

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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Understanding Grassroots Philanthropy: Insights from Stakeholder Consultation

A Stakeholder Consultation on “Motivations and Impact of Grassroots Philanthropy in Rajasthan, India” was organised on February 13, 2026, in Kota, convening a diverse group of stakeholders, including NGOs, CSOs, Rotary Club, Lions Club, individual philanthropists, and community leaders. The consultation aimed to deepen understanding of grassroots philanthropic practices and create a platform for sharing experiences, challenges, and locally driven solutions.



The session commenced with opening remarks by Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer, who underscored the transformative potential of community-led initiatives and presented key insights from the project’s initial landscaping study, highlighting emerging trends, motivations, and gaps in grassroots philanthropy across Rajasthan.

The consultation featured a dedicated session on stakeholder reflections, where speakers shared diverse perspectives and real-life experiences. Dr. Ratna Jain emphasised that effective philanthropy must be rooted in a clear understanding of local needs and should focus on addressing gaps left by formal systems. Sunita Kabra highlighted the role of service clubs in amplifying impact through strategic partnerships with grassroots organisations, citing examples such as polio eradication efforts.

Dr. R. C. Sahani spoke about compassion-driven philanthropy, stressing the importance of empathy, lived experiences, and local wisdom in creating meaningful and sustainable change. Bhuvnesh Gupta shared insights on community-led initiatives such as blood and eye donation drives, as well as the role of citizens in supporting trauma care and road safety. Dr. Bharti Gaur elaborated on the critical role of civil society organisations in bridging gaps in service delivery, ensuring last-mile access, and strengthening institutional capacity through transparency and accountability.

The consultation concluded with an interactive open discussion, where participants highlighted key grassroots challenges, including food wastage, substance abuse, women’s empowerment, and mental health. The discussions reinforced that grassroots philanthropy extends beyond financial contributions to include emotional support, volunteerism, and community solidarity. Overall, the event facilitated meaningful dialogue, strengthened multi-stakeholder engagement, and generated valuable insights to inform ongoing research and future interventions aimed at promoting inclusive and sustainable community development across Rajasthan.

Where Speed Meets Safety: A Dialogue for Safer Roads

The road safety team, along with other road safety NGOs in Rajasthan, organised a meeting with S Srinivas to discuss key road safety concerns in the state. During the interaction, Madhu Sudan Sharma from CUTS emphasised the urgent need for early notification of speed limit guidelines in Rajasthan to strengthen enforcement and improve road safety outcomes. The then Chief Secretary responded positively and acknowledged the importance of timely action in this regard.



Connecting Voices, Empowering Choices

A Consumer Awareness Programme was organised on January 21, 2026, near the *Gram Panchayat Bhavan* in Bassi, Chittorgarh, to enhance consumer understanding of telecom services and Quality of Service (QoS) standards. The event saw active participation from key Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), including Kuldeep Arya (AGM, BSNL, Chittorgarh), Manish from Airtel, and Sumit Charan from Reliance Jio.

The session began with a detailed presentation by Rajdeep Pareek, Programme Officer, CUTS on “Quality of Service,” focusing on consumer rights, service standards, and grievance redressal mechanisms. A total of 116 participants, including college students, women, and farmers, attended the programme. The activity enabled direct interaction between consumers and service providers, thereby strengthening awareness and responsiveness.



Voices from the Ground: Stories of Giving and Change

A Stakeholder Consultation on “Motivations and Impact of Grassroots Philanthropy in Rajasthan, India” was organised on March 24, 2026, in Bharatpur, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders including local philanthropists, NGOs, CBOs, academicians, and community leaders.

The session began with opening remarks and a project overview by Amar Deep Singh, followed by insightful stakeholder reflections highlighting community-driven initiatives in areas such as health, education, women’s empowerment, livelihoods, and access to basic services.

Participants shared real-life experiences, challenges, and successful models of local giving, emphasising the importance of community ownership, trust, and sustainability. The consultation also included an interactive open discussion, which brought forward critical issues such as gender-based violence, health awareness, food and water security, and inclusion of marginalised groups. Overall, the event fostered meaningful dialogue, strengthened stakeholder engagement, and generated valuable insights to inform ongoing research and future interventions on grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan.



Nurturing the Soil, Sustaining the Future

During January-February 2026, a total of 18 training sessions on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) were conducted across Rajasthan and Gujarat to promote sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The training focused on enhancing farmers' knowledge of efficient nutrient use, eco-friendly pest control methods, and improving overall crop productivity. The initiative contributed to building farmers' capacities and encouraging the adoption of environmentally sustainable farming practices.



