

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

PUBLIC NEWSSENSE

40 years of action



YOUR QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM CAG

QUARTER 1, 2026

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to write to you with updates from our first quarter, marked by continued focus and commitment to empowering consumers, advancing sustainability, and working closely with communities to create meaningful, evidence-based change.

We have begun the year with an emphasis on outreach and awareness. Our engagements with students across Chennai, focused on enabling healthier and more informed food choices, have significantly strengthened our work in the nutrition and health sector. We have also continued our consumer awareness programmes across districts on telecommunications rights and responsibilities, equipping citizens with the skills to navigate essential services with greater confidence.

A key highlight this quarter was our conference on artificial intelligence to mark World Consumer Rights Day. We brought together diverse stakeholders and experts to examine the growing role of AI in consumer spaces—a timely pause as digital systems increasingly shape access to services and information. The discussions underscored the importance of transparency, accountability, and consumer safeguards in emerging technologies.

In the energy space, we remain focused on supporting the transition to cleaner and more efficient systems. Our efforts to promote rooftop solar adoption continue, as we work in collaboration with TNSEDA, Resident Welfare Associations, financial institutions and other stakeholders. Our energy audits of organisations to improve their energy efficiency has been extended to Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Tiruppur this quarter.

Mobility and accessibility remain key priorities. Our discussions on barriers to movement with persons with disabilities revealed both the anticipated and the not-so-anticipated, reinforcing the need for transport systems that are inclusive by design. Alongside this, our road safety advocacy continues, emphasising the importance of safer, more equitable use of public spaces.

We are also undertaking important research to better understand needs on the ground that can inform policy responses, especially within the climate action and solid waste management verticals. We are excited to share snapshots of some of these studies in this newsletter, with full reports to follow next quarter.

None of this would be possible without the support of individuals who believe in the value of informed, engaged citizenship. For questions or suggestions, we are always happy to hear from you. You can also stay connected with us throughout the year by following our work on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Threads, and LinkedIn (@CagChennai).

With regards,

S. Saroja

Executive Director



What do vendors actually know, do, and think about waste?

Chennai's public spaces are shaped as much by the vendors who work in them as by the systems that manage them. CAG's WAVE study aims to change that by going directly to vendors, observing what actually happens on the ground, and asking the questions that waste planning too often skips.

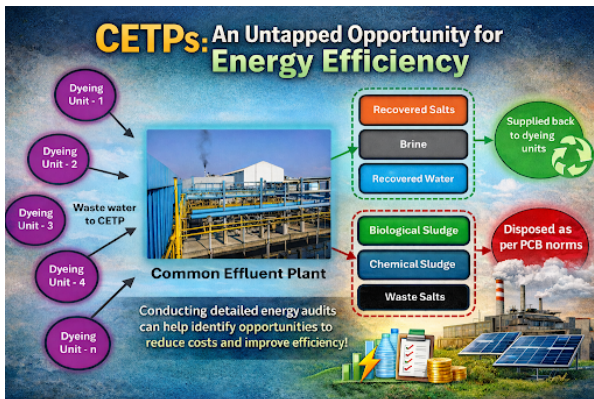
[Read more](#)



Healthy minds, Healthy future: Small food choices, Big impact

The Healthy Minds; Healthy Future (HMHF) initiative by CAG highlights the growing concern of unhealthy eating habits among students and the urgent need for behaviour change. Through awareness sessions for schools and colleges, the project empowers young people to make informed food choices and build healthier futures.

[Read more](#)



CETPs : An untapped opportunity for energy efficiency

What looks like a simple splash of colour in textiles hides a large energy burden. In Tiruppur, CETPs treat wastewater but face high energy costs. This article focuses on energy audits as a key tool to identify inefficiencies, reduce costs, and improve sustainability.

[Read more](#)



Assessing institutional readiness for climate action

Tamil Nadu leads in climate action and SDG 13, backed by strong policies. But how ready are institutions to deliver? CAG's Climate Action Institutional Readiness Scoring Framework (CAIRSF) assesses whether systems and capacities can turn commitments into action. It highlights gaps between ambition and implementation.

[Read more](#)



Imagining safer roads

Students from across Tamil Nadu came together during Road Safety Month this year to reimagine road safety through technology, design, and behaviour change. This Ideathon explored fresh ideas and youth perspectives on tackling India's growing road crash crisis.

[Read more](#)

EPISODE 45: Think Before You Bite Nutrition for young bodies and brains

A conversation with
Meenu Balaji, Nutritionist



Podcast: Think Before You Bite - Nutrition for young bodies and brains

In a world driven by convenience foods, hectic schedules, and inconsistent eating habits, understanding the basics of nutrition is more essential than ever. In this episode, Meenu Balaji, a Nutritionist, shares insights on teen nutrition, healthier family food habits, and simple steps for lasting change.

[Listen now](#)

Climate Change Textbook | FOCUS for beginners



Video: Climate Change Textbook | FOCUS for beginners

Climate change isn't a future problem; it's today's lesson. Through FOCUS (3–5th standard) textbook, we're bringing climate literacy into classrooms, where young students are not just learning about the planet, but understanding their role in shaping its future. Because real change starts early.

[View now](#)



Practical tips for food safety - Eat Safe! Stay Safe!

This book is a simple, practical guide to food safety and healthy eating, explaining everything from germs and food poisoning to safe storage and hygiene. It also helps readers make smarter food choices with topics like balanced meals, labels, junk food, and reducing food waste.

[Read now](#)

YOUR SUPPORT POWERS CHANGE!

With your donation, we work to protect citizens' rights and the environment by engaging with communities, policymakers, and businesses. Your contribution helps us promote clean energy and zero-waste, safeguard vulnerable communities, make cities safer, defend consumer and digital rights, and encourage active citizenship. Every step we take is grounded in research, data, and public engagement - and none of it possible without you.

[DONATE](#)

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is a non-profit, non-political and professional organisation that works towards protecting citizens' rights in consumer and environmental issues and promoting good governance processes including transparency, accountability and participatory decision-making.



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