

# Public Concern



The Quarterly Newsletter of Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT)

January 2020

## Profile

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

## Vision

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

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## TOGETHER WE MARCH - Beyond 26/11 to a Secure City



*Mr. Ribeiro delivering the welcome address*

On 26th November, 2019, PCGT organised an event- 'Together We March - Beyond 26/11 to a Secure City', at the Nehru Centre Auditorium, Worli, not just to remember the victims of 26/11 but also to recognise the valiant efforts of all the servicemen and security forces involved in combating terrorists during the attack.

*(for a detailed report and more photographs, please see page 3)*

## EDITORIAL



As yet another "Nirbhaya" went up in ball of flames in Hyderabad following a gang rape on November 27, nation-wide protests broke

out against the barbaric incident and failure of the "State" to secure the women folk. Soon, however, those who had been arrested by the Police for being allegedly involved in this incident were shot dead at the place of occurrence where they had reportedly been taken to "reconstruct the scene of crime". They had attempted to snatch the weapons of the police and make good their escape, claimed the Police.

What followed was unprecedented. Members of Civil Society danced with joy and showered flowers on the police. Accolades came from across the country and political parties touted the action as what ought to be done in such cases. While this was going on, yet another survivor of a rape case was burnt alive in Unnao, UP, on December 5th, when she was going to court to tender evidence in her case, by the accused who had come out on bail. She succumbed to her injuries a day later. In another related event Supreme Court turned down the review petition of one of

the accused in the infamous Delhi Nirbhaya rape and assault case of 2012. The other remaining accused filed a review petition thereafter. While the parents of Nirbhaya cried hoarse for the death penalty awarded to the accused to be carried out, yet another year since the ghastly incident slipped by.

These are clear signs that the criminal justice system is not delivering and the Society is getting increasingly impatient and disgusted with the state of affairs. Common citizens have no voice in the criminal justice process. Once a criminal case is recorded, that too with extreme reluctance, then it becomes a matter between the State and the accused and the victim is a minor interest in the conduct of investigations, conduct of prosecution and implementation of punishment if any. Victimology is not central to the law as the rights of the accused attain precedence over anything else.

Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, when he postulated the rule of "bail and not jail", in his famous judgment of 1970, discussed the rights of the accused and how those rights were adversely affected by the denial of bail. No thought was given, at that time, to the rights of the victim and if enlargement of accused on bail adversely affected the victim, could the rights of accused be balanced. That the victim

could be adversely affected by such bail is amply demonstrated in the Unnao case.

Fifty years have gone by since the judgment of Justice Krishna Iyer and time has come to not only review the judgment but also the law must evolve to bring the interests of the victim as central to the scheme of criminal justice system. That the victim has a right to speedy justice should be the uppermost thought at every stage. The case must be registered promptly, investigated fairly and expeditiously, chargesheet should be submitted to the court in time. While granting bail, the victim must be heard and their views kept in mind. This should also be the consideration while granting adjournments both to defence and prosecution and granting paroles and furloughs to the convicts.

Unless we change, unless the law responds to the aspirations of the Society and people see and feel that their interests are adequately protected by the criminal justice system, the breakdown in the trust in it will lead to serious incidents where the justice delivery shall be taken over by those not entrusted with it. The nation cannot afford such a scenario and the time to act is now.

Jai Hind.

— Sanjeev Dayal

### SAVE THE DATE

#### PCGT Annual Event

#### Youth - Making a Difference

Date : Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Time : 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Venue : Shanmukhananda Auditorium Sion (East), MUMBAI

*Formal invite will be sent to you shortly*

## YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

### Gender Sensitization



*Mr. Onil Kulkarni delivering the workshop at Government Law College*

The Public Concern for Governance Trust organised a workshop on gender sensitization at the Government Law College, Churchgate. The workshop was in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (N.S.S) Cell of the college. Fifty students of the first and second year law course attended the workshop. The workshop covered Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2013), Identification of harassment and the methods of reporting it. It was a successful workshop well taken by students.

### Right to Information



*Mr. Arjun Kadam conducting workshop at GLC and Vaze College*

The Public Concern for Governance Trust organised a workshop on Right to Information at the Government Law College in Churchgate and V.G. Vaze College in Mulund. Fifty students attended the workshop in both the colleges. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Arjun Kadam, an ex-Intern at PCGT. The workshop included details on what is RTI, the procedure for filing RTI, Public Authorities, Grounds of Appeal and other technicalities of the Act. The audience was very much involved as barely anybody knew about the Act. This workshop was also well taken by the students.

