

Public Concern

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

July 2019

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.

Board of Trustees

CHAIRMAN

Mr. J. F. Ribeiro

MANAGING TRUSTEE

Mr. Dara Gandhi

TRUSTEES

Dr. R. K. Anand

Mr. Prasad Chandran

Mr. Sanjeev Dayal

Mr. S. S. Puri

Mr. M. R. Reddy

Ms. Rekha Shahani

Mr. Gulam A. Vahanvaty

COMPASSIONATE POLICING PROGRAMME



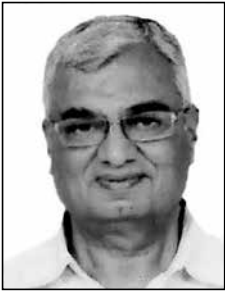
PCGT trustees lighting the lamp

250 Naiks and Constables underwent training on 'Compassionate Policing' at the Police Training Centre (PTC), Marol, from June 17 to 20, 2019, in a unique programme. Men who had been averse to the idea of undergoing training and would even 'pay' to avoid being sent for the training, had declared by the last day that they would now 'pay' to attend such trainings !! Such was the effect of the 'Compassionate Policing Programme' (CPP).

The programme was inaugurated at 9 a.m. on June 17, 2019, with lighting of the lamp by PCGT Trustees Dr. R. K. Anand, Mr. M. R. Reddy, Ms. Rekha Shahani; Principal of the PTC, Mr. Somnath Gharge and Mr. Keshav Patil Spl. IG (Training). The dignitaries then inspired the participants and gave them an overview of the workshop.

(more on page 3)

EDITORIAL



It is that time of the year once again. The time when the temperatures soar northwards and the humidity levels rise up. The two together provide perfect conditions for the infections, viral or bacterial to germinate, prosper and spread. And they take in their wake the vulnerable among the populace as victims to the infections that follow. So it's that we hear that children, the most precious but most vulnerable of human beings have fallen prey yet again to the scourge of Encephalitis. Media has reported that over 150 children have succumbed to this dreaded disease already in the district of Muzaffarpur in Bihar and that it is spreading. It is not the first time that children in such large numbers have succumbed. Earlier Gorakhpur in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh had been similarly affected.

The victims probably suffer from a double whammy. Firstly, being Children they are more vulnerable, moreover hailing

from economically vulnerable sections, the Society does not seem to care as much as it would probably if they belonged to the upper crust. What else explains the fact that so many children are lost year after year and except for some press reporting when incidents occur, there is no systemic effort to prevent such deaths.

The country boasts of institutes of international eminence which specialise in the study of viruses and other microbiological organisms. Is it not possible to devote time and effort to find out what could be the preventive mechanism for Encephalitis? Every State in the country has several departments charged with the welfare of rural folks. Rural Development Department, Health Department, Child Welfare Department, Social Welfare Department and so on. Is it too much for Secretaries of these departments to map the areas vulnerable to the Encephalitis, map the Socio economic sections of the Society vulnerable to it and then take active preventive measures to prevent children from falling prey to this dreaded disease. Such mapping would also indicate the places where super speciality facilities needed to be created

where patients suffering from Encephalitis could be given best possible care.

One marvels at the silence of the Human Rights Commissions, both at State and Central level. Do they not consider this issue to be worth their effort? And what about Children's Commission? What do they wait for? Are not children and their well being their sole concern? We are grateful that Hon. Supreme Court has issued notice to State and Central Governments based on a PIL filed by some advocates. However, it appears that the PIL is directed mainly on treatment of affected patients in hospitals. What we need, however, are comprehensive orders and directions from the Honourable Court looking into all aspects of the matter.

For far too long this country and we as a Society, have tolerated obliteration of the young one. It is time that we rose to hold the States and their Departments accountable for the deaths year after year.

— Sanjeev Dayal

BLOCK THE DATE

The 4th Late Narayan Varma Memorial Lecture will be held at IMC, Churchgate, on Friday, August 23, 2019 at 5.30 p.m. You are all cordially invited. A formal invitation will be sent shortly. The speaker is Mr. Yazdi Malegam He was President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

COMPASSIONATE POLICING



L to R: Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, RTI Activist; Ms. Rekha Shahani; Mr. Subodh Jaiswal DGP Maharashtra, Mr. Pathik Vats, Facilitator; Mr. Sanjay Saxena, Addl. DG (Training)

The objectives of the training were :

- Setting inspiring goals in alignment with a larger understanding of their role.
- Communicate with the public in compassionate and caring ways (thereby enhancing the perception of the Police)
- Deal with Women, Children and Senior Citizens sensitively
- Foster and Support Community Policing, and
- Do all the above with maximum joy and minimum stress.

In his speech, Mr. Reddy shared his views about police in the present context. He felt that post independence, things had changed but the police system operated in the same way as pre-independence.

