

CUTS CITEE IN ACTION

APRIL-JUNE 2019



EVENTS

Future of Regional Connectivity in South Asia

CUTS International in partnership with the U.S. Department of State organised an event entitled 'Regional Connectivity Conference: South Asia in the Indo-Pacific Context' at New Delhi, on November 01-02, 2018. Following this event, CUTS is continuing its efforts to support the strategic goal of bringing together key interlocutors to discuss challenges and solutions to economic, investment, and security issues relevant to South Asia and the U.S.

This final closed-door roundtable held at New Delhi on April 29, 2019 was part of a series of meetings that CUTS has conducted across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka to deliberate on emerging investment opportunities in this part of the Indo-Pacific region.

The objectives were to connect and generate discussion on emerging infrastructure investments among relevant stakeholders of the South Asian region, the U.S.; and leverage existing and possible partnerships and collaborations to promote greater connectivity and advance new policies.

www.cuts-citee.org/SARCC/index.htm





EVENTS

Enhancing Capacities of Women Traders in North-East India

CUTS International, with the support of the Australian High Commission under its Direct Aid Program has undertaken a project entitled, 'Women Traders in the Borders of North-East India.' The project aims to facilitate awareness generation programmes among women stakeholders about the prospects of trade and build their capacity to participate largely in cross-border trade. It focusses on women entrepreneurs in five North-East states of India (Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh).

A National-level Dissemination Meeting was held at New Delhi on May 29, 2019. The event witnessed participation of different stakeholders, including women entrepreneurs from the North-East states and other places, officials from the Ministry of the Development of North East Region, academia, researchers and policy practitioners who have been working on economic parity and gender issues.

www.cuts-citee.org/mgit/India.htm

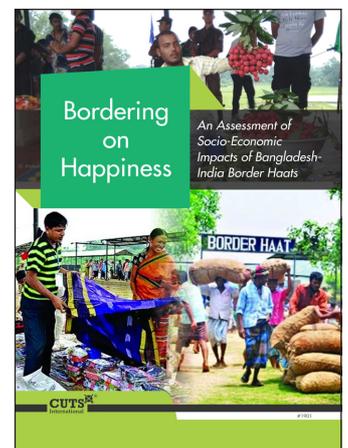


PUBLICATION

Bordering on Happiness *An Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Bangladesh-India Border Haats*

CUTS, together with Unnayan Shamannay, our partner in Bangladesh, and with the support of the World Bank, has undertaken a study of border haats in order to understand and examine their effects on poverty alleviation through income and employment generation and other multiplier effects including the formalisation of informal trade. The study also seeks to comprehend the gender implications of border haats.

This study involved several visits to all four haats, in course of which attempts were made to gather insights into various aspects of activities in and around those haats through interactions and conversations with different stakeholders: vendors, vendees, transporters, labourers, officials, opinion leaders, villagers and residents on both sides of the border. A comprehensive questionnaire survey was done, covering approximately 400 respondents to gather data and information on the economic, social and political impact of haats.



<https://cuts-crc.org/pdf/bordering-on-happiness-an-assessment-of-socio-economic-impacts-of-bangladesh-india-border-haats.pdf>



PARTICIPATION

- Samir Bhattacharya participated in the 3rd Circular Economy Symposium organised by The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at New Delhi on June 17-18, 2019. The objective was to increase understanding to unleash business potential of circular economy and capacity for the delivery and promotion of circular solutions.



IN MEDIA

Suresh Prabhu to Piyush Goyal: What's the Way Forward for Trade and Industry?

The Wire, June 02, 2019
By Pradeep S Mehta

Piyush Goyal is aware that the trade portfolio is at the heart of the economy and a key part of creating jobs both in urban and rural areas. The decision to drop former Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu from the new Union cabinet is inexplicable. He was thought of as one of the more hard-working ministers of the first Modi government.

www.cuts-citee.org/article-suresh-prabhu-to-piyush-goyal-whats-the-way-forward-for-trade-and-industry.htm

Closer Economic Ties with Neighbours Vital

The Hindu Business Line, May 07, 2019
By Susan Mathew

Over the past decade, India has marginally increased its regional trade with its neighbours, specifically Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. Currently, India's actual trade in South Asia accounts for US\$19.1bn, which is just three per cent of its total global trade at US\$637.4bn and around US\$43bn below the potential. It has recently been estimated that by reducing man-made trade barriers, trade within South Asia can grow three times, from US\$23bn to US\$67bn.

www.cuts-citee.org/article-closer-economic-ties-with-neighbours-vital.htm