

Public Concern



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

January 2023

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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PUBLIC CONCERN FOR GOVERNANCE TRUST

Cordially invites you to an evening of

YOUTH: FOR ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

08th February, 2023

04:30 pm to 06:30 pm
(please be seated by 04:00 pm)

Sri Shanmukhananda Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Auditorium, Mumbai
(Closest to King Circle Railway Station)

022-23526426
022- 23526452

publicconcern@gmail.com

Chief Guest

BITTU SAHGAL
EDITOR, SANCTUARY ASIA

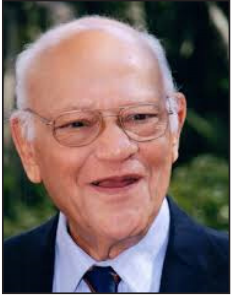
With grateful thanks to

Sri Shanmukhananda
FINE ARTS & SANGEETHA SABHA

Bittu Sahgal Founder, Sanctuary Nature Foundation, Editor of Sanctuary Asia, India's first and largest circulating wildlife and ecology magazine (1981) and Founder-Editor of Sanctuary Cub (1984). He believes that India's ecological foundation is the bedrock on which the nation's economic foundation sits. He also believes that climate change poses the greatest ever threat to the stability of the Indian nation.

We sincerely hope you all will attend the programme. Kindly click a picture of this on your mobile phone and show it at the entrance for the door keeper to allow you in.

EDITORIAL



All our three verticals have been active during the quarter, Kuchh Aur more than the others. Since

our staff member in charge of Kuchh Aur has been on leave for delivery (she has recently resigned from service) the services of Sayali Kadam, Project Manager of “Youth For Governance” (YFG) were loaned to Kuchh Aur two days in a week.

Sayali has proved her mettle with young children in schools and Kuchh Aur has got a big boost thereby. Our Trustee, Rekha Shahani, with Sayali to help her, has instilled essential values in the children and also introduced them to Cyber Safety.

Three of our Staffers attended the 30th Anniversary of “Education Today, Society Tomorrow” at Asia Plateau, Panchgani. They were exposed to new ideas which will stand them in good stead in our Kuchh Aur and YFG projects. Interns attending our RTI Awareness programmes were introduced to the Kuchh Aur classes. Their feedback will also help us to perform better.

Our YFG Project Manager with the active assistance of our Consultant, Advocate Shivam Jain Kakadia, is introducing colleges affiliated to us through their NSS

units, to Parliamentary practices and procedures. Shivam has been enlightening students on the Indian Constitution with emphasis on the Preamble, Basic Rights and Duties of Citizens and all that is essential for citizens to know about our Constitution.

On Constitution Day 26th November PCGT’s YFG organized a Quiz and also a Webinar to increase awareness about the Constitution among College youth.

One of our three Founding Trustees, Dr. Raj Kumar Anand, whose passion is Communal Harmony, addressed college students in Kelkar College on the subject and later distributed postcards bearing the Mohalla Committees Movement logo of four young men representing four of the different religions practiced in the country, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Christianity with the message “Hum Sab Ek Hain”. Dr. Anand has spoken of Communal Peace to gatherings of students in various Colleges of Mumbai under the aegis of PCGT.

The YFG’s Campus Ambassador programme is active in the Colleges which interact with PCGT in the city. The Campus Ambassador arranges lectures for students on topics chosen by the students themselves. If requested PCGT Trustees help out with speakers on subjects in which they are knowledgeable. PCGT arranged a rural visit for some Campus and Lead

Ambassadors to Rajgurunagar in the Khed Taluka of Pune District. Dr. Madhav Sathe, Secretary of the Bombay Mothers and Children Society arranged the visit as he does annually. City-bred youth are exposed to rural life and learn of the hardships experienced by the poorer inhabitants of our country.

On Human Rights Day, observed on 10th December every year, PCGT’s Staff and N.S.S. volunteers of V.K. Krishna Menon College, Bhandup, organized a Street Play near Bhandup Railway Station. The play focused on the Right to Education and other rights that ordinary human beings expect.

Our month-long Internship Programme lays emphasis on the Right to Information Act and more recently on the Right to Service Act legislated in Maharashtra. Many of the Interns are students of Law. They are happy to learn of the RTI which enables common citizens to fight corruption. Quite a few of our past Interns have used the provisions of the Act in their own neighbourhood to good effect. They are in touch with our Consultant, Mr. Ranga Rao, who lectures to them on the RTI and introduces them to its practical usage.

PCGT has been successful in shaping more responsible and knowledgeable citizens. For this we are truly proud.

– Julio Ribeiro

KUCHH AUR

“Real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination.” Some people believe that talent and a winning attitude are all you need in order to succeed in your endeavors, but a winning attitude means having determination, which many people lack. Kuchh Aur spoke about the value ‘Determination’ in schools. Examples of great personalities who challenged their difficulties and worked towards their goals were shared with the children.



