

The Public Newsense

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CITIZEN CONSUMER AND CIVIC ACTION GROUP

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

Dear friends

Happy new year! And thank you for continuing together with us on this journey, as we build an aware, empowered and sustainable citizenry. Our work over the last quarter has included audits, reports, events and much more.

We had a delegate representative at the Nairobi INC-3, where we were able to make a case for not burdening consumers when addressing the plastic crisis. We also had a representative at the Consumers International Global Congress, which was again a forum to state the case on behalf of consumers. These international events have helped us contribute to global trends and synergies, while we retain our local focus with our work on the ground.

As part of our consumer awareness campaigns, we have continued our district-level 'ask and answer' sessions with telecom agencies. These continue to be well attended and well received. As part of our digital financial awareness work, we have also created several resources on online digital safety, as online financial transactions becomes the norm.

Our Green Action Week activities this year, to promote sustainable consumption, included developing a number of IEC resources to address the plastic crisis. And in a contribution to the Brand Audits by #BreakFreeFromPlastic, we gathered and supplied data on polluting manufacturers to inform their campaign. Global results from analysed data will be out soon.

After the launch of the fare free scheme for women on Tamil Nadu's public buses some years ago, data on the ground on what this scheme is achieving remains sparse. CAG has interviewed over 500 women who are beneficiaries of the scheme, and in what is a flagship study, explains women's views on the scheme. The report will be out this January - do watch our social media pages for this.

Meanwhile our work on electricity governance takes the form of energy clubs (in schools) and the study circle (in colleges). We have also been pioneering some work in energy audits, working together with village panchayats. Our work on climate change mitigation has produced a number of studies and reports. And as always, the easiest way to keep abreast of these is through our social media channels.

The new year brings with it new challenges and possibilities. And we look forward to tackling these, together with you! If you would like to know more about work, do not hesitate to write in to us.

Regards
S.Saroja
Executive Director



Decoding COP 28 - Breaking ground or broken promises?

This article critically analyses the highs and lows of COP28, from global pledges to operationalising climate funds. It delves into the nuanced landscape of climate action, urging nations to move beyond promises and embark on a journey of tangible commitments.

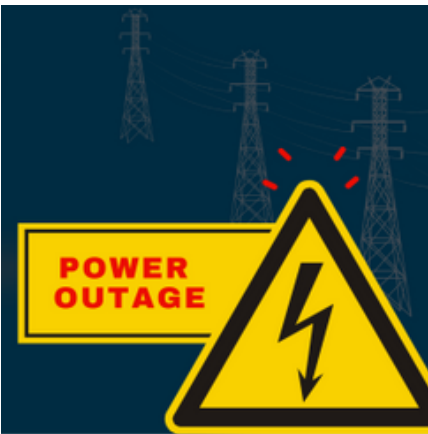
🕒 6 minutes read



Freebie or Freedom? Tamil Nadu's free bus travel scheme for women

Two years after Tamil Nadu introduced the fare free bus scheme for women, CAG took stock of its impact, talking to 3000 women across 6 cities. The scheme has clearly helped them save money which they have reinvested in their families in terms of healthcare, education, and nutrition. For some women the scheme has paved the way to take up paid employment, while others found it useful to access social spaces (temples, parks, etc), allowing them a moment to themselves.

🕒 9 minute read



Power outage alerts in Tamil Nadu : Awareness and action

Consumer awareness and engagement are essential for a resilient public power supply system. This blog details existing information dissemination mechanisms and reporting procedures concerning power cuts in Tamil Nadu.

🕒 5 minute read



Microwave safe plastics - How safe are they?

Microwave ovens have become a part and parcel of modern-day lives. Consumers are flooded with options for microwave-safe plastics. Are they, in fact, safe?

🕒 5 minute read



Protecting children on two-wheelers is a grey space

Children perched on the fuel tank, squashed between adults, or standing in the well of two wheelers are a common sight on Indian roads. How safe is it for them to travel like this and how does law protect them?

🕒 3 minute read



Legislation around medical negligence - is it in need of a fix?

Legislation around medical negligence is complex enough to deter patients from seeking justice.

🕒 4 minute read

Resources for you



A study to understand prevalence of single-use plastic usage within a community

An extensive survey on how people perceive plastics in a low income community in Chennai throws up some well known findings - that despite the ban on single use plastic bags, these remain abundant and easily available. The survey was carried out as part of the Green Action Week.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

A study to understand prevalence of single-use plastic usage within a community.



🕒 10 minutes read



Climate Action Month - July 2023

Article 6 of the UNFCC convention highlights the importance of communicating with the general public and engaging stakeholders about climate change and its effects, to ensure public access to information and to promote public participation in addressing the issue. This report is the summary of our month-long campaign "Climate Action Month", aimed at raising awareness of climate change among school and college students, corporate employees and the general public.

🕒 10 minutes read



Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG)

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