

## 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)

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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).

## Consumers International Summit 2019 *The Digital Hive*

The Consumers International Summit 2019 brought together diverse range of perspectives, with over 460 representatives from consumer groups, government, business and civil society from about 87 countries, coming together to learn from each other about critical issues affecting consumers in our digitised and globalised world. This, once in four-year



experience, is the only event where the global consumer movement comes together in one place. The Summit witnessed open exchange of ideas, attendee contributions, engagement and network opportunities. The Consumer Directorate-General of Portugal and The Internet Society were the main host and partners with CI of this event.

The Summit was held on April 30-May 01, 2019, which consisted of number of plenaries and breakout sessions, preceded by side events, on April 29, 2019 and again succeeded by Member's Day on May 02, 2019. George Cheriyan and Deepak Saxena attended the Summit. Besides all plenaries, they also attended side events and breakout sessions.

A side event on 'Green Action Week Skill share: How We Reignite a Sharing Community', was organised by Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) on April 29, 2019. Cheriyan shared experience from Green Action Week (GAW) Jaipur and India. A public event on 'Developing a Scalable Behaviour Change Model to Enable Low-Income Families to Switch to Clean and Renewable Energy Use' was also organised by IKEA-CI on April 29, 2019.

There were several plenaries and breakout sessions on April 30 and May 01, 2019. Cheriyan and Saxena attended all plenaries. Cheriyan was a speaker in a breakout session on 'Tech, Trade and Trust', on May 02, 2019 which focussed on the need for international cooperation in e-commerce.

He was also a speaker in the session 'How Can We Make Sustainable Consumption the Easy Choice for Consumers?' held on May 02, 2019. Naomi Scott-Mearns, Sustainable Consumption Manager, CI moderated the session. Cheriyan also moderated a key session on 'Protecting and Empowering Vulnerable Consumers'.

The CI Asia Pacific Member's meeting was held on May 01, 2019 and General Assembly of CI was held on May 02, 2019. Marimuthu Nadason's from Federation of Malaysian Consumer Association (FOMCA) was declared as the new President of CI. Saroja Sundaram from India got elected to the Council.



## Advocating for E-cigarettes Ban

On the eve of World No Tobacco Day 2019, CUTS organised a conference on 'Tobacco and Lung Health' in Jaipur on May 30, 2019, where health experts and tobacco control organisations demanded ban on e-cigarettes.

Jyoti Khandelwal, former Mayor of Jaipur said that today the concern of the society is to become aware of their health. She laid emphasis on the people being affected because of the tobacco and smoke polluted environment.



George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS in his opening address said that two-third of the lung cancer in the world is because of the tobacco consumption and globally around seven million people are dying yearly because of its consumption. 1,65,000 children below the age of 5 die globally as a result of second hand smoking. India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest country in tobacco consumption.

He said that there are around 120 lakh smokers in India, which is 10 percent of smokers in the world and out of this, around 57 percent are men and 11 percent are women in India, who consume tobacco. He suggested strengthening of tobacco law in the country followed by strict enforcement.

The session on Tobacco Control and Emerging Challenges focussed on harms of e-cigarettes. Experts demanded a ban on e-cigarettes in Rajasthan, which was announced by the Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Rajasthan on May 31, 2019. Dharamveer Kateva, President, India Asthma Care Society; Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Consultant, Tobacco Cessation, Santokba Durlabji Memorial Hospital; and Dr. K K Sharma, Pulmonologist spoke in the technical session. The programme was attended by more than 100 participants, including health experts, lungs specialists etc.

## Eliminating Industrially Produced Trans Fat

The first retreat of the Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL), of which GHAI is a partner, that seeks to save 100 million lives through several high-impact strategies focusing on the elimination of trans fat, reduction of sodium, and improved treatment of high blood pressure was held at Washington DC on April 02-04, 2019. Cheriyan attended the retreat.

The objectives of the retreat were to understand roles and responsibilities of various partners within the RTSL programme; articulate key policy positions of RTSL/cardiovascular health programme; and develop/implement comprehensive integrated advocacy campaign.



More than 40 participants, which include grantee/partner representatives from six countries (India, Bangladesh, Turkey, Philippines, Brazil and Nigeria) along with GHAI headquarter staff attended the retreat.

## Journey of Public Procurement in Rajasthan



Cheriyan made a presentation on 'Journey of Public Procurement in Rajasthan, India: Current Status, New Initiatives and Challenges' to the public procurement team at the World Bank, Washington DC on April 05, 2019. Vinay Sharma, Director, Governance Global Practice, World Bank chaired and Xiaoping Li, Senior Procurement Specialist, World Bank organised the meeting.

## Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

Partner's orientation meeting under the project entitled, 'Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan' was organised at Jaipur on April 23, 2019. Total eight district partners along with the ProOrganic team participated in the meeting.

