

Public Concern



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

January 2024

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 its
Annual Event

Youth One World, One Future

Chief Guest



**Mr. Vivek
Phansalkar**

Commissioner of Police, Mumbai

Guest of Honor



**Mr. Rahul
Bose**

Actor and Social Activist

08 February, 2024

4:30PM - 6:30PM



Sri Shanmukhananda Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Auditorium



022-23526426/23526452



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With grateful thanks to



Sri Shanmukhananda
FINE ARTS & SANGEETHA SABHA

Mr. Vivek Phansalkar is the current Commissioner of Police, Mumbai. A 1989-batch IPS officer, he was serving as the DG and MD of the Police Housing and Welfare Corporation, before his appointment as the Mumbai Police Commissioner. In the past, Mr. Phansalkar has served as the Additional Commissioner of Police for Pune and Thane, Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) Chief and Joint Commissioner, Traffic and Administration in Mumbai city. He has held many posts prior to that.

Rahul Bose is an Indian actor, director, screenwriter, social activist, and athlete. He is the President of Indian Rugby Football Union. He has appeared in Bengali and Hindi films. He is also noted for his social activism: he participated in the relief efforts that followed the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and is also the founder of the anti-discrimination NGO, The Foundation.[3]

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

EDITORIAL



In this Quarter the Trustees did some brainstorming on the need to make P.C.G.T. more relevant and useful to the young students with whom we interact almost through the year. Our Trustee Ana Saldanha introduced a well-known Management Consultant Idobro to other Trustees present. The lady had gone through our Newsletters and Annual Reports. Her suggestions are being analyzed by the Trustees and Staff, who have understood the need to invigorate the thinking processes of our students in a manner that will make them more interested and involved in our mission to make them more confident and inculcate good values in them.

To this end we have signed M.O.U.s with some institutions of legal learning after which we organized a series of seminars on Mental Health at the Jayantilal H. Patel College of Law, on the "Role and Function of Mahila Police Stations in Maharashtra" at the Maharashtra National Law University, on "Child Rights and Prevention of Bullying in Schools and Colleges" again in the Maharashtra National Law University.

Under our Leadership Project we covered various topics shown in brackets in the L.N. College, Borivali (Cyber Safety), in St. Andrew's College, Bandra (Water and Waste Management), in the Maharashtra National Law University, Powai, (Role of Legal Services Authority in Legal

Aid), with the National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice (New Laws to replace I.P.C., Cr.P.C. and Evidence Act).

The Leadership Project also organized a Training and Awareness Session on the Drafting of Living Wills in the M.N.L.U, Powai. In partnership with the M.N.L.U a Workshop for Principals, Deans, Faculty Members and Law students was organized on "Seeking Justice: Role of Legal Act in Law Colleges". The same audience had the privilege of participating in a Workshop on the "Right To Information Act" where our Consultant, Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia, was the principal Speaker.

Eminent speakers: D. Sivanandhan, former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, Prasad Chandran, former Asia Head of BASF India Ltd., Justice Kaushal Thaker formerly of the Allahabad High Court, Dr. Vipul Mudgal, Director of Common Cause, Shailesh Gandhi, former Central Information Commissioner, and Justice Rajendra Menon, former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, were the Speakers at the different Workshops/Seminars.

Our "Kuchh Aur" programme continued apace. "Gandhi Jayanti" was celebrated at the Purshotam High School, "World Animal Day" at the Chikwadi Centre, Mankhurd, "Unity in Diversity" at the Anjuman Islam's Dr. M.U. Girls High School. The value of "Kindness" was discussed at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel Vividlaxi Vidhyalaya, the importance of Unity at the

Sainagar Centre and also at the Sambhajnagar Centre of the Rabale Community, and a session on "The Art of Active Listening" was organized at the Mankhurd Community Centre and also at the Dr. M.U. Girls High School.

Sessions on "Gender Equality" and on "Peace" were organized for students of Std. VI VII and X at the Rabale Community Centre. Similarly sessions on "Respect and Discipline", "Legal Awareness", "POCSO Act", "Good Touch, Bad Touch" were organized by our Trustee, Rekha Shahani, in charge of our "Kuchh Aur" programme, at the Dr. M.U. High School for Girls and at the Centres of the Rabale and Mankhurd Communities.

Our Chairman, V.P. Raja, I.A.S. (Retd.) will demit office in January 2024 after completing his tenure of three years as Chairman. He will be succeeded by D. Sivanandhan, I.P.S (Retd.). Mr. Raja, who succeeded Julio Ribeiro, one of the three Founder Trustees as Chairman, had brought the full weight of his knowledge, erudition and unalloyed integrity to bear on his style of leadership. Many interns from different Colleges who intern with P.C.G.T. were motivated to read and learn from books Mr. Raja had advised them to read. We wish him well for the future and we will continue to profit from his experiences in governance as he will continue to be with P.C.G.T. as a respected Trustee and Teacher.

