

# CUTS IN ACTION

25 years  
1983 2008  
CUTS  
International

April-June 2009

## Of Statues and Political Controversies



I was invited to speak at a seminar on WTO in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office of the UK government in the second week of June this year. The event was held in the India Office of the hallowed portals of the British Foreign Ministry. The imposing room had huge oil portraits of all possible Viceroys and Governor Generals of British India, glaring down upon all.

I could not resist commenting that the UK government should recognise the current scenario and add portraits of Gandhi, among other great Indian freedom fighters, to these walls in their India Office. It brought about both mirth as well as scorn.

Perhaps the powers have heard what I said and the India Office will soon be adorned with portraits of Indian freedom fighters, as a befitting sequel.

Be that as it may, a second statue of Gandhi is now proposed to be erected in UK, at Leicester. The other one is in London.

This has had its fair share of controversy, as locals have launched an online campaign that statues of local heroes, such as footballer Gary Linecker or cricketer David Gower, should be put up rather than an Indian freedom fighter. The statue will cost about Rs10-16 lakhs and be put up in what is called Little India in the town of Leicester, where a large number of Indians live. In fact a local NGO floated by citizens of Indian origin, Samanwaya Parivar, has

collected the money and procured the statue from an Indian sculptor in Kolkata. The area is represented by Keith Vaz, also of Indian origin and a former Labour minister.

Speaking about statues and money, Uttar Pradesh under Mayawati's rule is creating history of sorts.

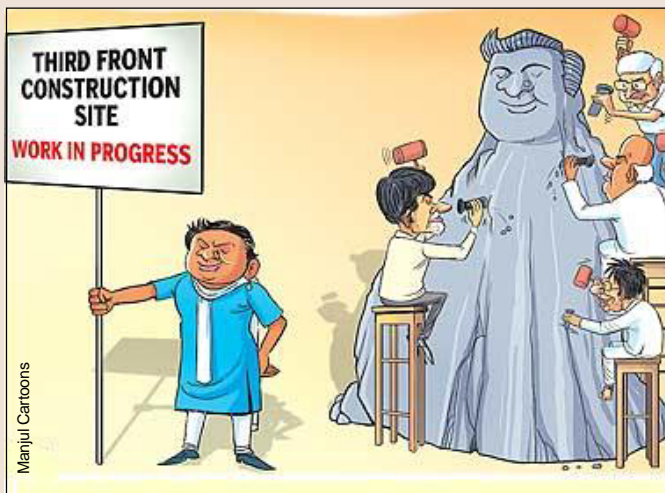
Between 2007 and 2009, Mayawati has erected 40 statues of Dalit icons, including that of her late mentor, Kanshi Ram, and herself too. It has cost the taxpayers Rs 6.68 crores. This is not the end of the extravaganza. She has also splurged Rs 52 crores to erect 60 statues of elephants, her party's election symbol.

These facts were uncovered in by one Ravi Kant using the Right to Information Act (RTI), who then filed a public interest litigation.

Mayawati was so annoyed that she ordained that appointment of ministers will not be covered under the RTI Act. Furthermore, another occasion, she even insulted Gandhi as a 'naatakbaaz'. This brought all round condemnation from all right thinking people in the state, including Murli Manohar Joshi, a BJP leader.

Not so long ago, our former BJP CM, Vasundhara Raje had unveiled a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in Udaipur which drew criticism from all the 'wrong' thinking people. Her response was straight forward and something which is sadly missing in today's decadent political scenario, that Rajiv was a national leader. That he belonged to the Congress Party does not matter.

At home, Vasundhara's successor, the Gandhian CM, Ashok Gehlot has ensured that more of Gandhi's portraits are hung up in all offices, so as to remind people of the great son of India. Whether it will have the effect or not, at least the effort is commendable.



*Pradeep S. Mehta*

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

## Tobacco Control Measures

CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) with the support of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and the World Health Organisation (WHO) organised a state level advocacy meeting to mark the culmination of the project entitled, 'Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan' in Jaipur, on May 12, 2009.

