

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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Country Loses ₹750bn Every Year due to Road Accidents

“Many international best practices have been incorporated in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2016 and the much awaited bill is expected to be presented in the Parliament in the second half of the ongoing budget session”, said Abhay Damle, Joint Secretary (Transport), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India while speaking at the National Advocacy Meeting on Road Safety organised by CUTS at New Delhi on February 02, 2017.



The one point agenda of the meeting was to advocate for the early enactment of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016. About 100 participants representing more than 20 states comprising of consumer activists, representatives from organisations working on road safety, legal experts, transport engineers, traffic police and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

On this occasion, a booklet on ‘Guide to Buying Safer Car’ also was released by the chief guests. While addressing the session, Damle highlighted various provisions of the Bill, which address road safety issues. In response to queries raised by activists, he said that he will take into account suggestions that were invited regarding mandatory ISI marked helmets and installing speed governors at the time of vehicle manufacturing.

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International in his opening remarks highlighted that while India has only two percent of motor vehicles population, however it accounts for more than 10 percent of road accidents of the world which results in on an average of more than 400 people dying each day on Indian roads. He also said, as per media reports, 1682 times more people died in roads in India in 2015, than the people died in terrorist strikes. He advocated for changes which can be made by educating the people and maintaining the discipline on roads.

Nalin Sinha, representative, Bloomberg Global Health Incubator and Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) also spoke in the inaugural session and presented an overview of road safety scenario in India. K K Kapila, Chairman, International Road Federation (IRF) also spoke in the inaugural session.

A technical session including Panel of Experts on Road Safety was also conducted which comprised eminent speakers, reach as S S Jain, Professor, Transport Engineering, IIT Roorkee; P K Sarkar, Professor and Head of Department, School of Planning & Architecture, Ministry of HRD New Delhi; and S B S Tyagi, Additional Commissioner (Traffic) Delhi Police, New Delhi.

MPs presented their views on road safety in the session on ‘Law Makers Perspective on Road Safety’. N K Premachandran, MP said that there is an urgent need for passage of the Bill but at the same time discussion should be initiated on the same. Taking the discussion forward, he said that it should also be the duty of the government to bear the penalty if accidents are caused due to defaults in roads. Premachandran stated that the country loses ₹750bn every year because of road accidents.

Rangasayee Ramakrishana, MP Rajya Sabha and Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport said that a board should be formed on National Road Safety to ensure the participation of states in law making.

Consumers to Distinguish between Organic and Non-organic Products

“There should be mechanism to aware the consumer about organic products. The awareness will create a demand and ultimately trigger the supply”, Sanwar Lal Jat said while addressing the State Level Advocacy Meeting organised by CUTS at Jaipur on February 23, 2017. CUTS is working to promote organic consumption in the state of Rajasthan by creating awareness among consumers as well as farmers.



George Cheriyan, Director CUTS in his opening remarks highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the organisation for promotion of organic farming and consumption. While referring to the report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture he stated that only 0.4 percent of land is used for organic farming. He also said that there is no provision for periodic scientific evaluation of pesticides used in the country.

Deepak Saxena, Assistant Director, CUTS while delivering a presentation stated the objectives of the project. While speaking about the project area he mentioned that it is implemented in six districts: Jaipur, Dausa, Chittorhgarh, Kota, Udaipur and Pratapgarh.

J S Bhandari discussed the importance of cow dung and urine in farming.

The technical session was headed by Hema Yadav Director, State Institute of Agriculture Management (SIAM), Government of Rajasthan; Mohan Kumar S, Associate Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur; and S Mukharejee, Professor, Department of Horticulture, Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute (RARI) where they explained the scenario with the help of the presentation.

Organic Fair in Jaipur

CUTS organised an Organic Fair at Jaipur on January 28, 2017. There were in all 19 stalls (6 retailer's outlets and 13 farmer producers). There were cultural activities, such as folk dances with songs, *kacchi ghodi*, bamboo man to entertain participants, who also displayed messages of organic farming and products for a safe life.



There was also a technical session. Sheeta Prasad Sharma, Director, SIAM, V S Yadav, Professor, Horticulture, RARI; and S S Rathore, Project Officer, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jaipur were key speakers. George

objective of organic fair. He said there is a huge gap between demand and supply and the fair is an effort to bridge this gap.

There were more than 250 visitors comprising 40 percent of women.

Road Safety Week in Rajasthan

CUTS organised six *Nukkad Natak's* at different locations in Jaipur on February 04-05, 2017, which was part of the Road safety Week activities and supported by Department of Transport, Government of Rajasthan. Street plays based on the script *Farak Toh Padhta Hai Bhai* were performed. Importance of road safety messages was delivered to masses.



