

## 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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## The Sustainable Consumer

### World Consumer Rights Day, 2020

This year's World Consumer Rights Day was observed on March 13, 2020, in Jaipur clubbed with the 'State-level Stakeholder Consultation' as part of the ongoing project 'ProOrganic II'. The theme of the World Consumer Rights Day was 'The Sustainable Consumer'. This theme was relevant ever before.

The observation of the day also was an occasion to discuss the need for sustainable consumption globally, as well as highlighting the important role that consumers play in this regard. Our economic productivity on a global level is being resulted in the rapid depletion of existing and readily available natural resources. What is needed is a realisation within every consumer that we cannot continue to grow as a species and enjoy a high quality of life without changing the lifestyle and the way we do things.

The event commenced with an address by George Cherian on the theme 'The Sustainable Consumer.' He stated the importance, history, and purpose of WCRD and clubbing it with the theme status and growing relevance and scope of sustainable consumption worldwide.

He said that as individuals, or consumers, we have enormous power, in the purchase choices we make and how we use and dispose of those purchases, but also in our ability to influence the whole system, from production and manufacturing to packaging and disposal by demanding more from supply chains and calling for more sustainable products and services. The sustainable products have the infrastructure behind them to increase their life and usefulness, which not only helps us as individuals but makes sustainability the easier option for other consumers.

Cherian stated that sustainable consumption should start from home and he provided five tips, usage of own cloth bag for purchases to address the plastic menace, practicing reduced energy consumption at home by switching off lights and using LED bulbs, sustainable mobility by avoiding private vehicles and opting for public transport, carpooling, etc., consumption of organic and healthy food and reduced consumption of clothing.

He concluded by saying that countries across the globe should identify age-old sustainable practices within their community and promote those more vigorously. The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations envisage that by 2030 countries should substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, and reuse. Existing sustainable practices, therefore, should be encouraged and successful community models are replicated in other parts so that it would become easier for growing cities to manage their resources sustainably – wasting less and sharing more.

The key speakers in the meeting were A K Gupta, Director, Research, SKN Agriculture University, Jobner, Jaipur; R K Yadvendra, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture, and Gajendra Sharma, Research Officer, Department of Agriculture both from Government of Rajasthan. Rajdeep Pareek made a presentation on last year's activities with some very key achievements as part of project outcome over the last one year.

The welcome and introduction were made by Deepak Saxena, Assistant Director, CUTS. The event was attended by around 72 participants covering all the district partners of ten project districts and a progressive farmer, local NGO, CSO representatives, and the media.



## Enforcement is to Save Lives on Roads not to Raise the Revenue

**T**he usage of intelligent technologies for enforcement will bring down fatalities drastically in India", said PK Sarkar, Former Director, Asian Institute of Transport Development, New Delhi and Former HOD, (Transport Planning), School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. He was delivering the keynote address in the Capacity Building workshop organised by CUTS International. He also shed light on the global good practices of the Intelligent Transport system in five key risk factors. He described in detail about engineering aspects of Safe Road Infrastructure.

George Cherian, Director, CUTS International in his opening address opined that the objective of enforcement should be saving lives on the roads and not raising the revenue for the government. He further mentioned that 13 lakhs people have died during the last decade and 467,044 lakhs in 2018 where Rajasthan in the 6<sup>th</sup> rank is witnessing the highest rate of accidental deaths.

He further mentioned accidents occur due to various risk factors, among them the leading risk factor is over speeding with 64.4 percentage of death caused in accidents. He also spoke about the need for fixing the accountability on authorities liable for bad road designing, layout, and maintenance.

Nidhi Singh, Deputy Transport Commissioner, Road Safety, in her special address said that there is a need for all stakeholders to put collective efforts to make the roads safe for all. She provided an overview of road accidents and the scenario of road safety of Rajasthan and spoke about new initiatives taken to improve road safety.

The Capacity Building Workshop entitled, 'Effective enforcement of key risk factors and key Provisions of MV Act, 2019' was organised in partnership with the Department of Transport, Government of Rajasthan on February 05, under the 31<sup>st</sup> Road Safety Week observed in Rajasthan from February 04-10, 2020. More than 50 participants from the Transport Department, Medical and Health Department, Traffic Department actively participated in the workshop and shared their views and experiences.