Session at Purshottam High School on Determination with PCGTs October Interns

‘Respect and Dignity’ was introduced in schools. It was explained to the children that every individual, irrespective of gender, race and culture is born with equal right to respect, in order to maintain their dignity. A person strives to be respected and valued throughout their life. However, in the environment where we live, sometimes we, as human beings, intentionally or unintentionally break this basic principle of respect and split individual dignity into spatial elements. Students were given examples of what happens if a person is mentally ill and faced disrespect in front of others.



Session on Respect and Dignity at Anjuman I Islam's - Dr. M.I.J Girls High School

Home and school are the places where a child learns moral ethics. Thus, Kuchh Aur ensured to include some essential habits and practices to keep

a child close to morality and included a session on honesty. Discussions were held on how ‘Honesty’ plays an important role in everyone’s life. At the end of the session many students took a pledge to be honest.

- “I will always tell the truth no matter what”.
- “I will admit and take full responsibility when I am wrong.
- “I will do my own work and if I use someone else’s work I will give them credit for the work they did”.
- “I will not cheat during exams or in any other work”.
- “I will be honest and trustworthy with family, friends and everyone in my life”.



Kuchh Aur session at Pragnya Bodhini High School on the value of Honesty

Awareness on Cyber Safety was explained to the students in schools. Most of them were aware about cyber crimes. Examples of cyber safety, cyber bullying and trolling, picture morphing, profile hacking, online game addiction, fake call and messages to ask for OTPs and bank details were discussed with them.



Session on Cyber Safety conducted by Ms. Sayali Kadam at Anjuman I Islam's – Dr. M.I.J Girls High School

The value on ‘Gratitude and Kindness’ continued being taught in Schools. Students were explained when we feel

grateful for someone’s kindness toward us, we may more likely be kind in return. Examples of Gratitude and Kindness were shared to how gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness, how it helps people feel more positive, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships



Trustee Mrs. Rekha Shahani conducting session on Purpose of Life, Life of Purpose at St. Elias High School

ETST Celebrations at Asia Plateau, Panchgani

PCGT’s staff Rashna, Rudabeh and Sayali attended the 30th Anniversary celebration of Education Today, Society Tomorrow at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, from Dec 02, 2022 to Dec 04, 2022. The programme started with sharing of the ETST Journey followed by World Cafe. Challenges, needs and opportunities of the child and educator of the future were shared. Rudabeh felt that ETST is a forward-looking programme concerned with ongoing gains and future benefits. For education to remain beneficial for learners it must prepare them not for today, but for their tomorrow. At ETST, Rashna realized that education was a passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today. For Sayali it was an enriching experience for her personal and professional growth. The greatest joy was to interact with Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of the ‘Mahatma’ and hear him speak to the Educators.

KUCHH AUR

At Anjuman-I-Islam School

Trustees Mrs. Ana Saldanha and Mrs. Rekha Shahani visited Anjuman-I-Islam's Dr. M.I.J. Girls High School in November. Mrs. Saldanha commented "Awesome experience. All first generation learners. So alive, so eager. A joy, an honour to be with them."



PCGT staff with Mrs. Rekha Shahani and Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi



Initiatives
of Change

ETST @ 30 Celebration Conference
Asia Plateau, Panchgani - 2nd to 4th December, 2022



Trustees Mrs. Rekha Shahani and Mrs. Ana Saldanha with girls of Anjuman-I-Islam School



INTERNS SHARE

The Kuchh Aur vertical of my internship at PCGT has been a great experience for me. Rekha ma'am encourages a very safe space for her interns to share their thoughts and discusses topics which are very important but not spoken about enough in adult society, such as gratitude, happiness, discipline, respect, etc... She also has a very light and happy personality that made her sessions very enjoyable to attend.

Thank you,

Mishaal Vaswani
Jindal Global Law School

First of all, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the "Kuchh Aur" session conducted by Rekha ma'am. It was truly a transformative and energetic experience. When I attended it, it made me remember my English school teacher. She used to enlighten us and try to cultivate happiness in our mindset. As law students, we go through a lot of hectic work and busy hours and honestly speaking, sometimes, I am personally disturbed. However, after attending all the sessions, I have developed a sense of peace and contentment in my inner self and I am really grateful for that.

Our generation is one of the most depressing generations, and sessions like Kuchh Aur on happiness and self-care are the need of the hour. Every institution/organization must incorporate some time during which they focus on mental health and do some productive work, talk and get to know each other, sing, have some fun etc.

Again, thank you for such beautiful sessions.