– Julio Ribeiro

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

To raise awareness about mental health and promote positive well-being, PCGT in association with Mental Health Club of KES' Shri Jayantilal H. Patel Law College organized a workshop on Mental Health and Joy of Living. Mrs. Rekha Shahani, Trustee, PCGT was the guest speaker during the session on October 10, 2023. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, fostering understanding and building a supportive community for mental well-being.



PCGT in association with NSS Unit SB-33 of KES' Shri Jayantilal H. Patel Law College organized a lecture on Health of Democracy on November 02, 2023. Mr. Mahesh Zagade, IAS (Retd.), Trustee of PCGT, highlighted the steps that must be taken to maintain the health of democracy.



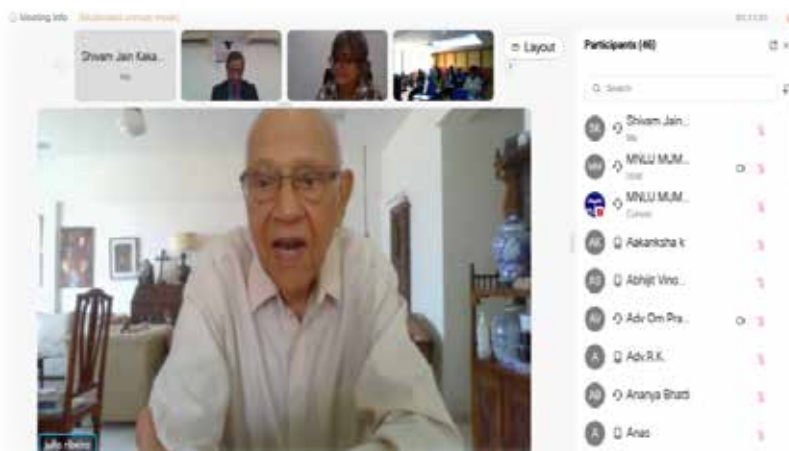
Panel Discussion on Evaluating the Role and Function of Women Policing in Mahila Police Stations

A Panel Discussion was organized on "Evaluating the Role and Function of Women Policing in Mahila Police Stations in the State of Maharashtra" on Friday, November 10, 2023 from 10 am to 1 pm in hybrid mode, under the National Commission for Women project. This programme was hosted by Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai, in collaboration with National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar &

Delhi (NFSU), and Sheffield Hallam University, England. PCGT was the Knowledge Partner for this programme.

Mr. J. F. Ribeiro (Chairman Emeritus PCGT, Former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai) was the Special Guest for this programme and shared his views on the relevance of Mahila Police Stations and the alternatives available. The panel was of the preliminary view that in a diverse and

dynamic nation like India, there is an increasing need for comprehensive police reforms. The discussion focused on re-evaluating the role of women in policing and enhancing women's safety and security in Maharashtra. The panel delved into the feasibility and viability of dedicated Mahila Police Stations in the state and assessed their effectiveness in providing swift and empathetic responses to women's concerns and issues.



YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

Film Screening and Panel Discussion on Child Rights and Prevention of Bullying

PCGT in collaboration with the Centre for Women, Child Rights and Gender Justice (CWCRGJ) of Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Mumbai, organized a Film Screening and Panel Discussion on Child Rights and Prevention of Bullying at MNLU Mumbai on Saturday, 4th November 2023. Mrs. Rekha Shahani (Trustee, PCGT and Former Principal, Kamla High School) was the Chief Guest. The panel of speakers comprised Mr. Sourav Sarkar ('A Stolen Star' Film Director), Adv. Audrey Dmello (Director, Majlis Legal Centre), Ms. Kakul Faruqi (Clinical Psychologist,

Hiranandani Hospital) and Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia (Consultant, PCGT), who shared their views on the importance of child rights and the prevention of bullying in schools.

The film 'A Stolen Star' directed by Mr. Sourav Sarkar, portrayed the incident of the demise of a 12-year old Indian child staying in Canada, reportedly caused by suicidal death due to bullying. Through the analysis of the experts, the film artistically creates an understanding on the duties and obligations of the families, school authorities, school boards and

State bodies at large, to protect the emotional rights of the children, in the context of global rights of every child. Through this film and panel discussion we were able to spread awareness on child rights and prevention of bullying from a socio-legal perspective.



