

# Public Concern



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

July 2021

## 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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## PCGT THIRD NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT



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

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. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing norms, the NYP was conducted virtually on Zoom.

Nearly 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:

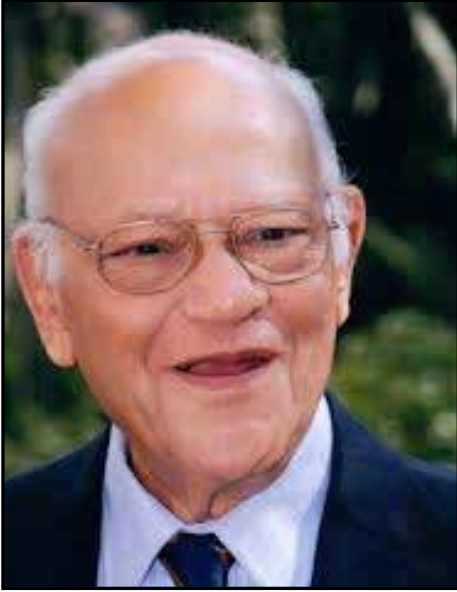
1. Lok Sabha: *Discussing the Union Budget for the Financial Year 2021-2022*
2. Rajya Sabha: *Discussing the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020*
3. Maharashtra Legislative Assembly: *Reviewing Maharashtra's Education Structure in light of the New Education Policy*
4. Press (consisting of reporters in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

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.

*(Contd. on Page No. 8)*

## EDITORIAL



In the six months that have gone by since Mr. V.P. Raja took over as our Chairman, PCGT has seen a big upsurge in its activities. Since Covid restrictions are still in place all interaction with youth, including school-going children, has been on-line. The digital platform has its advantages, though. We can involve many more participants and they could be from all parts of the country.

Our Internship programme has attracted youth from the Jindal Global Law School and students from Engineering and Medical faculties who have their own unique contributions to offer. The group discussions on topical subjects become consequently very lively. The Trustees, too, have participated and shared their experiences with the young girls and boys. Both the young and the old have benefitted! Age is not an impediment to learning!

The emphasis in our Internship programme is on that tool that has been given to the common man to fight corruption – the R.T.I (Right to Information) Act. It has and should inspire all right-thinking citizens to utilize its provisions to assert our rights and the rights of other citizens. The Maharashtra government has in addition enacted a law called the Right to Service, that is what we in PCGT have shortened the long title of the Act to explain what it is all about! A number of services have been covered in the Act. A citizen must get his Birth Certificate or Caste Certificate or Domicile Certificate (students seek this for admission to University) within a specified number of days. If delayed, the official concerned can be punished by his departmental superiors.

The R.T.I and the R.T.S. (in Maharashtra) can conveniently be utilized to get what is due to you without having to pay the ubiquitous bribes to the lower rungs of the bureaucracy. Corruption is a cancer that affects the poor and defenceless. PCGT works to empower our interns to use the tools available to help themselves and also others.

Our Associate of more than a decade, Ranga Rao, a former I.B. (Intelligence Bureau) operative is passionate about teaching our

youth to use these tools. He takes them through the paces, not only the bare texts of the law but also its practical application in the one month that the young people remain with us. After they depart, Ranga Rao keeps in touch with the Interns through a Data Bank he has devised for the purpose. Ranga Rao and PCGT measure our success by the interest the Interns continue to take in our work.

A couple of old interns actually joined our staff. They brought it new ideas, new projects and a new enthusiasm that was contagious! Our Leadership programme, our Youth Parliament programme, our Campus Ambassadors programme were all designed and implemented by one such Intern. These programmes have spread the message of the PCGT to most campuses in the city and even beyond the City to other States of the country.

Our next project is to acquaint our youth in Schools and Colleges with the salient features of our Constitution, particularly the Preamble and the Basic Rights of every citizen, irrespective of religion, caste, sex, economic status and the language he or she speaks. I shall write about this project in the next newsletter.

