

# Public Concern



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

July 2022

## 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 CONCLAVE ON GLOBAL PEACE & SECURITY



*Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya delivering the Keynote Address at the Closing Ceremony*

**W**e, at PCGT, strive to promote good governance, Sadbhavna in citizens and ethical values amongst the youth. In furtherance to this vision, PCGT, in association with SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law (PGCL), organized the second edition of the Conclave on April 9 and 10, 2022. The theme for the Conclave this year was "Global Peace and Security", which is also the foundational principle of the UN Charter. With recent instances of aggression and terror across the globe, it is important to restore faith of the people in the said principle and to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war and aggression.

The Conclave was organized virtually on Zoom platform with the assistance of the Lead Ambassadors (LAs) and the Campus Ambassadors (CAs) of PCGT. The Conclave hosted around 250 attendees over the course of two days through a variety of events like Dialogue, Model UN and Open Mic, on various aspects and sub-themes arising out of Global Peace and Security - ranging from lessons from the past to its relevance in the current times.

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## EDITORIAL



**W**e are living in interesting times. The very Idea of India – what kind of India do we want our children and grandchildren to live in - is being fiercely debated. A quote of Charles Dickens in his “A Tale of Two Cities” comes to mind. It seems so true today too. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair”. The main-stream media (both electronic and print) is full of vain wrangling by many minds each claiming exclusiveness that their viewpoint is the only correct one. How one wishes that humankind grows a little more modest, wiser and tolerant.

In these interesting times, PCGT, which has just completed 20 years since it was founded continues to strive for Good Governance by promoting honesty, transparency and accountability through its three verticals, Youth for Governance (YFG), Kuchh Aur and Right to Information.

During the current quarter two of our Staffers left PCGT to pursue their respective chosen fields of calling. Ms. Ruchi Bhagat our Project Manager (YFG) got selected for the post of Judicial Magistrate – First Class through the competitive examinations conducted by the Maharashtra Public Service Commission. She also got married in May 2022. We will remember her, in particular, for thinking about, planning and executing the Constitutional Literacy Programme. Another member of our YFG team Mr. Raj Barchha took a lot of personal interest in studying the plight of Manual Scavengers in the Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation area. He has decided to pursue his field – namely tourism and hospitality which has now re-opened after facing a near total shutdown during the last two years because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We wish both Ms. Ruchi Bhagat and Mr. Raj Barchha all the very best in their future.

One of the highlights of this quarter was the two day Conclave on “Global Peace and Security” organized by the Lead Ambassadors of PCGT in collaboration with Pravin Gandhi College of Law. The Lead ambassadors and the Campus

Ambassador of PCGT for the year 2021-2022 completed their assignments and were felicitated on 29th June 2022. The various events conducted for school children by our Kuchh Aur vertical continued to be well appreciated by the student community thanks to the deep involvement of Mrs. Rekha Shahani our Trustee in charge of the Kuchh Aur programme.

Our PCGT web-site has now been re-designed. A “Donate” button has also been provided in the web-site to enable our well-wishers and others who believe in our Vision to contribute monetarily to enable us to re-double our efforts. A special thanks to Mr. Rajesh Desai, our Trustee (Finance and Accounts) who played a major part in getting a “donate” button added to our web-site.

The Serenity Prayer inspires all of us in the PCGT family to continue working keeping our Vision as the Pole Star.

‘God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference’.

**– V. P. Raja**

## KUCHH AUR

***“Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behavior. Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny!” - Mahatma Gandhi***

People learn most of their values in the early years of their life from those they see around them. Children absorb these values from their parents and teachers. Families and educators play a crucial role in building values in children and students as they see them as role models. PCGT's Kuchh Aur programme held sessions on different values in schools and communities.



Session at Purshottam High School

Sessions on Compassion, Acceptance, Value of money were held at the Rabale Community for children in the age group of 7-9. Compassion and Acceptance - Acceptance of the reality of the working situation is always the first step towards being able to affect change. The session on value for money, an essential commodity that helps run our lives and how its



Session at Pragnya Bodhini High School conducted by Mrs. Asha Varma

value can last a long time with the right practices, was explained to the children.

A video on why we celebrate Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti and Mahavir Jayanti was shown to the school Ambassadors. Their journey from childhood till their death was presented and Values of their lives, how it can be put in practice in our day to day lives and what one could learn from them were discussed.