More than 2,000 people gathered during the performance of *Nukkad Nataks*. Good Samaritan and Trauma Care guidelines of Supreme Court were also shared with the present audience during performance of street plays.

Exposure Visit to Hyderabad for Mayors

The Exposure Visit to Hyderabad was organised for Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Rajasthan on February 15-17, 2017. Ghanshayam Ojha, Mayor Jodhpur; Shiv Singh Bhot, Mayor Bharatpur; Manoj Bhardwaj, Deputy Mayor Jaipur; Sampat Sankhla, Deputy Mayor Ajmer Indrapal Singh, Deputy Mayor Bharatpur and O P Kala, Executive Engineer, Department of Local Self Government, Rajasthan along with George Cheriyan, Amar Deep Singh, Madhu Sudan Sharma and Satyapal Singh were part of the visit.



Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), a renowned institute was the local host and coordinated visits to different sites of best practices implemented by Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). During this visit, best practices and innovative approaches adopted by GHMC to deal with domestic and industrial hazardous solid waste were shared by concerned officials through site visits of Jawahar Nagar and Hazardous Waste Management, Bachupally Plants.

Meetings were also held with Bonthu Rammohan, Mayor of Hyderabad; Baba Faisuddin, Deputy Mayor; B Janardhan Reddy (IAS) Commissioner and other senior officials of GHMC.

Exposure Visit to Sikkim

The Exposure Visit to Sikkim under the ProOrganic project was organised on March 20-23, 2017 for the project team members comprising George Cheriyan, Deepak Saxena, Dharmendra Chaturvedi, Rajdeep Pareek, Renu Beniwal, Nimisha Gaur and Madan Lal Keer and O P Pareek from Dausa.

The main purpose was to know how Sikkim become 100 percent organic, to understand the functioning of Sikkim organic mission, and to get acquainted with various working patterns adopted by farmers of Sikkim. The team visited CP Bhattarai Integrated Model Organic Farm KAMREY and observed vermin compost unit, *madhyam* compost, low cost vermi-wash production and vegetable garden.

An open discussion was also held between progressive farmers and government officials at farm itself. After that team visited *Krishi Bhawan* and met with Khorlo Bhutia, Principal Director-cum-Secretary, Department of Horticulture, Government of Sikkim; S. Anbalagan, IFS, Ex. Director Sikkim



Organic Mission; P D Lajja, Additional Ex. Director; and M K Pradhan, Joint Director and discussed promotion of organic production by the state government.

The team visited Shimkharka village of South Sikkim and observed agriculture farm of Tulsi. It also visited the organic tea garden in Temi and few organic outlets.

State of Consumer Safety in India

The State of Consumer Safety report, 2016 was formally released by the Department of Consumer Affairs through an e-launch in the World Consumer Rights Day function organised at New Delhi on March 15, 2017.

In the launch function Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs; Ravi Shanker Prasad, Union Minister of IT and Law, Government of India; Hem Kumar Pandey, Secretary (Consumer Affairs); P V Ramaswamy, Joint Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs; several representatives of consumer organisations, industry, IT start-up companies and media were present. Pradeep S. Mehta, George Cheriyan, Madhu Sudan Sharma and Rahul Singh from CUTS attended the event.

Gram Gadar Award 2016

The award was given to Giriraj Sharma of Daily News of Jaipur during the occasion of Regional Advocacy Meeting on March 30, 2017.

The award was given by B L Soni, ADG, Rajasthan Police for the best write up on 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.'



World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day, 2015 was commemorated on March 16, 2017 under the banner of Grahak Suvidha Kendra, Jaipur by way of organising an interface. This year's issue was 'Building a Digital World Consumers Can Trust'. The meeting was attended by Bhavna Sharma, Senior Adviser,



Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Regional Office of Jaipur. Other participants included representatives from Tata Docomo, Vodafone, Reliance Com, MTS and Idea Cellular. Two joint advisers: Manish Saxena and Manish Lodha from TRAI were also present.

In all, there were around 25 participants. Deepak Saxena welcomed the guests and participants, whereas George Cheriyan delivered introductory remarks.

Regional Advocacy Meeting on Road Safety

Regional Advocacy meeting on Road Safety was organised at Jaipur on March 30, 2017. More than 75 participants attended the meeting, which included 15 NGO representatives from Jaipur; 28 from other districts of Rajasthan; seven from outside Rajasthan, which includes UP, Punjab, Haryana and MP; five from Traffic Department of Rajasthan; four from Transport Department of Rajasthan and three from media.