Harvesting Value, Empowering Farmers

A one-day capacity-building training programme on “Post-Harvest Management, Agri Value Chain, and Output Marketing” was organised on January 29, 2026, in Chittorgarh to strengthen the capacities of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

The training brought together 42 participants, including Directors and CEOs from 14 FPOs across Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, and Bharatpur districts. The session was inaugurated by Gauhar Mahmood, with key inputs from Mahendra Dudi, who emphasised governance, compliance, and ownership among FPO members. Technical sessions covered post-harvest management practices, agri value chain development, and output marketing strategies.

Experts, including Purushottam Sharma and Arvind Gautam shared practical insights on quality management, aggregation, and market linkages, while the CUTS team highlighted value addition, branding, and digital marketing. The training enhanced participants' understanding of reducing post-harvest losses, strengthening market-oriented approaches, and improving income through better pricing and institutional linkages.

REPRESENTATION/WEBINARS/MEETINGS/VISITS

- Simi T B, Pritika Nayak, and Amar Deep Singh attended the *World Consumer Rights Day 2026 Briefing Session 1* on the theme ‘Safe Products, Confident Consumers,’ organised by Consumers International on January 29, 2026.
- Simi T B attended the virtual launch of the *Lancet Series on Ultra-Processed Foods & Human Health in India*, organised by Global Health Advocacy Incubator and Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest on January 22, 2026.
- Simi T B and Pritika Nayak attended the webinar ‘*Child Wellbeing as a Foundation for India’s Development*’ during Dasra Philanthropy Week 2026, organised by Dasra and United Nations Children’s Fund on February 23, 2026.
- Simi T B attended the webinar on the topic ‘*Know Your Regulator with AERA*’, organised by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs on February 20, 2026.
- Amrat Singh attended the launch of the Road Safety Initiative ‘*Building Lasting Investment Solutions to Make India’s Roads Safer*’ at UN House, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held on February 24, 2026.
- Simi T B attended the webinar ‘*Consumers for Clean Air: Member Learning Session 1*’, organised by Consumers International on March 04, 2026.
- Madhu Sudan Sharma participated in the World Consumer Rights Commemoration organised by the Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Rajasthan at RIC, Jaipur on March 15, 2026.
- Simi T B participated in the *World Consumer Rights Day webinar* titled ‘*The Lived Consumer Experience in Product Safety*’, organised by Consumers International on March 16, 2026.
- Simi T B attended the webinar ‘*Know Your Regulator (KYR) with TRAI*’, organised by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs on March 24, 2026.
- Amar Deep Singh participated in the *Janaagraha Urban Conclave* in New Delhi, focusing on urban governance, livability, and decentralisation on March 18, 2026.
- Amar Deep Singh attended the WaterLab programme launch meeting organised by Villgro in Bangalore on March 12, 2026, where key stakeholders highlighted the need for stronger institutional support, scalable models, and enhanced collaboration to address water challenges. The discussion brought together insights from Accenture and CUTS International, emphasising innovation, market linkages, and knowledge-sharing for sustainable solutions.

BRIEFING PAPER/ARTICLES/PODCAST/ DOSSIER

- An article entitled '*Protecting India's Consumers 40 Years: Can I Trust What I'm Going to Buy?*' by Pradeep S. Mehta was published in The Asian Age and Deccan Chronicle on March 12, 2026. Link: <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/opinion/columnists/pradeep-s-mehta-protecting-indias-consumers-40-yrs-can-i-trust-what-im-going-to-buy-1943393>
- Amrat Singh and Shreni Jani co-authored an article entitled "*Road Safety Demands a Rethink of Highway Speed Limits,*" which was published on Policy Circle on March 27, 2026. The article highlights the need to revisit highway speed limit norms in India to enhance road safety and reduce crash-related risks. Link: <https://www.policycircle.org/opinion/road-safety-highway-speed-limits/>
- CUTS Grahak Sahayta Kendra Performance of Last Five Years-A Dossier ([gsk-dossier.pdf](#))

Upcoming Events/Project Activities

- The fifth phase of the Road Safety Advocacy project commencing from April 2026-March 2027 will focus on advocating for national and urban speed limit regulations. Key activities will include engagement with Parliamentarians and targeted media outreach to strengthen policy action and public awareness on speed management and road safety.
- Detailed landscaping and divisional stakeholder consultations under the project 'Motivations and Impact of Grassroots Philanthropy in Rajasthan, India.'
- A new project titled *Powering Livelihoods* has been initiated for the period March-August 2026, in partnership with CUAL/Villgro. The project focuses on strengthening livelihood opportunities through enterprise engagement and field-level interventions.
- The WaterLab Programme focuses on deploying innovative water quality treatment solutions in Jaipur through collaboration between Villgro, CUTS International, and Cluix, in close coordination with government departments. It aims to enhance water quality monitoring and management through integrated technological solutions and strengthened institutional collaboration.