The definition of identity as in who we are, the way you think about ourselves, the way we are viewed by the world and the characteristics that define us was discussed with the children. An example of identity in a person's name which is continuity till the person is alive and the different types of identities like family identity, social identity, were explained to the children.

The five leading characteristics of adolescence, biological growth and development, an undefined status, increased decision making, increased pressures and the search for self were discussed in the community for the teenagers. Examples of each of the characteristics were explained by Mrs. Asha Varma.

A Two days session on Acceptance & Appreciation was held with 131 students of Anjuman Islam Dr. Mohammed Ishaq Jamkhanwala Girls High School.



Session at Anjuman Islam School, Bandra

Teachers Training Session with the community teachers on the topic Handling Children with Care was done at the Children of the World Center where 25 teachers from Nerul and Rabale attended.

Kuchh Aur continued its sessions during the summer holidays with a lot



Mrs. Asha Varma conducting a group activity with teachers at Rabale Community

of fun and learning in the communities in Rabale and Nerul. Mrs. Asha Varma an Educationist conducted workshops in the communities on Friendship, Peer Pressure, Effective Parenting, Parents on parenting teens and Stress Control with the children and parents. An activity called “Let's Talk About Our Best Friend” was done by her where they had to talk about their best friend. Students shared the positive side of their friendship. She explained to the students how friendships has a huge impact on our mental health and happiness. The activity also had students to write points on what kind of qualities would they look for in a friend. Majority of the students expressed that they had friends who were caring understanding and compassionate and they provided a lot of comfort and joy. Mrs. Varma built up the discussion on “Who is a true friend” and explained qualities of a true friend who would be real, honest, a good listener, and a friend who is willing to work through conflicts. The workshop on peer pressure was conducted for teenagers in the community. Mrs. Varma explained the positive and the negative of peer pressure. She conducted an activity for the students to help them bond. She explained the strategies on how to handle negative peer pressure by paying attention to how you feel, she encouraged students to talk to the person who is pressuring and let him or her know how it makes you feel. On the positive note she advised to have friends with similar values and beliefs.

Parents from the community were invited to attend Effective Parenting a workshop organized by Kuchh Aur. It was a very interactive session where Mrs. Varma engaged the parents in the myth of parenting in daily life. She

## KUCHH AUR

explained Effective Parenting was all about boosting your child's self-esteem. Making time for your kids was very important and limits need to be consistent with disciplining the child. The Main tool in parenting was communication and unconditional love.

Stress Control was another session conducted in the community. The importance and benefits of stress was covered and how the inner voice of Connection Correction and Direction is very important for stress and how it can affect our physical, emotion and health

Movies were shown to the children in the communities which were fun and would have a social and positive impact on their young minds.

We are indeed thankful to Mrs. Asha Varma for conducting the sessions



Session conducted by Mrs. Asha Varma

**“For Many Women, Becoming A Widow Does Not Just Mean The Heart Ache of Losing A Husband, But Often Losing Everything As Well – Cherie Blair”**

International Widows' Day which falls on 23rd June was commemorated and discussed with the interns. The Challenges faced by widows, how to safeguard and advance their rights, what we as individuals can do in our family and society was beautifully shared by the interns.



Mrs. Rekha Shahani conducting session On International Widows' Day

## INTERNS SHARE



Some June interns at PCGT Office with Mrs. Rekha Shahani

**Iram Shaikh – DY Patil College of Law, Nerul**

Initially I had no idea about the “Kuchh Aur” vertical of the internship. During my first session with Kuchh Aur I found it very strange but interesting, because I never witnessed any internship programme adopting this kind of an initiative. But as I held a grasp of the drive I started to enjoy the sessions. The way Kuchh Aur is operating is commendable. The basic belief of the Kuchh Aur Initiative to conduct interactive convention as to instill moral values in children to help them in evolving and developing courage, compassion and selflessness is honorable.

I got a chance to interact with the children and I felt so blessed. The way Kuchh Aur approaches and serves these children is of noble birth. The sentiment of connecting with the less privileged, interacting with them, teaching them, and learning from them fairly is what struck me. The opportunity I got from PCGT through Kuchh Aur is something I am very thankful for.

The way they have been working and dedicating their heart and soul to the initiative is commendable. I feel at home whenever I attend the Kuchh Aur sessions.

