

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).

Establishing a Municipal Regulatory Authority in Rajasthan

The need for establishing the office of a regulatory authority with statutory power for all local self-government institutions is vital to keep an eye on the functioning of all municipal bodies. Such a body with independent powers to probe and penalise could be used to check misuse of office and unsatisfactory working. It should also shed light on needed change at the local level", said Vasudevan Suresh, Former Chairman and Managing Director, Housing and Urban Development Corporation & President, Good Governance India Foundation.

He was speaking at the inception of a project entitled 'Improving City Governance Through Enhancing Knowledge of Urban Local Bodies in Rajasthan' implemented by CUTS in partnership with the Australian High Commission under its Direct Aid Programme.

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS, mentioned that Rajasthan's urban population is around 1.70 crore, 24.9 percent of the total population. In contrast, the rural population stands at 5.15 crore, 75.1 per cent of the total population. Such a rise in urban population implies increased demand for goods and services and the requirement of efficient systems for urban planning, management and governance. Therefore, addressing urban development and transformation, urban inequalities and bringing suitable reformation within the urban governance system to address these changes is India's most important political and intellectual challenge.

Barry O'Farrell AO, Australian High Commissioner to India, congratulated CUTS for the urban governance project and highlighted that urban governance is one of the critical areas where India and Australia have a formal strategic partnership.



Abhijeet Kumar, Mayor, Bharatpur Municipal Corporation, reiterated that there is a need to set up municipal regulatory authority in Rajasthan. Responsibilities are entrusted to local self-governments (LSGs), but there is neither power to fulfil those responsibilities nor any administrative setup. There are a lot of administrative and financial problems within LSGs. Local government bodies should be made autonomous to manage and address their issues.

Mahendra Soni, IAS, Commissioner, Jaipur Municipal Corporation (Greater) highlighted India's problem could be solved in 180 days if we humans correct ourselves. We as a society expect a lot of entitlements and keep blaming the system. There is an urgent need to take responsibility by each stakeholder for effective urban governance.

S N Singh, Chairman, Swachh Nagar Sanstha, said government functionaries should be more accessible to the common citizen. There is a need for separation of power at the LSG level and strengthening municipal ward level committees. Himani Tiwari, City Managers' Association Rajasthan, Department of Local Self Government, Government of Rajasthan, highlighted the government's initiative and programme related to urban governance.

Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer CUTS, presented the organisation's previous work on urban governance and explained the objectives and activities of the project. Amit Babu, Programme Associate, CUTS, proposed the vote of thanks. The meeting saw the participation of more than 40 participants.

Transition from Organic to Chemical-Free Farming in Rajasthan

“Sustained growth is key to India’s future, for which reducing chemical farming and moving from chemical to organic farming are challenging. To this end, we all need to become champions of reform and reduce the amount of chemical farming by moving towards organic farming”, Padma Shri, award-winning Farmer Jagdish Pareek stated. He added that Rajasthan, a state suffering from water shortages, needs technology and a traditional strategy to achieve its target without any financial loss.

He was speaking as Chief Guest at the launch of a project named “Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle Through Promoting Organic Consumption and Production and Adopting Sustainable Consumption Practices by Engaging Consumers in the State of Rajasthan, India” (ProScop). This project will be implemented in 12 targeted districts and all seven divisions of Rajasthan for five years (2022-2026).

Cheriyen stated that shifting from conventional to organic farming should be a slow and gradual process. He said this project phase (2022-2026), envisages converting selected *gram panchayats* to 100 percent organic farming. He highlighted that state-wise, Madhya Pradesh has covered the most significant area under organic certification, and Rajasthan ranks 2nd, with 12 percent of the total organic certified land in the country.

Hanuman Mal Dhaka, Additional Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, highlighted the adverse effects of chemicals that farmers use in farming. Dhaka said that there is a need to raise public awareness about the hazardous effects of chemical products so that people recognise the value of organic items.



AS Baloda, Director, Rajasthan Agriculture Research Institute, said that organic farming could be a way to protect the climate, environment, and water. Similarly, he emphasised the need for farmers to perform honestly in organic farming.

Surendra Awana, a progressive farmer, spoke about innovative farming and divergent practical methods helping farmers take new initiatives to move toward organic farming.