The objective of the workshop was to disseminate key findings of the project, as well as advocating with government on tobacco control issues, which emerged out of project findings. A documentary "Choose Life, Not Tobacco" was also shown to the participants.

## EAC's Integration Agenda

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) in collaboration with

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Nairobi organised a regional workshop under the theme "Civil Society Response to Emerging Challenges and Opportunities of EAC Regional Integration" as part of the 'Building Inclusive East African Community' (BIEAC) Project in Nairobi, on April 27-28, 2009.

The workshop discussed the research findings on the BIEAC project from all the five East African community partner states and provided insights on how EAC countries could better integrate in the global economy.

## Regulating Cartels in Asia

CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre (CUTS HRC), in collaboration with Vietnamese Competition Council (VCC) hosted the 2009 mid-year conference of the Asian Competition Forum entitled, 'Effects of Anti-competitive Activities in Small and

Developing Economies' in Hanoi, on May 26, 2009.

The conference brought together government officials at ministerial level, international experts, scholars, embassies and development cooperation agencies, law firms, business community etc. Alice made a presentation on 'International Cartels and their Effects on Developing Economies'.

## Fostering Tradequity

CUTS GRC, in collaboration with the local partners in each country organised National Dialogues under the project entitled, 'Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System' (FEATS) in all the five project countries: in Lilongwe, on April 06; in Lusaka, on April 08; in Nairobi, on May 19; in Kampala, on May 20; and in Dar-Es-Salaam, on May 22, 2009 respectively.

The dialogues were devoted to the presentation and discussion of the final drafts of first phase research studies as well as draft Terms of Reference for the second phase research studies.

## Catalysing Reform Process

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER) with the support of The Commonwealth Secretariat, UK organised an international conference on 'Political Economy of Competition & Regulation in Developing Countries' in Jaipur, on June 24, 2009.

The objective of the conference was to sensitise a select groups of civil society organisations (CSOs) from Africa and Asia about political economy constraints in enforcing competition and regulation in order to enable these to act as pressure groups in their own countries to catalyse the reform process.

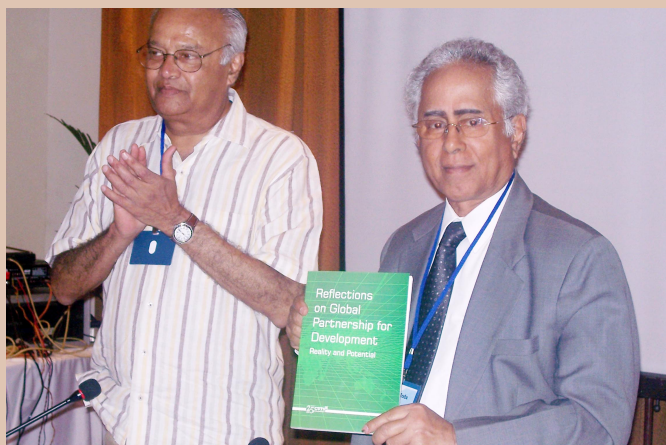
The conference explored issues pertaining to the interplay of stakeholders associated with regulatory issues and the associated climate of competition in business. It reiterated that competition policy and appropriate regulation are important for efficiency in resource allocation and thus high output, quality products at low prices and for effective trade liberalisation.

## Trade-Development-Poverty Linkages

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) organised a conference entitled, 'Trade, Development and Poverty Linkages: Lessons and Future Directions' in Jaipur, on June 23, 2009.

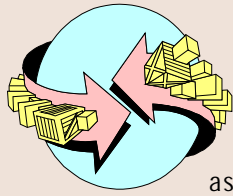
The conference explored the dynamic relationship between international trade and poverty alleviation with focus on South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa. It was attended by about 50 experts from different parts of the world.

This event, designed as the final meeting under the project entitled 'Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction', reviewed the project's achievements and non-achievements and charted out a way forward, focusing on research outputs project countries.



