

Public Concern

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

October 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 NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2022



Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. S. Patel addressing the audience at the Closing Ceremony of NYP 2022

The fourth edition of the National Youth Parliament (NYP) was organized by PCGT in association with Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai (PGCL) in online mode on July 30 and 31, 2022.

Nearly 200 students from across the country participated in NYP 2022 in six mock committees, making it the largest edition so far. The theme of NYP 2022 was set as “*Youth For Progressive India*” and the mock committees that were simulated and agendas discussed in each committee are as follows:

- ❖ Lok Sabha : *Deliberation on Agrarian Reforms in India*
- ❖ Rajya Sabha : *Discussion on public-private partnerships as a resolution to economic challenges in India*
- ❖ Maharashtra Legislative Assembly : *Implementation and functioning of the State Wise Climate Action Plans and subsequent State Council for Climate Change*
- ❖ All India Political Parties Meet (School Committee) : *Deliberation on Police Reforms in India*
- ❖ All India Stakeholders Meet (School Committee) : *Discussion on Primary and Secondary Education in India with special emphasis on the National Education Policy, 2020*
- ❖ Press (consisting of reporters in the above committees).

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EDITORIAL



As the covid virus weakens, masks are no longer mandatory. The doors of the PCGT office are now open. Besides the tiny administrative staff of Managers, Accountant and messenger boy, we now have a few (four to be precise) interns, three of them from TISS. It is good to have them back in the office.

In the online mode we met with numerous more students from all over the country. That form of inter-action had its own advantages. We have decided to combine the two whenever necessary and possible. A whole set of students from the Jindal Global Law School is due in the next month or two. We have welcomed them since it opens a window to the thoughts and aspirations of young people from other states of India, besides Maharashtra.

In the last quarter we lost a leading member of our project staff Ruchi Bhagat. She was selected by the Judiciary, where she has begun her career as a Magistrate of the First Class. We are happy that a young woman with our preferred values will now adorn the ranks of the Judiciary and that the PCGT had its share of shaping her. If more such youth are imbued with the values that the PCGT advocates, our country will be truly blessed. In particular, corruption and communalism, the twin evils that keep our country backward, will surely be shunned by those who have been exposed to our way of thinking.

Dr. K. K. Venkatesham, who recently retired from the Indian Police Service, has joined our Board of Trustees. He is still finding his way around but we are sure that once he sees enough of what we have done and are in the process of doing, he will add value

to our efforts. When in service Dr. Venkatesham had a reputation for straight talk and honest dealings. We welcome him in our midst.

The Trustee who joined our Board before Dr. Venkatesham was Mrs. Abha Singh. She introduced our new batch of interns to the work she has done to combat the evil of manual scavenging. Many of our previous interns had worked on this subject. Some had even produced papers under the guidance of Ruchi before she joined the Judiciary. Abha has fought a few cases in the Courts and won compensation for those who died of asphyxia in the sewers !

To replace Ruchi we were blessed with the person of Sayali Kadam, who has proved her worth in the short period of three months that she has been with us. She not only attends to her own duties as Project Manager of the YFG (Youth For Governance) but also devotes two days in a week to help out with Kuchh Aur. Our Trustee in charge of Kuchh Aur, Rekha Shahani, does not feel the absence of her own Project Manager, Yashasweeta Kokate, presently on four months maternity leave, as Sayali has effectively filled the vacuum. When Yashasweeta returns for duty on 7th November, Sayali will be able to consolidate and even expand the work of YFG.

Our Flagship project, the propagation of the RTI Act to combat corruption had been slightly affected by an accident suffered by our Consultant, Ranga Rao, whose mobility was impaired by a fall. Ranga Rao talks to them almost every day online. He intends to continue using this mode of communication.

Our star performer, Shivam Jain Kakadia, has rejoined PCGT after what we term as a sabbatical ! He not only guides our Leadership Programme for young people as he was doing previously, but also helps out with the YFG. The Trustee in charge of

YFG, Ana Saldanha, plans to lift the standards of YFG's initiatives.