Dr. Anand, through his speech conveyed the importance of family life, healthy living habits, smiling and laughing and remaining at peace with oneself.

The sessions started at 6.30 a.m. and were titled 'Soul Nurture'. Ms. Rekha Shahani shared with the group the importance of nature, its contribution to human life and how in silence we should listen and be one with nature. 20 minutes of quiet time was given to the participants to listen to their inner voice and reflect upon their life. The participants later shared their thoughts which contributed in building a bond amongst them.

The training consisted of different resource people from various professions

– doctors, educators, theatre and film personalities, activists, along with people in authority in the police contributing to this training.

Mr. Subodh Jaiswal, DGP Maharashtra, who has started this training, has entrusted to PCGT the running of this content. This is going to be an ongoing session and Trustee Ms. Rekha Shahani is in charge of it.

For a two way hearing, while interacting with the participants, the educators and resource people came to know of the difficulty that the police face and the gross adversities that they work in and still retain a positive attitude. They not only had long duty hours,



Soul Nurture by Trustee Ms. Rekha Shahani

but did not get time for regular meals, worked in strenuous conditions and at times faced a lot of humiliation within the department and from outside public. Some of the remote areas did not have enough staff to handle severe cases without adequate support.

In the beginning of the session, participants were hesitant to open up and share their thoughts. However, the four days journey of quiet time, reflection, sharing and using theatre as a tool of communication helped the participants to relax and be stress free. Mr. Pathik Vats, through his movie 'Sarfaroosh' conveyed the role of police in a positive manner. He brought along Mr. Mukesh Rishi who essayed the role of 'Salim' in the movie, as an honest officer. All participants interacted with him and his focus was on how the police needed to take care of their physical self.

Dr. Harish Shetty spoke about emotional and mental health. Through his slides and humour he



Presentation of Learnings by a group of participants

touched upon various kinds of emotions like love, fear, jealousy, anger, hatred, happiness, shame, sarcasm, and made the participants realise the value of emotions and how to handle them. A well drafted schedule by Rekha Shahani touched not only the 220 constables and 50 senior inspectors present there, but also their families. Through her session on relationship, gratitude and forgiveness many constables called up home to express their gratitude to their families.

The final day witnessed a wonderful session in nature conducted by Ms. Rekha. The participants celebrated religious diversity and spiritual oneness wherein there were recitations of scriptures from various faiths. A Maharashtrian said a Zoroastrian prayer, a Hindu recited a Sikh prayer, a Brahmo recited from the Bible and so on. It was indeed blissful and peaceful. Mr. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, DGP Maharashtra, in his speech expressed his faith that the training would benefit the police and stated the reasons why he would like PCGT to conduct the training.

Some of the constables shared in their 'Way Forward' :



Participants and facilitators of the programme

(Contd. on Page No. 4)

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

'LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE'



Morning exercise at Asia Plateau

PCGT Program Executive – YFG, Mr. Renzdon Rodrigues attended a 8 day national youth conference 'Let's Make A Difference' (LMAD) organized by 'Initiatives of Change' (IofC) at Asia Plateau, Panchgani. 322 youth from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Tibet participated in this conference led by course directors Mr. Viral and Mrs. Neha Mazumdar. This annual national youth conference was organised for young people in the age group of 16-30 years. It was a residential training programme held from 1st to 8th June, every year. This National youth conference is being conducted since 1994 and 2019 is the 25th year of the conference. Renzdon reported "It was a rigid, rigorous and extensive journey and I had given up in 2 days of the conference because of no mobile phones, self evaluation for every minute and sleep for only 5 hours but the phase changed as

and when I stopped thinking about it and completely surrendered myself to the conference.

I was selected for summer school programme in IIM, Ranchi, but I choose to go to Panchgani and when the journey came to the end I realised that I made a correct decision.

I am very grateful to Mrs. Rekha Shahani and trustees of PCGT for allowing me to attend the conference and explore myself deep down, which showed something that belonged to me which I had overlooked in my evolution.



The beauty of the conference - Quiet time

CIVIL DEFENCE WORKSHOP



A rapt audience at the Civil Defence workshop

Public Concern for Governance Trust in collaboration with Civil Defence of Maharashtra conducted disaster management workshops for the students of St. Francis College, Borivali. The workshop included both theoretical as well as practical training. Basics of first aid, rescue operations, fire fighting were taught to the participants. Practical training included CPR, bandages and usage of knots. PCGT's aim in spreading good governance by creating a cadre of young men and women who will respond during flooding or any calamity, was thus achieved.