Other speakers included Girdhar Goyal, Principal Specialist (Surgery) Additional Nodal Officer Trauma Center, SMS Hospital, Jaipur, who addressed the gathering regarding the Effective Trauma care and Good Samaritan Guidelines issued by the Supreme Court, and Ashwini Bagga, Consultant Road Safety Cell, Transport Department, Jaipur spoke about the Traffic Control Devices. Another capacity building was organised in Ajmer on February 06, 2020.



### Capacity Building Workshops on MVA, 2019 for Enforcement Officials

Under the project, two capacity-building workshops were organised at Kerala on January 13 & 17, 2020 respectively. A Capacity Building Workshop for the enforcement official on 'Key Provisions of MVA 2019 in relation to Six key risk factors' was organised by CUTS in partnership Centre for Environment and Development (CED) and Kerala Road Safety Authority (KRSA) in Kannur, Kerala. Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan declared the launch of the Road Safety Week on January 13, 2020, at Kannur. Shankar Reddy, IPS, Road Safety Commission delivered the inaugural address. Cherian delivered the opening remarks.



The second workshop was held at Thiruvananthapuram on January 17, 2020, in which Satyapal Singh participated and provided a brief overview of the project. In both the workshops, a maximum number of enforcement officials participated. B Sreelekha, IPS, Transport Commissioner inaugurated the workshop. The third and final capacity building workshop in Kerala was held in Kochi on February 25. Madhu Sudan Sharma and Simi TB from CUTS attended the workshop.

### Celebrating 31<sup>st</sup> Road Safety Week in Rajasthan



CUTS was one of the official partners of the Transport Department, Government of Rajasthan in commemorating the Road Safety Week (RSW). Madhu Sudan Sharma and Satyapal Singh participated in the Road Safety Planning meeting organised by the Department in the chairmanship of Road Safety Commissioner on February 03, 2020, and provided inputs for planning and execution.

CUTS also conducted six street plays during the RSW from February 03-10, 2020. Sharma provided inputs for the street play theme, scene creation, and public address system.

CUTS received a memento for successfully organising road safety activities during the week. George Cherian along with Satyapal Singh and Aradhana Gupta attended the valedictory function of the RSW in Rajasthan on February 10, 2020, and received a Memento of Appreciation from the Transport Minister.

## Depositor Education and Awareness Programme (DEAP)

The seventh workshop under the RBI supported Depositor's Education Awareness Programme (DEAP) was organised at Pratapgarh on January 10, 2020, with around 65

participants. M P Kothari, ex-Regional Director, RBI was the key resource person. The eighth, ninth, and the tenth DEAP were organised on

February 07, 17 and 27, 2020 at Kurgaon; Hindaun City and Mahaveer Ji all in Karauli district respectively. In DEAP at Kurgaon in Karauli district, 60 participants and three bankers, Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Lead District Manager (LDM) of BoB attended.

Similarly, in Hindaun City with nearly 65 participants, and five bankers from Bank of India; State Bank of India; Union Bank of India, BoB, and PNB attended. In the last workshop in Mahaveer Ji with around 46 participants and *Financial Inclusion and Development Department*-nominated LDM of BoB and branch manager, PNB attended.

### Sustainable Consumption and Production in India A Consumer Perspective

George Cherian and Amar Deep Singh visited Lucknow, UP on January 09-10, 2020 to meet officials of UP Government for the purpose of qualitative interviews under



the SDG-12 project. The officials were Sanjay Singh, Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department; Ram Narayan Singh Yadav, Special Secretary, Department of Planning, Government of Uttar Pradesh; and BB Awasthi, Chief Environment Officer, UP Pollution Control Board.

Amar Deep Singh and Amit Babu visited Raipur on February 12-13, 2020 to meet the officials of the Department of Housing and Environment, Department of Forest, Environment Conservation Board, Municipal Corporation, Smart City Ltd, Adviser to CM, and Department of Planning. Both also visited Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on March 03-04, 2020 and met several important officials.