This year's Youth Parliament was graced by Justice Gautam Patel who spoke on 'Agreeing to Disagree : Some Thoughts on Parliamentary Discourse'. It was a very successful fourth Edition of the National Youth Parliament, made memorable by the erudition of the Chief Guest, Justice Patel. Two hundred students from different parts of India participated. What we are proud of is that a number of our previous interns, including Arjun Kadam and Sreevidya Nargolkar, are actively associated with our efforts to nurse young men and women into responsible citizenship. They not only attend sessions but deliver lectures in between Court hours.

Besides guiding the Executive Committee of the NYP, Shivam has taken charge of the Campus Ambassadors and Lead Ambassadors projects. These two projects are meant to instil confidence and leadership qualities into our future citizens associated with PCGT through the N.S.S. of Mumbai University. The Ambassadors keep in touch with students of their respective colleges and inform them of the work being done by PCGT. Lectures on topics chosen by students themselves are then arranged in each college with the permission and active help of the college authorities.

A college that has been associated with the PCGT for well over a decade is the Pravin Gandhi College of Law (PGCL) in Vile Parle. PCGT's signed an MoU with the PGCL's Principal. Our association with this prestigious institution has now been formalised. The college provides its facilities for arranging events and its students attend in big numbers. Students from other nearby colleges also come. The speakers are arranged by the PCGT.

– Julio Ribeiro

KUCHH AUR

*"Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny."*

- Mahatma Gandhi

Kuchh Aur sessions on values were conducted in schools. Mrs. Asha Varma has been regularly volunteering her time and expertise with the students who go through the sessions of Kuchh Aur. She took sessions on Friendship, Gratitude and Happiness. She explained how friends are responsible in teaching us and why having a best friend is important. Students shared how their lives and views had changed thanks to their friendship. They also shared what qualities they look out for in a friend. In one of the sessions she explained that Happiness is an emotional state characterized by feelings of joy, satisfaction, contentment and fulfilment. She asked the children what made them happy. Most of the children said feeling loved and having positive, supportive relationships, particularly with friends and family, including having someone to talk to and rely on, gave them the feeling of happiness.



Ms. Anjum Panna, conducting session with students of Purshottam High School

Ms. Anjum Panna, a content writer by profession and a teacher trainer by skill, very kindly volunteered to take sessions. She focused on positive outlook, attitude, students' emotions, their physiological response to the emotions, what adulthood meant. All this was done with a time for silence and reflection. She let the students share what they couldn't do and exposed them to the Power of Now. A beautiful film on the rebirth of the Eagle was screened and the students promised to do one little thing daily which was out of their comfort zone.

Ms. Zamrooda Khanday, CEO, Aidbees, with an extensive 20 + years of experience in the Social sector as an acclaimed researcher & a senior leader, did sessions on Kindness. She shared her personal experience of her parents' kind actions towards their relatives from Kashmir. Students shared their own acts of kindness. Ms. Khanday also explained to them what positive and negative words do to an individual. The motive of the session was to emphasize that words are sharper than a sword so we should think before we speak. A session on Respect and Care was also taken by her. Respect, she said, can be



Ms. Zamrooda Khanday interacting with students

summed up in the way you treat others. She explained to the children that respect comes when you treat others like you want to be treated. One needs to feel safe around their peers and their teacher. Everyone

should listen to others even when they disagree and talk openly about their needs and wants. She gave examples of Kindness which showed caring for each other.

She also took a session on Bullying in schools which is a systemic problem that affects all school children. Bullying and aggressive behaviour is done intentionally and involves an imbalance of power or strength.

"Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Kuchh Aur continued its value of Gratitude at Mahapragya Public School, Kalbadevi and other schools in Mumbai. Ms. Sayali Kadam, Programme Manager, PCGT, spoke to the students in different schools on the topic. Children were explained how Gratitude is one of the many positive emotions. It's about focusing on what's good in our lives and being thankful for the things we have. Gratitude is pausing to notice and appreciate the things that we often take for granted, like having a place to live, food, clean water, friends, family, nature and even computer access. The importance of gratitude and its impact in daily life was shared with the students.