(Contd. from Page No. 3)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will help village shopkeepers to keep areas clean and not throw their garbage outside the shops. • Take action against illegal parking now onwards and not fear political orders. • Will make change in my nature and behaviour • I have learnt how to maintain relationships and be polite | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will follow this training time table and train police in my Dept. • I will not argue for small trivial matters in office or home. • I will begin my day with prayer and change my behaviour • I will leave bad habit of substance abuse myself and help my other staff too | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will give importance to time and punctuality • Give time to my family • I will talk nicely with my wife not argue • Will plant more trees in my area • Will use 'sorry', 'Thank you' like PCGT in my daily life |
|--|---|---|

KUCHH AUR

As part of the Kuchh Aur programme, a workshop on Recycle/Reuse of old T-shirts was held on 15th April 2019 with Children of the World Trust at their Nerul Center, to make cloth bags and



Recycle Reuse and Reduce - Cotton Bag Activity

reduce use of plastic. The workshop was attended by 45 students studying in grades 5 – 8.

The aim of the workshop was to introduce students to a range of educative and innovative ideas/practices on Arts & Craft related to the 3 Rs, and to inculcate values of team work, unity, respect and proper communication. Thus advocating a holistic and inter disciplinary approach to learning that is not compartmentalized but inter-related. The workshop was intended to reinforce the message that hands-on activities enhance the learning process.

On 18th April 2019, PCGT and “Children of the World” organized small interactive sessions at Kumaram, Worli, and these were conducted by our Chairman Mr. J. F. Ribeiro and Founder Trustee Dr. R. K. Anand. The Topics were about Healthy Habits, to



Youth interaction with PCGT Trustees at Kumaram, Worli

strive for good governance and focus on dreams. In this workshop 15 youth came from Nerul.

On 19th April and 25th April, 2019, workshops on mud activity in Nerul and Rabale communities were organized. In these workshops more than 85 students participated and made mud products. The aim of this activity was to inspire the children to get the feel of and a



MUD ACTIVITY with Nerul Community Children

connection to nature and develop an appreciation for the environment. By providing time outdoors and the chance for muddy, messy play, a love of the earth is fostered.

On 22nd April, 2019 KUCHH AUR



Happiness with own creation

organized another workshop on Art and Craft. In this workshop more than 68 children participated. The objective was to empower children with positive emotional responses to learning through Art and Craft. They understand that they created something, and when you encourage and promote this creativity, your kids enjoy a feeling of self-pride. Arts and crafts are a great way to allow children to express themselves, as children tend

to be very visual about the things that happen around them and in their heads.

COLLABORATING FOR COMPASSION (CFC), May 7 – 11, 2019, Asia Plateau (AP), Panchgani - Ms. Yashasweeta Kokate, Programme Manager, Kuchh Aur, and Ms. Rashna Master, Admin. Manager, attended a 5-day conference organized by Education Today, Society Tomorrow (ETST), on the captioned topic, at AP, Panchgani. The Course Directors were Mr. Arun Wakhlu, Dr. Niloufer Aga and PCGT Trustee Ms. Rekha Shahani. There were 100 participants plus facilitators. The participants were divided into six “Family Groups”, each group headed by a facilitator. The groups were named Love, Mindfulness, Peace, Healing, forgiveness, Joy. The purpose of the conference was to show the participants how they can weave the thread of ‘Compassion’ into the fabric of education. For that, one has to be compassionate to one’s self before they can show it to others. One has to have an inner inspiration for compassion. Early mornings were spent in a variety of ways – a ‘Soul Nurture’ walk to just walk quietly observing the beauty of nature around us, jotting down whatever thoughts came to our mind. One morning we had yoga with pranayam and meditation. The last morning started with multi-faith prayers conducted by Ms. Rekha Shahani.

It was a truly memorable and unforgettable experience where ‘Compassion’ was not only spoken about but felt by just being with each other and the participants learnt that there is more to learning than mere academics.



Collaborating for Compassion ETST, International Conference, Asia Plateau, Panchgani

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

FDA's Action against cigarette sellers near educational institutions, after complaint from Mr. Ribeiro.



PUBLIC CONCERN FOR GOVERNANCE TRUST

Promoting honesty, transparency and accountability in governance



NO. FSSAI/Cigarettes/307/1917
COMMISSIONER
FOOD & DRUGS ADMINISTRATION (M.S.)
 Survey No. 341, Bandra-Kurla Complex,
 Bandra (East), Mumbai -400 051
 Date : March 28, 2019

Trustees :
 J. F. Ribeiro
 Dara Gandhi
 Dr. R. K. Anand
 Prasad Chandran
 Sanjeev Dayal
 S. S. Puri
 M. R. Reddy
 Ms. Rishu Shahani
 Gulam A. Vahanvaty

February 21, 2019

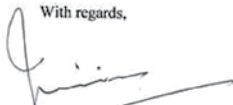
Dr. Pallavi Darade
 Commissioner
 Food And Drug Administration
 FDA Building
 Survey No. 341, 2nd Floor
 Opp. Reserve Bank of India
 Bandra Kurla Complex
 Bandra (East)
 MUMBAI - 400 051

Dear Dr. Darade,

Legally, as per the COTPA Act, it is not permitted for vendors to sell cigarettes within 100 meters of educational institutions. One of our interns has brought to our notice that this requirement is being breached every day around various colleges and even schools. It is being breached outside her college, NMIMS at Vile Parle.