Cherian and Simi TB visited Trivandrum, Kerala on March 05-06, 2020 to meet the officials of the Department of Environment, Department of Planning, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, State Pollution Control Board and Department of Tourism. Some of the key officials met were Usha Titus, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Sreekala S, Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, K Rupesh Kumar, State Coordinator, Responsible Tourism Mission, Department of Tourism; and Sreekumar Bhaskaran Nair, Joint Director, Planning & Economic Affairs Cell, Plan and Monitoring Unit-CPMU, Department of Planning, etc.

## National Consumer Convention



George Cherian attended the National Consumer Convention organised by Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) in Lucknow, on January 11, 2020. Mayor of Lucknow Sanyukta Bhatia and Suresh Kumar Srivastava, MLA, Lucknow West were guests.

Cherian delivered the keynote address in the inaugural session and flagged relevant consumer issues, such as economic slowdown, lack of consultation on key economic issues, road safety, transfat etc. He also underlined the importance of apex bodies like CCC and the need to play an active role in the present scenario.

The convention was attended by more than 100 delegates from across the country. Cherian also delivered a presentation on 'A turning point for Indian Consumer: The Consumer Protection Act 2019' in the technical session.

### VISITS

George Cherian visited Delhi on February 27, 2020, and had various meetings. The following were the persons met and had detailed discussions on the status of regulations as well as plans. Rita Teotia, Chairperson, FSSAI; Sunil Bhakshi (Head, Regulations), FSSAI and Kumar Anil (Adviser, QA); GSG Ayyengar, New CEO, FSSAI; Alok Kumar, IAS, Adviser, Niti Aayog; and Pawan Agarwal, Secretary Consumer Affairs (Former CEO, FSSAI).

Madhu Sudan Sharma and Vijay Singh met with five Lok Sabha MPs and members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare at New Delhi on March 05-06, 2020. These MPs were Kakhshan Perween, MP (Rajya Sabha), Arjun Lal Meena, MP (Lok Sabha), Sanghamitra Maurya, MP, Lok Sabha, Subhas Sarkar, MP, Lok Sabha and Anurag Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha to advocate for notification of regulations for the elimination of trans fat.

### Meeting with Kerala Governor

George Cherian had a meeting with Arif Mohammad Khan, Governor of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram on March 10, 2020. He had detailed discussions on several topics of common interest and concern, from the present situation in the country, traditional challenges, to Sustainable Development Goals. SDGs were part of Governors' speech in the Legislative Assembly. Cherian discussed sustainable consumption, which is part of Indian culture. The Governor appreciated CUTS work.



## REPRESENTATION IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ETC.

## Pre-Budget

Amit Babu attended the 'Pre-Budget Workshop' conducted by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at Jaipur on January 10, 2020.

## Urban Governance

Amar Deep Singh attended the National Consultation on Urban Governance organised by Praja Foundation at New Delhi on January 22-23, 2020. It was attended by more than 100 participants from 23 states mostly working on urban issues.

## Counterfeiting and Smuggling

Deepak Saxena along with Aaradhna Gupta attended a FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) Seminar on 'Containing Counterfeiting and Smuggling: A Step towards Prosperous Nation Building' at Jaipur on February 13, 2020.

## Market Surveillance

Aaradhna Gupta attended two back-to-back meetings at New Delhi organised by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, and Bureau of Indian Standards at New Delhi on March 12 and 13, 2020 respectively. The main objective was to involve consumer organisations in the market surveillance of the products to fill the gap in the regulations of the sub-standard products available in the market.

Gupta and Saxena attended a similar meeting organised by BIS, Jaipur office on March 16, 2020, to commemorate WCRD, 2020 as well and to discuss probable engagements with consumer organisations in the BIS activities at the state level.

## Towards \$5 Trillion Economy



CTS in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology, Government of Rajasthan organised Science innovation lecture by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog on 'Mainstreaming Innovation Towards \$5 Trillion Economy' at Birla Auditorium on January 25, 2020.

The lecture was very effective, informative, and flagged so many issues. Pradeep S Mehta co-moderated the session along with Mugdha Sinha, IAS, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology. George Cherian, Madhu Sudan Sharma, Amar Deep Singh, Aaradhna Gupta, and Pooja Shekhawat from CART participated.



## CART IN MEDIA

