

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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Also at Delhi, Calcutta and Chittorgarh (India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi (Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi (Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland); and Washington DC (USA).

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

The United Nations endorsed World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR) as global day, making it a major advocacy day for road traffic injury prevention on October 26, 2005. The WoDR is observed on third Sunday of November each year — to remember the many millions killed and injured on the world's roads, together with their families and friends. This year, the day was observed on November 18, 2018.

Roads and streets are more than connections from point A to point B. They tell stories, some of them tragic, which are just unforgettable. In the year 2018, the slogan for WDoR 2018 was 'Roads have stories'.

CUTS in collaboration with the Transport Department, Government of Rajasthan, Eternal Heart and Cardiac Centre (EHCC), and 3M (Reflector Manufacturing Company), People's Trust



and Bharat Scout and Guides State Local Association jointly observed the WDoR on November 18, 2018.

A walkathon was organised at the largest circle of the Rajasthan named as Jawahar Circle. George Cherian, Director, CUTS International highlighted the importance of the day and emphasised on the need for urgent passage of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill. Renowned neurosurgeons and community medicine specialists of EHCC hospital spoke about road accidents and injuries and related issues.

Two medical camps on both sides of the main gate of the Circle was organised where more than 200 morning walkers, traffic police officials and common road users were medically examined. The reflector pasting activity was carried throughout the day.

CUTS along with People's Trust, Scouts & Guides and District Traffic Police also observed the WDoR by conducting an interactive and orientation meeting with Student Scouts and Guides at Scouts and Guides, Divisional Training Centre in Bani Park, Jaipur.

Around 250 female students were present during the event. The students took oath in front of Traffic SP Shri Rajendra Singh to obey traffic rules. A brief overview of road safety measures was provided to students focussing on five risk factors, mainly associated with road accidents, such as wrong side driving, lack of road safety rules, measures, high speed, drunk driving, etc.



The government has framed road traffic and safety rules for everyone using roads for their safety and reducing the number of daily road accidents. Therefore, rules and regulations, such as practicing defensive driving, using safety measures, maintaining speed limit, understanding road signs, etc. should be followed. Some real incidents of victims and survivors of road accidents were also shared which were highly appreciated by all participants and district traffic police.

Sharing Community

Sharing of resources can help in achieving Sustainable Development, said Jyoti Khandelwal, former Mayor of Jaipur while addressing participants in Stakeholder's Consultation on Green Action Week (GAW) 2018 organised by CUTS International.

GAW is a global campaign to promote Sustainable Consumption observed every year in the month of October. In the year 2018, 46 civil society organisations (CSOs) from 30 countries participated in the campaign on the theme 'Sharing Community'.

Vikas Sitaram Bhale, IAS, Agriculture Commissioner, Government of Rajasthan stressed on sharing, reusing and recycling of products to save the planet from destruction. He said that if we want to save the earth and make optimum use of limited natural resources, the concept of sharing has to be promoted and the model of linear economy of 'make, use and dispose' be replaced by circular economy.

Cherian explained the context of the theme 'Sharing Community'. As per UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, 'Right to Healthy Environment' is one such important right. Under this right, the UN has included Sustainable Consumption in the year 1999, which pushes for the use of goods and services which use minimal natural resources and release minimum pollution and waste in turn. He highlighted how the 'circular economy' has become a popular word in the global economy as an alternative to liner economy.



Linking with the circular economy is the concept of sharing economy where assets and services are shared between two or more individuals, either free of cost or for a nominal price. He concluded by saying that how we can share our resources instead of continuously taking from the nature and degrading the environment is a matter of concern and should be given a serious thought.

Somana Dutta, Professor, Rajasthan University put forth her views on the theme and cited several examples from all over the world and India where this concept is being practiced and gaining huge success.

Nimisha Gaur, Programme Associate, CUTS shared the work done under the campaign in the city of Jaipur.

India in General Political Situation & Civic Space

George Cherian delivered a lecture to the staff of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) Global Department on 'India in General: Political Situation & Civic Space' during his visit to Sweden on October 15-17, 2018. He visited the Swedish Consumer Organisation and met with Jens Henriksson, International Officer and discussed possible collaboration.



He also met with Alexandra Wachtmeister, Environmental Adviser at Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and shared sustainable consumption work. He had detailed meetings with Sara Nilsson, Programme Manager and Point Person for CUTS; and Alexander Sjöberg, Senior Policy Adviser at SSNC. Cherian provided a brief overview of the progress of ProOrganic II project as well as GAW India campaign. The documentation of 'Sustainable Consumption Practices' was very much appreciated. He also met with Gabrielle Holmström, Financial Officer, Department for Global Coordination and had discussions.