– Julio Ribeiro

## YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

### Events / Projects in Chronological order:

#### April 2021:

1. As April 2021 was celebrated as 'Sexual Assault Awareness Month', the interns in this month did a project regarding the authorities which you can approach in case of sexual assault and child sexual abuse. It was named "Project Awaz Uthao". The interns in the YFG sessions had a detailed learning on the difference between Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment and they also created awareness about raising voice against the same in their respective families.
2. A webinar on the topic- "Cyber Safety" was conducted on 24th April, 2021 in association with Thadomal Shahani Engineering College, Mumbai. We were honoured by Dr. Ashok Bagul, Senior Police Inspector, Cyber Cell, Nagpur City being the Chief Guest. The webinar was attended by 270 participants. This webinar gave the Engineering students an insight that their knowledge of computers can be used to assist the Police in solving Cyber-crimes by becoming "Cyber-Praharis."



#### May 2021:

1. A webinar on topic- "Cyber-crime against women and children" was conducted on 1st May, 2021, in association with Rizvi College of Education, Mumbai. The speaker of the Webinar was Dr. Ashok Bagul, Senior Police Inspector,

Cyber Cell, and Nagpur City. It was attended by 177 participants. The Speaker gave a brief idea about the complaint filing mechanism and the precautions that should be taken by the women while being on social media. He also focused on how parents should keep a check on the use of technology by kids.

2. As our country was witnessing the second wave of Covid-19, a team of interns worked on the project in which they tried to address the problems of capping ambulance prices and creating awareness on the mechanism established by authorities for allocation of beds in hospitals. They also focused on the guidelines given by the Central Government for capping the prices of Remedisivir Injection. The second team of Interns researched on Gender Biased laws and the loopholes in the Transgender Act, 2019. In the social media campaign they created awareness about the pronouns that should be used while addressing the third gender.

#### June 2021:

1. The campus ambassadors from V.K. Krishna Menon College, Bhandup, came up with the idea of conducting Poster making



Competition and Essay writing competition. On 4th June, the Poster making competition was held on the occasion of International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. The students were asked to make posters on "Child Safety." The school kids expressed their views about child marriage, child labour with colours and slogans.

2. Essay writing competition was held on 5th June, 2021 on occasion of World Environment Day on the topic - "Protecting Forests". As the competition was conducted in two age groups, Vibhuti Singh and Sanskriti Patidar were the winners of their respective groups.



3. A webinar was conducted on 4th April, in association with V.K. Krishna Menon College, on the topic "Child Rights-Victims of Aggression and War. This webinar was conducted by Ms. Sonali Shelar who emphasised on the role played by adults in child safety. She made the participants realise that child safety is not only a child's matter



(Contd. on Page No. 6)

## KUCHH AUR

**V**alues guide our behavior in all aspects of our life, including our home, work and social life. They guide our beliefs, attitudes and behaviour.

The online Kuchh Aur sessions were once again appreciated by the schools and communities. There were sessions throughout April to June on daily basis. Three batches of PCGT interns joined the Kuchh Aur team during this period. Some of the values that the students were exposed to were Relationship, Forgiveness, Honesty, Compassion, Love, Respect, Curiosity, Health, Hygiene, Hope, Unique You, Etiquettes, Empathy, Kindness, Environment, Humanity and Perseverance. During this period we conducted 49 sessions in which 25 were with community and 24 with schools. 2000 students have been reached through these sessions.

In collaboration with LIFE Foundation, sessions were taken with the students of Nirmala Niketan pursuing Bachelors and Masters in Social Work.

The schools that took part in the Kuchh Aur sessions were :

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vididhalakshi Vidyalaya, Dr. Mohammed Ishaq Jamkhanawala Girls High School, Purshottam High School, Podar International (SSC Section), Pragnya Bodhini High School, SM Shetty School, Powai.

A special series of sessions were held for students of **Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhania School**. We thank Mrs. Mangalam Narayanan for these sessions.

### Community Work

Values are the engine that gives human beings the motivation to take part in a process of continuous improvement. The Community of Children of the World in Rabale, Nerul and Jui Nagar took part in the Kuchh Aur sessions.