A book entitled 'Reflections on Global Partnership for Development: Reality and Potential' was also released by Anwarul Hoda, former member of the Indian Planning Commission during a seminar on 'Future Challenges of the International Trade Regime from South Asian perspectives' organised by CUTS in Jaipur, on June 22, 2009.

## Global Economic Governance 2020



Rashid S Kaukab of CUTS, Geneva made a presentation on Global Economic Governance 2020 Scenarios at a special session organised on June 24, 2009 as part of the ACP Senior Officials Meeting on Aid for Trade Global Review held at the WTO in Geneva, on 23-24 June 2009.

He was a member of the core team that Friedrich Ebert Stiftung had constituted to develop Global Economic Governance 2020 Scenarios.

## Consumer 2 Business

Pradeep S Mehta spoke at an OECD Corporate Responsibility Roundtable on, 'Consumer Empowerment and Business Behaviour: A Win-Win Relationship' in Paris, on June 15, 2009.

The roundtable focused on the responsibilities of multinational companies toward consumers and how consumers can encourage multinational enterprises to live up to the recommendations of the OECD Guidelines. Mehta made a presentation on 'What Consumers Expect of Responsible Business Conduct'.

## Exploring Human Security

Amit Chowdhury of CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) attended a JTCMD Second International Roundtable on 'Exploring Human Security and Disaster Management' organised by the Jamsetji Tata Centre for Disaster Management in Mumbai, on April 24-25, 2009.

Amit presented a paper on 'Resorting to Psychosocial Care and Community Support for Ensuring Human Security'.

## Assessing Communication Skills

George Cheriyan of CUTS CART attended the South Asia Workshop on 'Strategic Communications: Role and Impact in Effective Development' organised by the Water & Sanitation Programme-South Asia (WSP-SA) of the World Bank in New Delhi, on June 12, 2009.

He was part of the working group on 'Effective Monitoring and Assessment of the Impact of Communication' and shared thoughts on the topic.

## On CGG's Evaluation Panel

CUTS has been empanelled in the Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration, Centre for Good Governance for undertaking evaluation of various government schemes.



- Kritika Kapil of CUTS CITEE attended Training for Trainers on Trade and Gender held at Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in New Delhi, on April 28-30, 2009.
- Rijit Sengupta of CUTS CCIER participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> International Competition conference organised by Bundeskartellamt (German Competition Authority) in Hamburg, on April 26-28, 2009.
- Pradeep S Mehta participated as a Panellist at a Roundtable on 'Doha Round of Negotiations in WTO: Taking Stock and the Way Ahead' organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi, on May 14, 2009.
- Om Prakash Arya of CUTS CART participated in the Consultation Workshop on developing a framework for incorporating 'Social Accountability Mechanism for *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and National Rural Health Mission' organised by the National Institute of Administrative Research (NAIR), Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie in New Delhi, on May 25, 2009.
- Mehta and Atul Kaushik of CUTS attended the International Competition Network (ICN) conference in Zurich, on June 03-05, 2009 and the IDRC pre-ICN forum entitled 'Competition Principles Under Threat' organised by IDRC and Comco, in London, on June 02, 2009.
- Mehta and Angela Mwape Mulenga of CUTS attended the International Conference on Trade organised by the Department for International Development/Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DFID/BERR) and Centre of Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) in London, on June 08, 2009. It was the first event in the World Trade Week.
- Mehta and Angela also attended the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Conference on 'Trade Policy in the Crisis: What Implications for Development?' organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, on June 09, 2009. He spoke in the session on 'Trade Policy during the Crisis: A Southern Perspective'. Angela also attended the Trade and Gender seminar organised by DFID in London on June 09, 2009 in the morning.
- Rijit Sengupta, Cornelius Dube and Udai S Mehta of CUTS CCIER attended the 'National Conference on State of Competition in the Indian Economy', in New Delhi, on June 11-12, 2009.
- Patrick Chengo of CUTS, Lusaka attended the Manufactures and Service Provider's Workshop on 'Anti-competitive Trade Practices and Consumer Protection' organised by the Zambia Competition Commission in Zambia, on June 19, 2009.
- Alice Pham of CUTS, Hanoi attended the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNeT) consultative meeting on 'Bridging the Development Gaps in the GMS', organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Hanoi, on June 01-02, 2009.