Warm regards

Kushal Agrawal
1st Year | National Law University
Odisha

Nexus of Good, Mumbai Chapter

The interns and staff of PCGT along with the Trustees met Mr. Anil Swarup, ex Education Secretary, Government of India along with other NGOs at a gathering hosted by Sangita Chudiwala for the Mumbai Chapter of NOG. PCGT got a chance to share their work along with others like EOTO, Muktangan, Artha Global etc. The discussions were insightful with many members finding opportunities to work together in the future.



NOG Group at Sangita Chudiwala's residence



PCGT Interns with Mr. Anil Swarup

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

Public Concern for Governance Trust in association with the NSS Unit of Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College, Malad, organized a session on Indian Parliament and Legislative Procedure on October 11, 2022. The speaker of the session was PCGTs former Lead Ambassador and the President of PCGT National Youth Parliament 2020, Mr. Ishaan Chitnis. He enlightened the students in depth about the legislative procedures.



Mr. Ishaan Chitnis interacting with the NSS unit of Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College



Students of Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College listening to Mr. Ishaan Chitnis on the topic of Indian Parliament and Legislative Procedure

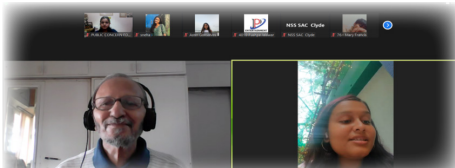
Dr. R. K. Anand, one of our Trustees and co-founder of PCGT, held a session on Communal Harmony at KET's V.G. Vaze College of Arts, Science and Commerce with their NSS Junior Unit and a webinar with NSS Unit of St. Andrew's College of Arts, Science and Commerce. He encouraged young minds to have friends from different religions and understand different cultures. The postcards of 'Hum Sab Ek Hai' were distributed among the participants.



Dr. R. K. Anand interacting with students on the topic of Communal Harmony at KET's V.G. Vaze Kelkar College of Arts, Science and Commerce



PCGT Documentary being shown at KET's V.G. Vaze Kelkar College of Arts, Science and Commerce



Webinar on Communal Harmony with the NSS Unit of St. Andrew's College of Arts, Science and Commerce

Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, former Central Information Commissioner conducted a session on Democracy and the Rule of Law. He emphasized that the sovereignty of the individual is democracy and even highlighted the case disposal system in Indian Courts.



Mr. Shailesh Gandhi with the NSS Unit of St. Andrew's College of Arts, Science and Commerce

PCGT organized a Rural Exposure Visit for its Campus Ambassadors (CAs). The visit was hosted by the Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare Society at Rajgurunagar, near Pune. The objective of the visit was to give exposure of rural life to the urban youth, making them aware of the realities and the way of living of the villagers. The Campus Ambassadors got to

adapt and appreciate a different culture during the span of 3 days by visiting tribal hamlets. YFG Programme Manager Ms. Sayali Kadam delivered a session on Women's Safety and Cyber Safety at Vasant Rao Manjare Vidyalaya. The CAs visited Zilla Parishad Primary School at Thakarwadi and interacted with children from grades 1 to 4. They narrated stories to the children on values such as honesty, kindness and greed as an evil.

PCGTs CAs got an opportunity to visit a tribal hamlet of Thakar tribes and observed their way of living. The visit ended with sightseeing at Chaskaman Dam.



Ms. Sayali Kadam conducting a session at Vasant Rao Manjare Vidyalaya on Women Safety and Cyber Safety



PCGT Campus Ambassadors and Staff at Zilla Parishad Primary School, Thakarwadi



PCGT Campus Ambassadors interacting with the staff of the Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare Society

CONSTITUTION DAY

Constitution Day also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in our country on 26th November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. PCGT organized two events (a quiz and a webinar) on the Constitution Day to increase awareness about the Constitution amongst the youth.

INAUGURAL MEETING & ORIENTATION FOR PCGT LAs AND CAs 2022-23

A Quiz Competition on the Constitution of India was organized by Public Concern for Governance Trust in association with SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law (PGCL), Mumbai, on November 26, 2022, at PGCL campus. The quiz was organized with the assistance of Campus Ambassadors (CAs) at PGCL and witnessed participation of 30 students divided into ten teams from colleges across Mumbai.

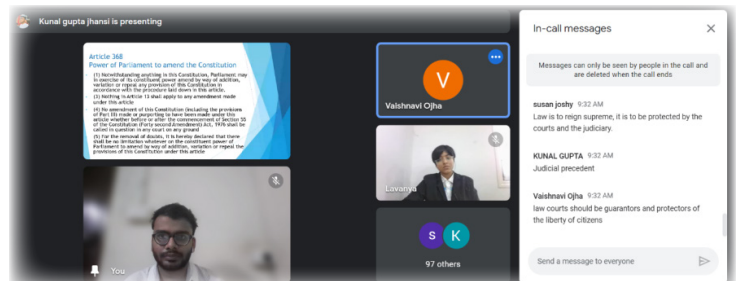
This was a first of a kind event organized by PCGT as a part of the Constitutional Literacy Programme and it served as an ideal platform to create awareness amongst the students about the Constitution and its special features, particularly the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, Fundamental Duties. The CAs also got exposed to the nuances of organizing an event, thus honing their leadership skills and strengthening the CA programme as a whole. All participants were provided with certificates and the winning team comprising three students were offered a one month internship at PCGT.