Panel Discussion

PCGT Webinars under Leadership Projects

The following webinars were organized by Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT) from October to December 2023:

| Topic | In collaboration with | Speaker | Day, Date and Timings |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Cyber Safety | L.N. College, Borivli (BCA, BSc. IT, CS Departments, DLLE) | Mr. D. Sivanandhan (Trustee PCGT, IPS Retd.) | Friday, October 6, 2023 |
| Role of Youth and CSR in Water and Waste Management | St. Andrew's College, Bandra (NSS Unit) | Mr. Prasad Chandran (Trustee, PCGT; Former Chairman & Managing Director BASF(I) Ltd.) | Thursday, November 9, 2023 |
| Role of Legal Services Authorities in Legal Aid (Hybrid Mode) | Maharashtra National Law University, Powai (Centre for Clinical Legal Education) | Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia (Consultant, PCGT) | Sunday, December 17, 2023 |
| Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (New law replacing Indian Penal Code) | National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice (NFSFJ) | Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Rajiv Lochan Mehrotra; Adv. Anjani Kumar Singh; Mr. Yashovardhan Azad (IPS Retd.) | Sunday, December 31, 2023 |

Each Webinar was attended by more than 50 students from different institutions as well as PCGT Interns, Campus Ambassadors and Lead Ambassadors.



Mr. D. Sivanandhan delivering Webinar on Cyber Safety



Mr. Prasad Chandran delivering Webinar on Role of Youth and CSR in Water and Waste Management



Webinar on Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (New law replacing Indian Penal Code)



Adv. Kakadia delivering session on Role of Legal Services Authorities in Legal Aid

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

Training and Awareness Session on Drafting of Living Wills

The Pro Bono Club of Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Mumbai in collaboration with PCGT organized a Training and Awareness Session on Drafting of Living Wills on 21st October 2023 from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm at MNLU Mumbai in hybrid mode.

We were privileged to host Hon'ble Dr. Justice Kaushal Jayendra Thaker (Chairperson, Gujarat State Human Rights Commission; Former Judge, Allahabad High Court) as the Chief Guest and Dr. Vipul Mudgal (Director, Common Cause NGO) as the Guest of Honour. The keynote speaker was renowned health law activist Dr. Nikhil Datar (Obstetrician and Gynaecologist). Our guest speakers helped the attendees understand the concept, need and the law on advance directives and trained them in drafting living wills. They also helped interested persons to get their living wills drafted and notarized during the session.



RTI WORKSHOPS

RTI Workshop at JCCL (Guest Lecture Series)

A workshop on the Right to Information Act (RTI) was organized by PCGT in collaboration with Jitendra Chauhan College of Law, Mumbai (JCCL) on Friday, October 27, 2023, at the Moot Court Hall, PGCL. The workshop was delivered by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi (Former Central Information Commissioner), who explained the theoretical and practical aspects of the RTI Act 2005, including drafting of RTI Applications. More than 50 students of JCCL participated in the workshop and it was included in the Guest Lecture Series of JCCL which focuses on practical learning in law.



Mr. Gandhi delivering the RTI Workshop at JCCL

RTI Workshop at MNLU Legal Aid Conclave

The Legal Aid Conclave was organized by the Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai's Centre for Clinical Legal Education (MNLU CCLE) in collaboration with PCGT on Friday, 13th October 2023 for Law University Principals, Deans, Legal Aid Faculties and Law Students. The theme of the Conclave was "Seeking Justice: Role of Legal Aid in Law Colleges", emphasizing on the crucial role of legal aid in law schools across India. We were privileged to have Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Menon (Chairman,

Armed Forces Tribunal and Former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court) as the Chief Guest for the Conclave.

As a part of the Conclave, a workshop on the Right to Information Act (RTI) was delivered by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia (Consultant, PCGT), who explained the theoretical and practical aspects of the RTI Act 2005, including drafting of RTI Applications. More than 50 Law University Principals, Deans, Legal Aid Faculties and Law Students participated in the Conclave.



Adv. Kakadia delivering RTI Workshop at Legal Aid Conclave

KUCHH AUR



Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti at Purushottam High School

In the vibrant months of October to December 2023, we focused on instilling essential values in schools and communities. Events included a lively 'Gandhi Jayanti Celebration' at Purushottam High School, where students explored Gandhi's legacy and principles through dynamic discussions and engaging activities to empower them with virtues for navigating life with grace and integrity.



Celebration of World Animal Day at Chikuwadi Center, Mankhurd

At Chikuwadi Center, Mankhurd, students gathered for 'World Animal Day' celebration. Introduced PCGT's "Kuchh Aur" programme and explored the global theme "Great or Small, Love Them All." Activities like "Guess the Animal using Riddles," fostered empathy and highlighted our shared responsibility toward animals. Lesson : Every being deserves care and protection, irrespective of size or form.



Unity in Diversity at Anjuman-I-Islam's (Dr. MIJ Girl's High School)

At Anjuman-I-Islam's (Dr. MIJ Girl's High School), a session on 'Unity in Diversity' for Std. VIII students unfolded. After a review, the concept was introduced through real-life examples and a story of three kings. Active student participation and positive feedback echoed a key insight: success stems from trust and collaboration, transcending diverse perspectives. The takeaway emphasizes unity and teamwork, aligning seamlessly with 'Unity in Diversity.'

