

Bring your own bottle

At Thirumangalam, Anna Nagar Tower, Anna Nagar East and Shenoy Nagar Metro stations, an eatery is keeping plastic bottles out of circulation

SOFIA JULIET R.

If you eat out frequently, you should be familiar with this question: "Normal or bottled water?"

The "normal" water comes free, and the bottled water doesn't. But bottled water is considered a safer alternative, and most of us go for it.

Only a handful of us pause to think about the plastic bottle, about how environment-unfriendly it is.

Though on the other side of the counter, Abhishek N. Murali, director of Cafe Udupi Ruchi, has given some thought to this.

So, Café Udupi Ruchi, a restaurant chain in the city, has launched #BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle). The restaurant chain has four outlets in the city, and all of them are at Metro Rail stations – Thirumangalam, Anna Nagar Tower, Anna Nagar East and Shenoy Nagar Metro stations.

"Commuters as well as customers visiting the hotel can bring their own bottle, hand it to our staff, and they will fill the bottle for free from the RO plant at our facility. Anyone can make use of our facility as our restaurants are located outside the ticket counters and therefore entry is free," says Abhishek.

The initiative is aimed at encouraging people to shun single-use plastic items.



The refilling centre at Thirumangalam Metro station.

PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

"I used to be a volunteer at an environmental organisation and have taken part in some of their clean-up exercises. I have personally witnessed the mind-boggling volume of plastic trash filling up our lakes and ponds. We have been trying to become a zero-plastic outlet and this is

a first step towards the goal," Abhishek adds. The restaurant also does not sell any aerated drinks and fruit juices in plastic bottles. It also offers a 10% discount on the bill if customers bring their own containers for takeaways. To know more about #BYOB, call 18602580111.



Abhishek N. Murali

Changemakers is a series that puts the spotlight on residents welfare associations, organisations and individuals who address contemporary issues in an offbeat manner. If you know such changemakers, write to us at downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in