

The Public Newsense

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CITIZEN CONSUMER AND CIVIC ACTION GROUP

JAN - MARCH 2023

Dear friends

We are already three months into the new year, and we're happy to be writing to you again with the strides we've made over these few months.

January saw our National Conference on Climate Change and Air Pollution - if you missed the event, you will find the event report in this newsletter. The conference brought together experts from across the country to debate on how we can reduce air pollution levels to fructify our climate change mitigation targets. The much anticipated textbook on climate change was released as part of the event. This book has been tested in its pilot phase, is going through its final round of edits and will soon be available for public distribution. Getting this book from conception to production and watching the children enjoy their lessons on climate change has truly been an exhilarating experience.

Our consumer protection team has run a series of awareness seminars on the telecom services. Attended by the industry, and conducted in collaboration with TRAI, the events were run across different districts in the state, each one well participated and well received. We also continue working towards policy change in the front of pack labeling laws, asking for more stringent warning labels that can actually help consumers be fully aware of what they are eating. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Our work on solid waste management saw the release of the Plastic Brand Audit report 2022, Pack It In! While the report itself had no surprises in terms of the key plastic polluters, it also helped establish a solid connection between plastic waste, the fossil fuel industry and its carbon emissions. You can find the report here in this newsletter.

The electricity governance team, meanwhile, has been busy working with bright young minds! We have re-started our energy clubs in schools, and have recently begun a study circle on Electricity Laws in the School of Excellence in Law, Perungudi.

Our work on safe and sustainable mobility continues with evidence based reports, our participation in planning events, and workshops in colleges. The UN Road Safety Week will be running from the 15th to the 17th of May. We will be marking this with social media messages right through the month of May. Don't forget to follow us on our social media pages - and amplify our work by sharing and tagging!

Thank you so much for your interest in what we do; and please write to us with any questions that you might have.

Regards
S.Saroja
Executive Director



Road Infrastructure 101: how not to build a liveable, sustainable city

Globally, cities are moving towards people-centric mobility i.e walking/cycling/public transit, recognising the numerous positives of such a shift. Yet, Indian cities continue to copy the old, discarded habits of building for private transport.

🕒 5 minute read



Melting wallets: the economic toll of climate change in India

From rising grocery bills to health issues, climate change is impacting every aspect of Indian lives, leading to social and economic consequences, & making life more expensive for Indians. Tackling climate change & building resilience to mitigate inflation should go hand in hand.

🕒 7 minute read



Greenwashing: an introduction (Part - 1)

'Greenwashing' is the act of misleading consumers into believing that a product/company is eco-friendly when in reality it is not. This article explains this concept and provides tips for the consumer to not fall for 'greennwashed' products.

🕒 7 minute read



The Indian Driving Licence Apparatus - a cakewalk to kill?

Six out of every ten people obtained a Driving Licence without an actual test, claims a survey done across 10 cities in India (SaveLife Foundation, 2017). This finding resonates with Indian drivers being infamous for their irresponsible and careless driving on roads. This blog discusses the shortcomings of our licensing system and throws light on the systemic changes we need to adapt.

🕒 6 minute read



Environmental protection needs more than just the pure sciences and scientists

Environmental problems are often addressed using only scientific solutions. Science doesn't mean STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) alone. Since pollution is often caused by humans' influence on the environment, it calls for the inclusion of disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, archaeology, economics, politics, behavioural science, conflict resolution, law and ethics etc to address environmental issues holistically.

🕒 5 minute read

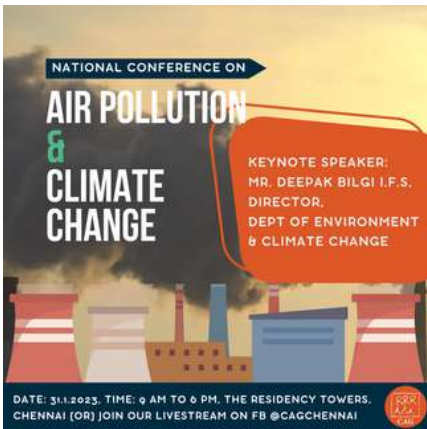


E-commerce "Dark Patterns" - an unfair trade practice

E-commerce platforms are using mind trick that pushes them into binge shopping. While we wait for laws to curtail these behaviours, here's what you need to know about 'dark patterns' on the web.

🕒 6 minute read

Events for you



National Conference on Air Pollution and Climate Change

The National Conference on Air Pollution and Climate Change on the 31st of January saw stakeholders from academics, to civil society organizations, government officials and concerned citizens gather together to understand the perils of these two deeply intricate killers, and analyse those policies needed to mitigate our descent into climate crisis.

🕒 20 minute read



A multi-stakeholder consultation on hypertension care and control

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group organised a multi-stakeholder consultation on hypertension care and control with a panel of acclaimed doctors and nutritionists, from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to talk about the need for health literacy.

🕒 5 minute read

Resources for you



PACK IT IN - Brand Audit 2022

The results of CAG's 2022 plastic brand audit are in! Find out who all have received the dubious distinction of making it to the Top 10! The brand audit is a citizen-science initiative anchored by #BreakFreeFromPlastic where plastic waste is gathered and audited to reveal those brands and manufacturers whose plastic packaging we found the most of.

🕒 20 minute read

Our latest videos



This video was released on the occasion of CAG's National Conference on Air Pollution and Climate Change. #AirPollution & #ClimateChange are two sides of the same coin - each one feeds and stokes the other. Unless we take urgent action to curtail air pollution at source, the Paris Agreement targets will be a mere pipe dream.



Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG)

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