B L Soni Additional Director General of Rajasthan Police, along with Nalin Sinha, Consultant, Global Road Safety Partnership, New Delhi and George Cheriyan, Director CUTS



were present in the inaugural session, where World Bank Consultant for Transport Department, Ashwini Bagga also spoke on behalf of Transport Department of Rajasthan.

Dr Varsha Pradhan from Delhi and Laxmi Kant Sharma from Jaipur spoke as accident survivors. In the technical session, Rajeev Kumar Sharma, ADG, Anti Human Trafficking, Rajasthan Police along with Maya Tandon of *Sahayta* Trust; Y K Gupta, a legal person representing Rally Mark Legal Consultants and Advocates of Lucknow and Anil Jain, RTO, Jaipur spoke on the issue of Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2016. George Cheriyan gave introductory remarks and Madhu Sudan Sharma presented a brief outline of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2016..

REPRESENTATION IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ETC.

Government Financing of School Education

Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Satyapal Singh participated in a half-day long Consultation on Government Financing of School Education in India organised by Prayatn Sanstha in association with Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability and Child Rights and You at Jaipur on January 12, 2017.

Consumer Outreach Programme

Satyapal Singh attended Consumer Outreach Programme organised by TRAI, Regional Office, Jaipur at Dholpur, Rajasthan on January 27, 2017.

Converging Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Satyapal Singh participated in a half-day long Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Converging Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services organised by Centre for Advocacy and Research at Jaipur on January 30, 2017.

Training of Trainers on Depositor Education and Awareness

George Cheriyan and Satyapal Singh attended 'Training of Trainers' Depositor Education and Awareness programme organised by Reserve Bank of India at College of Agriculture Banking Pune, on February 27, 2017.

South Asia Public Procurement Conference

Madhu Sudan Sharma participated in the Fourth South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference at Colombo and Kandy, Sri Lanka, during February 20-23, 2017. The conference was hosted by the Department of Public Finance, Ministry of Finance, Government of Sri Lanka, and co-sponsored by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Islamic Development Bank. It was inaugurated by the President of Sri Lanka, HE Maithripala Sirisena.

Sharma was given a slot on Day II of the conference to present about Public Procurement observatory in Rajasthan. He shared the



consolidated organisational experiences related to Public Procurement. He spoke about the outcomes achieved, lessons learnt and challenges faced during the implementation of observatory activities and initiatives. He shared the key findings of 'Practice Gap Analysis' done under the project and also observations related to complaint redressal.



CART IN MEDIA

हैदराबाद नगर निगम में सारे काम हो रहे हैं ऑनलाइन : महापौर

मेयर ने हैदराबाद से लौट कर वहां के निगम की सहायता की

एफएआर निगम प्रगत की जा सकती है। उन्होंने कट्स इंटरनेशनल व इंजीनियरिंग स्टूडेंट्स कॉलेज ऑफ इंडिया के तत्वावधान में हैदराबाद सिटी में आयोजित महापौर भ्रमण



govt in talks with BIS for quality upgrade of helmets

New Delhi, Feb 2 (I) With two-wheelers accounting for the largest share of road accidents in India as well as most road accident deaths, the government is in talks with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for upgrading the quality standards of helmets.

The government is looking at a distinctive BIS mark for helmets in the market.

A distinct marked helmet for automobiles (two-wheelers) will reduce the risk of accident deaths for two-wheeler drivers.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)

सेटी मेयर्स लर्निंग प्लेटफॉर्म विजिट से लौटे महापौर ने साझा किए वहां के अनुभव हैदराबाद सबसे साफ-सुथरा क्योंकि लोगों का सिविक सेंस अच्छा व 150 वार्डों में 25 हजार सफाई कर्मचारी

इन्फ्रा रिपोर्टर, जोधपुर, हैदराबाद नगर निगम का वजेट करीब 5 करोड़ रुपये का है, वजेट का बजट ब्रॉड है 45 करोड़ रुपये का है

सड़क सुरक्षा कानून की हो सही पालना : सोनी

डेली न्यूज, जयपुर। कट्स की ओर से मोटर वाहन (संशोधन) बिल 2016 पारित हो चुका है। इससे वक्ताओं ने सड़क सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंता जताई और मोटर वाहन संशोधन बिल 2016 के जल्द पारित होने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

Ministry of Road Transport in Touch with BIS for providing distinctive marking for automobile helmets in the country

Talks With Bureau Of Indian Standards (Bis) For Making Distinctive Mark For Automobile Helmets

February 2, 2017 With Two wheelers Accounting for largest share of vehicles on roads, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is in talks with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for providing distinctive marking for automobile helmets to be sold in the market.