

The Public Newsense

Quarterly newsletter of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

January-March 2025

Dear friends

As I write to you with our updates from the first quarter, I am filled with gratitude and excitement not only for the progress we've made this year, but also for the recognition of our work. CAG was awarded second place in consumer protection services in Tamil Nadu - a testament to our dedication to excellence and people-centredness. The award is a reminder that CAG fulfills an important purpose in the community, city and the state, pushing us to work harder and aim higher.

Our work in consumer protection goes hand in hand with our reminders to consumers about their responsibilities. This last quarter, this has taken the form of a series of talks and workshops across city colleges and schools about 'green consumerism' - the actions that every consumer can take to make their lives as zero-waste as possible. This is not to say that corporates and governments have no role in making zero-waste, a more plausible reality. Towards this, we continue to educate the public and other stakeholders on the importance of a binding global plastics treaty, as we ready ourselves for the next round of negotiations.

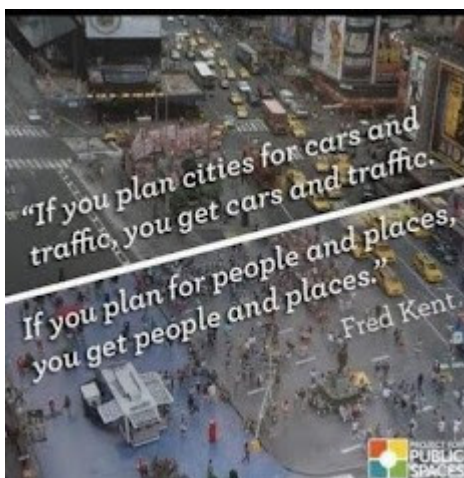
We saw the beginning of a new project this last quarter. The Tamil Nadu Leadership in the Energy Transition project aims to increase rooftop solar uptake among both domestic and commercial consumers in Chennai City through continuous engagement with key stakeholders like developers, banks, resident welfare associations (RWAs), TNPDC (Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited) etc. This project is already off to an exciting start with a series of events and workshops, and there might even be one close to you! There are several other new initiatives in environmental protection and

sustainable living, details of which are on our website.

We are continuing our work on road safety and sustainable mobility with a new, soon to be released report on safe school zones, auditing, analysing and offering practical safety recommendations to schools and road safety authorities. We also held an important discussion in March about updating and revitalising Tamil Nadu's Road Safety Action Plan, bringing together policy makers and experts from different states. We hope these discussions will inform policies in coming months and that by working together, we will sufficiently reduce fatalities on Tamil Nadu's roads to make 'Vision Zero' a reality.

The articles in this newsletter reflect our thinking and the scope of our work across all our work areas. We hope you find these interesting. Should you have any questions or suggestions, please do get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you!

Regards,
S.Saroja
Executive Director



Rethinking urban blue-green infrastructure: Why it matters?

Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) offers a sustainable way to build climate-resilient cities, yet its full potential remains untapped. This blog explores its importance, benefits, and the key research gaps that need to be addressed for a greener urban future.

🕒 6 min read



Caught in transit: The struggle with unfair fares and ride-hailing

Without ride aggregators, Chennai's commuters are at the mercy of Chennai's auto and taxi drivers. With them, auto and taxi drivers are at the mercy of ride aggregators. Is there a way out?

🕒 5 min read



Is Chennai's decentralised waste management derailed?

This article examines the GCC's decision to shut down Micro Composting Centres and Material Recovery Facilities and proposes practical solutions to address issues with these sites, which possibly prompted the decision.

🕒 4 min read



Overview of residential rooftop solar installations in India 2025

Solar rooftop installations in India are actively transforming the energy landscape, aligning with a global push towards sustainable development. This article analyses adoption patterns across the country, along geographical lines.

🕒 6 min read



A just transition to sustainable lifestyles in India: Challenges and opportunities

India stands at a critical juncture where the pursuit of economic development must harmoniously align with environmental sustainability. The transition to sustainable lifestyles is not just an environmental imperative but a socio-economic necessity.

