

# CUTS CITEE in Action

April-Jun 2018



## Events

### Connectivity Imperatives in the Bay of Bengal Region

CUTS International organised a two-day Regional Policy Dialogue with support from UK's Department for International Development and US State Department on 'Connectivity Imperatives in the Bay of Bengal Region', at New Delhi, on May 02-03, 2018. The objective of the dialogue was to discuss, disseminate and validate the research findings and key advocacy points that have emerged from the event.



The event witnessed participation from various groups, including government representatives, private players, multilateral agencies, academia, think-tanks and media from five countries viz., Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) and Myanmar.

[www.cuts-international.org/bbinmva/pdf/Report\\_EPTAF\\_Regional\\_Policy\\_Dialogue\\_New\\_Delhi\\_May2-3\\_2018.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/bbinmva/pdf/Report_EPTAF_Regional_Policy_Dialogue_New_Delhi_May2-3_2018.pdf)

### Demystifying Non-Tariff Barriers to India-Bangladesh Trade in Agricultural Products

CUTS International organised a stakeholder consultation workshop with support of US Agency for International Development (USAID) to validate the findings of the study entitled 'Non-Tariffs Barriers to India Bangladesh Trade in Agricultural Products and their Linkages with Food Security and Livelihood' at Kolkata on June 19, 2018.

The main aim of this workshop was to facilitate bilateral trade between two countries, particularly trade in agricultural products, and identify inter-related livelihood and food security issues with their feasible solutions.

[www.cuts-citee.org/ntbagr/events.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/ntbagr/events.htm)





## Participation

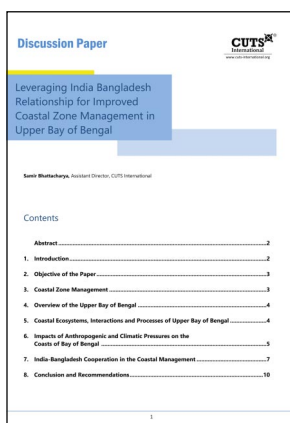
- Susan Mathew participated at the wrap-up meeting of a project on 'Transfer of Indian Farm and Food Processing Machinery to Promote Food Security in Kenya' organised by the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions and US Agency for International Development at New Delhi on April 05, 2018. This meeting was an opportunity to share their experiences and key lessons from this technology transfer programme with the wider development sector ecosystem.
- Bipul Chatterjee and Sanjay Kumar Mangla participated in UNCTAD E-Commerce Week in Geneva on April 16-20 2018. Mangla spoke in a session 'Bringing the voice of consumers to the negotiation table' organised by Public Citizen, USA.
- Chandni Dawani participated in an interactive session on EOU/SEZ units/SEZ Developers organised by PHD Research Bureau, the research arm of PHD Chamber, at New Delhi on April 18, 2018. The purpose of the session was to enhance awareness about the significance and challenges faced by Special Economic Zones in the Indian economy.
- Sanjay Kumar Mangla participated in the Second Workshop of ERIA's Project 'Improving e-commerce enabling/supporting connectivity in Asia' organised by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Jakarta at Bangkok, during April 21-22 2018. He presented the final draft of CUTS paper for ERIA's project.
- Bipul Chatterjee delivered a Keynote Address on India-Bangladesh Land Border Posts, organised by the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Indian High Commission at Dhaka on April 29, 2018.
- Prashant Sharma attended FES Conference on 'Transforming India-Pakistan Relations' at Kathmandu on June 02-03, 2018. He made a presentation on *Normalising Munabao and Khokhrapar for Indo-Pak Trade through a Border Haat*.
- Bipul Chatterjee participated as a panellist in Commonwealth Trade Symposium: 'Shaping a Global Trade Agenda for Development' at New Delhi, India on June 05-06, 2018. He gave a presentation on regional trading arrangements in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Susan Mathew participated in a discussion on a project entitled 'Rajasthan Priorities - An India Consensus Prioritisation Project' organised by the Copenhagen Consensus Centre at Jaipur on June 07-11, 2018.



## Publication

### Leveraging India Bangladesh Relationship for Improved Coastal Zone Management in Upper Bay of Bengal

The aim of the paper is to diagnose the prospects of India Bangladesh cooperation in coastal zone planning and management of the Upper Bay of Bengal region and explore various areas where India and Bangladesh can tap their present relationship to jointly address the challenges, needs and possibilities. The paper details the present status of various components of coastal resources and their uses and the challenges. Further by expounding different collaborative actions between two countries, the paper comes up with a set of recommendations.