Students enjoying Quiet Time

Ms. Kadam, also conducted a session on Happiness with students of Kudilal Govindram Seksaria Sarvodaya School, Malad. She shared with them

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not to mistake equating our happiness with something that has utility value. She explained to them the meaning of the standard of living and told them they should not decline their standard of life while improving the standard of living.



Students of Kudilal Govindram Seksaria Sarvodaya School

The Kargil war has become an unforgettable event in the history of India. Nevertheless, this was an event that brought about feelings of patriotism in the hearts of every Indian like never before. The brave struggle of the Indian soldiers will continue to be an inspiration for all the citizens of this country. PCGT commemorated the Kargil Day on 26th July with the students in schools.



Mrs. Rekha Shahani with the students commemorating Kargil Day

“Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav” India’s 76th Independence Day was celebrated at Sardar Vallabhbai Patel Vividhalakshi Vidyalaya (SVPVV). With the motive and intention to inculcate patriotic fervour among its students the school organized a plethora of events. The students performed with great

patriotic spirit and zeal. Our Trustee in charge of Kuchh Aur took a session on Hum Sab Ek Hai with the children of Pragnya Bodhini High School.

Dr. Anand, one of our Trustees and co-founder of PCGT held a session on Communal Harmony at Purshottam High School, Bandra. Communal Harmony, he said, is the coming together of all the communities of the country and living together with a sense of brotherhood and equality, irrespective of religion, caste and creed. He stated we should sink our personal differences in the larger interests of the country and adopt a common approach if we want to achieve the laudable goal of national



Dr. Anand addressing students of Purshottam High School

integration and communal harmony. He quoted ‘sarva dharma samabhava’, equal respect for all religions. Every person has the right to preach, practice and propagate any religion they choose and all citizens must treat all religions with respect. Dr. Anand urged and encouraged the students to have friends from different religions and understand different cultures. The postcards of ‘Hum Sab Ek Hain’ were distributed among the participants.

An interactive session on creative ways to Problem Solving and developing Critical Thinking Skills in Children of the Secondary Section of Pragnya Bodhini High School, was

held with students and teachers. Mrs. Kusum Kanwar, an established K-12 educationist, social entrepreneur and advocate of child, youth and women development programs particularly designed for social inclusion, very kindly took the session. The technique used was the 4-Bag solution, a story about applying one idea to solve any problem. The teachers were introduced to the 4 bags

1. Character Bag - Where children create their own character of self or others
2. Setting Bag - which could be a piece of cloth, paper, image or any setting they want to place their character in. The setting could be a coffee house; their room, playground or any place they want to have a discussion.
3. Problem bag – they can write & put the problem they are facing.
4. The Solution Bag - that helps not only in building critical thinking skills; but also a shared responsibility between the two sides.

It was a very interactive session where children discussed their problems and gave solutions for their problems and those of others that they were experiencing. Everyone agreed that thinking of the 4 steps is a very logical way to think & resolve any challenges or problems they face.



Mrs. Kusum Kanwar taking a session with students of Pragnya Bodhini High School

Sessions in Anjuman-I-Islam’s Dr. Mohammed Ishaq Jamkhanawala Girls’ High School, Bandra, were introduced to inculcate Leadership qualities in children along with other values. The

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children were asked who a leader was and what qualities a leader should have. Most of the children responded with names of freedom fighters and that they had qualities of being kind and strong. The speaker then explained to them that Leadership was an ability of an individual or a group of individuals to influence and guide them and inspire or motivate them to meet a goal. Examples of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi, who had a vision to abolish the caste system and to free India from British Rule were discussed.



Ms. Sayali Kadam, conducting a session

We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end.

- Woodrow Wilson

Unity In Diversity, a new value was introduced in schools by Kuchh Aur in the month of September. The children were asked if they knew the meaning of the word Unity and they unanimously said "Ekta". The speaker defined the concept of showing Unity

without uniformity and Diversity without fragmentation with a few examples. The session ended with how differences are viewed upon as varieties that improve the society and the nation as a whole.

