

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



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Attitude of Common Man Needs to be Changed to Reduce the Number of Accidents

“Public transport should be strengthened by the government so that there are more number of people using it which will reduce the number of private vehicles and accidents”, said Mathew T Thomas, Minister for Water Resources and former Minister of Transport, Government of Kerala in a Regional Advocacy Meeting on Road Safety: Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2017 organised by CUTS and Centre for Environment and Development, Thiruvananthapuram.

Every month around 12000 people are dying on Indian roads out of which 25 percent are two wheeler riders, most of them are youngsters. There is dire need to pass the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017 at the earliest as demanded by the government officials, road safety activists, experts and NGOs of four states in Regional Advocacy Meeting in Thiruvananthapuram. D K Murali, Member of Legislative Assembly, Vamanapuram stated that engineering of road plays very important role in the increased number of road accidents.



Jyothilal IAS Principal Secretary, Government of Kerala while giving the keynote address shared key concerns related to proposed Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 and said that eliminating educational criteria for drivers will prove to be risky.

Ravi Prasad, Chief Engineer, Road Safety Engineer Cell, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of

India said that today's scary situation of road safety has not developed overnight but it is a result of sustained and prolonged negligence of road safety rules and regulations since decades.

George Cherian, Director, CUTS 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 an average of more than 400 people dying each day on Indian roads. He said that Kerala stands on 5th position in the country as per the number of accidents and two wheelers account for 52 percent of accidents. He said that Kerala Road Safety Authority played a key role in reducing the number of accidents from 2007-2010, but after that the number of accidents rapidly increased hitting 39137 in 2016.

P M Mohammed Najeeb, Deputy Transport Commissioner, Transport Department, Government of Kerala shared overall initiatives taken by the Department to strengthen the enforcement of the motor vehicle rules and regulations in the State by introducing intelligent traffic system, mobile apps and advanced technologies, on one hand, and changing the road users' behaviour and developing capacity of enforcement officials, on the other.

Officials from National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC) shared the Road Safety Vision 2030 and spoke about the road safety scenario of Kerala. Vibhor Gupta, Delhi Founder of MobiQuel mobile app shed light on *HumSafar* app for Road Safety.

The technical session was moderated by Nalin Sinha, Consultant, Global Health Action Incubator (GHAI), New Delhi. She presented an overview of road safety scenario in India. In this session, road safety experts from various states of India shared their expert views and hands on experiences of road safety. More than 80 participants from Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and various districts of Kerala participated.

Enhancing Financial Protection of Consumers

The launch meeting of the project entitled, 'Enhancing Financial Protection of Consumers in Particular Women through Financial Literacy Initiatives' was held at Chittorgarh on August 17, 2017. It was attended by more than 120 participants from all blocks of Chittorgarh and selected blocks of Bhilwara.

Female participation was more since project is more focussed on women financial inclusion.

As special guests, Suresh Dhakad, Member of Legislative Assembly; Suresh Sharma, Chairperson, Chittorgarh Municipal Council; Narayan Singh Charan, Additional Collector; Sanjay Jhala, Deputy Director, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of Rajasthan were present in the inaugural session and delivered speeches.

Gauhar Mehmood, Assistant Director, CUTS Centre for Human Development welcomed guests and Cherian made opening remarks. Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) presented project overview through a power point presentation. In the technical session, presentations were made by MP Kothari, Anil Jain, Sachin Badetia, Suresh Bhardwaj on various aspects of financial inclusion and schemes for the public. Deepak Saxena moderated the session.

The district level project launch meeting was held at Bhilwara on September 06, 2017. Kaluram Gurjar, Chief Whip of Rajasthan government was chief guest and delivered inaugural address. OP Saini, Deputy Director, Integrated Child Development Services also addressed participants along with other senior officials: Hari Singh Meena, State Bank of India; and Munish P Kothari, former Director RBI. More than 35 participants attended the meeting.



Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 and the Way Forward

The Regional Advocacy Meeting on Road Safety: Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2017 was organised by CUTS CART in partnership with Calcutta Research Centre (CRC) on August 30, 2017 under the project entitled 'Campaign for enhanced Road Safety in India through Advocacy for Enactment of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017' at Kolkata, West Bengal on August 30, 2017.



The one point agenda of the meeting was to discuss changes made in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017 and advocate for its early passage as the Bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha on April 10, 2017 and was expected to be passed in Rajya Sabha, but it has been delayed and moved to the Select Committee, which is directed to give its report on the first day of the winter session.

Around 75 participants from non-government organisations (NGOs) of Kolkata and representatives from



states – Jharkhand, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Assam, Tripura and Orissa; media representatives; officials of stakeholder departments; and road safety experts participated in the meeting.

CUTS along with Oxford Shikshan Prashikshan evam Vikas Sansthan, Kota organised the Divisional Advocacy Meeting on July 19, 2017. More than 90 participants from various districts actively participated. Pramod Kumar Singhal, Additional Collector, Kota was the Chief Guest who spoke about the history of Motor Vehicles Act.



Media Interface on Road Safety

First Media Interface on Road Safety was organised at Jaipur on September 12, 2017. Two noted Parliamentarians: Harish Chandra Meena, MP, Lok Sabha from Dausa, Rajasthan; Rahul Kaswan, MP Churu, Rajasthan and one GRSP representative from Delhi actively participated. Cherian delivered the opening address and three technical presentations were made to shed light on the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017.

Second media interface was organised at New Delhi on September 26, 2017. Two senior parliamentarians: D Raja, MP, Rajya Sabha and Harish Chandra Meena, MP, Lok Sabha from Dausa, Rajasthan and Nalin Sinha, GRSP representative participated. 19 media representatives also participated.

Global Road Safety Leadership Course

Madhu Sudan Sharma participated in the second Global Road Safety Leadership Course (GRSLC) facilitated by Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) at Baltimore in Maryland, US during July 30-August 11, 2017.

The course aims at building leadership capacity to design, advocate for, and implement effective road safety programmes and policies. The GRSLC includes, among others, modules on road safety management; safer roads and mobility; safer vehicles; safer road users, post-crash response; and advocating for road safety policy passage and implementation.



Green Action Week

Green Action Week is an annual civil society campaign for sustainable consumption being organised in 29 countries with involvement of 53 CSOs initiated by Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). CUTS has succeeded in developing 100 kitchen gardens in Jaipur city.

With the rationale of influencing consumer behaviour in favour of organic food, various activities in the form of 10 workshops with school children, 10 cottage meetings with women groups, 15 street plays along with signature campaign were held in various parts of Jaipur during July-September 2017.



The theme for this year was *Safer, more Sustainable Food for All*. CUTS collaborated with several CSOs, consumer and producer groups, policymakers and media to lead towards enhanced availability, affordability and consumption of organic food products.

Road Safety in Asia 2017

GRSP Grantee Workshop was held at Manila on August 20-21, 2017. The organisations from Asian countries working with GRSP on Road Safety participated. The main objective of the workshop was to identify and share effective advocacy strategies with other countries and initiate a regional road safety community of practice.

This was followed by the GRSP and International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP)-sponsored conference on Road Safety in Asia 2017 during August 22-23, 2017. Cherian delivered the presentation on the process of passing of the Bill in the Indian Parliament shedding light on efforts of all Indian partners in the journey of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017.



Promoting Organic Consumption

About 56 gram panchayat level awareness workshops were organised in project districts under the project entitled,



'Promoting Organic Consumption in the State of Rajasthan'. The objective of the project is to develop a culture of sustainable consumption and lifestyle through organic production and consumption in the state of Rajasthan.

The main aim to organise village-level awareness activities was to create awareness among farmers about organic farming as well as consumers about the use of organic products and sustainable consumption.

CUTS' team attended 21 activities out of 56 in project districts. Government officials from the Department of Agriculture attended many activities and delivered benefits of organic farming and the present need to adopt it. Total 3128 participants (1252 women) have been benefitted from these activities.