## VISITORS

Name	Comment
Vivek Bhandari Director, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) Anand, Gujarat, India	It has been delightful spending time at CUTS, and learning about the kinds of challenges that are being taken up.
Sanjay Agarwal Sanjay Aditya & Associates New Delhi, India	Best wishes to CUTS and its engaging team.
D B Gupta Principal Secretary to Government Devasthan Department Jaipur, India	In last 25 years of existence CUTS has done some remarkable work in the field of consumer awareness and for protection of consumer rights. In fact, CUTS was involved with transport planning of the Jaipur city and was helping out JDA to formulate a proper transport plan for the city (I happened to be the Commissioner of JDA at that time). I wish CUTS all success in their future endeavours.
Stephen Thomas Senior Research Fellow University of Greenwich, UK	Excellent meeting on the RESA project.
Mike Yeh Director of Competition Law Asia Pacific Microsoft, Beijing, China	Good meeting on trends and challenges in competition law.

## Visit by a Scholar



Allan Asher, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Communications Consumers Action Network (ACCAN) visited CUTS as a Resident Fellow during May 30-June 17, 2009. He

is also a member of the CCIER International Advisory Board. His visit was utilised as an opportunity to brainstorm on issues like competition and development; competition and corruption; and regulatory failures etc.

He also visited CHD to take a look at the work of *Bal Panchayats* and applauded the efforts of CUTS at the grassroots.

He said, "CUTS is just over 25 years young. The world is changing for the better because of CUTS, but more, much more is needed before we can dare to say job done".

## PUBLICATIONS

### Reflections on Global Partnership for Development: *Reality and Potential*



CUTS International organised a conference on the Global Partnership for Development (GPD) in New Delhi, on August 12-13, 2008. The conference was enriched by papers and presentations from a wide range of experts hailing from both the developed and the developing world as well as open house deliberations and panel discussions. This volume compiles the papers presented during the course of this conference and examines diverse aspects of the GPD from different angles.

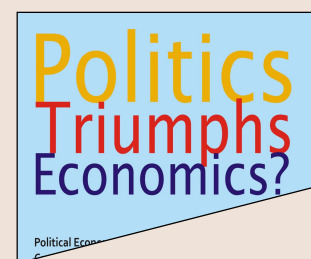
[http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Reflections\\_on\\_Global\\_Partnership\\_for\\_Development\\_Reality\\_and\\_Potential.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Reflections_on_Global_Partnership_for_Development_Reality_and_Potential.pdf)

### Politics Triumphs Economics?

#### *Political Economy and the Implementation of Competition Law and Regulation in Developing Countries (Volume II)*

This volume, second in the series, under the Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum (CDRF) project is compilation of 9 papers which were presented at the symposium marking the culmination of the research efforts of the 1st research cycle of CDRF. The research papers covered the experiences of a wide range of developing countries as seen mainly through the eyes of developing country authors.

<http://www.circ.in/pdf/PoliticsTriumphsEconomics-Vol2.pdf>



### Social Sector Budgeting:

#### Higher Allocations Mask Poor Utilisation

Social services such as health and education have often not been able to cope with the growing demand, which has impacted their quality. This note highlights possible ways to achieve inclusive growth through augmentation of human capabilities for participation in the growth process and improved delivery of public/social services.

<http://www.parfore.in/pdf/1->

[2009Social\\_Sector\\_Budgeting\\_Higher\\_Allocations\\_Mask\\_Poor\\_Utilisation.pdf](http://www.parfore.in/pdf/1-2009Social_Sector_Budgeting_Higher_Allocations_Mask_Poor_Utilisation.pdf)