Deepak Saxena welcomed all the guests and participants. Rajdeep Pareek provided an overview of the project objectives and activities to be covered in the coming years. Amit Babu gave an abridged outline of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), which is about minimising the use of natural resources and the emission of waste and pollutants, helping to improve resource efficiency and promoting a sustainable lifestyle. Kuldeep Panwar gave an overview of the work on Farmer Producer Organisations.

Nimisha Sharma moderated the event, and Dharmendra Chaturvedi proposed the vote of thanks. More than 60 participants, including government officials, civil society representatives, media and consultants from targeted districts in Rajasthan participated.

National Consumer Convention

Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) of India organised a National Consumer Convention at Jaipur on April 30, 2022. Pratap Singh Khachariawas, Minister of Consumer Affairs, was the chief guest. Other dignitaries in the inaugural session were Justice G K Vyas, Chairman, Rajasthan Human Rights Commission; Justice B L Sharma, President, Rajasthan State Consumer Redressal Commission and Kanika Kalia, State Head of BIS, Jaipur.

In the technical session, Kanika Kalia made a presentation on standards chaired by Anil Johri, Patron, CCC. In the next session, cybercrime expert lawyer Nishit Dixit made a presentation, and Cheriyen spoke on the topic as a panellist. Eight CCC leaders from various states visited CUTS on April 29, 2022 and interacted with CUTS team.



Generating Demand for Effective Implementation of MVA Act 2019

A State-level Consultation on “Generating Demand for Effective Implementation of MVA Act 2019” was organised at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, in partnership with the Centre for Environment and Development on April 26, 2022.

Antony Raju, Minister for Transport, Government of Kerala, was the chief guest and Anup Kuruville John, IPS, IG of Police (Social Policing & Traffic) was the special guest. Cheriyan moderated the panel discussion on key risk factors. T Elangovan,



Executive Director, Kerala Road Safety Authority; Najeeb AK, Motor Vehicles Department; Samson Mathew, Director, Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment-National Transportation Planning & Research Centre (KSCSTE-NATPAC) and B G Sreedevi, Former Director, KSCSTE-NATPAC were panellists.

More than 80 participants including various officials from government departments, such as medical, transport and police etc., attended the meeting.

A District-level Consultation on “Generating Demand for Effective Implementation of MVA Act 2019” was organised at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, on April 25, 2022. C P Joshi, MP, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, was the chief guest. Rajeev Joshi, Additional SP; Jagdish Prasad, Regional Transport Office and Manish, District Transport Office were the other guests. More than 85 participants attended the consultation.

Raising Awareness of Ecomarks on Earth Day

CUTS observed Earth Day at the Mother Earth sculpture site at Jaipur on April 22 morning to demand an effective Ecomark in India. The CUTS team gathered at the site in the morning and showcased the banner with a specific demand. Several local people visited the site and interacted. The team created awareness of Ecomarks, essential for promoting sustainable consumption and production. It aims at reducing the negative impact of consumption and production on the environment, health, climate and natural resources.



Health Star Rating Labels not Suitable for India

CUTS organised a Webinar on ‘FoPL: Why Health Star Rating is not suitable for India’ on May 11, 2022. Lindsey Smith Taillie, Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina, was the main speaker. The other discussants were Saroja Sundaram from Citizen consumer and civic Action Group; Ashim Sanyal, Consumer Voice; Amit Khurana, Centre for Science and Environment; and Antonio Picasso, Director General of Competere, Italy.

Around 55 delegates from across the country and abroad attended the meeting.

GRSP India Partner's Meet



Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), in association with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, West Bengal, organised its India partner's meet from May 25-27, 2022.

Taifur Rehman, GRSP; Mena and Nalin Sinha, GHAI India Representatives, participated and facilitated discussions with Bhargab Maitra, Professor from IIT Kharagpur. GRSP, GHAI staff and others termed the excellent work done by CUTS as the ‘CUTS Model in Rajasthan’ and suggested other partners adopt the same to replicate.

The CUTS team participated in the panel discussion on the MVA implementation framework and the two-wheeler safety and helmet session. Cheriyan, Madhu Sudan Sharma, Satyapal Singh and Amit Babu participated and gave valuable comments and suggestions in strategic planning sessions.

CUTS International on UNESCAP-SANS Panel

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) office has included CUTS as a member of the South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS) as a civil society member.



SANS is a network of government agencies, think tanks, and other organisations from South Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

SANS has been developed to foster subregional cooperation by sharing good practices towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) amongst the government agencies, think tanks, CSOs and other stakeholders in South Asia to build back better. This network is expected to accelerate action on SDGs implementation in the region.