CART at Social Network

CUTS CART actively engages with a wide audience through various social media platforms to promote consumer rights, good governance, and road safety. Follow us and stay updated:

- Twitter (X): <https://twitter.com/CUTSCART>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cutsintcart>
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/cuts-cart-84b4b02a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/cuts-cart-84b4b02a)
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cutsint?igsh=OXg3dDR5aDZydTfr>

Besides, CART moderates the following Google e-groups to facilitate knowledge sharing and dialogue:

- CUTSConsumersUp – Focused on consumer empowerment and protection issues across India.
- CUTSGovForum – A platform to discuss news, views, and challenges related to governance in India.
- CUTSRoadSafety – Dedicated to the discussion and dissemination of key issues on road safety.
- CUTS-GPKN - A dedicated platform for sharing insights, research, and knowledge on grassroots philanthropy and community-led development across India.

भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण की उपभोक्ता जागरूकता कार्यशाला आयोजित

चित्तौड़गढ़. संकल्प न्यूज | भारतीय दूर संचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण, भारत सरकार एवं कंज्यूमर यूनिटी ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) के बेनर तले क्वालिटीऑफ सर्विसेज विषय पर जागरूकता कार्यशाला का आयोजन ग्राम पंचायत बस्सी में किया गया। कार्यक्रम का



समाधान भी किया। बी एस एन एल द्वारा फ्री सिम मेला भी लगाया गया। कार्यशाला में एयरटेल से मनीष एवं रिलायंस जियो से सुमित चारण ने भी अपनी कंपनी द्वारा चलाई जा रही स्कीम के बारे में जानकारी दी तथा उपभोक्ताओं की समस्याओं का समाधान किया। सबका साथी किसान प्रोड्यूसर कंपनी लिमिटेड बस्सी की निदेशक सीमा कंवर ने भी अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। कार्यशाला में कृषि महाविद्यालय के छात्र छात्राओं एवं महिला किसानों सहित 110 लोगो ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम के अन्तिम

सूरजमुखी की खेती पर एक दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम आयोजित



निहाल दैनिक समाचार राजस्थान स्टेट सीड कॉर्पोरेशन के बीज अधिकारी, रामगोपाल अ किसानों को सूरजमुखी की फ किट एवं पोषक तत्त्व प्रबंधन के विस्तार से जानकारी प्रदान की

छोटीसादड़ी, बन्शीलाल धाकड़ राजपुरा बम्बोरी, सूरजमुखी की फसल में समन्वित कीट एवं पोषक तत्त्व प्रबंधन पर एकदिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम छोटी सादड़ी के बंबोरी गांव में प्रगतिशील किसान मांगी लाल जणवा के नेतृत्व पर आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम के राजदीप पारीक ने हैदराबाद स्थित इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर सेमी एरि (इक्रीसेट) के सहयोग से, के नेशनल ऑइलसीड मिश्र रबी सीजन में सूरजमुखी पूरे देशभर में बढ़ावा देने इसके अंतर्गत कट्स द्वारा चित्तौड़गढ़, प्रतापगढ़ एवं 1000 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र खेती करवाई जा रही है। बतया कि सरसों की रहे खेत में सूरजमुखी किसानों को निशुल्क है जिसकी फरवरी

305 बच्चों को स्कूल बैग, टिफिन-बॉटल दिए



रायला | रायमावि लांबियाकलां में 305 बच्चों को (स्कूल बैग लंच बॉक्स एवं वॉटर बोटल) एवं 3 कंप्यूटर एवं प्रिंटर का वितरण किया। स्वागत उद्बोधन गौहर महमूद केंद्र समन्वयक कट्स ने किया। कार्यक्रम में अतिथि महेश व्यास मुख्य ब्लॉक शिक्षा अधिकारी बनेड़ा, रामेश्वर पारीक पूर्व सरपंच लांबियाकलां, विष्णु देवी पारीक प्रशासक लांबियाकलां, ने स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड एवं कट्स संस्थान की पहल पर आभार व्यक्त किया।