### Interns

The interns from various colleges are from different streams of academics. The online sessions have made the world a smaller platform to connect with each other. We had an intern from Oman who was in the III Year MBBS at the D. Y. Patil Medical College, Pune.

Every Intern prepared a presentation on the value close to their heart. These values were then presented to the students who attended the Kuchh Aur sessions. Some of the presentations made by the Interns were on Religious Harmony, Peace, Curiosity, Poise, Trustworthiness, Recognition, Reputation, Optimism, Learning, Success, Balance, Health and Hygiene.

While doing the session on Health and Hygiene, the focus was on physical, mental, emotional and social hygiene too. It was observed that while attending a particular session, siblings and parents of the students too joined in. This helped in clear communication, listening to different opinions and views of adults as well as the youth. We encouraged them to individually and collectively make decisions based on their social or cultural values.

### INTERNS SPEAK / 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

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Value based learning is a subject that often gets left behind in our primary school; however, little do we realize that these values continue to be an integral part of our lives. The Kuchh Aur sessions precisely teach us this - values that we must imbibe and practice throughout our lives, that would positively affect us and others around us. It teaches us the importance of knowing oneself and the joy of living, among many other thought provoking ideas. Through the thoughts, experiences and stories shared among each other, we learn an endless list of values. One of my most memorable sessions was where we had to share an important anecdote of our lives, which proved to be a great learning experience for me. The Kuchh Aur sessions provide a safe platform to express oneself, and have helped shape my personality. The sessions are fun, exuberating and something I really enjoy and look forward to attending.

**- Mansi Subramaniam**

Gujarat National Law University

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Session held with Nerul Community students in April 2021

## KUCHH AUR

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

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The Kuchh Aur sessions have fostered in me a sense of honesty and integrity, because we get that freedom and comfort to tell others our truth in a place where no one judges us. Only when we are truthful to ourselves, can we actually bring about a change in others. Even though our internship duration is just one month, I know it's not ending here because the values and learnings I have learnt will stay with me for life.

**- Kashish Gupta**  
Jindal Global Law School

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The Kuchh Aur sessions are delineation of integrity, values, ethics, trust, and quality. As a budding professional it taught me never to waive from the ethics and code of conduct. The values served in these sessions are a foundation of the culture in PCGT (Public Concern for Governance Trust) and ensure accomplishment of the mission - To improve the quality of life of the communities and serve globally through value creation based on Leadership with Trust.

The Kuchh Aur program has a deliberate focus on driving people to excellence and building capabilities for a fulfilled life. The aim is to foster

a culture of values wherein the interns feel excited and motivated to share their creative ideas to implement in their lives. Our mentor, Mrs. Rekha Shahani, has an unwavering commitment towards humanitarian values, voluntary participation and engagement. She believes in building fun filled culture that boasts positive energy and a vibrant environment.

**- Manshaa Nagpaal**  
Jindal Global Law School

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The essence of "Kuchh Aur" sessions was to motivate us to continuously look for "kuchh aur" in our lives and become successful. The sessions were full of creativity, curiosity and civility. The smiles of children from lower income communities after listening to stories gave so much warmth to our hearts. The life and value experiences of mentors and fellow interns broadened our perspective towards life and community service. Upward, onward and forward were my key lessons from KA. Keep spreading love and happiness, KA!

**- Shashwat Dubey**  
Jindal Global Law School

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First of all I would like to thank you for giving me such a learning experience, learning with you was so much fun.

Key takeaways from the Kuchh Aur sessions are : I learnt so many values which I used to encounter in my day to day life but always failed to recognize and value it. Sessions of Kuchh Aur taught me about the importance of the value of acceptance, prayer, smile, joy of living and the joy of giving, value of money, self-love, being non-judgemental, value of sacrifice, belief and many more.

Moreover, I learn two principles which drew my attention the most.

The first one was -

CCD - Connection, Correction, Direction

The second was -

STOP - Smile, Time, Optimism and Pause.

Thank you so much Ma'am for everything. It was a wonderful experience for me to interact with such a great personality like you. I really hope someday we could meet in person.

