procurement Observatory in Rajasthan

The first dissemination workshop under the project entitled, 'Public Procurement Observatory in Rajasthan' was organised in collaboration with State Procurement Facilitation Cell (SPFC), Department of Finance, Government of Rajasthan on November 03, 2016.



The objective of the workshop was to disseminate findings of the practice gap analysis and procurement tracking reports, done in the selected procuring entities including Public Works Department, Jaipur Metro, Rajasthan Urban Sector Development Investment Programme and *Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.*

More than 55 procuring officials participated. The workshop was facilitated by S S Vaishnava, Procurement Adviser to Government of Rajasthan; Ramawtar Sharma, Joint Secretary, Finance Department and Arvind Deewan, Chief Accounts Officer, SPFC, Finance Department. Hiroyuki Maruyama, Principal Procurement Specialist, Asian Development Bank was also present in the workshop. George Cheriyan made the opening remarks and Madhu Sudan Sharma shared the research findings and project objectives.

Organic Food and Farming for All

"In India, 720,000 hectares of land is under organic farming but it is only 0.4% of total agricultural area. An increase in this percentage is only possible when it becomes a movement run by all stakeholders," George Cheriyan, Director CUTS said while delivering opening remarks in the Stakeholders' Consultation under Green Action Campaign organised by CUTS.

He added that Indians are consuming 750 times more pesticides than Europeans in vegetables and fruits. Sikkim is 100 percent organic farming state while Kerala is going to become 100 percent organic farming states in 2016 with the mutual support of government and farmers. Rajasthan is moving towards adopting organic farming cultivation. This needs integrated efforts from both the government and farmers side.

Shital Prasad Sharma, Director, State Institute of Agriculture Management stated that CUTS is doing tremendous work of promoting organic consumption as well as production which is important to create a culture of sustainable development.

A K Gupta, Professor & Head, Rajasthan Agriculture Research Institute, Jaipur opined that the issue of food safety has become a major concern in recent times. He stressed on healthy soil which gives healthy food.

S Mukherjee from Rajasthan Agriculture Research Institute, Jaipur shared astro-physics interventions of ancient agriculture. Satyaveer Beniwal from Morarka Foundation informed about certification process in organic farming.

The consultation was attended by more than 50 participants including representatives of civil society organisations, educational and research institutes, universities and media.



Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

To motivate producers and consumers about the importance of organic food consumption, four organic fairs were organised in Dausa, Kota, Pratapgarh and Chhittorgarh districts during November-December 2016 under the project entitled, 'Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan' (ProOrganic). The fairs witnessed participation of stakeholders, including district administration officials, experts, farmers and consumers.

Resource persons from different parts of the state delivered their messages on importance and requirement of organic farming. They said that there is huge untapped potential of organic farming and modern agriculture methods are one of the major causes of environmental degradation.



Mainstreaming Human Rights Based Approach

CUTS organised a two-day national-level workshop on Human Rights Based Approach (HBRA) in partnership with Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) at Jaipur on November 29-30, 2016. The objective of the workshop was to help mainstream HRBA/gender equity in all programme conceptualisation/project activities and the organisational management in general. Albertina Almedia was the resource person. Two staff from SSNC, Sara Nilsson and Victor Åström attended the workshop along with 26 other participants from different states and organisations, including CUTS staff.



Consumers in the Digital Age

George Cheriyan attended various CI meetings in Hong Kong during November 08-10, 2016. CI Asia-Pacific Member's meeting was held on November 08, 2016. In the Member's sharing



session, Cheriyan made a presentation on financial services. On November 09, 2016, he attended a global seminar on 'Consumers in the Digital Age'. On November 10, 2016 CI Council meeting was held at Hong Kong Consumer Council chaired by Bart Combee, President, CI. Cheriyan actively participated in discussions and made several interventions.

Knowledge Enhancement Workshops

A Knowledge Enhancement Workshop (KEW) for municipal officials of Jodhpur division was organised under the Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform (RCMLP) project in partnership with The Asia Foundation at Jodhpur on December 07, 2016.

It was attended by the 24 officials from various urban local bodies (ULBs) of Jodhpur division including Jaisalmer, Barmer, Pali, Sirohi, Pokhran and Jodhpur. D Sudhakar, Executive Engineer (Retd.), Hyderabad Municipal Corporation as resource person delivered sessions on solid waste management and Municipal Solid Wastes Rules.

KEW for municipal officials of Bharatpur division was organised in Bharatpur on December 09, 2016. It was attended by 21 officials from various ULBs of Bharatpur division including Sawai Madhopur, Dholpur, Karouli, Bayana, and Bharatpur. D Sudhakar, Executive Engineer (Retd.), Hyderabad Municipal Corporation as resource person delivered the sessions on solid waste management and MSW Rules. Shiv Singh, Mayor of Bharatpur inaugurated the workshop and appreciated CUTS intervention in building the capacity of city officials and mayors on various aspects.



REPRESENTATION IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ETC.

- Rajdeep Pareek attended a lecture on 'Zero Budget Natural Farming' delivered by Subhash Palekar at *Khatu Shyamji* (Sikar) on October 14, 2016.
- Dharmendra Chaturvedi attended Consumer Outreach Programme organised by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Regional Office, Jaipur at Phalodi, Jodhpur on October 24, 2016.
- George Cheriyan and Amar Deep Singh attended the United Nations Day function organised jointly with *NITI Ayog* at New Delhi, on October 24, 2016.
- Deepak Saxena attended a meeting organised by Catalyst New Delhi to discuss on how to make Jaipur a cashless city at New Delhi on December 07, 2016.
- Deepak Saxena participated in an awareness programme on EMF Emissions and Telecom Towers organised by the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, New Delhi at Jaipur on December 17, 2016.
- Deepak Saxena, Nimisha Gaur and Dharmendra Chaturvedi attended a state function to commemorate National Consumers Day at Jaipur on December 24, 2016.

Visits

US Ambassador

Richard Rahul Verma, US Ambassador to India, visited CUTS on November 17, 2016 and interacted with civil society organisation representatives in a round table meeting held at CUTS Conference hall.

SSNC Team

Sara Nilsson, Programme Officer for Sustainable Consumption and Victor Åström, Head of Department for Global Coordination from SSNC visited Jaipur during November 27-December 03, 2016. On November 28, 2016 they visited two development organisations: Association for Rural Advancement through Voluntary Action and Local Involvement & Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society. On November 29-30, 2016 they participated in the National Workshop on Human Rights Based Approach.

On December 01, 2016 they visited Nawalgarh and four organic farms and interacted with farmers. A review of ProOrganic project supported by SSNC was done on December 02, 2016.



CART IN MEDIA

