



Public **C**oncern For **G**overnance **T**rust



Annual Report
2021-2022

Profile

Profile

Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT), a registered trust, founded by concerned citizens, mobilizes public opinion, increases public participation and activism towards promoting honesty, transparency and accountability in governance.

Vision

Vision

To strive for good governance, contain corruption, uphold and inculcate values and enhance Sadbhavna in the citizens.

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From The Chairman's Desk



Despite the Covid pandemic and the Lockdown, PCGT achieved much even though most of its interaction during the year was online.

Two of our verticals, Kuchh Aur and Youth For Governance (YFG) had to be modified for on-line teaching since Schools and Colleges were physically inoperative. Both staffers – of Kuchh Aur and YGF - continued to contact students on the Zoom platform. Similarly the National Youth Parliament for 2021 was organized by PCGT in conjunction with the Pravin Gandhi College of Law on April 10-11 of 2021 on Zoom with Justice Ajit Shah, former Chairman of the National Law Commission, presiding at the Closing Ceremony.

Thirty-two webinars on a wide variety of subjects ranging from Climate Change to Women's Safety Issues were arranged by the Campus Ambassadors attached to each participating College in Mumbai and the suburbs. The Campus Ambassadors programme, conceived by our Consultant, Shivam Jain Kakadia, was a resounding success. It instilled confidence and other leadership qualities in the selected ones. They chose the subjects for the Webinars and suggested names of speakers students would like to listen to.

A Constitutional Literacy Programme was started by our Staffer, Ruchi Bhagat, who, incidentally, was later selected for the Judiciary. We wish her well. The programme she began has been well received. It is not only students, but also communities who have been targeted for the learning. Important features of our Constitution need to be widely disseminated to the people of our country. The best place to start the process is with the young in Schools and Colleges.

Another initiative taken by the YFG this year was collaboration in the Voter Registration Drive begun by the State's Election Commissioner. We joined NSS volunteers and the Mohalla Committees in this noble venture. More than two thousand new voters were registered by our efforts alone.

Other activities like Street plays by students of a few Colleges, celebration of Women's Day, seminars on Women's Safety were organized in collaboration with the Mumbai police. All considered, it was a fruitful year.

J. F. Ribeiro
Chairman



About PCGT

PCGT was founded in 2002 by 3 distinguished bureaucrats / professionals with an aim of fostering Honesty, Transparency and Accountability in governance and work for instilling ethical values among the school children and professional conduct among the college youth, so that they become good citizens of our country. The founding Trustees were :

Late Mr. B. G. Deshmukh, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Maharashtra State, Cabinet Secretary in the Central Government and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Julio Ribeiro, IPS (Retd.), Former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, Director General of Police, Punjab state / Gujarat state and Indian Ambassador to Romania.

Dr. R. K. Anand, Pediatrician and Former Medical Director, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai.

They subsequently inducted more Trustees with distinguished record in their respective professions and the Trustees closely monitor PCGT programs and guide the Program Managers from time to time to achieve the best results. They interact closely with the Interns and act as role models to college youth. PCGT aims at character building of the school children / college youth so that they become good citizens of our country.

PCGT also has programs to develop leadership qualities among the youth, including one month internship. PCGT in close association with NSS organizes college programs including dialogues with noted professionals / social activists to imbibe the qualities of social service in the youth. The programs with the communities, especially weaker sections of the society make them aware of the Right to Information (RTI) Act and Right to Public Service (RTS) Act and how to make their effective use to curb corruption in the public institutions. All the programs of the PCGT are ongoing and aim at covering as many school children / college youth / communities as possible.

PCGT is registered with the Charity Commissioner under Reg. No. E/20164.



Youth For Governance (YFG)

With The Maharashtra government deciding to extend state wide lockdown till May due to increasing number of COVID-19 cases, schools and colleges continued their classes online. PCGT held most of its activities in YFG and Kuchh Aur online for their students and children.