**Mahim Raval –Gujarat National Law University**

The biggest takeaway for me from these sessions is that they stopped me from looking at extrinsic motivation and peace. I realized that whenever we falter, we need to look inside. Whenever we find ourselves in ethical dilemmas, we need to listen to our inner conscience and it will definitely give us the right answer. The interaction with the community children

helped me to develop empathy and motivated me to work for society. Overall all these sessions inspired me to think and work for society at large.

**Mosam Patel – Pravin Gandhi College Of Law**

The idea of the Kuchh Aur sessions is to inculcate values amongst the students and youth so that they become better citizens of the country.

Kuchh Aur sessions conducted by PCGT not only have helped the community students inculcate the values of Harmony, Sadbhavna, Friendship and Honesty but also have taught me the idea of treating every individual with respect.

These sessions have undoubtedly made me realize one of the most important values which every citizen should have - The value of ACCEPTANCE. We live in a society with numerous inequalities instilled in every sector, hence it is very important to accept people as they are in order to balance the harmony of the environment where we live.

# PCGT CONCLAVE ON GLOBAL PEACE & SECURITY

(Contd. from Page No. 1)

The Conclave started off with Opening Remarks by Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT) and a Dialogue on “Cyber Security and Surveillance : Emerging Trends” with Mr. Nandkumar Saravade (Former CEO, ReBIT, IPS Retd.) as the panellist and Ms. Vrushali Ubale (Lead Ambassador) as the Moderator. This was followed by the first and second sessions of the Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, a simulation of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Around 30 delegates participated in the MUN from colleges across the country and deliberated upon the agenda “Freedom of Speech and Expression with special emphasis on Custodial Violence”.

The first day of the Conclave concluded with the Open Mic, which was an offline event held at the Bombay Portico, Thane West. This event gave an opportunity to students to express their talent through poetry, songs, stand-up act etc.

On the second day, that is April 10, 2022, the MUN resumed with its third and fourth session. The Committee debated upon various sub-topics under Custodial Violence along with reasonable restrictions imposed on free speech and expression. This was followed by the Closing Ceremony. We were honoured to have Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhaya (Former Indian

Ambassador to Syria, Afghanistan, and Myanmar) as the Chief Guest of the Conclave. Mr. Mukhopadhaya delivered the keynote address on “Russia-Ukraine Crisis and the Changing Global Order” at the Closing Ceremony and Mr. Raja announced the winners of the two-day MUN and delivered the Concluding Remarks. The Conclave therefore not only honed the leadership and communication skills of the LAs and the CAs, but it also instilled the value of Sadbhavna in citizens and ethical values in the youth by making them participate in a variety of events under the broad theme of the Conclave viz. Global Peace and Security.



Closing Ceremony Group Photograph with the Chief Guest (First Row extreme left)



Dialogue on “Cyber Security and Surveillance: Emerging Trends” by Mr. Nandkumar Saravade (Former CEO, ReBIT, IPS Retd.)



Model UN Day 1



Model UN Day 2

Open Mic



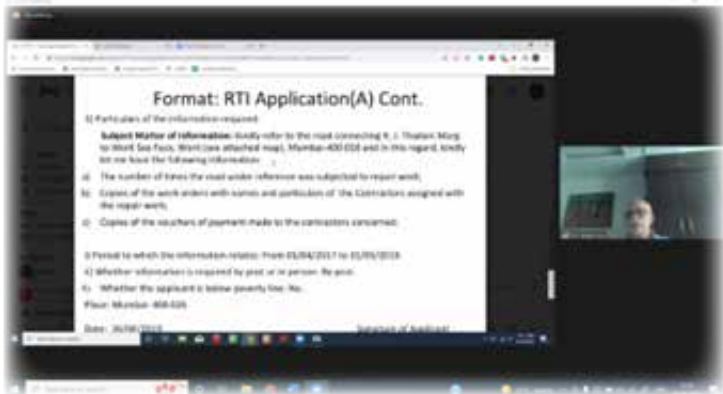
# RTI AND PIL WORKSHOPS AND DRAFTING COMPETITION

In the month of June, PCGT collaborated with the Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad (SLSH) to conduct workshops as well as a competition on drafting Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and Right to Information (RTI). Both the workshops were conducted on 10th June, 2022, followed by a competition on PIL and RTI drafting on 12th June, 2022. The results of the said competition were announced on 27th June, 2022.