Kindly take appropriate action as required by law.

With regards,


 Julio Ribeiro
 Chairman

To,
 Shri. Julio Ribeiro
 Chairman, Public Concern For Governance Trust
 B/2 Mahalaxmi Chambers,
 22 Bhulabai Desai Road, Breach Candy
 Mumbai 4000 26

Sub : Action under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003

Ref : Your Letter Dated February 21, 2019 regarding Sell of Cigarettes out side NMIMS College Vile parle

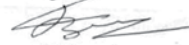
Sir,

This is with reference to your letter dated February 21, 2019, I would like to assure you that as per your letter, action is being initiated against the vendors selling cigarettes within 100 metres of educational institutes, especially NMIMS at Vileparle,

I would also like to bring to your kind attention that as per the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003, there are 21 other authorized officers who are empowered to initiate actions against vendors breaching the law. In the referred case the College Headmaster Principal/ Teacher and Police Officers of the nearest police station are also empowered to take an action against the law breakers.

The list of those 21 Authorised officers is attached herewith for your perusal.

Regards


 (C.B. Pawar)
 Joint Commissioner (Food) HQ
 Food & Drug Administration M.S.
 Mumbai

B/2, Mahalaxmi Chambers, 22, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Next to Mahalaxmi Mandir, Mumbai - 400 026
 Tel. (022) 2352 6426 Telefax: (022) 2352 6452, e-mail: publicconcern@gmail.com, Website: www.pcgt.org

Registered under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950
 Exempted from Income Tax under Section 80-G (5) (VI) of the Income Tax Act, 1961

RTI SESSION 1

On 4th May 2019, Public Concern for Governance Trust organized an RTI session conducted by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi at the S. M. Shetty International School auditorium. Mr. Gandhi is the only RTI activist to be chosen as a Central Information Commissioner. The session was attended by a number of people, mostly senior citizens. Some of them are active RTI users also.



RIGHT TO INFORMATION

RTI SESSION 2

One more RTI session was organized for The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, on Friday, June 28, 2019. Forty personnel of the ranks of Gazetted Officer and Sub-Officer/ Ministerial Staff drawn from various CISF units located in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat & Goa, attended this session. The session was conducted by Mr. D. S. Ranga Rao, a senior RTI Advisor of PCGT.



RTI SUCCESS STORIES

RTI HELPS TO GET CORRECTED MARK-SHEET

The struggle to get corrected mark-sheet of Ms. Arina Pakhare who passed out from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work was finally over. Ms. Pakhare approached PCGT in October 2018 complaining that the Mumbai University did not give her corrected mark-sheet despite her protracted correspondence with them. She was declared failed in two subjects of MSW Semester II. She had applied for revaluation. Then she applied for a copy of the answer sheet of the failed paper. She got it and when she calculated the marks, she found she had passed. She then kept on writing to the University through the college. For 2 years, the varsity did not respond to college letters. Finally, she approached PCGT who assisted her in filing four RTI applications and appeals. Finally, the varsity had to give her the corrected mark-sheet as per the direction of the State Information Commissioner.

END OF FOUR YEAR STRUGGLE WITH THE INTERVENTION OF PCGT THROUGH RTI

Mr. Ramesh Chawla tried in vain to get the licence of his deceased father's shop transferred to his mother's name even after submitting all the documents on a Legal Heir Basis.

Then Mr. Chawla gave a complaint letter on 27/10/2016 acknowledged by Market Dept. of the MCGM but till April, 2018 there was no response to the same. The Market Dept. continued to harass Mr. Chawla on one or the other pretext without transferring the license, or rejecting his application for the same.

Then he approached PCGT for help. With the PCGT's intervention through the RTI process leading to Second Appeal, the Information Commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner of Market Dept. of MCGM for the desirable action, which finally resulted in Mr. Chawla getting what he wanted.



RIGHT TO SERVICE ACT



In pursuance of spreading awareness of the Maharashtra Right to Public Services (RTS) Act 2015, PCGT organized three sessions conducted by Mr. Digvijay Tarte, Programme Executive of PCGT.

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

RTI CLINIC IN PUNE**Pune Municipal Corporation**

Every Friday between 11 a.m. & 2 p.m

For appointments and details :

Call : Mr. Marutirao Sail

Tel : 020-6400 5613

Address : Nagrik Suvidha Kendra
Pune Municipal Corporation
Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411 005

E-mail : pcgt@rediffmail.com

Visit us at : 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.



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

To _____

