

CUTS IN ACTION

CUTS
International

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Mindless Growth of Vehicle Population



Let me speak about some local issues that I experienced in Jaipur, which, in fact, can be applied to many cities in India. India is witnessing an economic boom, and one key element of this boom is the rising population of automobiles on our roads: four wheelers; three wheelers; and two wheelers. This mindless growth is due to both affordability and availability. Until a few years ago, our automobile population was restricted because there were few manufacturers and a large number of consumers, and imports were not allowed. While imports continue to be off the list, manufacturing has expanded by leaps and bounds.

Tatas, which were never allowed to make cars in the pre-reform era, are now producing cars with indigenous technology and even exporting them. The company now wishes to produce a peoples' car at a cost of Rs 100,000 at Singur, West Bengal. It is another story

that the progress of their new project has been thwarted by political turmoil. Just imagine the result of the availability of such a low cost car. Many of the 2-wheeler owners will switch to this car, thus increasing the automobile population exponentially. Alas, no thought is being given by our policy makers on the impact of such an expanding vehicle population on the environment, or even serious about developing a vision and plan of action on public transport. The only glimmer of hope comes from the metro project in Delhi, but one swallow does not make the summer.

Because of the easy availability and competitive producers, the 2-wheeler population has expanded much more than the 4-wheelers as a result of which roads get clogged with 2-wheelers weaving in and out of traffic congestions like mosquitoes. While road space continues to what it has always been, other than in the expanded suburbs, there has been alarming increase in road accidents. In fact, India has one of the highest road accident-

related death and injury rates on a per capita basis. This constitutes about 2.17 percent of our GDP, and growing.

As a result of the work that CUTS is doing in the area of road safety, I have been invited to join the Traffic Control Board, Jaipur. In the first two meetings, I have observed an acute lack of understanding on the part of some officials who are associated with it. A little progress does take place, but it is more in the nature of *ad hoc* measures, rather than a coherent and cogent plan of action. There is no task force, with dedicated specialists, devoted exclusively to work on it. Secondly, these meetings are imbued with the rigid hierarchy of the civil service, that good ideas are either not listened to carefully or just shot down. Outcomes are reported in terms of money spent, rather than the number of accidents reduced, and lives saved.

Some officials lament that they do not have the human and financial resources to do it. So it is going to be business as usual!

Pradeep S. Mehta

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

Do More Work on Common Man's Issues



I know CUTS for many years, ever since I was elected Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA). CUTS has always fascinated me with its multifarious activities.

I am of the view that CUTS' work should focus more on the common man and subsequently their publications should also reflect the common man's problem. Whether it is corruption, governance or *Lokayukta* matters, CUTS representative have always been coming with some or the other representation related to those burning issues of public interest.

I extend my sincere and warm greetings and wishes to CUTS family.

Janardan Singh Gehlot

Minister for Food & Civil Supplies, Rajasthan, India

Increased Competition from Research Institutions are Likely Challenges



My first interaction with CUTS was at seminar on globalisation in New Delhi, and since then its staff has been meeting me and my colleagues very often.

CUTS shows professionalism and commitment in its efforts to ensure that the poor in developing countries benefit from globalisation and trade. CUTS has further demonstrated excellent networking capabilities which is crucial for meeting its objectives.

CUTS research could be improved by making strategic partnerships with research institutions in India and abroad. These partnerships could, for example, include exchange programmes and sharing of research. In addition, CUTS could probably benefit from interacting more closely with producer and consumer organisations.

George B Assaf

UNIDO Representative, India

Promoting Competition

CUTS Institute for Regulation and Competition (CIRC), jointly with the World Trade Centre, Mumbai and Institute of Company Secretaries of India-Centre for Corporate Training and Research, Navi Mumbai, organised a public lecture on 'Competition Policy and Law in a Liberalising Economy', in Mumbai, on December 07, 2006.

The lecture aimed at generating public awareness on various issues relating to Competition Policy and Law. H D Pithawalla, an eminent advocate, Supreme Court of India, while briefing the competition policy and law in India, expressed his disappointment with the current state of affairs. He stressed the need for the institutionalisation of competition regime in the country.

www.circ.in/prDec06.htm#ALS06

Awareness on Tobacco

CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART), in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO), India and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and in collaboration with the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan organised a launch meeting of the Project entitled, 'Tobacco: Deadly in Any form or Disguise' in Jaipur, on December 20, 2006.

About 65 participants attended the meeting. It was highlighted that implementation of the laws against consumption and selling of tobacco products is negligible. Besides, various aspects of tobacco control initiatives were also discussed.

www.cuts-international.org/cart-EventReports.htm#Tobacco

Inception Meeting of 7Up3 – Stage II

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER) organised an inception meeting of 7Up3 project partners and members of the project management unit (comprising CUTS' representatives), at Nairobi, on November 25, 2006.



