

# CUTS CRC Activity Report

October-December, 2025

## ONGOING PROJECTS



### Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme for MSMEs in India

CUTS International has recognised the unique challenges MSMEs face in the digital space and aims to provide targeted support to help them navigate the complexities of the digital economy. In response to these challenges, CUTS International has joined an initiative undertaken by The Asia Foundation (TAF) titled 'the APAC Cybersecurity Fund', with support from Google.org.

The initiative aims to enhance MSMEs' cybersecurity resilience by providing comprehensive training, raising awareness, and promoting the adoption of cyber-resilient practices. The project will be implemented in 10 states of India, including Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Tripura, to train more than 20,000 MSMEs.

This quarter, four cybersecurity capacity-building programmes were organised, with three workshops held in West Bengal and one in Assam. The West Bengal workshops were held in Jaigaon, Alipurduar, Canning, S. 24 Pgs, and Habra, N. 24 Pgs, with more than 100 participants in each. Additionally, another workshop was held in Guwahati, Assam. Through this workshop, we have trained more than 330 enterprises, including both small and medium-sized.



*Guwahati, Assam, on December 12, 2025*

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(India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi  
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and Washington DC (USA).



## Insights from an FGD with Women Entrepreneurs

Under the APAC Cybersecurity Fund Project initiative, CUTS International, in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, organised a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on December 10, 2025, in Guwahati, Assam. The discussion brought together 16 prominent women entrepreneurs representing diverse sectors, including wine production, handicrafts, and food processing. The primary objective of the FGD was to understand the key challenges faced across these sectors and to explore possible strategies and interventions to mitigate them.



*FGD with women entrepreneurs in Guwahati, Assam, on December 10, 2025*

## REPRESENTATIONS



- Sohom Banerjee participated in the international conference “Follow Up: The Experiences and Extent of Adopting AI among SMEs in Asia”, organised by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Regional Economic Programme Asia (SOPAS), in Manila, Philippines, from November 25-28, 2025.
- Sohom Banerjee presented his research paper titled “A Socio-Technical Systems Theory (STS) Perspective on the Dark Aspects of Artificial Intelligence (AI)” at the 3rd International Conference on Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Equity, and Digital Strategies (SEEDS 2025), on December 02-04, 2025.
- Sohom Banerjee presented his research paper titled “Influence of Independent Directors on Firm Risk: Evidence from Advanced Economies” at the conference “Navigating the New Era of Corporate Governance: Insights into Reporting, Law, and Insolvency,” organised by the Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon, on December 12-13, 2025.

## PUBLICATIONS



- Sohom Banerjee's interview has been featured as a media byte in LiveMint, Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/start-ups/indian-vibe-coding-startups-funding-2025/amp-11758694430935.html>
- Sohom Banerjee's interview has been featured as a media byte in LiveMint. Link: <https://www.livemint.com/ai/artificial-intelligence/ecommerce-quick-commerce-firms-make-human-help-a-paid-perk-swiggy-one-blck-flipkart-black-zomato-vip-mode-11759226512035.html>
- Sohom Bannerjee's insights on Urban Company's algorithmic scheduling system—and its effects on worker flexibility and earnings—have been featured in LiveMint. Read the full article here: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/inside-urban-company-s-new-algorithmic-hustle-less-idle-time-steadier-income-11762249254550.html>
- Sohom Banerjee's interview was featured in LiveMint in an article titled "Amazon to Meesho Race to Crack LLM-Powered Shopping as AI Reshapes Ecommerce," published on December 30, 2025.
- Sohom Banerjee's interview was featured in Sigma World in an article "India offshore betting up 20% after RMG ban: Report" published on December 12, 2025.
- Sohom Banerjee's and Pratyush Banerjee's report titled "Access to Offshore Betting Websites after the Online Gaming Ban: A Survey-Based Analysis (Delhi NCR)" was published by CUTS International in December 2025.