The RTI workshop was conducted on 10th June, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. by Mr. D. S. Ranga Rao. The PIL workshop was conducted on the same day from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia. Both the workshops were conducted virtually and witnessed participation of nearly 200 students. Mr. Ranga Rao and Mr. Kakadia drafted problems for RTI and PIL drafting competitions and also adjudicated the winners of

the said competitions, out of the top 7 entries received from SLSH.

PCGT's aim to reinforce its objective of dispensing information and increasing public participation towards ensuring good governance, was met through this event. We congratulate each and every participant for their zeal and enthusiasm in attending the workshops and drafting the RTI & PIL applications.



RTI Workshop conducted by Mr. D S Ranga Rao



PIL Workshop conducted by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia

# POCSO WEBINARS

PCGT in association with the NSS Unit of Thakur College of Engineering & Technology (TCET), Kandivli, organized two webinars on the POCSO Act in the month of April, for the NSS Volunteers at TCET.

The first webinar was held on Sunday, April 3, 2022, and was introductory in

nature. The webinar was delivered by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia, wherein he gave a background and brief legislative history of the POCSO Act and explained the nature and scope of child sexual offences. Due to the encouraging feedback received from the attendees, a second webinar was organized on 9th April, 2022 and it was

titled "Offences and Proceedings under the POCSO Act". In this webinar Adv. Kakadia discussed various provisions of the POCSO Act along with case laws to explain its applicability. A total of 150 volunteers attended the two webinars and got an insight into the law governing the protection of children from sexual offences.



POCSO Webinar by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia on 3rd April 2022



POCSO Webinar on 9th April 2022

## FELICITATION CEREMONY OF PCGT LEAD AMBASSADORS AND CAMPUS AMBASSADORS 2021-22

PCGT organized a Virtual Felicitation Ceremony on 29th June, 2022, for the Lead Ambassadors (LAs) and Campus Ambassadors (CAs) who successfully completed their duties for the year 2021-22.

The programme started with a session by Chairman Mr. V. P. Raja on "Managing Interpersonal Relations in the New Normal", and was attended by the LAs, CAs and the members of the Organizing Committee of PCGT National Youth Parliament 2022 (NYP). Mr. Raja discussed various skills that the youth can develop and he also guided the attendees about concepts like SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threat) and transactional analysis.

After the session, Mr. Raja felicitated the LAs (Ms. Bianca Chettiar, Ms. Dimple Jangid, Mr. Shlok Mishra, Mr. Tanmay Patil and Ms. Vrushali Ubale) and CAs. The LAs and CAs also shared their experience of working with

PCGT. Thereafter, the NYP Organizing Committee Meeting took place which was presided by Ms. Bianca Chettiar (President) and Ms. Rachna Verma (Vice President).



*Mr. Raja addressing the CAs, LAs and NYP team on "Managing Interpersonal Relations in the New Normal"*

## CHILD SAFETY

Adv. Sonali Shelar, women and child rights activist, was invited to speak to interns of the June 2022 batch about child safety, related laws and their implementation.

The lecture series divided into 2 parts was conducted on 7th June and 28th June, 2022. In the lecture, Adv. Shelar gave the interns a detailed understanding of the POCSO Act, 2019, the UNCRC Charter of 1989, problems in implementing child safety laws in India and capital punishment and the deterrent theory of punishment. The recent judgement by the Supreme Court regarding

capital punishment in the rape case of an 8-year-old disabled minor by a 28-year-old man was discussed to understand the implications of capital punishment on other victims and society. The lectures also included the protocols that the stakeholders such as Police, public prosecutors, judges, etc. have to follow.

### Interns' review about the Child Safety lecture series:

- "I learnt that it is compulsory for reporting crimes against children and if it is not reported then the person will be penalized. We

learnt how the police officer will follow up on a tip before filing a complaint against the particular person against whom the complaint arrived. We also learnt about the right to be forgotten". - Mr. Ansh Sharma, Pravin Gandhi College of Law

- "One of my most favorite sessions, they were very interactive - Simple, Understandable and Effortless method of discussion" - Ms. Iram Rizwan Shaikh, Dr.D.Y. Patil College of Law, Nerul

## SESSION ON RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Adv. Shelar conducted two sessions with interns on Responsible Citizenship and the laws that allow you to take action on your own on 14th June 2022. In the session, interns learned about what responsible citizenship looks like, what it means to be socially active and sound and how they can take control of social issues. She spoke about the work of Youth for Governance and how

it is the best place for young adults to make the difference that they want to see in the world. As somebody who has done extensive work under YFG, she was able to help the interns understand how impactful the power of the energy of the youth combined with the experience of the PCGT trustees, can be. Adv. Shelar informed the interns about the extensive work on eradicating manual scavenging that was done by the YFG team of PCGT.