The objective of meeting was to flag-off Stage-II i.e. Advocacy and Training of the project, while taking note of achievements and non-achievements of Stage-I (Research and Capacity Building). Besides, it aimed to develop a common understanding on Stage-II activities with regard to their focus, purpose and schedule.

www.cuts-international.org/pdf/ProceedingsInceptionMeeting7Up3.pdf

Voices from the Ground

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE), jointly with Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED) organised a National Seminar on 'Globalisation and India: Voices from the Ground' in Lucknow, on December 18-19, 2006. The purpose of the seminar was to share views from the ground under the projects, 'Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade and Economics', (GRANITE) and 'Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction' (TDP).



This seminar exchanged views on major policy issues that are creating opportunities and challenges for the poor to benefit from globalisation, including safety nets in order to insulate the poor from adverse shocks.

On Farmers' Rights

CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CUTS CRC), jointly with Centre for Environmental Studies, organised an advocacy workshop under the Farmers' Rights Programme, Phase-II (FRP-II), at Shillong, on December 14, 2006.

Various governmental officials, media persons, academicians, researchers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) participated in the workshop and strongly advocated for a pro-farmer policy to preserve the natural resources.

Dialogue on EPA

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Lusaka, organised a 'Regional Dialogue on Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations and Economic Development of Southern and Eastern African countries', in Lusaka, on October 19-21, 2006.

The formal review process of EPAs was discussed as visualised in the

Cotonou Agreement, to develop consensus among key stakeholders on benchmarking development components to be agreed upon, and to assess the policy coherence of the EPA at the national and regional level.

www.cuts-international.org/cuts-arc-events.htm#RegionalDialogue-EPA

Prospects for Agriculture

CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), in association with the District Supply Office, Chittorgarh, organised a seminar on, 'Investment in Agriculture for Food Security' on the occasion of World Food Day, at Chittorgarh, on October 16, 2006.

About 22 participants attended the seminar. The need was felt to pay attention to quality along with quantity in agriculture production so that the possibility of more and more investment in agriculture could be realised.

Project Review Meet

CUTS CITEE, with support from Oxfam (Novib, The Netherlands) organised a review meeting of Phase II of the Project: 'WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations' in New Delhi, on December 21-22, 2006.

The objective of the meeting was to bring together project associates, including partners, experts and other stakeholders to review the preparatory phase activities of the project. It provided an opportunity to the respective partners to present and finalise their draft research papers and simultaneously ensure the coordination and coherence of future activities.

Empowering Consumers

Arnab Ganguly of CUTS CRC attended a consumer awareness programme organised by Consumer Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, at Calcutta, on December 27, 2006.

The objective of the programme was to make consumers aware of the different trademarks and institutions, in order to address different consumer grievances.

Missing Links in Development!

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International participated in the session on 'South Asian Common Positions in the WTO' at the Ninth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) in Islamabad, Pakistan, on December 13-15, 2006.

The overarching theme of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's (SDPI's) Ninth SDC was 'Missing Links in Sustainable Development: South Asian Perspectives'.

Poverty Alleviation

Prashmita Ghosh of CUTS CITEE presented a paper on "Globalisation and Inequality: The Development Rationale" at the '7th Annual Poverty Symposium on Poverty Research' of Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) held in Sri Lanka on December 06-07, 2006. The symposium was supported by *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada and International Alert, UK.

The debate focused on "Does Inequality matter? Exploring the links between poverty and inequality". The main objective of the symposium was to highlight poverty and inequality.

Regulatory Stocktaking

Vikash Batham of CUTS C-CIER attended The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) National Conference on 'Regulatory Performance in India: achievements, constraints and future actions' in New Delhi, on November 09 -10, 2006.

The objective of the two-day conference was to take stock of regulatory reforms in India's infrastructure sector, identify constraints, and chart a roadmap for future action.

The WTO: Challenges Ahead

Ritu Lodha of CUTS CITEE participated in a meeting jointly organised by FES/WTO: Asia Regional Dialogue on 'WTO at Crossroads? – Experiences and Expectations around the Doha Agenda' in Singapore on October 30-31, 2006.

The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate discussions and obtain participants' perspectives on what could be done for the successful outcome of Doha Round.



- Clement Victor Onyango of CUTS ARC, Nairobi, attended the launch workshop of Affiliated Networks of Social Accountability (ANSA)-Africa and Stakeholder Workshop of HSRC and World Bank, in Pretoria, on December 11-12, 2006.
- Gideon Rabinowitz of CUTS London Resource Centre (CUTS LRC) and Manish Agarwal of CUTS C-CIER attended the Overseas Development Institute's (ODI's) Civil Society Partnership Programme (CSPP) partners meeting at London, on November 13-15, 2006.
- George Cheriyan of CUTS CART attended a one-day seminar on 'Participatory & Democratic Governance' organised in connection with the 25th anniversary of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) in Jaipur, on November 10, 2006.
- Debottam Chakraborty of CUTS CRC attended the 'Media Workshop under GRANITE project' organised by the Centre for Youth & Social Development (CYSD), at Bhubaneswar, on December 06-08, 2006.
- Madan Giri Goswami of CUTS CHD participated in one-day workshop organised by the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOCDECON) under the *Srijan* Network in Jaipur, on November 07, 2006.
- Rijit Sengupta of CUTS C-CIER presented a paper on 'Responsible Business Conduct in the Indian Infrastructure Sector – Experiences and Lessons for Policy' at the 2006 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Global Forum for International Investment (GFII) held at Turkey, on November 06-07, 2006.
- Bipul Chatterjee of CUTS CITEE participated in the OECD Global Forum on Trade, held in Mexico, during October 23-24, 2006. He made a presentation on the 'Relative Importance of North-South and South-South Trade'.
- Pradeep S Mehta of CUTS attended the session on 'Multilateralism vs Preferentialism – Threats and Future Perspectives for Globalisation' at Evian XI Plenary meeting held at Montreux, during October 13-15, 2006.
- Sajeew Nair of CUTS ARC attended a Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) consultation on 'Regional Competition Authority' in Manzini, Swaziland, on October 11-12, 2006. He also attended Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC) workshop on 'Regional Competition Policy and Annual Forum on Trade' in Cape Town, on October 04-05, 2006.
- Prof N C Pahariya of CUTS participated and presented a case for formation of a Preferential Trading Arrangement (PTA) by India with five-member Southern African Customs Union (SACU) in a seminar organised jointly by Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and South African High Commission, in New Delhi, on October 06, 2006.