Kuchh Aur celebrated 21st September, International Peace Day in schools. The introduction to International Peace Day was explained to the children and how it provides a "globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace.

Mumbai Roti Bank, a non-profit, hunger relief organization which strives to eliminate hunger and malnutrition under the able mentorship of former Director General of Police, Maharashtra, Mr.

D. Sivanandhan and also a Trustee of PCGT, distributed food to 400

students of Purshottam High School and 100 students of Pragnya Bodhini High School in Mumbai.

We at PCGT sincerely appreciate the time, dedication and selflessness of our volunteers Mrs. Asha Varma, Mrs. Zamrooda Khanday, Mrs. Kusum Kanwar and Mrs. Anjum Panna who commit their precious time to Kuchh Aur.

We are happy to share that during this last quarter more than 4000 students went through our Kuchh Aur programme.



INTERNS SHARE

Hrishikesh Harathi - Jindal Global Law School

"My personal take away from Kuchh Aur was the experience of getting out of my comfort zone while reflecting on myself. I was born and brought up in a Tamil family in Hyderabad. I realized when I moved from South to North that there is a lot of cultural difference between the two. Kuchh Aur sessions taught me to adapt to the change.

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

Cyber Security

PCGT Trustee Mr. D. Sivanandhan, IPS (Retd.), ex-DGP Maharashtra, spoke to the students of B.Sc. I.T. and B.Sc. C.S. on the topic of 'Cyber Security'. PCGT's Campus Ambassador of Shree L. R. Tiwari Degree College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Mira Road (Thane) organized the Webinar on July 30, 2022, which was attended by 250 students.



Cyber Security Webinar at Shree L. R. Tiwari Degree College of Art, Commerce and Science

Communal Harmony

PCGT in collaboration with the NSS Unit of K. P. B. Hinduja College of Commerce on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - India's 75th Independence Day' organized an event on 'Communal Harmony' on August 13, 2022. PCGT Founder Trustee Dr. R. K. Anand enlightened the students about the importance of Communal Harmony in contemporary India.



Dr. R. K. Anand, talking to students of K.P.B. Hinduja College of Commerce on Communal Harmony

PCGTs Campus Ambassadors Nupur Ashturkar and Rahul Walunj from

B.K. Birla College, Kalyan, arranged a workshop on Communal Harmony.



PCGTs Founder Trustee Dr. R.K. Anand interacting with students of B.K. Birla College, Kalyan

Dr. R. K Anand, PCGTs Founder Trustee interacted with the students and conveyed the message of 'Hum Sab Ek Hain'.

Drafting of RTI Application

PCGT in a collaborative effort with Programme for Legal Education and Awareness (PLEA) organized a webinar on 'Drafting of RTI Application'. PLEA strives to provide knowledge and opportunities for developing practical and professional



Mr. Ranga Rao interacting with young professionals and law enthusiasts regarding the drafting of the RTI application

skills to thrive in the legal sector. Mr. D. S. Ranga Rao (Consultant, PCGT, Ex- IB officer) trained the participants thoroughly on how to draft and file RTI Applications in both online and offline modes.

Safety of Women in Modern Times

PCGTs Campus Ambassador Pooja Pandey organized an event at V. K. Krishna Menon College, Bhandup, on 'Safety of Women in Modern Times'. Sr. Police Inspector Nitin Motiram Unhavana from Bhandup Police Station and Assistant Police Inspector Deepa Virsingh Randhawa of Kanjurmarg Police Station, interacted with the youth of the college and informed them about various types of violations that are happening in current times. They even gave them



Speakers interacting with the students of V. K. Krishna Menon College.

tips of self-defense and advised them on how to be safe in these modern times where cyber crimes and violence against women are increasing rapidly. More than 150 students benefited from this event.