PCGT Third National Youth Parliament

The third edition of the National Youth Parliament (NYP) was organized by PCGT in association with Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai (PGCL) on April 10 and 11, 2021. The NYP was conducted virtually on Zoom.

150 students from across the country participated in the NYP in four mock committees. The theme of NYP 2021 was set as “Era of Reforms” and the mock committees simulated and agendas discussed in each committee are as follows:

1. Lok Sabha: *Discussing the Union Budget for the Financial Year 2021-2022*
2. Rajya Sabha: *Discussing the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020*
3. Maharashtra Legislative Assembly: *Reviewing Maharashtra's Education Structure in light of the New Education Policy*
4. Press (consisting of reporters in the above committees)

The Closing Ceremony of the NYP was graced by the presence of the **Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Shah** (Former Chief Justice of the Delhi and Madras High Courts and Chairman of the 20th Law Commission of India) as the Chief Guest, who addressed the students on “*Transformation in Policing: A Mere Dream or a Real Possibility?*”.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) A. P. Shah addressing the audience at the Virtual Closing Ceremony of NYP 2021



The winners of all committees received cash prizes along with an opportunity to intern with PCGT for one month so as to broaden their perspective about good governance. The NYP therefore served as an ideal platform for students to understand the legislative process and functioning of the Parliament as well as to analyze and further research upon the issues that are current and relevant from a socio-legal perspective.



Group Photograph with the Chief Guest of NYP 2021

Virtual Courts : Comparative Study and PIL

We are in an era where every sphere of our lives is, willingly or unwillingly, shaped, or at least touched by technology. As the new norm, technology sets the boundaries for the concept of “normal.” Unavoidably, every profession had to revisit, transform and technologize its traditional practices and rules to some extent in order to catch up with this new normal. Judiciary, with its long-standing traditional practices and historic roots, is one of the most conservative fields which has resisted to implement the new normal. Conversely, judiciary has also always had to answer the growing demands of a dynamic society for swift and equal access to justice anytime and anywhere.



India has an existing high rate of judicial pendency and huge backlog of cases in court. Former Central Information Commissioner Mr. Shailesh Gandhi has highlighted the benefits of adapting to a hybrid court model which includes virtual hearings. His letter to the former Chief Justice of India Shri S. A. Bobde enlists a point-by-point rebuttal to all arguments against such hearings. The interns at PCGT (July and September 2021 batch) have rendered their valuable assistance to Mr. Gandhi's endeavours to make virtual courts a reality. This has been done by studying the status of virtual courts and pendency of cases in different regions of the world and taking note of their best practices and prevalent pendency rates. The interns have concluded that a hybrid model of courts, i.e., a combination of physical and virtual hearings, provides far more versatility and that there must be an immediate action to ensure a workable hybrid model of courts in India.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has also been filed in the apex court in September 2021 (*National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice & Ors. vs. High Court of Uttarakhand & Ors.*). The PIL seeks to have the right of access to justice through Virtual Courts (Hybrid Model) as a guaranteed Fundamental Right under Part III of the Constitution of India. The PIL also prays for implementing the uninhibited, unimpeded access to Virtual Courts to the constitutional and superior courts of the country, viz. the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

Webinars organized by PCGT

The following webinars / virtual sessions were organized by PCGT from April 2021 to March 2022, witnessing participation from students across the country:

Description of the Event	Date	Speakers
Child Rights - Victims of Aggression	April 4, 2021	Adv. Ms. Sonali Shelar
Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant	April 5, 2021	Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT)
India's Role in Current Geopolitics	April 5, 2021	Mr. Sameer Patil (Fellow, International Security Studies)
Cyber Safety	April 24, 2021	Dr. Ashok Bagul, Senior Police Inspector, Cyber Cell, Nagpur City
Cyber Crimes Against Women and Children	May 1, 2021	Dr. Ashok Bagul, Senior Police Inspector, Cyber Cell, Nagpur City