स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड ने सीएसआर गतिविधि के अंतर्गत बिलिया कलां ग्राम पंचायत के कीरो का खेड़ा स्कूल एवं आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र गड़रीखेड़ा के 45 बच्चों को स्कूल बैग, टिफिन तथा पानी के बॉटल का किया वितरण करेंगे

घुमन्तु दर्पण स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड द्वारा कट्स संस्थान के सहयोग से शिक्षा एवं स्वास्थ्य को बढ़ावा देने हेतु सीएसआर गतिविधि के तहत राजकीय प्राथमिक विद्यालय, कीरो का खेड़ा एवं आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र गड़रीखेड़ा में 45 बच्चों को (स्कूल बैग लंच बॉक्स एवं वॉटर बोटल) का वितरण किया गया। परियोजना परिचय एवं स्वागत उद्बोधन गौहर महमूद केंद्र समन्वयक, कट्स ने किया। कार्यक्रम में अतिथि



में श्री गोपाल शर्मा जन प्रतिनिधि, गोध सेंटर, हमीरगढ़, भुरालाल कीरो समाजसेवी, कमलेश गुर्जर, धर्मराज गुर्जर, रामलाल कमावत

स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड एवं कट्स संस्थान की इस पहल पर बहुत आभार व्यक्त किया एवं क्षेत्र में इस तरह के सामाजिक सरोकारों को बढ़ावा देने के हेतु प्रेरित किया राहुल वर्मा जी कंपनी संचिव एवं कंप्लायंस ऑफिसर, स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड, ने विद्यार्थियों को कॉरपोरेट सोशल रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी के बारे में विस्तार से बताया तथा विद्यार्थियों को कंपनी सेंकेंट्री कोर्स के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए, कंपनी के

गाइडेंस के लिए प्रेरित किया कार्यक्रम में आईसीडीएस विभाग से नीतू अग्रवाल सेक्टर सुपरवाइजर, गौहर महमूद कट्स केंद्र समन्वयक, अनिता शर्मा आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता एवं गायत्री मोड़ रहे। कार्यक्रम के अंत में सभी बच्चों को अल्पाहार दिया गया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन कट्स के गौरव चतुर्वेदी परियोजना समन्वयक ने किया

रायला में स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड ने सीएसआर गतिविधि के अंतर्गत लांबिया स्कूल में कंप्यूटर एवं 305 बच्चों को स्कूल बैग, टिफिन तथा पानी के बॉटल का किया वितरण

घुमन्तु दर्पण रायला (लकी शर्मा)। रायला स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड द्वारा कट्स संस्थान के सहयोग से शिक्षा एवं डिजिटल शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने हेतु सीएसआर गतिविधि के तहत राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, लांबियाकलां में 305 बच्चों को (स्कूल बैग लंच बॉक्स एवं वॉटर बोटल) एवं 3 कंप्यूटर एवं प्रिंटर का वितरण किया गया। परियोजना परिचय एवं स्वागत उद्बोधन गौहर महमूद केंद्र समन्वयक, कट्स ने किया। कार्यक्रम में अतिथि के रूप में महेश व्यास मुख्य ब्लॉक शिक्षा अधिकारी बनेड़ा, रामेश्वर पारीक पूर्व सरपंच लांबियाकलां, विष्णु देवी पारीक प्रशासक लांबियाकलां, ने स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड एवं कट्स संस्थान की इस पहल पर बहुत आभार व्यक्त किया एवं क्षेत्र में इस तरह के सामाजिक सरोकारों को बढ़ावा देने के हेतु प्रेरित किया। राहुल वर्मा जी कंपनी संचिव



एवं कंप्लायंस ऑफिसर, स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड, ने विद्यार्थियों को कॉरपोरेट सोशल रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी के बारे में विस्तार से बताया तथा विद्यार्थियों को कंपनी सेंकेंट्री कोर्स के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए, कंपनी सेंकेंट्री को



एवं कंप्लायंस ऑफिसर, स्वराज सुटिंग लिमिटेड, ने विद्यार्थियों को कॉरपोरेट सोशल रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी के बारे में विस्तार से बताया तथा विद्यार्थियों को कंपनी सेंकेंट्री कोर्स के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए, कंपनी सेंकेंट्री को