Right To Information Act Training Workshop

PCGT in collaboration with Maharashtra National Law University, Powai, organized a Training Workshop on Right To Information Act (RTI Act)

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

with the support of PCGTs Campus Ambassador Vedant Mainkar. Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, RTI Activist and former Central Information Commissioner, gave his expertise on RTI Act and drafting of RTI Application.



Mr. Shailesh Gandhi addressing the students on Right To Information Act

PCGT NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2022

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The Closing Ceremony of the NYP was graced by the presence of the **Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. S. Patel** (Judge, Bombay High Court) as the Chief Guest, who addressed the students on *"Agreeing to Disagree: Some thoughts on Parliamentary Discourse"*.

The winners of all college 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.



Group Photograph with the Chief Guest of NYP 2022



Group Photograph of the participants in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly – one of the six mock committees simulated at NYP 2022



The winner of AISM (School Committee) sharing his experience of participating in NYP 2022 at the virtual Closing Ceremony

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON FUNDAMENTALS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT) in association with Pravin Gandhi College of Law (PGCL) successfully organized a Certificate Course on Fundamentals of the Indian Constitution. The course spanned over ten weeks, from July 3, 2022 to September 11, 2022 and consisted of 30 hours of live lectures held in online mode, followed by Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) Test (Course Evaluation).

This was a first of its kind ten weeks online certificate course conducted as a part of PCGT's Constitutional Literacy Programme, which began in 2021 under its vertical Youth for Governance. 26 participants, including 3 Student Coordinators, received Certificate of Completion of the course.

Throughout the course, participants received extensive knowledge about the Constitution of India and it was particularly beneficial for UPSC and

law aspirants, students and young professionals with non-law background. The course was taught by eminent practitioners, law professors and former civil servants, who covered the theoretical as well as the practical dimensions of the working of our Constitution, giving the participants a broad perspective about its importance and applicability in day to day life. The following lectures were delivered as a part of the course:

Lecture No.	Topic	Date	Speaker
1	The Concept of Dharma, State & the Need of a Constitution	July 3, 2022	Dr. Navashikha Duara (Principal, PGCL)
2	Understanding Governance & Bureaucracy in India	July 3, 2022	Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT; IAS Retd.)
3	Brief History and Salient features of the Indian Constitution	July 10, 2022	Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT; IAS Retd.)
4	Preamble of the Indian Constitution	July 10, 2022	Mr. Shivam Jain Kakadia (Advocate, Bombay High Court)
5	Right to Equality	July 17, 2022	Mrs. Ruchi Bhagat (Civil Judge Jr. Division and Judicial Magistrate - First Class)
6	Right to Equal Opportunity	July 17, 2022	Mr. Sudhanva Bedekar (Advocate, Bombay High Court)
7	Abolition of Untouchability and an overview of the SC / ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	July 24, 2022	Mrs. Abha Singh (Advocate, Supreme Court of India)
8	Right to Free Speech & Expression - Freedom of Press & Media Trials	July 24, 2022	Mrs. Abha Singh (Advocate, Supreme Court of India)
9	Right to Free Speech & Expression - Right to Information & Restrictions	August 7, 2022	Mr. Shailesh Gandhi (Former Central Information Commissioner)
10	Right against double jeopardy, ex-post facto laws and self-incrimination	August 7, 2022	Dr. Rashmi Oza (Former Head of Dept. of Law, University of Mumbai)
11	Right to Life & Personal Liberty - Judicial Activism, Golden Triangle & PIL	August 14, 2022	Prof. Kavita Sharma (Assistant Professor, PGCL)
12	Right to Life & Personal Liberty - Right to Privacy with emphasis on Aadhaar Case & Navtej Singh Johar Case	August 14, 2022	Mr. Shardool Kulkarni (Advocate, Bombay High Court)
13	Right to freedom of Religion - Shah Bano Case, the Uniform Civil Code and recent developments	August 21, 2022	Ms. Shreevidya Nargolkar (Advocate, Bombay High Court)
14	Right to Judicial Remedies - Brief overview of the Writ & PIL Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court & the High Courts	August 21, 2022	Ms. Shreevidya Nargolkar (Advocate, Bombay High Court)
15	An overview of Directive Principles of State Policy	August 28, 2022	Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT; IAS Retd.)