A transformative experience unfolded as students immersed themselves in a session centered around the theme of 'Kindness' at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlaxi Vidhyalaya, delving into its profound significance and far-reaching impact in our lives. The session sparked a lively conversation, unraveling the incredible potential woven into three magical words — Thank You, Sorry, and Please — capable of elevating our daily interactions. Adding a touch of sincerity, students crafted heartfelt thank-you letters, extending gratitude to parents, friends, cousins, and anyone deserving of acknowledgment, creating a ripple of positive energy within the session.



Session on Kindness at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlaxi Vidhyalaya



An engaging session on 'Unity' was conducted at Sai Nagar Center and Sambhaji Nagar Center of the Rabale community and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlaxi Vidhyalaya. During the session, the importance of unity was discussed, a relevant story was shared, and a game of 'Noughts and Crosses' with two teams was organized. Through this interactive game, the value of unity was exemplified. The game's moral conveyed that if both teams collaborated instead of competing, they could have collectively achieved three winning lines each. Following this, students were encouraged to share their opinions, enriching their understanding of the significance of unity, thereby enhancing their overall learning experience.



Session on Unity at Rabale Community & Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlaxi Vidhyalaya

In Mandala, Mankhurd and Anjuman-I-Islam's (Dr. MIJ Girl's High School), a captivating session unfolded on 'The Art of Active Listening'. The significance of active listening was explored, accompanied by a narrative journey. Students were tasked with retelling the story, focusing on details to gauge their active listening

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proWess. A lively group activity ensued, where students shared their partner's hobbies, presenting them to the collective. Wrapping up, positive feedback regarding the session was graciously offered by the students, completing this engaging exploration of the art of active listening.



*The Art of Active Listening
Anjuman-I-Islam's (Dr. MIJ Girl's High School)*



*The Art of Active Listening
Mankhurd Community*

Conducted a vibrant 'Unity' session at Sai Nagar and Sambhaji Nagar centers. Discussed unity's importance, shared a relevant story, and organized a 'Noughts and Crosses' game. The interactive game showcased the value of collaboration over competition. Students shared opinions, enriching their understanding of unity's significance. Enhanced overall learning experience at Rabale community and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlaxi Vidhyalaya.



Session on Peace with students of Std. X and Std. VI & VII at Rabale Community



A session on Gender Equality was conducted at the Rabale community and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlaxi Vidhyalaya. The students were queried about their understanding of gender equality and what it meant to them. Following this, four short clips related to the topic were showcased, initiating a discussion. The students exhibited a positive response, posing various questions and articulating the view that boys and girls are equal and capable of undertaking any task. The session underscored the importance of fostering a mindset that promotes equality, encouraging students to challenge societal norms and embrace a more inclusive perspective. The interactive nature of the session not only gauged their comprehension but also contributed to fostering a culture of open dialogue and understanding regarding gender equality.



Session on Gender Equality at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vividhlaxi Vidhyalaya

Respect & Discipline session at Anjuman-I-Islam's Dr. MIJ Girl's High School emphasized interactive learning. It defined respect as kindness

and acknowledgment, linked discipline to good habits for goal achievement, and highlighted positive outcomes in Homework and Responsibility discussions. The GAINS Approach guided goal setting, and a group activity focused on Interests and Networking. The session concluded with Reflection and Journaling, stressing self-reflection for growth and discipline maintenance. The takeaway: encourage girls to apply respect and discipline for holistic personal development.



Session on Respect & Discipline at Anjuman-I-Islam's (Dr. MIJ Girl's High School)

Collaboration with Pro Bono Club, MNLU, Mumbai



Teaming up for a greater impact, PCGT partnered with the Pro Bono Club of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai. In Mankhurd & Rabale communities and Anjuman-I-Islam's (Dr. MIJ Girl's High School), sessions were conducted about the Introduction of Legal Awareness, POCSO Act, and Good Touch, Bad Touch. Valuable insights into the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act were shared, aiming to spread awareness and foster a safer environment for our children.



Session on Legal Awareness at Rabale Community

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Session for Interns

Mrs. Rekha Sahani conducted a session with interns. During the session, she discussed themes and values. Starting with a prayer, the interns reflected on questions using flashcards, sharing personal experiences. The discussion highlighted life as a work in progress, promoting values for self-improvement. Mrs. Sahani shared thoughts on secularism, distributing souvenirs, including a communal harmony calendar. The session ended with interns writing notes on instilled values, which were then posted on the whiteboard.



Session by Mrs. Rekha Shahani with the interns at PCGT Office

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.pcg.org

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