### Interns' review

"I learned about the importance of being aware of our constitutional rights and taking active part in determining our ends, to be responsible and enquire into issues of concern in the society and to read and write more about legal and human rights issues and violations prevalent in our society." - Ms. Shyama Singh, Gujarat National Law University.

# LECTURE ON IDENTIFYING VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND TOOLS TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

A session on Identifying Violation of Constitutional Rights and Tools to Fight Discrimination was conducted on 21st June 2022. The interns learned the importance of implementing the spirit of the Constitutional values in their everyday lives and how they can question the authority for the welfare of the public. In order to explain this, Adv. Shelar conducted an extensive discussion of recent judgements on the issue. She also gave the interns a real-

time research assignment on RBI's decision to not allow pregnant women from joining government jobs after 12 weeks of pregnancy, that helped them understand that legislations and orders that don't follow the core values of the Constitution of India have no place in an independent India.

### Intern review on the session:

- "I learned about identifying human rights violations and

the constitutional and legal tools to fight the same. I also researched the validity of the latest RBI decision to disallow pregnant women from joining service post 12 weeks of pregnancy. We found out the applicable legislations and the cases that helped us clear our understanding regarding the validity of this new RBI rule."

### The POCSO Act

POCSO Act was enacted as an affirmative action in favour of children.

The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age.

It is a gender neutral legislation.

It aims to protect the children against offences like sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and pornography.

It was formed to provide a child-friendly system for trial under which the perpetrators could be punished.

It also makes provisions for avoiding the re-victimisation of the child at the hands of the judicial system.



## SOME FEEDBACKS FROM EX-INTERNS

**A**n email was sent to PCGT ex-interns, supporters and admirers for their feedback on their welfare and career progression :

Responses from some of the ex-interns are reproduced below :

### 1. Andrew Dantis

Dear Sir,

Good morning.

So happy to receive your personal message. I'm doing well. Thank you for your wishes and regards.

I learnt a lot from PCGT while I was interning as a student of Social Work. In the course of my work I realised the importance of studying Law. Though I run Pahunch (a social work organization) I am also studying Law. The experience has been amazing. I wish to remain associated with PCGT even more now if I get an opportunity as a law intern.

Thank you so much for your inspiration all through. Because of you I got in touch with Ana and we could do so much for the migrants during Covid.

PCGT makes a difference in society and I wish you well.

Thank you

Andrew Dantis

### 2. Haryashwa Singh Thakore

Dear Rao Sir,

It fills my heart with joy to receive your email, and I hope you are doing well.

I am doing fine, and I am currently about to enter the 4th year of the 5-year law course at Government Law College (GLC), Mumbai.

It's been almost two years since I interned with your esteemed organization, and there has been no looking back since then. PCGT has been a foundational stepping stone to my career and I still remember the

invaluable lessons that you taught my batch of interns. I have very fond memories of our virtual RTI learning sessions and I share your anecdotes with fellow PCGT interns whom I come across. To anyone that I speak to – everyone remembers, especially you, Ribeiro Sir and V. P. Raja Sir. Whenever I see PCGT's name and get to know about the splendid work taken by the organization I feel proud and nostalgic.

Speaking about an extra-curricular activity, currently, I am the Assistant General Secretary of the Placement Committee of my college and will be retiring in 10 days. Also, I have interned at places and soon will be taking a physical internship at a firm called Veyrah Law at Nariman Point, Mumbai. Kindly let me know if I can meet you someday or if I can be of any help.

Again, thank you for checking on us and I have you in my prayers the same way you would have us.