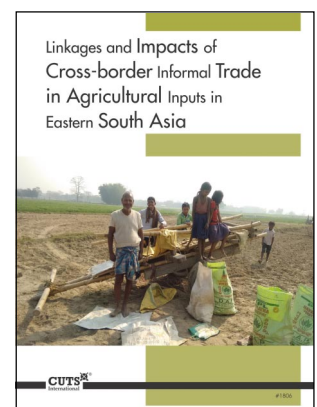


[www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion\\_Paper\\_Leveraging\\_India\\_Bangladesh\\_Relationship\\_for\\_improved\\_Coastal\\_Zone\\_Management.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion_Paper_Leveraging_India_Bangladesh_Relationship_for_improved_Coastal_Zone_Management.pdf)

### Linkages and Impacts of Cross-border Informal Trade in Agricultural Inputs in Eastern South Asia

This study captures some of key factors which are responsible for informal trade between India-Bangladesh and India-Nepal. Some of the key factors found in this study are differences in quality, prices and productivity, due to which both farmers and traders are involved in informal trade.

It underscores the current state of such trade along these border areas and has come up with a set of policy recommendations, such as reduction in tariffs on the part of Bangladesh and Nepal, harmonisation of standards and technical regulations, improvement in soft and hard infrastructure, addressing domestic policy distortion, development of border *haats*, and capacity building and knowledge sharing of border agencies to convert informal trade into formal channels.



[www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Research\\_Report\\_on\\_Linkages\\_and\\_Impacts\\_of\\_Cross-border\\_Informal\\_Trade\\_in\\_Agricultural\\_Inputs\\_in\\_Eastern\\_South\\_Asia.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Research_Report_on_Linkages_and_Impacts_of_Cross-border_Informal_Trade_in_Agricultural_Inputs_in_Eastern_South_Asia.pdf)

### **The riddle of greening Indian transport**

*The Asian Age, June 20, 2018, By Pradeep S Mehta and Samir Bhattacharya*

**T**he increasing amount of oil import bill and pollution created by the transport sector has forced the country to think and redesign the transportation system. Electric vehicles (EVs) seem to be India's missing piece in the jigsaw puzzle of green mobility. And automakers are more than willing to press the E-button.

[www.cuts-citee.org/article-The\\_riddle\\_of\\_greening\\_Indian\\_transport.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-The_riddle_of_greening_Indian_transport.htm)

### **For Trade Talks, Suresh Prabhu Must Go to the US with Sleeves Rolled Up**

*The Wire, June 08, 2018, By Pradeep S Mehta, Bipul Chatterjee and Surendar Singh*

**I**ndia's trade minister, Suresh Prabhu, will next week be visiting the United States to discuss inter alia bilateral trade issues, as his last meeting on the joint Trade Policy Forum (TPF) did not result in a sound outcome. Given that the US is our largest export destination, and a strategic partner, one hopes, that there would be emphasis on making incremental progress on specific subjects of contention so that areas of friction reduce. [www.cuts-citee.org/article-For\\_Trade\\_Talks\\_Suresh\\_Prabhu\\_Must\\_Go\\_to\\_the\\_US\\_With\\_Sleeves\\_Rolled\\_Up.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-For_Trade_Talks_Suresh_Prabhu_Must_Go_to_the_US_With_Sleeves_Rolled_Up.htm)

### **India Has Struggled to Link its Defence Needs to Strategic Goals**

*The Wire, May 12, 2018, By Pradeep S Mehta and Abhishek Kumar*

**T**here has been a rapid change in geopolitical constellations around the world. Citadels of free trade have turned protectionist and the previously more-inward looking nations are now advocating for integrated global commerce and cooperation. Disruption has become the keyword and managing it, a challenge.

[www.cuts-citee.org/article-india-has-struggled-to-link-its-defence-needs-to-strategic-goals.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-india-has-struggled-to-link-its-defence-needs-to-strategic-goals.htm)

### **Time to focus on Indo-US bilateral trade**

*Live Mint, May 07, 2018, By Pradeep S Mehta and Bipul Chatterjee*

**I**f we have to progress, we need markets for our goods and services and access to big markets. Therefore, our policymakers have inter alia agreed on the Indo-US "strategic partnership" to enhance bilateral trade from the present volume of US\$120bn a year to US\$500bn. This can be done if both explore comprehensive cooperation in areas such as defence and energy.

[www.cuts-citee.org/article-Time-to-focus-on-IndoUS-bilateral-trade.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-Time-to-focus-on-IndoUS-bilateral-trade.htm)

### **India must lead WTO reform**

*The Week, April 08, 2018, By Pradeep S Mehta*

**O**ver the last couple of weeks, the US has launched a number of trade missives, which can further undermine the already beleaguered global trading system. They came at a time when the system — not global trade *per se* — is undergoing one of its most testing phases in recent history.

[www.cuts-citee.org/article-India\\_must\\_lead\\_WTO\\_reform.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-India_must_lead_WTO_reform.htm)

### **Why India should Buttress WTO**

*Business Today, April 05, 2018, By Pradeep S Mehta and Bipul Chatterjee*

**T**he world is witnessing a dirty trade war with countries, including the US and India, adopting nonsensical protectionist tariffs. This will dirty the already muddy waters at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) whose integrity is under siege by the US, without any national gains. The comity of nations has to come forward to ensure that the WTO continues to function effectively.

[www.cuts-citee.org/article-Why\\_India\\_should\\_Buttruss\\_WTO.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-Why_India_should_Buttruss_WTO.htm)