WEBINARS

- Simi TB attended a webinar on 'The Circular Economy & Sustainable Infrastructure' organised by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly with the Asian Institute of Technology on May 05, 2022.
- Satyapal Singh and Simi TB attended a webinar on 'Overweight and Obesity: Prevalence and Policy Alternatives for India' organised by the Institute of Economic Growth India on May 19, 2022.
- Simi TB and Pratibha Jain attended a webinar on 'Advancing Fiscal Policies for Public Health' organised by Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) on May 24, 2022.
- Amar Deep Singh and Amit Babu attended the online meeting 'Rajasthan Digital Dialogue' organised by Social Accountability Form for Action and Research on June 20, 2022.
- Deepak Saxena and Simi TB attended UNEP webinar on 'Lifecycle Initiative' on June 23, 2022.
- Deepak Saxena and Pratibha Jain attended a webinar on 'Power-Up to the Gamers: Empowering Consumers in the Online Gaming World' organised by CUTS and Nishith Desai Associates on June 29, 2022.
- Simi TB attended a Roundtable Discussion on 'Safer Food, Better Health: Coping with Food-borne Risks to Human Health' organised by Centre for New Economic Diplomacy on June 07, 2022.
- Simi TB attended the Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ITAIPU and Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Partnership and Network on June 13-15, 2022.

MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS

- Amit Babu attended a network meeting on the Rajasthan Urban Employment Scheme organised by *Soochna Evum Rozgar Adhikar* Abhiyan with the support of The Centre for Advocacy and Research, *Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan* and Social Accountability Form for Action and Research at Vinobha Gyan Mandir, Jaipur on June 16, 2022.
- Deepak Saxena and Dharmendra Chaturvedi participated in the first programme under the 'Manak Manthan' series organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards on June 29, 2022.

Ecolabelling, public procurement support key to achieving SDG 12

Policy Circle, April 04, 2022

By George Cheriyan and Simi TB

The world took note of India's call to ditch consumerism and shift to a circular economy at the WEF Davos Agenda Summit. This was in line with the country's climate action initiatives, such as energy transition, green bonds, and sustainable urban planning, which would provide equitable economic growth and sustainable use of the planet's resources. Such initiatives by the government could accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP), especially when pressure is mounting on the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).

<https://cuts-cart.org/ecolabelling-public-procurement-support-key-to-achieving-sdg-12/>

India must invest in effective enforcement of environmental laws

Policy Circle, April 22, 2022

By Pradeep S Mehta

The 12th edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020) released by Yale University ranked India at 168th position among 180 countries in terms of environmental performance. In 2018, the country's rank was 177, scoring 30.57 out of 100, and India scored 27.6 out of 100 in the 2020 index. Such poor ranking is despite the country making many advancements in environmental law, which have flowed from the provisions of the Constitution that require the state and the citizens to protect the environment.

<https://cuts-cart.org/india-must-invest-in-effective-enforcement-of-environment-laws/>

FSSAI sides with industry, puts consumers at risk

Policy Circle, May 09, 2022

By George Cheriyan

The role of a food regulator is to encourage the consumption of safe, sanitised, nutritious and wholesome food and to inform consumers about the steps it takes to minimise the risks, set standards and ensure safety. The Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA) passage in 2006 ushered in an era of food safety in India. The FSSA is a landmark law because it consolidated all laws related to food and aligned India's food regulations with international standards.

<https://cuts-cart.org/fssai-sides-with-industry-puts-consumers-at-risk/>

Defining moment for earth concerns

South Asia Monitor, June 04, 2022

By George Cheriyan and Simi TB

Earth continues to grapple with various challenges apart from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Enduring crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, depletion of natural resources, and ever-increasing population, pollution and waste have already become the biggest threat to the earth's existence. Last year, the Earth Overshoot Day 2021, representing the date humanity has used up all the biological resources the planet regenerates each year happened on July 29, almost a month earlier than the year before.

<https://cuts-cart.org/defining-moment-for-earth-south-asia-faces-grave-environmental-concerns/>

उपभोक्ता संगठनों का राष्ट्रीय अधिवेशन सम्पन्न

बूरो/नवज्योति, जयपुर। उपभोक्ता संगठनों का राष्ट्रीय अधिवेशन शनिवार को राजस्थान चौधर्य ऑफ कमिश्नर भवन के सभाभार में हुआ। एपेक्स संस्थान के अध्यक्ष आर कोटि नेशन काउंसिल सोसोटी नई दिल्ली के सहयोग से हुए

प्रमुख नस्तिन कनिका कर्लीवाल, आयोजन लियकत अली, पोके पांडा, राज



उपभोक्ता आयोग अध्यक्ष बीएल

INDUSTRY

Explained | What is the debate around star ratings for food packets mooted by FSSAI?