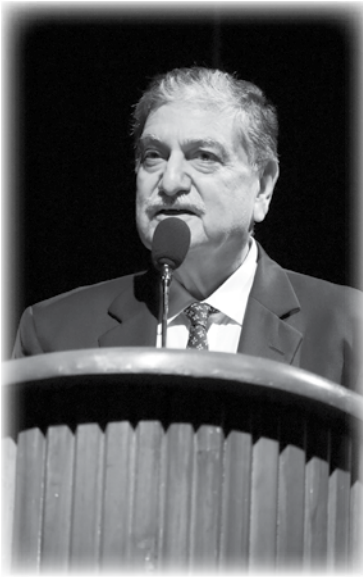
### Road Safety Workshop



*PCGT Staff Mr. Renzdon Rodrigues delivering lecture at Manori Island*

The NSS Cell of Mumbai University invited PCGT to deliver a workshop on Road Safety for 82 student leaders from 79 different colleges in Western Suburbs. Every year the university arranges 5-day residential camp for leaders from different colleges. This year the location was Shri Gagangiri Maharaj Ashram in Manori. The workshop gave more attention on Wrong Side Driving and the social, medical and legal repercussions were explained to the students. The workshop ended by taking an oath of following rules of the road and signing the pledge. It was a successful workshop.

## TOGETHER WE MARCH - BEYOND 26/11 TO A SECURE CITY



*Chief Guest Mr. Ishaat Hussain inspiring the audience with his keynote address*



*The Chief Guest (in the center) with Mr. & Mrs. Ribeiro on the right, Dr. & Mrs. Anand on the left, Ms. Rekha Shahani (next to Mr. Ribeiro) and school principals.*

26th of November, on this fateful day eleven years back, Mumbai faced a tragedy that lasted 4 days. Around 166 people lost their lives and over 300 were injured.

The event began with the remembrance of the deceased by their names displayed on the screen. The first performance for the evening was by students of 'Happy Home and School for the Blind'. The audience joined in enthusiastically towards the end of the performance.

Mr. Julio Ribeiro addressed the gathering with his wise words on the Vision and Mission of PCGT and how PCGT has been working tirelessly, through its various programs like the YFG, Kuchh Aur and the Road Safety Campaign, towards good governance. He further, emphasized on the need to fight the terrors of communalism.

The students of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlokshi Vidyalaya, Kandivali, delivered a spectacular performance on the undying spirit of the people of Mumbai.

Mr. Ishaat Hussain, our keynote speaker for the evening, addressed

the audience. He stressed on the teachings of Gandhi - that there are no winners in war, there are no just wars. He also applauded the spirit of the Mumbaikars during and after the fateful event of 26/11. "We must all pledge to eschew violence", he urged.

The audience listened in rapt attention as Dr. Anand, through various instances, highlighted how India is so unified in its diversity. The Vedic principle, 'Ekam brahma dutia nasti' meaning 'God is one and there is none except Him' is also the same as the

teaching enshrined in the Quranic declaration of 'La illallah bilallah' (there is no God but God).

This was followed by a spectacular dance performance by the Bharat Soka Gakkai. An absolute treat to the eyes!

The evening drew to a close with a melodious classical Indian song performed by the students of Bharat Soka Gakkai.

Mrs. Rekha Shahani extended a hearty vote of thanks. The event ended with the singing of the National Anthem.



*Bharat Soka Gakkai singers*

TOGETHER WE MARCH - BEYOND 26/11 TO A SECURE CITY



*Children of Happy Home and School for the Blind singing a song*



*Bharat Soka Gakkai dancers*

## KUCHH AUR



*The volunteers of Traffic Awareness Campaign*

Under the initiative Kuchh Aur, Traffic Awareness Campaign was conducted in the communities of Nerul, Jui Nagar and Seawood Darave, Navi Mumbai.

The **Traffic Awareness Campaign** was aimed at making two-wheeler riders drive responsibly. This was done with the assistance of the Maharashtra Police, who graciously granted us permission to conduct this drive.

Those two wheeler riders wearing helmets, were appreciated by children by giving them a thank you card and a rose.

A flex chart with a pledge was displayed for the commuters who waited and signed the pledge, which affirmed that they would obey the law and co-operate with the police.

