

CUTS CRC Activity Report

October-December 2019

ONGOING PROJECTS



Data Protection and Privacy & Impact of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018

CUTS International organised a daylong consumer awareness workshop on Data Protection and Privacy & Impact of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018 (PDPB) in Kolkata on November 01, 2019. The workshop engaged key local stakeholders from north-east and east India in order to build their capacity to further engage with citizens and policymakers productively on the issues of privacy and data protection and to also help consumers put forth their perspectives.

The workshop highlighted issues related to data leaks, data breaches, and surveillance. Several stakeholders participated in the discussion, including policy influencers, academia, consumer organisations, think tanks, and media, among others.

Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International, delivered the opening remarks and highlighted the role of citizens in enhancing privacy and protecting their personal data. Further, he mentioned that the key objective of this workshop is to deconstruct the concepts around privacy and data protection for a common man in order to enable his engagement in the debates surrounding the issue.

Swati Punia, Assistant Policy Analyst, CUTS International, mentioned that increasingly vulnerable groups are coming within the fold of digital economy and therefore having data protection that protects their privacy is need of the hour.

Faiza Rahman, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, discussed the importance of notice-consent framework in the context of data privacy. Subsequently, discussions revolved around the needs and challenges in implementing a transparent, accountable, easy to understand, and affirmative data privacy framework.



Consumer Awareness Workshop on Data Protection, Privacy & Impact of PDPB (2018)

CUTS[®]
International

**CUTS Calcutta
Resource Centre**

99/5/9A, Dr. Amiya Bose
Sarani, 3rd Floor
Bulkygunge Place
Kolkata 700019
Ph: +91.33.40683154
Telefax: +91.33.24604987
E-mail: calcutta@cuts.org
Website: www.cuts-international.org/CRC

Also at Jaipur, Delhi and Chittorgarh
(India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi
(Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi
(Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland);
and Washington DC (USA).



Rahul Sharma, Founder, The Perspective, and Country Head-India, International Association of Privacy Professionals, focused on demystifying the concepts of rights and entitlement of users as provided under the PDPB. He explained various concepts and principles pertaining to data privacy; the evolution of the data protection regime in India, and the overall context in which the issue of data privacy should be considered.

S. Prasanna, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, discussed the enforcement and regulation regime under the PDPB. He elaborated on the redressal mechanism for the consumers, along with the procedure for filing a complaint, generating an inquiry, and going for appeal.

Overall, participants emphasised that PDPB needs translation to regional languages, and such citizen-centric legislations should not just be in English. Moreover, all participants raised the need to supplement the same with training and outreach events that help educate and empower consumers, especially in tier II and III as well as rural areas.



Following the main event, Daniel David Castro, Vice President of Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and Director, ITIF, Centre for Data Innovation gave a keynote address. Speech attendees included workshop participants, key local stakeholders from the industry, academia, lawyers and civil society. The address revolved around two important concepts: Convergence in Privacy Frameworks and Cross Border Data Flows (CBDF). The session attempted to explore the measures that could be undertaken to support a harmonised evolution and convergence of data privacy frameworks that facilitate CBDF.

Facilitating Effective Implementation of BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement

UTS International implemented a project titled “Creating an Enabling and Inclusive policy and Political Economy Discourse for Trade, Transport and Transit Facilitation in and among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) – Facilitating implementation and stakeholder buy-in in the BBIN sub – region” with support from US State Department.

The aim of the study was to facilitate trade and transit among the four countries by enabling the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN-MVA). An extensive field study was conducted across eight corridors among these countries to understand the infrastructural and political economy challenges that can adversely affect effective implementation of the MVA. Further, a video documentary titled “**1,000 Kilometres of a Truck Driver**” was also showcased to facilitate the effective implementation of the BBIN MVA.



Border Haats: New Dimensions in Cross-border Trade

CUTS International with support from Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom is executing a project titled “Border Haats between India and Bangladesh as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade” which aims at understanding the prospects of establishing border haats as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh; and analysing its impact on gender and livelihood.

Under this project field surveys were conducted in 16 mirror locations (16 locations in India and their mirror locations in Bangladesh) in both the countries such that it covers locations where border haats are operational, locations where new border haats have been sanctioned, and locations where the idea of for establishing border haats has been proposed. CUTS and Unnayan Shamannay (Bangladesh project partner) have completed surveys in nine locations in India and seven locations in Bangladesh, between October and December 2019.



***Entry gate of Kamalasagar-
Tahirpur Border Haat***



***SHG group interviewed in
Changrabanda, Cooch Behar,
West Bengal.***

REPRESENTATION



- Bijaya Roy attended an interactive session with Anindya Ghose on “Using Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain to Monetize the Mobile Economy” organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) on November 01, 2019.
- Arnab Ganguly attended a stakeholder consultation on North East Economic Corridor study organised by Asian Development Bank and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Kolkata on November 12, 2019.
- Bijaya Roy attended the World Bank Group’s Report Launch Event organised by ICC in Kolkata on December 13, 2019. The World Bank has prepared two integrated reports on North East India entitled ‘Strengthening Cross-Border Value Chains-Opportunities for India and Bangladesh’; ‘Playing to Strengths- A policy Framework for Mainstreaming Northeast India’ edited by Sanjay Kathuria and Priya Mathur respectively. The two reports aimed to guide policies to unleash the economic potential of the region and leverage growth opportunities.