Thanks

**- Bhavya Jha**  
NMIMS

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Students of Nirmala Niketan of BSW & MSW in collaboration with LIFE Foundation

# KUCHH AUR



Mrs. Rekha Shahani's Session with Interns and Schools



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



Session with Std. IX, Purushottam High School



Session with Interns



Short Moral Story on Importance of Learning



Inner Peace



(Contd. from Page No. 3)

but it is rather the matter that should be taken care of by the adult brothers and sisters or uncles and aunts along with the parents.

- The Interns in June are working on the project on 'Manual Scavenging'. They researched on important provisions of the 'Prohibition of employment as Manual Scavengers and Their

Rehabilitation Act, 2013', the loopholes in the act, the available data on deaths due to manual scavenging, the works done by machines and robots and the way in which other countries have tackled this issue. They did a social media campaign regarding all the above mentioned points and thus spread awareness about the complaint mechanism in which

the citizens can approach the Municipal authorities and not the middle men who engage the manual scavengers. The interns also created awareness in the societies where they are residing so that whenever they need to clean the society's sewage tank or the gutters, they can contact the municipalities and not the middle men.

## PCGT WEBINARS

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

Description of the Event	Date	Speaker(s)
Webinar on Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant	April 5, 2021	Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT)
Webinar on India's Role in Current Geopolitics	April 5, 2021	Mr. Sameer Patil (Fellow, International Security Studies, Gateway House)
Webinar on 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)
Webinar on 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)
Webinar on 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)
Webinar on 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)
Webinar on Hybrid Virtual Courts - Conclusion and Suggestions	June 7, 2021	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. K. Thakker (Former Judge, Supreme Court of India), Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalpesh Jhaveri (Former Chief Justice, Odisha High Court), Hon'ble Mr. Justice DPS Chauhan (Former Chief Justice, Madhya Pradesh High Court), Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Lochan Mehrotra (Former Judge, Allahabad High Court), Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. G. Karia (Former Judge, Gujarat High Court), Hon'ble Judge Chandralal Meshram (Former District Judge, Maharashtra), Hon'ble Judge Kaushik Bhatt (Former District Judge, Gujarat), Hon'ble Judge K B Rathod (Former District Judge, Gujarat), Hon'ble Judge T K Gurnani (Former District Judge, Gujarat), Dr. Ameer Yajnik (Advocate and Social Activist), 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)



Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) C. K. Thakkar expressing his views on e-Courts on May 16, 2021



Mr. V. P. Raja talking about the Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant on April 5, 2021

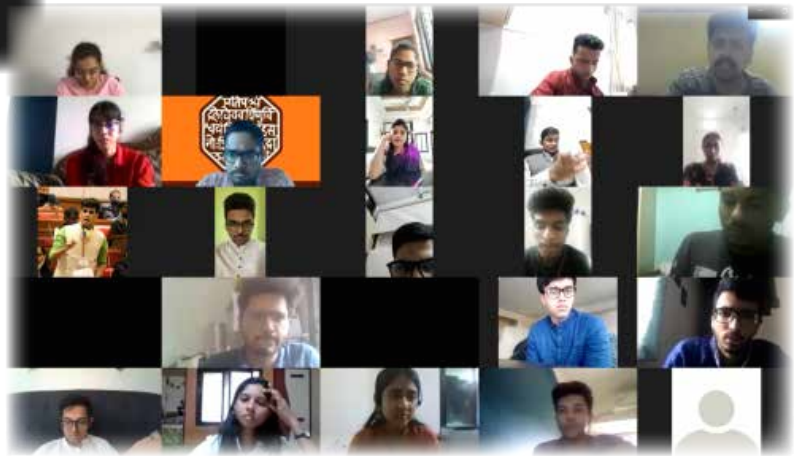


Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Kalpesh Jhaveri talking about Access to Justice for Prisoners on May 22, 2021

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Group Photograph with the Chief Guest of NYP 2021



Participants in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly – one of the five mock committees simulated at NYP 2021

### 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

### 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.pcgto.org](http://www.pcgto.org)



### 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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