

CUTS CRC Activity Report

April-June 2022

ONGOING PROJECTS



Facilitating implementation of Bangladesh, India and Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement

CUTS International is implementing a project entitled ‘Stakeholder Analysis for Regional Transport Connectivity in Eastern South Asia’ with support from the World Bank Group. Under this project, CUTS engaged Unnayan Shamannay from Bangladesh and Nepal Economic Forum from Nepal as country partners. The objective of the study is to evaluate the current landscape for the operationalisation of the Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (BIN) and identified country by country, key obstacles and potential solutions needed for the efficient implementation of the MVA, including at the province (state) level in BIN countries.

To understand the perspective of the stakeholders, surveys were conducted along the Kathmandu-Kakarvitta-Panitanki-Fhulbari-Banglabanda-Dhaka-Chittagong and Kolkata-Petrapole-Benapole-Dhaka-Agartala corridors between April and June 2022.



Interviewing the truck drivers at Petrapole, West Bengal

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and Washington DC (USA).



Pre-Feasibility Study for Creating a Freight Village at Balagarh, West Bengal

With the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Private Sector Engagement (PSE) support, CUTS International is implementing a study entitled **‘Pre-feasibility study for creating multimodal Freight Village at Balagarh in West Bengal.’** The study aims to assess the feasibility of creating a Freight Village (FV) in Balagarh and develop an action plan to establish the proposed FV, encourage infrastructure investment and benefit the potential investors and policymakers.

In June 2022, surveys were conducted with the District Industry Centres in Hoogly, Nadia, Paschim Burdwan and Purba Burdwan to understand the demand from the industries, in these districts, for a freight village at Balagarh, West Bengal.

Support for Women Journalists in Countering Mis/Disinformation in the Indo-Pacific Region

CUTS International, with the support from US Consulate, Kolkata, and in partnership with East-West Centre, Washington DC, South Asian Women in Media (SAWM), and SeeBoundless from the USA, implemented a project entitled **‘Support for women journalists in countering mis/disinformation in the Indo-Pacific region.’**

The project aims to train women journalists from the Indo-Pacific Region on tools and techniques to counter any information asymmetry. This includes disinformation, misinformation, fake and deep fakes, etc., that pose a significant threat to the lives and careers of women journalists. The other objective is to ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific region by developing a strong collaborative network of women journalists.

On April 28, 2022, a webinar was organised by CUTS on Innovative Story Telling using augmented and virtual reality. In this webinar, Brooke Van Dam, Director of Partnerships and Education, SeeBoundless and Steve Johnson, Founder, SeeBoundless, trained the participants on different techniques related to Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technology to counter any information disorder.



- Baishali Lodh Chowdhury attended a webinar entitled '*From Grey to Green: Net Zero Transition Opportunities for India*' organised by the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), on April 06, 2022.
- Rageshree Bose attended an interactive session with Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Professor, IIT Madras, organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce on April 08, 2022.
- Arnab Ganguly attended the Waterways Conclave 2022 organised by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in collaboration with FICCI Northeast and the Indian Chambers of Commerce on May 11-12, 2022.
- Mihir Shekhar Bhonsale attended the Army Commanders Press Conference and media interaction organised by the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, on May 16, 2022.
- Sumanta Biswas attended the B2B session with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry business delegation organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on May 27, 2022.
- Baishali Lodh Chowdhury attended a webinar organised by the Forum for Decarbonising Transport led by Niti Aayog and the World Resource Institute under the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia on May 31, 2022.
- Arnab Ganguly and Bijaya Roy attended a webinar on '*Legal Aspects of Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation*,' organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on June 29, 2022.