Intervention

Boosting Food Security

CUTS CART was part of the United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) research project on 'Hunger and Food Security' during 2004-06.

The research paper, which was presented in Helsinki, in October 2005, is now published by WIDER, entitled, 'Enforcing the Right to Food in India: Bottlenecks in delivering the expected outcome'. The publication in the book form will be coming soon, which can be accessed at: <http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/publications.htm>

CUTS Opens its Fourth Overseas Centre in Hanoi

CUTS International is opening its fourth overseas centre in Hanoi, Vietnam, in January 2007. Among its other overseas centres, the first one was established in Lusaka, Zambia in the year 2000, followed by Nairobi, Kenya in 2002 and London, UK in the year 2003.

The purpose of these overseas offices is to promote trilateral development cooperation on a range of trade and economic policy issues, considering the fact that India has excellent diplomatic and commercial relations with these countries and the regions.

CUTS Hanoi Centre (HRC) will be campaigning on a project to build consumer awareness in the Mekong Region countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The DFID office in Vietnam is negotiating a project on Making Markets Work for the Poor in Vietnam. CUTS is providing technical assistance to the Vietnamese Competition Authority over 2007-09 with support from the Government of Switzerland.



VISITORS

Name	Comments
C P Joshi Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA)	Service to the society is impressive.
Jagat S Mehta Former Foreign Secretary of India	I have long wanted to visit the CUTS office. I felt impressed and happy at the efficient layout of the office. Not many of my relatives have shown such intellectually engaged involvement in the burning topic of growth, trade equity in international exchange. My sincere admiration.
Jim Rollo Programme Director University of Sussex Brighton BN1 9RH UK	A pleasure as always to collaborate with CUTS. The added joy of a visit to Jaipur was a special focus.
Valter Angell Senior Researcher Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway	Learning to know CUTS and its staff has been a great pleasure. The more I read your publications, the more impressed I am. I look forward to a mutual and beneficial cooperation in the future.
Ditte Juul Jorgensen Principal Administrator European Commission Brussels	With many thanks for the ensuing discussion, which, I hope we will have an opportunity to pursue further in the future.
Lisa Mackie EU-South Asia Trade Relations European Commission Brussels	Grateful for your expert input into the study on EU-India trade relations. Good research makes for better negotiations! Thanks again.

Glimpses of Ongoing and Future Projects of CUTS

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE)

CUTS CITEE with the support of WHO has undertaken a project entitled, 'Study to identify hurdles for independent Indian health service personnel in selected countries under General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) Mode IV'. It aims to simultaneously focus on experiences acquired by Indian professionals to draw lessons that can facilitate in managing the temporary movement effectively. It intends to highlight how the ongoing GATS negotiations can be used to generate a stronger liberalising momentum in health sector.



CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER)

CUTS International has undertaken a research programme entitled "Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum (CDRF)", to stimulate research and deliberations on competition and regulatory implementation issues in developing countries. The programme would be implemented through research cycles comprising writing of research papers (based on an open call for papers), a symposium to discuss papers and the publication of a research volume.



CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART)

"Tobacco: deadly in any form and disguise" is a school and community based tobacco control intervention of CUTS CART in partnership with the WHO, India and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and in collaboration with the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan. The project will focus on the section 6 of the tobacco control law in India and involve 50 selected schools in Jaipur city (both government and private).



CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CUTS CRC)

CUTS CRC in collaboration with LUND University, Sweden and with the support of Swedish Embassy, India has designed a project entitled, 'Traffic Calming Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety in India' to be implemented soon. The objective of the project is to bring into light the weakness of Indian road designs and provide a manual, the first of its kind in India, suggesting remedial Traffic Calming Strategies for important policy/decision makers.



CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC)

CUTS ARC is implementing the project entitled 'Case Study: Research on EPA in Zambia' with support from Oxfam (Novib, The Netherlands). The project will be implemented over a period of three months, and would be undertaken through research, advocacy and lobby on key issues *vis-à-vis* development benchmarks, market access, in the EPA Negotiations. The negotiations are being conducted between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