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON FUNDAMENTALS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Lecture No.	Topic	Date	Speaker
16	Fundamental Duties - Need of 'Duties' and influence from other Constitutions	August 28, 2022	Prof. Kavita Sharma (Assistant Professor, PGCL)
17	An overview of Centre-State Relations in Indian Constitution	September 4, 2022	Mr. Arjun Kadam (Advocate, Bombay High Court)
18	Cooperative Federalism with recent case studies	September 4, 2022	Prof. Apurva Thakur (Assistant Professor, PGCL)
19	Emergency Provisions in the Constitution, Habeas Corpus Case & relevant constitutional amendments	September 11, 2022	Prof. Kavita Sharma (Assistant Professor, PGCL)
20	Power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution	September 11, 2022	Mr. Shivam Jain Kakadia (Advocate, Bombay High Court)
	Course Evaluation [MCQ Test]	September 11, 2022	



Mr. V. P. Raja addressing the participants on "Understanding Governance & Bureaucracy in India"



Dr. Navashikha Duara taking a lecture on the Concept of Dharma, State & the Need of a Constitution



Prof. Kavita Sharma talking about Emergency Provisions in the Constitution, Habeas Corpus Case & relevant constitutional amendments



Mrs. Ruchi Bhagat (Civil Judge Jr. Division and Judicial Magistrate - First Class) sharing her views on Right to Equality



Adv. Abha Singh explaining the constitutional background on the Abolition of Untouchability and the SC / ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to the participants



Adv. Shardool Kulkarni delivering the lecture on Right to Life & Personal Liberty - Right to Privacy with emphasis on Aadhaar Case & Navtej Singh Johar Case



Adv. Shreevidya Nargolkar addressing the participants on the Right to Judicial Remedies - Brief overview of the Writ & PIL Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court & the High Courts



Adv. Sudhanva Bedekar taking a session on Right to Equal Opportunities

ONE DAY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON RTI AND RTS

A One-day Training Programme on Right to Information (RTI) and Right to Services (RTS) was organized by Public Concern for Governance Trust in association with SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law (PGCL) on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, in hybrid mode. This was the fourth edition of the training programme, after the success of similar training programmes organized by PCGT in February 2020 (offline), March 2021 (online) and March 2022 (online).

The training programme this year was organized with the assistance of PCGT Lead Ambassadors (LAs) and Campus Ambassadors (CAs) and witnessed participation of more than 100 students from colleges across Mumbai. The Opening Address was delivered by Mrs. Kavita Sharma (Assistant Professor, PGCL), who talked about the long standing relationship and collaboration between PCGT and PGCL and highlighted the importance of youth in ensuring that the government is transparent and accountable.

The first session was delivered by Adv. Arjun Kadam on the topic

“Right to Information : Constitutional Perspective”. He highlighted the constitutional relevance of freedom of information in a democracy and explained the constitutional background of the Right to Information Act to the participants. After Adv. Kadam’s session, PCGT’s documentary was shown to all the participants. The next session was delivered by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi (Former Central Information Commissioner), who briefed the participants about the RTI Act, its recent amendment, judicial backlogs as well as the issue of privacy of citizens. He then focused on the drafting and filing of RTI Applications and guided the participants in drafting RTI Applications and framing their queries better. Upon conclusion of Mr. Gandhi’s session, Dr. Navashika Duara (Principal, PGCL) addressed the students and personally thanked Mr. Gandhi for his presence.

The aforesaid programme and sessions took place in offline mode at PGCL Campus from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. The training programme continued in the evening, in online mode, between 5 pm to 7 pm. Mr. D.