PCGT Campus Ambassadors at PGCL along with the Faculty Coordinators for the Quiz

WEBINAR ON TRANSFORMATIVE CONSTITUTIONALISM AND RULE OF LAW

A Webinar on Transformative Constitutionalism and Rule of Law was organized by MIES College of Law, Mumbai on November 26, 2022. The webinar was delivered by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia, who emphasized that the Indian Constitution is a true living Constitution in as much as it gives the widest possible amplitude for the realization of both individual liberties and desires and at the same time enforces the need for collective growth and development. Around 100 students participated in the webinar and it was successfully executed with the assistance of PCGT Campus Ambassador at VES College of Law, Ms. Lavanya Bhati.



Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia delivering the Webinar on Transformative Constitutionalism and Rule of Law

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10th December - the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). On this occasion, Public Concern for Governance Trust in association with the NSS Unit of V. K. Krishna Menon College, Bhandup, organized a street play and a webinar on the theme "All Human Rights are Fundamental Rights". The NSS Volunteers performed the Street Play near Bhandup Railway Station. The Street Play focused on right to education, freedom of speech and

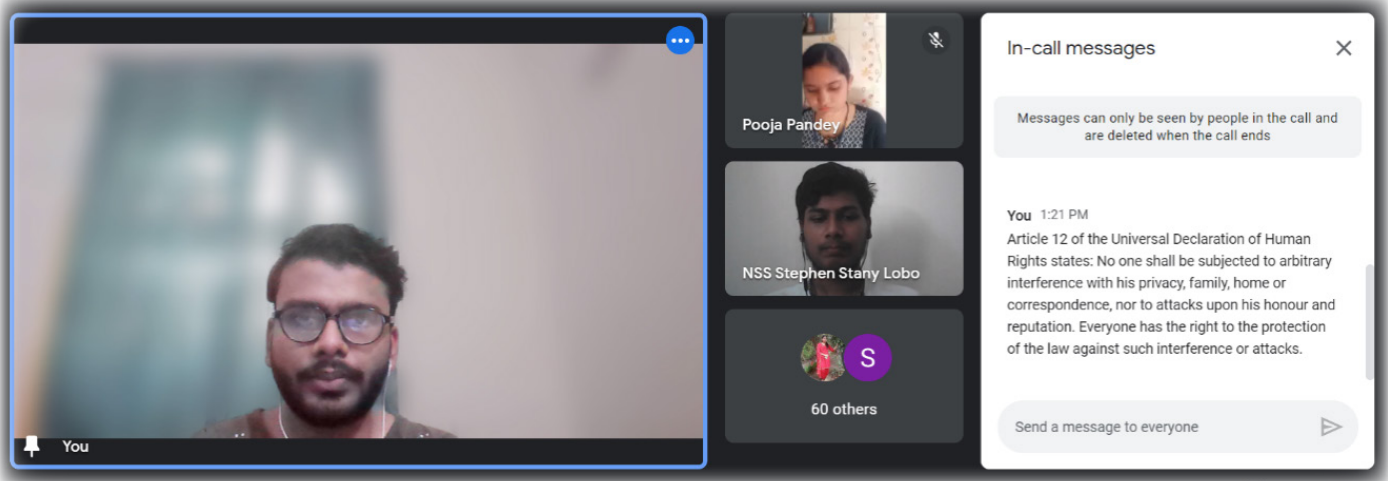
expression as well as right to equality, and it was observed by commuters and other people around Bhandup Station.



Street play outside Bhandup Station

WEBINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS

A Webinar on the topic “All Human Rights are Fundamental Rights” was organized by Public Concern for Governance Trust in association with the NSS Unit of V. K. Krishna Menon College, Bhandup on December 10, 2022. The webinar was delivered by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia, who gave a brief history of human rights commencing in ancient India to Magna Carta along with a brief overview of the UDHR. He then discussed right to life, right to equality, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, etc. as enshrined in Part III of the Constitution and emphasized on how the judiciary has read various human rights into the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, giving broad interpretation to the latter. Around 60 NSS volunteers of V. K. Krishna Menon College participated in the webinar and it was successfully executed with the assistance of PCGT Campus Ambassador Ms. Pooja Pandey.



Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia delivering the Webinar on Human Rights

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.

Visit us at : www.pcgt.org



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Registration No. E-20164 (Mumbai)
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