

# The Public Newsense

Quarterly newsletter of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

July to September 2024

Dear friends

Greetings! We write to you with news, articles, and reports from the third quarter of the year. You might remember that our last newsletter announced Climate Action Month 2024 (CAM). You might have even been a part of the activities. As anticipated, CAM was eventful, exciting and meaningful. With around 30 events (including music, drama, documentaries and workshops), we were able to reach thousands of Chennai-ites with the message of sustainability. Our work on climate awareness continues in other forms, and you will be seeing more climate action from us in the months to come!

Our participation in the INCs towards a legally binding global treaty to address the plastic crisis continues, as we ready ourselves to attend INC-5 in South Korea. Single-use plastics (SUPs) and their fossil fuel heritage remain key players on the climate change scene. Any policy or initiative aimed at driving out SUPs out of our economy and ecosystem needs to be evidence based. CAG's assessment of the Tamil Nadu government's Meendum Manjappai campaign is one such effort designed to obtain data, assess effectiveness and share it with policymakers.

In a similar vein of supporting effective policy-making, CAG's assessment of the usage and availability of child helmets in Chennai was designed to elicit data, and offer analysis to policy makers. Both reports are in this edition of our newsletter.

Consumer protection, both via one to one support to aggrieved consumers, and via our many workshops continues. We continue to ask for a more effective Front of Pack Labelling legislation. We believe that such regulations will help consumers make more informed food decisions, directly impacting their own health and at a macro-level, the health of communities and the nation itself.

Our work on electricity governance across various states in India has been very well received. We have held a series of meetings with citizens and electricity officials, as we aim to bring together awareness and accountability.

Our electricity audits have continued, as we help small scale industries, workshops and factories critically analyse their energy needs and expenditure. These audits are followed by a written report with recommendations to help these businesses cut down on their energy consumption.

Don't forget that all our latest news, newsletters, activities, blogs and reports are on our website. Our social media pages will bring these to you promptly - so don't forget to follow us!

I take this opportunity to thank you again for your interest in our work. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to write to us with it. We would love to hear from you!

Regards,  
S.Saroja  
Executive Director



### **Outcomes of the Bonn Climate Talks 2024: The road ahead to COP29**

The Bonn Climate Talks 2024 highlighted urgent climate action needs ahead of COP29. Key issues include climate finance, carbon markets and updating NDCs. With time running out, decisive steps are essential to avert a climate catastrophe—it's now or never!

🕒 9 min read



### Global Perspectives on Speed Management: Lessons Learned from Different Countries

Discover how nations across the world are tackling speed management to create safer roads for everyone. Learn from global perspectives and innovative strategies that save lives

⌚ 5 min read



### From Leaf to Cup : A Journey Through Energy-Efficient Tea Processing

About 1.4 million tons of tea was produced in India in FY 2022-2023. This article delves into understanding the tea manufacturing process, equipment used in the tea industry, specific energy requirements for producing tea from green leaves and energy conservation opportunities in a tea factory.

⌚ 5 min read



### Luggage theft during train journeys - where does the buck stop?

Luggage theft in trains is a rising concern. This article covers a recent consumer victory over luggage theft, with lessons for both passengers, and authorities. Stay informed and stay safe.

⌚ 6 min read



### Building a Safer Future for All: A brief report on the Safety 24 conference

CAG as a member of the Road Safety Network attended Safety 2024, the 15th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion. This brief report by Mr. George Cheriya, Consultant at CAG, captures key proceedings during the event.

⌚ 6 min read

## Resources for you

### EVALUATING THE EFFICACY OF THE MEENDUM MANJAPPAL CAMPAIGN July 2024



### Evaluating the efficacy of the Meendum Manjappai campaign

This report details CAG's findings on the impact of the Meendum Manjappai campaign on both consumers and vendors, with the study covering eight districts in Tamil Nadu. Meendum Manjappai is a flagship campaign of the Government of Tamil Nadu which promotes the use of cloth bags, thus reducing the reliance on single-use plastic (SUP) carry bags in the state.

⌚ 15 mins read

### THE HELMET CONUNDRUM A report on child helmet usage and availability in Chennai



### The helmet conundrum - An assessment of child helmet usage and availability in Chennai

The Helmet Conundrum: A study by CAG surveying 520 parents and 145 helmet shops in Chennai reveals that only 25% of children wear helmets, with 12% using adult helmets. Shocking findings considering that children are amongst the most vulnerable of road users and the parental instinct is to prioritise safety of their children, even over their own.

⌚ 10 mins read





### Voices from the last mile- personal narratives of people living with hypertension in Tiruvannamalai

In documenting the voices of hypertensive patients from our pilot study in Tiruvannamalai district, we found an overwhelming number of respondents to be satisfied with their hypertension healthcare services provided through PHCs and the Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme. These services are certainly improving access to healthcare, particularly among the lower sections of the rural community. However, aspects of the programme still need improvement. Read our report to know more.

⌚ 15 mins read

Studio CAG



Check out our latest videos



A message from for you this **#WorldFoodDay**. Here's Dr. Varsha's insightful thoughts on warning labels on processed foods, and why we need transparent information to make safe food choices.



# CAG

**Citizen consumer and civic Action Group**



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