

The Public Newsense

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CITIZEN CONSUMER AND CIVIC ACTION GROUP

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

Dear friends

What an exciting and busy start to the year this has been! Our 'Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption' took a mid-point look at India's progress towards meeting its commitment to SDGs - specifically SDG 12, Sustainable Production and Consumption. Our work towards enabling sustainability continued in other forms also. Our survey of college students and their attitudes towards the environment were captured in a report (soon to be released). On the heels of this, and based on recommendations from diverse stakeholders, we submitted a set of recommendations to revamp the UGC environmental studies curriculum for undergraduate students. Our climate curriculum textbook for middle grade students now has a new avatar, having been translated into Tamil! The pilot study using the textbook has been a heartening experience, receiving praise from teachers and students alike. We also carried out a survey of attitudes towards sustainability among school children and followed this up with a puppet show and a poster making competition for the children, further driving home the message of sustainability. The most remarkable part of this journey has been seeing these children take steps towards sustainable living, a clear indication that our planet is going into safe hands.

This quarter also saw the release of our report 'Fair Fares - Towards Gender Inclusive Transport'. This very well received analysis examined what the TN government's free bus scheme for women has achieved - for themselves, their families and towards sustainable transport. The report received wide media coverage; it is also anticipated that it will inform future studies and surveys.

We have been developing a wide range of resources to strengthen consumer protection, especially in the area of digital finance. All these resources are available on our website, and are free to share. We also submitted a charter of 13 demands to the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen the rights of digital finance consumers, and add to the safety of this fast-developing landscape.

Our work in electricity governance continues to grow and expand. We have started some new partnerships in cities outside of Tamil Nadu with whom we'll be working to improve stakeholder participation in the electricity sector. We already have a successful track record of this in Tamil Nadu, and look forward to using our expertise in new places.

The quarter ahead is already packed with a range of activities, studies and resources which we look forward to sharing with you. Don't forget to follow our pages on social media, and do check out our website for all our latest.

Regards
S.Saroja
Executive Director



[Child helmets - a necessity?](#)

To address the safety concerns of children riding on two-wheelers, new rules mandate that children between 9 months and 4 years old must also wear helmets. This study by CAG surveyed parents and helmet shops to determine child helmet usage and availability.

🕒 9 minutes read



[Is biomining the answer?](#)

What is biomining? Find out the problems it can address, and solutions it cannot offer.

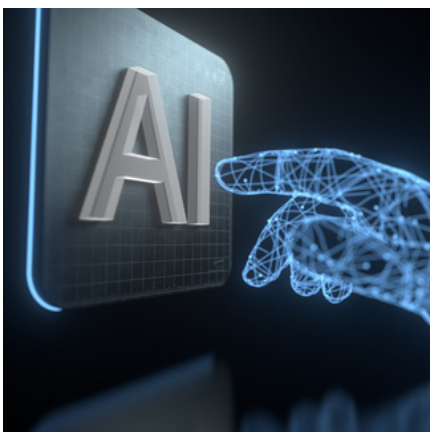
🕒 5 minute read



[Consumer-Centricity: An introduction to access to information within the electricity sector \(Part 1\)](#)

An introduction to a consumer-centric approach, this article sheds light on the importance of adopting a consumer-centric approach even within the public sector.

🕒 5 minute read



[The era of AI and legislative measures to protect consumers' interests](#)

A look at how AI impacts our lives, both in positive and negative ways. This blog also looks at efforts to regulate AI systems, to ensure public and consumer safety.

🕒 6 minute read



Blended finance: The dichotomy of opportunities and challenges

As the devastating impacts of climate change become increasingly pronounced, the need for urgent and effective action has never been more critical. In this context, while blended finance may emerge as a potential tool to mobilise resources and drive impactful climate action, its challenges cannot be overlooked.

🕒 6 minute read

Resources for you



Fair Fares: Towards Gender-Inclusive Public Transport

CAG surveyed 3000 women across 6 cities to understand the impact of the fare-free public transport scheme for women launched by the Tamil Nadu government. The study found that women were able to save an average of Rs 601 to Rs 800 per month as a result of this scheme. Additionally, the study highlighted that the saved transportation expenses were predominantly invested in the family. Find out more from the full report.

🕒 15 minutes read



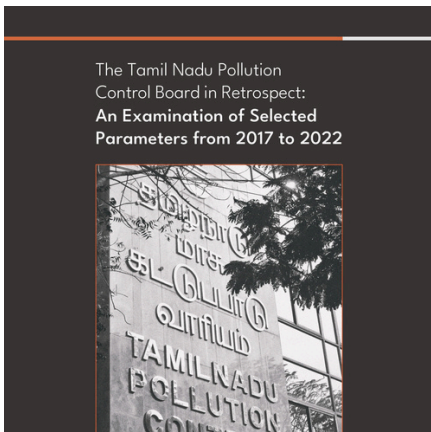
FAIR-DIGITAL FINANCES

A case study on digital financial services

A study on use of digital financial services

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the usage pattern of digital financial services in Tamil Nadu, particularly among the rural poor. Focusing on four main consumer groups mainly, farmers, self help group women, college youth and cottage industries, the report provides an in depth analysis of usage patterns and some of the struggles that digital finance users face.

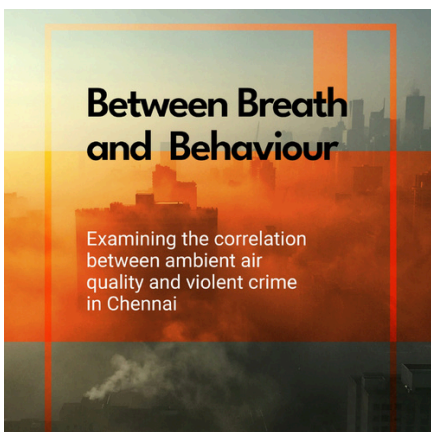
🕒 10 minutes read



[The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board in Retrospect: An Examination of Selected Parameters from 2017 to 2022](#)

An in-depth analysis of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board's structure, leadership, and capacity for the years 2017-2022. This study explores gaps and offers insights for better environmental management in Tamil Nadu. Dive into the report for more details.

🕒 15 minutes read



[Between Breath and Behaviour: Examining the correlation between ambient air quality and violent crime in Chennai](#)

It is high time to initiate a dialogue on the intricate relationship between air quality and violent crime. Although our recent study conducted in Chennai found a weak correlation, more research is needed. Do read our report for further insights.

🕒 15 minutes read

Our latest videos



How has the fare free bus scheme in Tamil Nadu impacted women? CAG spoke to 3000 women across the state to understand.



Explore our series of awareness videos on fair and safe digital financial services.



A puppet show (in Tamil) highlighting the importance of sustainability, created for school children. Enjoy these colourful and engaging puppets as they teach about the 3Rs (Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle) along with water and energy conservation methods.



Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG)

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