Description of the Event	Date	Speakers
Hybrid Virtual Courts - Access to Justice through e-Courts	May 16, 2021	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. C. Chavan (Vice-Chairperson, Supreme Court e-Committee and Former Judge, Bombay High Court) and Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. K. Thakker (Former Judge, Supreme Court of India)
Hybrid Virtual Courts - Access to Justice for Prisoners	May 22, 2021	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalpesh Jhaveri (Former Chief Justice, Odisha High Court) and Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. G. Karia (Former Judge, Gujarat High Court)
Hybrid Virtual Courts - Right to Speedy Justice	May 29, 2021	Hon'ble Judge Kaushik Bhatt (Former Principal District Judge, Gujarat) and Dr. Rashmi Oza (Principal, Chembur Karnataka College of Law)
World Environment Day - Environmental Degradation Challenged before We the People of India	June 5, 2021	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalpesh Jhaveri (Former Chief Justice, Odisha High Court), Mr. Mahesh Pandya (Environmental Engineer), Mr. Rahul Chaudhary (Environmental Lawyer), Mr. Shailesh Gandhi (Former Central Information Commissioner) and Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT)
Hybrid Virtual Courts - Conclusion and Suggestions	June 7, 2021	Some Former Judges of Supreme Court, High Court, District Court, Mr. Shailesh Gandhi (Former CIC), Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT), Dr. Raj Kachroo (President, National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice), Mr. M. Venkatraman (Trustee, Forum for Fast Justice), Prof. Ashwin Karia (Former Principal, Law College Palanpur)
Team building and leadership in Civil Services	July 17, 2021	Mr. V.P. Raja (Ex IAS, Chairman, PCGT) and Mr. Julio Ribeiro (Ex IPS, Chairman Emeritus, PCGT)
Safety of Women - A legal perspective	July 31, 2021	Adv. Ms. Sonali Shelar



Description of the Event	Date	Speakers
Ethics In Governance	August 12, 2021	Mr. V.P. Raja (Ex IAS, Chairman, PCGT)
Communal Harmony	August 28, 2021	Dr. R. K. Anand, (Pediatrician, Founder Trustee, PCGT)
Panel discussion on “Preventive Detention Laws”	September 8, 2021	Mr. V. P. Raja (Ex IAS), Adv. Colin Gonsalves (founder, HRLN) and Mr. M. N. Singh (Ex IPS)
RTI and its application for Civil Justice	September 18, 2021	Adv. Arjun Kadam
Cyber Crime and Ethics	October 7, 2021	Mr. D. Sivanandhan, former DGP, Maharashtra, Trustee, PCGT
Judicial intervention in the issue of Manual Scavenging	October 19, 2021	Adv. Ms. Isha Singh, IPS,
Electoral Reforms and Vigilant Voter	October 29, 2021	Shri U.P.S. Madan, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra
The Role of Civil Society in Combating Corruption	November 1, 2021	Mr. Rajnish Seth, DGP, ACB, Maharashtra
Afghanistan : The Strategic Fallout of the rise of Taliban	November 10, 2021	Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhaya, former Ambassador to Afghanistan
How to crack UPSC exams	December 2, 2021	Adv. Ms. Isha Singh IPS
Reflections of Science, Religion and Clash of Civilization	December 4, 2021	Mr. V.P. Raja (Ex IAS, Chairman, PCGT)
A day in the life of an IAS officer and the challenges faced by them	December 7, 2021	Mr. Mahesh Zagade, ex IAS, Chairman, PCGT Pune Chapter
India 2022 – The Question of Human Rights in a Surveillance State	December 10, 2021	Adv. Ms. Sonali Shelar



