



Capacity Building Workshop on **Media Literacy**

Chumbi Residency, Gangtok, Sikkim || 11 December 2023 || 1100 Hrs Onwards

Brief

The 'Digital Age' has enabled access to diverse sources of knowledge at a mouse click. However, it has also created unprecedented challenges and structural changes in the news industry. In the absence of any gatekeeping entity, journalists and media educators everywhere are grappling with a deluge of speculative and sensational content in news making, which is further amplified by echo chambers and trust networks. In such a situation, verification/ fact-checking platforms are the need of the hour in order to navigate the distorted and fear-mongering information circulating on traditional media, and social media platforms.

In this context, CUTS International under the initiative titled *Support for Women Journalists in Countering Misinformation and Disinformation in the Indo-Pacific Region* supported by the US Consulate, Kolkata has been organising a series of webinars and Capacity Building Workshops focusing on key themes including information literacy, countering online trolling & workplace harassment, debunking print and visual disinformation/ misinformation, innovative Storytelling using Modern Techniques and Tools etc. for last two years.

Witnessing the success of the Kolkata workshop held in August, 2022, this initiative has already been extended to four other locations for a media literacy drive with a focus on capacity building of local media house representatives. The proposed intervention is pertinent on three counts – firstly, to take forward the key recommendations of its predecessor to take a more cluster-wise approach for greater focus on local capacity and network building in digital and print media, secondly, to include male media practitioners in such endeavours, thirdly, to encourage and sustain cross-border collaborative network.

Today's workshop in Gangtok, Sikkim aims to train media practitioners and journalists from local media houses to discern and respond to deceptive, biased or false news and to combat disinformation across borders. They will be able to share insights and learn from experts about a variety of methods to counter all forms misinformation / disinformation and encourage professional and responsible journalism in the Indo-Pacific region.

AGENDA

1100-1115 Hrs	Registration with Networking Tea / Coffee
1115-1135 Hrs	Inaugural
1115-1125 Hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Sucharita Bhattacharjee, Policy Analyst and Deputy Head, CUTS International, Kolkata
1125-1130 Hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Amit Patro, Editor, Sikkim Express
1130-1135 Hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Shekhar Khawas, President, Press Club, Sikkim
1135-1145 Hrs	Sharing Past Experiences by <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Isabella Nawodita Gurung, Journalist, Sikkim Express
1145-1315 Hrs	Capacity Development Workshop by <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Divya Chandra, Fact Checker, Boom Live
1315-1330 Hrs	Q&A
1330 Hrs	Break for Lunch