Typical values	100ml contains	250ml contains	%GDA*	typical
Energy	199kJ 47kcal	500kJ 120kcal	6%	20%
	0.5g	1.3g		
	0.5g	26.3g		29%

Global experts hail warning labels as most effective FOPL to help Indian consumers

पृथ्वी दिवस पर कट्स द्वारा इकोमार्क की प्रभावशाली क्रियान्वित की मांग



शहरी निकायों की बेहतर कार्य कुशलता हेतु नगरपालिका नियामक आवश्यक-विषय विशेषज्ञ

■ जयपुर गुलाबी टाइम्स



जयपुर। कन्न्यूर युनिटी ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) जयपुर आज आस्ट्रेलियन हाईकमीशन सहयोग से शहरी निकायों के विकास प्रबन्धन पर क्षमतावर्धन कार्य का शुभारम्भ किया गया। कार्य में शहरी निकायों को विभिन्न क्षमतावर्धन हेतु विभिन्न विषयों पर कार्य कराया जाएगा। कार्यक्रम के अध्यक्ष सुदेश कुमार सिंह, जयपुर हाइड्रोको ने बताया कि शहरी निकायों के विकास को जलपूर

मिशन एवं स्मार्ट सिटी जैसी कई परियोजनाएँ संचालित की जा रही हैं। शहरी निकायों के पास वित्तीय

विकासों में नगर धीरे-धीरे नगर निगम में चर्चाने जन प्रतिनिधियों के पास जिम्मेदार हो चुके हैं, लेकिन पर्याप्त अधिकार नहीं होने से जनप्रतिनिधि इच्छा रखते हुए भी सारी विकास के कार्य नहीं कर पाते हैं। जहाँ धीरे-धीरे, निदेशक, कि जिस कि माँ कि भारत ग्रामों बढ़ते हुए सारी आस ग्रामों को और पलायन व लोचन प्रति व

सोनी अधिक को विवेक लेते अपने

जिला

खबों को दुनिया

चिन्ताग्रह। क्या जल्द ही सरकार में होकर जल्द

सोनी ने बताया कि प्रशासनिक अधिकारी बड़ी निष्ठा के साथ कार्य को अंजाम देते हैं तथा वे सभी शहरी विकास के लिए प्रतिबद्ध रहते हैं। लेकिन इसमें जनता का सहयोग भी अपेक्षित है। सम्मेलन के प्रारम्भिक

जिला स्तरीय संसद सदस्य सड़क सुरक्षा समिति बैठक का आयोजन



चुनौती सड़क दुर्घटना है जिसमें दो लोग प्राण खो गए। अपनी जान को रोकें। मृत्यु होने वाले के पीछे उनका परिवार पर दुर्घना का पड़ा डट पड़ता है।

शे.पे. जेली, सॉलर ने बताया कि सड़क सुरक्षा समिति में किसी मुद्दा पर सुनने को मिलने नहीं है अपनी अनुभव साझा किए।

समिति जब तक किसी नईसे तक नहीं पहुंचेगी तक तक समिति का मतलब नहीं है। यह बातचीत सिर्फ कागजों पर तक सीमित नहीं है हमने लिखे सभी समिति सदस्यों को अपनी धुनिका सुनिका कसी जिससे इस समस्या का निदान हो सके।

आकर सभी लोगों को मिलकर निर्णय रूप से सड़क सुरक्षा के निर्णय वर फलना वना चाहिये। सड़क सुरक्षा समितियों को जिम्मेदार किया जायेगा जिसमें विद्युद्गुरु के सड़क सुरक्षा में अग्रणी जितना योगदान हो सके। पथिक कानून बनाये, जितना परिवहन अधिकारी ने बताया कि जिनके द्वारा कानून का उल्लंघन किया जाता है उन्हें नियन्त्रणकारी दृष्टिगत लक्ष्यमें आना, जिसका निर्णय वर फलन को जिसमें सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में घटे हो।