The next round of campaign focused on the zebra crossing. A student was dressed up as a zebra and guided the drivers of the vehicle not to park or stop the vehicle on the zebra crossing. Pedestrians were also guided to cross only on the zebra crossing when the green pedestrian light was on.

**Happiness : the need of the hour.** A session on happiness was conducted with the students.

The students were exposed to the idea of positive or happy mood and how they could solve problems faster and better. Happiness also improves peoples' ability to learn and remember things.

They were taught how happiness is fun and important to all of us. Good Health was also focused on as positive feelings change the chemical make-up of our bodies, producing chemicals that enhance immunity, cell repair and build strength.

**“Together we march beyond 26/11 to a secure city”** - a much awaited event of PCGT since 2009. Students of Sardar Vallabhkhai Patel Vividhalakshi Vidyalaya, Kandivali, put up a grand show at the Nehru Auditorium, Worli. The idea of getting the students involved was to teach them about Peace, Love, Unity, Harmony and creating a new story for our city and country. More than 500 School students and 35 Principals along with other guests attended the programme.



*Performance by students of Sardar Vallabhkhai Patel Vividhalkshi Vidyalaya*

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION

### RTI / RTS

The following workshops were conducted between Oct. to Dec., 2019

Name and Address of the Institution	Date and Time of the Workshop	Speaker	Theme
Government Law College, A Road, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020	November 16, 2019 - 11 am to 1 pm	Arjun Kadam	RTI
School of Law - Tata Institute of Social Sciences, V. N. Purav Marg, Eden Gardens, Deonar, Mumbai-400088, Maharashtra	December, 30 2019 - 11 am to 1 pm	Mr. D. S. Ranga Rao	RTS

### Creating Awareness on Child Sexual Abuse (Police Didi Ka Haath Hamesha Apke Saath)

On 4th November 2019, a meeting was held between representatives of police officials, Aangan Trust, PCGT Trustees and staff to discuss on the next course of action to prevent child molestation in schools and community. It was decided that there would be a collective drive for Parent-Teachers' Association meeting every month to be also represented by Police Didi. A letter for this purpose was sent by DCP Karandikar to all the schools to make PTA meeting compulsory every month and call Police Didi from their area for the same.

Further, a community level workshop would be organized at regular intervals that would be facilitated by the Police Didi in support of PCGT

and Aangan Trust. The contact details of Police Didi from all 93 police stations would be distributed among all the members of the community so that they can directly contact them whenever the need arises.

In the course of our deliberations, Aangan has identified 15 unsafe public areas in various wards where incidence of sexual molestations of women and children occur quite commonly when children are going for tuitions, public toilet or to play etc. The NGO suggested that there should be more street lighting and have pinpointed unsafe places which require immediate lighting.

To set the wheel in motion, Mr. Ribeiro wrote a letter to BMC

Commissioner to take steps in providing lighting in these areas. The BMC Commissioner instructed all ward offices to inspect unsafe places and take immediate action for lighting. Some of the unsafe places in Chembur, Wadala, Dharavi, Cuffe Parade and Sewri have been inspected and process has been initiated by BEST and BMC to put lighting in these areas.

A meeting will be held every month between NGOs and police didi and a report will be prepared each month and submitted to Police authority about the progress of work done in these areas. In this way, police will then be kept aware of what is happening in this sphere.

**RTI CLINIC IN MUMBAI**

**PCGT :**

Every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For appointments and details :

**Call** : 022-2352 6426 / 2352 6452

**Address** : B/2, Mahalaxmi Chambers  
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,  
Mumbai-400 026

**E-mail** : publicconcern@gmail.com

**Visit us at** : [www.pcgt.org](http://www.pcgt.org)

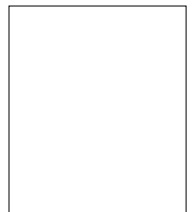
**DONATIONS TO PCGT**

All activities of PCGT are undertaken from the funds received from the donors. People who want to donate any amount of ₹ 1,000/- and above may please issue cheques in favour of 'Public Concern For Governance Trust'.

Donations to PCGT qualify for deduction u/s. 80G(5)(VI) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

✂ tear along this line ✂

**BOOK POST**



**PUBLIC CONCERN**

**C/o. Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT)**

**B/2, Mahalaxmi Chambers,  
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,  
Mumbai-400 026.**



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Registration No. E-20164 (Mumbai)  
(THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT, 1950)