Description of the Event	Date	Speakers
Pegasus - Right to Privacy v/s A Surveillance State	January 21, 2022	Mr. Mahesh Zagade, ex IAS, Chairman, PCGT Pune Chapter
Cast Your Vote Wisely	January 25, 2022	Mr. V.P. Raja (Ex IAS, Chairman, PCGT)
Communal Harmony	January 26, 2022	Adv. Anas Tanvir
University-level webinar on Substance Abuse	February 17, 2022	Fr. Joe Pereira
Panel Discussion on Climate Change Policy	February 27, 2022	Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT), Atma Dinnie Charles (Research Analyst, UNEP) and Eeshan Chaturvedi (Director, EnviPol)
Panel Discussion of LGBTQ+ Rights	March 4, 2022	Pratyay Malakar (Course Designer, Teach For India), Jitender Bhardwaj (Programme Mgr, Nazariya), Ayesha (Research Scholar, Delhi)
Women's Safety	March 26, 2022	Mr. D. Sivanandhan, former DGP, Maharashtra, Trustee, PCGT

Constitutional Literacy Program

The Constitutional Literacy program, initiated and designed by Ms. Ruchi Bhagat (JMFC) aims at educating the youth with a non law background on the history and significance of the Constitution of India and the fundamental Rights and Duties that every Indian citizen should inculcate in their day-to-day lives.

The inaugural session to mark the beginning of our new project on “Constitutional Literacy”, was held on July 9, 2021. The Guest of Honour for the event was Prof. Homer Pithawalla, senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India, Bombay High Court as well as solicitor of the Bombay High Court, Supreme Court of England and Supreme Court of Hong Kong. He shared his experience and shed light on the provisions that make the Indian Constitution the best amongst democracies in the world. The event was attended by Mr. Julio Ribeiro, Mr. V. P. Raja, esteemed trustees of PCGT the PCGT interns, Campus Ambassadors, Lead ambassadors and students from various colleges.



Other Events organised by the YFG

Vigilance Week (26th Oct. to 1st Nov. 2021)

- **Online Campaign on “Corruption Hatayenge” on 26th October, 2021** - PCGT along with NSS units of Colleges across Mumbai ran an online Campaign on “Corruption Hatayenge” wherein we made social media Posts on how to combat corruption for the integral development of our country and shared them across various social media platforms.
- **Short Video Making Competition on 27th Oct.** – PCGT in collaboration with NSS cell, University of Mumbai, organized a short video making competition on the topics “Anti Corruption”, “Vigilant Voter” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat”. More than 15 colleges participated and showcased their creativity by making short videos. The winner of the competition, Swami Vivekanand Education Society’s College, was felicitated by the DGP, ACB, Maharashtra, Mr. Rajnish Seth.



Voter ID Registration Drive

PCGT under the Guidance of the State Election Commissioner Mr. U.P.S. Madan, conducted a massive Voter ID registration campaign in collaboration with NSS units across Mumbai and the Mohalla Committee Movement Trust, from 17th Oct. to 3rd November 2021. The NSS volunteers registered new voters online with the help of Voter Helpline App and NVSP portal by the Election Commission of India. PCGT staff members also conducted this drive offline in Colaba slums, Chandivali, Bandra East, Dharavi and Vikhroli, following all the Covid protocols. We successfully registered 2237 new voters.



Cyber Watch E-book

An E-book on Cyber safety was compiled and designed by our former intern Ms. Amisha Upadhyay and was launched on 28th December, 2021 by Dr. Karandikar, DCP, Cyber Crime, Mumbai Police. After the online publication of the e-book Cyber Watch, it was published again in NMIMS and was then circulated in esteemed institutions like BPCL, IDFC First Bank, NMIMS, Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune. This e-book is generating a lot of encomiums and interest.





Women's Day Felicitation

On the occasion of International Women's Day, PCGT felicitated 20 police officers of Nirbhaya Squad and Police Didis of Mumbai Police for their outstanding work in safeguarding women and children across Mumbai. The program was graced by the presence of Mr. Vishwas Nangare Patil, Jt.CP (Law and Order), Mr. Sandeep Karnik, Addl. CP, Dr. Swami DCP and Ms. Sonali Kulkarni.