कटस संस्थान द्वारा प्रोस्कोप परियोजना का शुभारम्भ

ढोलामारू न्यूज
जयपुर.कटस संस्थान जयपुर
द्वारा प्रोस्कोप परियोजना का

डॉ. ए.एस. बालोदा ने बताया कि कृषि का क्षेत्र बहुत व्यापक है। देश में खाद्यान्न की पूर्ति करने के

अवाना ने बताया कि किसान अपनी आय बढ़ाने के सम्बन्धित कृषि व्यवस्था से

कटस द्वारा विकसित किए जायेंगे बारह जिलों में आदर्श जैविक ग्राम,

न एवम्मा पोस्ट

भीलवाड़ा। 'कस्म' द्वारा आने वाले समय में बाह्य जिलों में आदर्श जैविक ग्राम विकासित किये जायेंगे यह जानकारी कस्म के निदेशक जार्ज चेयसन ने आर्योंना राज्य स्तरय पर पर्योजना शुभारंभ बैठक के दौरान दी। जार्ज चेयसन ने सभी आर्योंनाओं का स्वागत करते हुए अपने खेदो धन में बताया कि सर्वाधिक जैविक खेती ऑस्ट्रेलिया में 35.69 मिलियन हेक्टर क्षेत्र में होती है। विश्व में जैविक खेती क्षेत्र में भारत का पांचवा स्थान है। जैविक खेती के क्षेत्र में पर्योजना में



योजनाओं के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन पर जोर दिया। कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ

दैंसा, कोठ, सवाई माधोपुर,
चित्तौड़गढ़, प्रतापगढ़, भीलवाड़ा,

जीवन एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण

जनसंख्या की गति के अनुसूच्य शहरों में विकास कार्य नहीं हो पाए हैं

-शहरी निकायों के वित्तीय प्रबन्धन पर क्षमतावर्धन कार्यक्रम



केन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर विभाग, दिल्ली

कन्ज्यूमर ग्रुपिटी एण्ड ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) जयपुर द्वारा आस्ट्रेलियन हाईकमीशन के सहयोग से शहरी निकायों के वित्तीय प्रबन्धन पर क्षमतावर्धन कार्यक्रम का शुभारम्भ किया गया। कार्यक्रम में शहरी निकायों की वित्तीय साक्षरतावर्धन हेतु विभिन्न विषयों ने

[illegible]

प्रों की बेहतर कार्य कुशलता हेतु नगरपालिका
यामक आवश्यक- विषय विशेषज्ञ

यूनिटी
कट्स)
लियन
शहरी

वर्तमान समय में यह राशी राज्य सरकार प्राप्त कर रही है। दूसरा तरीका म्यूनिसिपल बॉर्ड के माध्यम से घरी निकाय वित्तीय प्रबन्ध कर सकते हैं। वास्तव में हमें

भारत के बाहर के देशों में शहरी
निकायों के महापौर को बहुत
अधिक शक्तियाँ/अधिकार प्राप्त हैं।
कार्यक्रम में जयपाल

जैविक खेती के बताए लाभ

सवाई माधोपुर डिजिटल भास्कर पत्रिका यूज्ड। जिले के ग्राम डिडवाडी में आयोजित प्रो ऑर्गेनिक सोशो ग्री आओयन कट्स संस्था दयाल फाउंडेशन व नेहरू युवा मण्डल डिडवाडी के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में आयोजित की गइ। सोशो ग्री के मुख्य वक्ता कट्स निदेशक दिलीप सक्सेना ने बताया कि आज के हालात को देखते हुए जैविक खेती अपनाया जरूरी है। कट्स द्वारा सवाईमाधोपुर जिले के दो ब्लॉक का चयन किया गया, जिसमें बोलो और सवाई माधोपुर की क्रमशः हिन्दुपुरा, गालकटला, भदलाव, कुतलाता ग्राम पंचायत का चयन हुआ है। हिन्दुपुरा कृषि पर्यवेक्षक प्रेमनारायण बेरवा ने कृषि योजनाओं के साथ ही फसल बोमा की जानकारी दी। इसी प्रकार शक्ति मिनी ट्रेक्टर के सेलस मैन्जर वीरेंद्र सिंह ने तकनीक जानकारी दी। कट्स कमस्ट्रेट संतोष स्वामी ने जैविक खेती की जानकारी देते हुए जैविक खेती के लाभ बताए और जैविक खेती के नवाचार की जानकारी दी। इस दौरान 101 योग्य कृषि परिवारों को जैविक खेती के लाभों के बारे में बताया गया।