🕒 3 min read

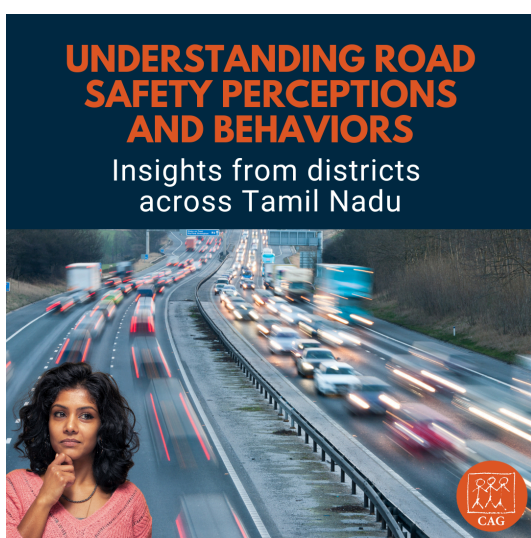
Resources for you



Are we there yet? An assessment of helmet compliance across districts in Tamil Nadu

CAG conducted a helmet-compliance study across 11 districts in Tamil Nadu in November 2024. The findings revealed low adherence, particularly among adults in districts like Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram and negligible compliance among children. This is despite India reporting over 4.6 lakh road crashes, resulting in 1.68 lakh fatalities (in 2022), and Tamil Nadu consistently topping the list for road crashes from 2018 to 2022.

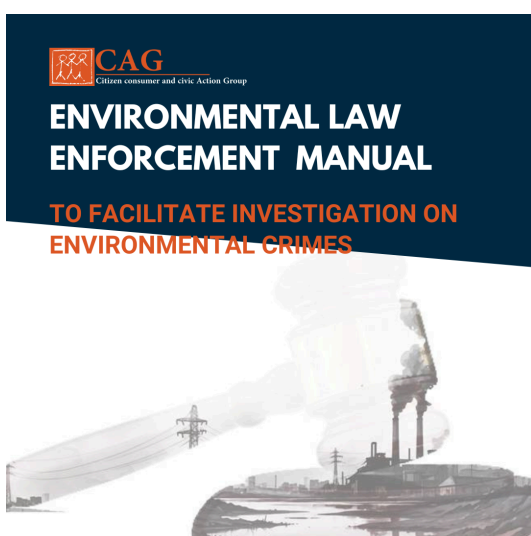
⌚ 15 mins read



Understanding road safety perceptions and behaviors: Insights from districts across Tamil Nadu

This report highlights the findings from a survey of the general public's understanding of road safety issues and rules. The report sheds light on public perceptions of critical issues like speeding, road safety, pedestrian safety, and awareness of traffic rules. It also provides actionable recommendations to enhance road safety in the State and serve as a guiding framework for policymakers and stakeholders.

⌚ 20 mins read



Environmental law enforcement manual

CAG's Environmental Law Enforcement Manual seeks to facilitate investigation of environmental crimes. It addresses the challenges faced by various agencies in enforcing environmental laws and provides guidelines for improving inter-agency collaboration, investigation, and prosecution of environmental crimes.

⌚ 15 mins read

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EPISODE 35:

Rooftop Solars (Part 2)

More questions answered!



Available on Spotify



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EPISODE 36:

World Consumer Rights Day

Just Transitions to Sustainable Living!



**A conversation with Sruti Harihara Subramanian,
Founder, Goli Soda**

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EPISODE 37:

World Consumer Rights Day

Just Transitions to Sustainable Living!



A conversation
with Ann Anra,
Founder, Wasted 360
Solutions

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A media workshop designed to equip journalism students and early-career media professionals with the knowledge and tools to effectively report on the Global Plastics

Treaty. The main focus of the workshop was to enhance the quality of media coverage of the Global Plastics Treaty to drive informed public discourse.



CAG

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group



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