Cherian visited Department of Ecolabelling and Green Consumption of SSNC at Gothenburg on October 16, 2018. Jessica, Programme Officer briefed him about the GAW camapign in Sweden on the theme 'Fix your Stuff'. He also met and had detailed discussions with Eva Eiderström, Director Department of Ecolabelling and Green Consumption.

Meeting of CI Council

George Cherian attended the meeting of the Council of Consumers International at Rotterdam, Netherlands on October 18, 2018. President Bart Combée chaired the meeting. The Council mainly discussed the selection of new Director General and upcoming CI World Congress scheduled to be held in Lisbon, Portugal from April 29-May 02, 2019.

Meeting with Ambassador

He also visited Indian Embassy in The Hague on October 19, 2018 and met with Indian Ambassador (and Secretary to Government of India) Venu Rajamony and discussed the possibility of collaborations in the area of sustainable consumption and sharing economy/ communities.



Assessing Progress and Impact of GAW Campaign

To evaluate activities conducted by partner organisations of GAW India, a meeting was held at Jaipur on December 14, 2018. Out of 12 partners, 11 participated. Amar Deep Singh welcomed participants and delivered a presentation on GAW



India campaign. George Cherian delivered the opening remarks and spoke about the theme 'Sharing Community'.

Alexander Sjöberg delivered special remarks. Representatives of partner organisations delivered power point presentations based on impact, outcomes and challenges on campaign activities. Each presentation was followed by question answer by participants.

Influencing Advocacy in the Digital Age

Nimisha Gaur attended a skill sharing workshop on 'Advocacy on local to national level, digital advocacy, lobbying and election



campaigning' organised by SSNC at Stockholm, Sweden during October 01-05, 2018. More than 15 participants from 10 countries participated.

Promoting Organic Farming in Rajasthan

Alexander Sjöberg visited CUTS on December 12-14, 2018. He visited St. Paul's Mar Thoma School in Ramsar Mundiya near Jaipur and observed the organic garden established at school and interacted with students.

Later, the team visited Meenawala and witnessed community library and compost units set up under GAW, Jaipur campaign in 2018. Finally, the team visited Shyam Nagar and saw wall of kindness set up under GAW, Jaipur. Sjöberg interacted with ProOrganic II team at CUTS office and reviewed its activities. He visited kitchen gardens in Dausa and Sawai Madhopur districts respectively.



Road Safety Legislation and Multi-sectoral Action

George Cherian attended a two-day Policy Dialogue and Technical Consultation on 'Road Safety Legislation and Multi-sectoral Action' organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) India, along with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and other partners at New Delhi on December 19-20, 2018.



Madhu Sudan Sharma attended the Round table discussion on second day. Cherian co-chaired the discussion with Parliamentarians on December 20, 2018, which focussed on challenges and the way forward for the passage of Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill that is pending in the Parliament. MPs, such as Husain Dalwai; Javed Ali Khan; Majeed Memon and Sanjay Singh attended the Round table.

5th GPSA Global Partners Forum
on the theme 'Money Matters: Public Finance and Social Accountability for Human Capital', was held at World Bank, Washington DC during October 30-November 01, 2018. CUTS is a Global Partner and Member of Roster of Experts of GPSA. Cherian attended the forum meeting and met with relevant Bank staff and Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) and GHAI of the Bloomberg Philanthropies.

5th GPSA Global Partners Forum



REPRESENTATION IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ETC.

- Madhu Sudan Sharma participated and facilitated a session on ‘Contextualising LDP with the findings of the Institutional and Legislative Assessment’ organised by WHO at New Delhi, on October 06, 2018.
- Kunwar Dheer Singh and Satyapal Singh attended a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on Consumer Protection organised at Indian Institute of Public Administration, at New Delhi during October 08-12, 2018.
- Amar Deep Singh attended a Consultation on ‘Swasth Bharat Yatra’ organised by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, at New Delhi on October 12, 2018.
- Deepak Saxena, Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Kunwar Dheer Singh attended a Seminar on ‘World Standards Day 2018’ at Jaipur on October 14, 2018.

- Raj Deep Pareek and Dharmendra Chaturvedi attended a meeting on World Women Farmers' Day at Jaipur on October 15, 2018.
- George Cherian visited the office of GHAI and Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids of the Bloomberg Philanthropies and met with Marina Carter, Managing Director, GHAI and Melissa Silverman, Associate Director, Communications, GHAI on November 01, 2018 and had detailed discussions.
- Dharmendra Chaturvedi attended Local Advisory Committee Meeting of Ambuja Cement Foundation at Jaipur on November 02, 2018.
- Deepak Saxena attended an Annual General Meeting of Consumer Coordination Council at New Delhi on November 24, 2018.
- Dharmendra Chaturvedi, Kunwar Dheer Singh and Radhika Khandelwal attended the National Consumer Rights Day Programme, organised by the Government of Rajasthan at Jaipur on December 24, 2018.



CART IN MEDIA