With love and warm regards,

Haryashwa Singh Thakore

### 3. Avneesh Bharati

Dear Sir,

Everything is fine with me. Firstly, I thank you for kind words of recollection. I will never forget you. You are my mentor who taught me to stand as an informed law abiding citizen and work for the poor and marginalized. The days which I have spent with you at PCGT are a golden part of my memory. I am currently practicing at High Court of Judicature at Allahabad but I don't find the spirit of you in lawyers having more than 25 years experience. I remember you all – Ribeiro Sir, Anand Sir, Mr. Gandhi, Ex-Chief of ACB, Rashna Ma'am, Rekha Ma'am and all other staff members. I rarely find the team spirit of PCGT here. Sometimes I think if I were with you how much good things I would

have done and got. There is an activist in me from my childhood, you made that activated. I filed many cases to stop the harassment by police in my locality. I made Vice Chancellor and Registrar of Central accountable to law and to the Government of India and many more. All these came to me with your mentorship, love and support. I want to spend time with you all especially you but time doesn't allow me. After completing LLM from TISS, Mumbai, I got enrolled with State Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad, and preparing for judiciary also. I tried to get admission abroad for another LLM but failed due to poor background. Currently I am in search of a good senior lawyer so that I can do well in legal profession and earn good livelihood too. If you help it will be quite beneficial to me.

I hope you all are well and doing well. I pray for your good health and long life.

Thanking you for your recollection again.

Regards,

Avneesh Bharati

### 4. Siddharth A. Arora

Greetings of the day !!

Respected Sir,

"Once in heart stays always", that's what PCGT and its values have meant for me. I hope you and the entire team are doing well, specifically hope sir that your health is improving after that bank episode.

After completing my law in August 2021, I took a break to spend time with family. Then in October I joined a law firm in Chandigarh as a Junior Legal Associate. In Feb. 2022 I quit the job and started working as an Immigration Consultant particularly study visas and international admissions in Chandigarh.

Regards,

Siddharth

## SOME FEEDBACKS FROM EX-INTERNS

### Feedback on PCGT Documentary by June 2022 Intern Ms. Kajal Bang

I'd like to give a brief introduction of myself before I begin writing my thoughts. I'm Kajal Bang, a first-year student from Jindal Global Law School. My first week of offline classes astonished me. My classmates' viewpoints on law and values being ultra vires, their comfort in breaking laws, and their belief that it was their duty to only help their clients win, regardless of what was right or wrong, astonished me. It made me reconsider my decision to pursue a career in law. When I first saw the video, these were the first thoughts that came to mind. It reminded me that there are still people in the world who are willing to work for the greater good. PCGT inspires me because of the faith it has in human values and the steps it is willing to take to uphold them and to make the society a better place for each one of us. The road they travel is not easy, as evidenced by the video, and their perseverance is commendable. It ultimately taught me that even if the path you choose is difficult, you are never alone. There are always people to guide you, and I am excited to learn new things from this internship and to form a life-long association with PCGT.

### Feedback by Ex-Intern Vedant Tiwari on his Internship with Madhya Pradesh State Information Commission, Bhopal

I joined the Madhya Pradesh State Information Commission, Bhopal on June 3, 2022, and since then, in one month, I have carried out work of varied kinds. I worked in providing administrative assistance like arranging the files of past years & paging, flagging and numbering them; provided adjudicative assistance like reading case files fixed for hearing, making case briefs and drafting orders post-hearings. I assisted Shri Rahul Sir during hearings and observed the method of adjudication. The skills exhibited therein by Sir, in the passing of orders were the most rewarding, learning and fruitful experience.

For most of my time in the commission, I was occupied with the allotted Writ Petitions. While drafting replies for the Writ Petitions, I started with conducting in-depth research on the points of law and facts involved. Post which, I strived to discuss every reply with Shri Rahul Sir to understand the stance of the Information Commission to be presented before the Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh High Court. After about 2-3 draft corrections, my replies were approved.

I cherished attending the calls on the Grievances Redressal Desk. I would receive calls from different parts of the country, ranging from Haryana to West Bengal. I addressed questions posed by RTI applicants, First Appellate Authorities and Public Information Officers who usually enquired about the process prescribed under the RTI Act, 2005. Resolving the queries and problems of the callers in real-time gave me a special sense of satisfaction.

I reminisce the time when I accompanied Shri Rahul Sir for his live interview with the Doordarshan News, Madhya Pradesh. I was asked by the team to sit in the programming room and verify the validity of the questions asked by the callers on live TV before forwarding them to Shri Rahul Sir in the interview. It was the first time when I was a part of such an environment. That day I explored how a live televised interview is conducted and it was surely a learning experience.

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



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