In the orientation, the whole discussion centered around on the performance of district partners during last year, expectations from partners with regard to future activities and the overall impact of the project and the expected outcome.





## Implementation of Good Samaritan Guidelines

CUTS in partnership with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India has undertaken a project which aims to create awareness on road safety and advocacy for effective implementation in Jaipur, Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan, India.

Two evening chaupal meetings were organised at Bhilwara and Jaipur and inter-school poster competitions were organised at Chittorgarh, Bhilwara and Jaipur. Also district level workshops on Good Samaritan Guidelines, its implementation and challenges were organised at Chittorgarh and Bhilwara respectively.



## World Food Safety Day

Cognizant of the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for food safety, the first ever World Food Safety Day designated by UN was observed by CUTS on the theme 'Food Safety, Everyone's Business' on June 07, 2019.

CUTS team collectively took a pledge to promote food safety in coordination with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). On the occasion, urging availability of safe and healthy food for consumers, CUTS pushed forward the demand of earliest notification of Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations to FSSAI and Central Government.



## Addressing Legislative Gaps in Road Safety

CUTS in collaboration with Centre for Environment and Development (CED) and Kerala Road Safety Authority organised the workshop in Thiruvananthapuram on May 21, 2019. Cheriyan delivered the opening address. Shanker Reddy, IPS, Kerala Road Safety Commissioner; Elangovan T, Executive Director, KSRA; Babu Ambat, CED; Nalin Sinha, GHAI; Suresh, Joint Transport Commissioner; and John Kutti, KLIPS attended the workshop. More than 50 participants actively participated.



The findings of the legislative gap analysis in Rajasthan were disseminated in a state level meeting at Jaipur on May 29, 2019. Pankal Kumar Singh, ADGP (Traffic), Rajasthan Police; Nalin Sinha from GHAI and Cheriyan were main speakers.

In the technical session chaired by Nalin Sinha, Sushil Tapdiya, Neuro-Surgeon, Eternal Heart Care Centre; Prerna Singh from Centre for Road Safety; and Ashwini Bagga, Road Safety Expert delivered the detailed presentation on the legislative gaps. More than 70 participants actively participated.

## Consumer Outreach Programme

The fourth Consumer Outreach Programme with the support of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was organised



at Shahpura, Jaipur on June 28, 2019. More than 105 participants actively participated, including representatives of telecom service providers (Airtel, BSNL, Reliance Jio and Vodafone-Idea).

## Sustainable Production and Consumption

Akanksha Choudhary attended the fourth conference of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption hosted by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on June 26-29, 2019. She presented a paper on 'Sustainable Consumption Cultures, Practices and Lifestyles in India'.



## REPRESENTATION IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ETC.

## Financial Consumer Protection

George Cheriyan attended the Monitoring Committee of the Department of Consumer Affairs of Ministry on March 13, 2019 to review the status of activities implemented under the Financial Consumer Protection project.

## Product Liability and Consumer Protection

Radhika Khandelwal attended the National Conference on 'Product Liability and Consumer Protection' organised by Centre for Consumer Studies, Indian Institute of Public Administration, in collaboration with Department of Consumer Studies, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India on April 02, 2019.

## Emerging Public Health Challenges

Amar Deep Singh attended a consultation on 'Emerging Public Health Challenges: E-Cigarette/New Tobacco Product' organised by Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on April 10, 2019.

## Citizen Engagement and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment

Amar Deep Singh attended a workshop organised by Centre for Advocacy and Research at Ajmer on June 26, 2019. He delivered a session on 'Citizen Engagement and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment.'

## Collaboration of AWWA with CUTS

Cheriyian along with Amar Deep Singh and Nimisha Gaur met Mareena Mathson, Regional President of Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) at Command HQ, Army Cant, Jaipur on May 28, 2019 and discussed possible collaboration of AWWA with CUTS.

## Discussion on Draft Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2019

Madhu Sudan Sharma attended the GRSP meeting held at the office of Save Life Foundation, New Delhi on June 04, 2019 to discuss the draft Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2019 proposed by the GRSP partners to be submitted to the minister.

## Meeting with Speaker

Deepak Saxena, Madhu Sudan Sharma and Satyapal Singh met CP Joshi, speaker of Vidhan Sabha to explore the possibility of organising a *Vidhayak Samvad* on the issue of road safety etc. on June 13, 2019.

## Visits/Meetings

## Interaction with Sam Pitroda

Pradeep S Mehta, George Cheriyan and Amar Deep Singh participated in an interactive session with Sam Pitroda, Former Chairman of Innovation Council of India at PCC office, Jaipur on April 26, 2019.

## Meeting with Lt. General Cherish Mathson

Cheriyian met Lt. General Cherish Mathson, General Officer in Commanding in Chief of South Western Command of Indian Army stationed in Jaipur on May 11, 2019 and discussed various issues of common interest and concern. The Army Commander presented a Command Memento to Cheriyian.



## CART IN MEDIA

