

CUTS INTERNATIONAL

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Monthly Brief #2, June 2024

Transforming Rajasthan: Trade, Investment, and Job Creation

CUTS International is pleased to announce its recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Rajasthan to boost employment by expanding trade and investment opportunities. This unique partnership leverages CUTS' deep grassroots understanding of socio-economic issues along with a strong understanding of economics and development linkages, setting it apart from similar arrangements with consulting firms.

Rajasthan faces a significant job crisis, especially among its youth. This collaboration aims to advance employment through enhanced trade and investment across all sectors, including agriculture, generating gender-friendly jobs and higher revenues. Rajasthan needs jobs and increased revenues to reduce debt and deficit.

The 2024-25 state budget plans to create 500,000 government jobs over the next five years, hopefully prioritising better governance over mere expansion, considering the slogan: Less Government, Better Governance.

This initiative aligns with India's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047, focusing on inclusive and sustainable growth, leveraging the demographic dividend, technological advancements, and economic reforms. India's fast-growing economy, driven by robust domestic consumption and significant investments, is on a promising trajectory.

Rajasthan offers diverse investment opportunities across emerging and traditional sectors. Its strategic location, extensive infrastructure, rich resource base, proactive government policies, good law & order, and market-friendly environment make it an ideal destination for investors. By harnessing these strengths, Rajasthan can significantly contribute to India's inclusive and sustainable development, ensuring a prosperous future for both the state and the country.

Message for our Readers

This is the second edition of the National Affairs Monthly Brief, which carries select published news or comments on trade, regulatory and governance issues.

This newsletter contains copyrighted material whose use has not been specifically authorised by the copyright owners. Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is making these articles available in our efforts to advance understanding of trade, regulatory and governance issues. We believe that this constitutes a 'fair use' of the copyrighted material as provided for in Article 10 of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Paris Text 1971) and Section 107 of the US Copyright Law. If anybody wishes to use materials from this publication for purposes that go beyond 'fair use', s/he must obtain permission from the copyright owner. CUTS will not draw any profit from this publication, since it is solely for informative and educational purposes.

Readers are encouraged to send their own views and suggestions at: cuts1@cuts.org



India's Steel Trade Deficit Widens

India's steel trade deficit, the difference between imports and exports, has widened to ₹4,284 crore in the first two months (April and May), approximately 47 per cent of the ₹9,036 crore recorded in FY24, as the country continues to be a net importer of the metal, with a consistent increase in shipments from China.



PM Gati Shakti to Drive Infrastructure Development in India



Morgan Stanley has estimated that growth in infrastructure investments will help fill up the gap in the space, with the help of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan. Historically, India's manufacturing competitiveness has suffered due to poor infrastructure conditions.

- [Indian Railways Expands North-East Connectivity](#) | Abhishek Law, The Hindu Business Line, June 17, 2024
- [Natural Resource Management Key to India's Growth](#) | The Economic Times, June 26, 2024
- [India Boosts South Asia Electricity Ties](#) | The Straits Times, June 27, 2024
- [India-Bangladesh Relations to Strengthen](#) | Harsh Vardhan Shringla, The Economic Times, June 28, 2024

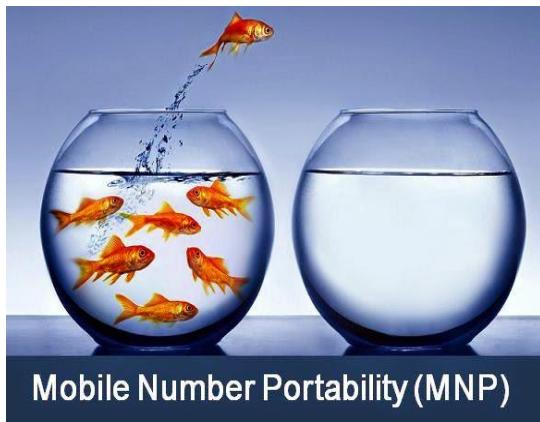


'One Vehicle One Fastag' Norm Kicks Off

"One Vehicle, One FASTag" rule is being enforced across India. This regulation mandates that each vehicle can only be linked to a single FASTag, prohibiting the use of multiple FASTags for a single vehicle. The initiative aims to streamline the electronic toll collection system, enhance efficiency, and ensure the seamless movement of vehicles at toll plazas.



New Mobile Number Portability Rules on the Anvil



In a significant move aimed at enhancing telecom security, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has announced amendments to the Mobile Number Portability regulations. Effective July 01, 2024, the new rules mandate a seven-day waiting period for issuing Unique Porting Codes. These rules are aimed at curbing the porting of mobile numbers by way of fraudulent SIM swap/replacement by unscrupulous elements.

- [India to Simplify Immigration Checks for International Trips](#) | Arindam Majumder, Economic Times, June 09, 2024
- [Govt Notifies Post Office Act 2023 to Modernise Postal Services](#) | ABP News Bureau, June 19, 2024
- [Global Supply Chain Shift: Has India Finally Arrived?](#) | Ravi Jakhar, Economic Times, June 22, 2024
- [Tata Motors: Demerger to Unlock Business Potential](#) | Nehal Chaliawala, Mint, June 26, 2024



RBI to Launch Digital Payment Intelligence Platform

Amid increasing instances of digital payment fraud, the Reserve Bank of India has proposed setting up a digital intelligence platform. To advance this initiative, the central bank has constituted a committee to examine the various aspects of forming a digital public infrastructure for a digital intelligence platform.



Road Safety Plan in Three Phases



The Rajasthan road safety and action plan, currently being formulated by the Transport Department, will strive to raise public awareness about road safety provisions and induce behavioural modifications to ensure adherence to road safety regulations. The plan is to be executed in three phases: from 2025-2033.

- [Women-led Philanthropy Will Improve the Act of Giving](#) | George Skaria, Mint, June 05, 2024
- [Consumer Affairs Ministry Targets Dark Patterns and Mediation](#) | Akshara Srivastava, Business Standard, June 10, 2024
- [India's Spice Scare a Wake-Up Call](#) | Debarshi Dasgupta, The Straits Times, June 17, 2024
- [More Judges, Quicker Justice](#) | Kaushik Deka, India Today, June 27, 2024

Publication

- Briefing Paper on 'Developing a Sustainable and Robust Energy Cooperation in the BBIN Region'
(<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/bp-developing-a-sustainable-and-robust-energy-cooperation-in-the-bbin-region.pdf>)

Event

- [Unlocking the Potential of India's Female Workforce for the Future of Work](#) | June 19, 2024
(<https://cuts-ccier.org/unlocking-the-potential-of-indias-female-workforce-for-the-future-of-work/>)

Article of the Month

- [How to make India Greek to us](#)
Pradeep S. Mehta and Bipul Chattopadhyay
The Economic Times, July 16, 2024

Meet Our Dedicated Professionals

Debashree Hazarika is an emerging professional in the social sector with a focused interest in public policy, particularly in social conflict, public health, food security, and gender issues. She joined CUTS International in September 2023 and has since transitioned to pursue advanced studies.



Shruti Maheshwari is a lawyer specialising in international economic law, with extensive experience in international trade and investment law and policy. She joined CUTS International in January 2024 as a Senior Research Associate. Shruti has now moved on to further her education.