S. Ranga Rao delivered a session on “RTS with special emphasis on the Maharashtra Right to Public Services Act, 2015” between 5 pm to 6:30 pm, giving the theoretical and practical insights to the participants about this important piece of legislation. This was followed by concluding remarks from Mr. J. F. Ribeiro, who highlighted the work PCGT has done over the years, especially on RTI and RTS, to ensure transparency and accountability in governance. The Vote of Thanks was then proposed by Lead Ambassador Rucha Dalvi.

The aforesaid training program therefore served as an ideal platform for our young minds to understand the importance of good governance as well as legislations such as RTI and RTS that lead to accountability in governance. The LAs and CAs also got exposed to the nuances of organizing an event, thus honing their leadership skills and strengthening the CA programme as a whole. To obtain certificates for the training program, each participant was required to submit a draft RTI Application to ensure that they have not only understood the law, but also put the training to use by actually drafting an RTI Application.



Mr. J. F. Ribeiro delivering the Concluding Remarks



Adv. Arjun Kadam delivering a session on “Right to Information: Constitutional Perspective”



Mr. Shailesh Gandhi discussing public authorities under the Right to Information Act, 2005



Organizing Committee including PCGT Lead Ambassadors and Campus Ambassadors with Mr. Shailesh Gandhi

MoU BETWEEN PCGT AND PGCL

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Public Concern for Governance Trust, (PCGT) and SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law (PGCL) on July 26, 2022 at 11 am at PGCL Campus.

The MoU formalizes the long standing association between PCGT and PGCL and it was signed by the Chairman of PCGT, Mr. V. P. Raja, and the Principal of PGCL, Dr. Navashikha Duara. After the MoU signing ceremony, Mr. Raja addressed PGCL students and PCGT National Youth Parliament Organizing Committee Members on the topic "Demystifying Governance", in the PGCL Moot Court Room.



MoU being signed by the Chairman of PCGT, Mr. V. P. Raja, and the Principal of PGCL, Dr. Navashikha Duara



Mr. Raja, Dr. Duara along with the staffers of PCGT and PGCL



Mr. Raja addressing PGCL students and PCGT NYP Organizing Committee Members on "Demystifying Governance"



Group Photograph

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

The Inaugural Meeting & Orientation for PCGT Lead Ambassadors (LAs) and Campus Ambassadors (CAs) for the year 2022-23 was held on July 14, 2022 between 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in online mode.

The welcome address was delivered by Ms. Sayali Kadam (Programme Manager - YFG), who gave a background about PCGT and its verticals to the CAs and LAs. This was followed by an address by Mrs. Ana Saldanha (Trustee In-charge - YFG), who explained the importance of CAs and LAs in strengthening the Youth for Governance programme and also in taking forward the mission of good

governance. Thereafter, the new LAs and CAs introduced themselves.

Mr. Shivam Jain Kakadia (Consultant - YFG) delivered the Orientation address for CAs and LAs, explaining their roles and responsibilities to them in detail. He also addressed the queries and doubts of the CAs and LAs regarding the programme and their respective mandate. This was followed by an address by Mr. J. F. Ribeiro (Chairman Emeritus, PCGT) as well as Concluding Remarks by Mr. V. P. Raja (Chairman, PCGT), both of whom appreciated the work done by PCGT CAs and LAs in the past and encouraged the newly inducted CAs

and LAs to carry forward the mission and values endorsed by PCGT.

PCGT has inducted 25 CAs and 4 LAs for the year 2022-23, and they will organize several events and projects for PCGT in their respective institutions and beyond.



Inaugural Meeting & Orientation for PCGT LAs and CAs 2022-23

WORKSHOP ON INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AND YOUTH PARLIAMENTS

On July 8, 2022, PCGT organized a Workshop on Indian Parliamentary Procedure and Youth Parliaments for the students of Podar International School, Mira Road. The workshop

was conducted by Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia, in which nearly 50 students of Grades VII and VIII participated and received hands-on training about the functioning of youth parliaments. Subsequently, nearly 80 students

from the school registered for PCGT National Youth Parliament 2022, in two school committees – the All India Political Parties Meet and the All India Stakeholders Meet.



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.

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