Street play on Women's Safety

PCGT in collaboration with NSS Unit of K.B.P. Hinduja College performed the street play on 'women safety' at 4 locations on the eve of Women's Day. Starting with Charni Road, Churchgate, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and ending it at Gateway of India, the performers made the viewers aware of the Nirbhaya Squad, laws for women safety, penal provisions. The students were felicitated at Gateway of India by members of the Nirbhaya Squad. More than 2000 people were influenced through the street plays at all 4 locations.



Street play performers and viewers with the Nirbhaya Squad car at Gateway of India



Street Play on Manual Scavenging

PCGT in collaboration with NSS unit of Vivekanand Education Society's Arts, Science and Commerce College, Chembur, performed a street play at Chembur Station and at the college campus for creating awareness to stop this inhuman practice of Manual Scavenging. Through the play, the students made the viewers aware of the penal provisions regarding the engagement of manual scavengers. The play showcased the importance of using machines for cleaning septic tanks and manholes. Through the play Mumbaikars were made aware of the BMC help line number so that they can clean the gutters through machines provided by BMC.





Right to Information (RTI)

Objective

To spread awareness of the effective use of RTI among college students, poor and uneducated citizens and to help them get their legitimate dues from the government without paying bribes.

Programme Overview

Right to Information (RTI) project works for the essential cause of good governance by creating awareness about the Act. PCGT's RTI Cell not only provides free legal assistance and guidance in filing RTI applications and appeals for the poor and marginalized sections of the society but also creates awareness throughout Mumbai in colleges and community on current socio-legal issues in society. PCGT also conducts community and college visits and files RTI applications for affected people and regularly follows up with various government departments and citizens in Mumbai and outside. Recently, PCGT has also included the Maharashtra Right to Services Act (RTS Act) in its awareness programme. The RTI Cell comprises of the following avenues:

1. RTI Clinic at PCGT, Mumbai
2. Community Outreach and Awareness Workshops
3. College Campus Awareness Workshops

1. RTI Clinic

PCGT gives counselling guidance at its office in Mahalaxmi, where any civil citizens affected by the system can approach us to seek guidance and assistance to file RTI applications and other related issues under the public governance sector.

2. Community Outreach and Awareness Workshops

Community Workshop is an attempt to spread the effectiveness and capacity building interventions of RTI in the marginalised groups in different regions of Mumbai suburbs.

3. College Campus Awareness Workshop

Through campus outreach programmes, students are trained about RTI and RTS and motivated to create awareness and educate others about the same.

In view of COVID-19 pandemic, all RTI workshops / sessions were conducted virtually. Mr. Ranga Rao provided RTI counselling / guidance via email / WhatsApp during this period.



Late Shri Narayan Varma Lecture Series



Mr. Iqbal Chahal with the Memento

“We all are chosen by God to serve Humanity!”

The 6th Late Shri Narayan Varma Lecture Series and Award function was held online on 24th August, 2021, in collaboration with Bombay Chartered Accountants’ Society (BCAS) Foundation, Dharma Bharathi Mission (DBM) India and PCGT. The keynote speaker was Mr. Iqbal Singh Chahal, IAS, Commissioner BMC. It was a privilege to listen to the experience of the BMC Commissioner on how he and his team dealt with the Covid-19 Pandemic in Mumbai.

Although he was appointed at the most critical times when Covid cases were extremely high in Mumbai, he told his team at the very first meeting that **“We all are chosen by God to serve Humanity!”** The 6th Late Narayan Varma awards were presented to Shri Maharashi Dave of Sparsh Foundation nominated by BCAS, Shri Ranga Rao (RTI Activist) nominated by PCGT and Shri Ravi Singh (Khalsa International) nominated by DBM for their outstanding work and the efforts made by these individuals for the betterment of Humanity.

The lecture ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Abhay Mehta, President of BCAS.



Kuchh Aur

“Values guide our behaviour in all aspects of our life, including our home life, our work life and our social life. They guide our beliefs, attitudes and behaviour.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

Kuchh Aur during the lockdown held webinars on different values for the children and students in schools run by private trusts and State and also in communities.

Overview

For the year 2021-2022, PCGT conducted sessions in 8 schools which included state board, private and aided schools and two communities. In total, we touched the lives of more than 13,546 students through sessions on different values. Mrs. Asha Varma, Mrs. Jyoti Tanna, Mr. Rufaid Imtiaz, Dr. Pankaj Pathak and Mr. Suresh Khatri spoke on different values like helping others, compassion, honesty, potential of patience, ethics and morals, determination and the Importance of Education.



Mrs. Rekha Shahani's Session with Interns and Schools



Session with Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhania School conducted by Mrs. Rekha Shahani



Short Moral Story on Importance of Learning



Inner Peace



Session with Interns



School Ambassadors

KUCHH AUR also started a Programme called “School Ambassadors”. The objective of this programme is to create awareness about PCGT’s work and values in the schools and communities. To motivate other students to join Kuchh Aur, to create Awareness of Compassionate and responsible citizens, RTI, POCSO, Traffic rules, current affairs like Covid-19, take feedback from students and develop new values to conduct sessions with students. Under this programme we had sessions with students on Constitution literacy and Relationship. Every session we had more than 20 ambassadors from each school and community.

Interns are part of the Kuchh Aur sessions. We encourage them to get involved and share their expertise with the students. The Younger students connected with them. Interns have to select a value and make a presentation of the said value in Schools and Communities. In the month of August they had presented their values on women empowerment, unity in diversity, self confidence, positive thinking, importance of respect, gender equality, human values, honesty, courage and kindness.

Interns Share

The Kuchh Aur program at PCGT is the glue that binds the internship experience together. The sessions flow freely, enabling us to introspect and spend much needed time with ourselves. I, for one, was able to reconnect with a lot of emotions that I had chosen to overlook time and again. I've also had the pleasure of learning a lot about life, especially through the experience of others, for which I am extremely thankful.

Academic excellence, professional growth don't account for much if you aren't at peace with yourself. And all you have to do, to experience a slice of this peace, is be receptive to what's happening during the Kuchh Aur Sessions.

- Nek Puri,
University of Mumbai Law Academy

The Kuchh Aur sessions were insightful and wonderful. It was not just because of the learnings and values I was reminded of, but the strength of community learning and sharing. My thoughts were moulded to understand the importance of human being’s existence. I realized the existence is not just for being yourself or myself, but being able to love people around you and surrounded by lovable community. The values can be put into action, once we learn to love ourself. From loving ourself, we would be able to love people around us.

- K. Sai Pavani
Jindal Global Law School



Thodi Ucchai Chune Do

Kyu na usko thodi ucchai chune do
Kyu na usko thoda or udne do

Kyu bandhte ho usse zimmedariyo ki baidiyo mein
Kyu usse tum dekhte ho bhediyo si nazaro se
Kyu use har baar niccha dikhate ho
Tum ye nhi kar sakti kyu usse har baar ye batate ho
Kyu dikhate ho ki aadmi hai unse kai bade
Kyu na iss baar use thodi ucchai chune do
Kyu na usko thoda or udne do

Kyu har baar reh jaate hai uske hi sapne adhoore
Kyu nhi hote uske bhi khwaab poore
Kyu har baar uski zindagi reh jaati hai ghar grahasti me hi
Kyu nhi wo jaakar bahar ye keh sakti
Ki haan mai bhi aatmsamman se jeeti hu
Haa mai bhi kissi sahare ke bina jii sakti hun
Aao uska haath batayein
Kyu na unke saath apne achche pal bitayein
Kyu na usko thodi ucchai chune do
Kyu na usko thoda or udne do

- Kanishka Singh
Jindal Global Law School

Personal follow up

In Kuchh Aur a personal follow up is done via phone to reach out to children who don't attend the sessions due to their demographic, economic and situational factors. As part of the programme we interact with these students to understand the issues faced by them. Students were happy to share their problems and we were able to build up their confidence.



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