

Public Concern



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

VOL. 8, ISSUE 1, July 2017

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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ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



A Road Safety Awareness Campaign was conducted in collaboration with Mumbai Police from 22nd May to 6th June, 2017. Forty junctions were covered in the South and Central Mumbai regions. Eighteen volunteers of PCGT from different colleges across the city such as College Of Social Work Nirmala Niketan, V.G. Vaze College, Mulund & Symbiosis Law School, Pune, participated in the campaign.

लोकमत

वाहतूक जनजागृती

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

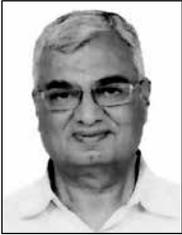
मुंबई : वाहतूक पोलीस आणि पब्लिक कंसर्न गव्हर्नर ट्रस्ट यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने वाहतूक जनजागृती अभियान राबविण्यात आले. दक्षिण मुंबई आणि मध्य मुंबईमधील ४० सिग्नलवर या अंतर्गत जनजागृती करण्यात आली. १८ स्वयंसेवक यात सहभागी झाले होते. वझे केळकर, सिम्बोसिस विधी महाविद्यालय आणि समाजकार्य महाविद्यालय निर्मला निकेतनमधील विद्यार्थ्यांनी अभियानात सहभाग नोंदविला. वाहनचालकांना वाहतूक जनजागृतीवाचकचे ३ हजार ५०० स्टिकर्स वितरित करण्यात आले.



मुंबई के परेड में सड़क सुरक्षा को लेकर आमसभा कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस दौरान हेडसेट नहीं पहनने वाली को कैद देकर सुरक्षा सदेश देती महिला ट्रैफिक पुलिसकर्मी।

VOICES

EDITORIAL



Evolution Of A New Species

Sometime ago Mr. Julio Ribeiro had narrated an incident where a van of a Company engaged in filling up the ATMs

was waylaid by a political personality who simply proceeded to snatch bundles of the new currency and threw in the old demonetised currency. Mr. Ribeiro's attempts at interceding with the DGP of the State to get an offence registered did not yield the desired result. Over the last few months scenes of masterly inaction have been witnessed in various parts of the country.

On 27th March, an MP travelling by Air India flight, angered by not being seated in the non-existent executive class, first refused to deplane at his destination, Delhi, and then proceeded to assault a staffer and later boasted about the same. What transpired of the two cases reportedly registered in this episode no one knows. A senior retired officer even wrote an open letter on an online forum seeking information but no reply is yet forthcoming.

A month later, on 24th April, a mob led by an MP entered the house of the district SP, heckled his family and damaged the property. The mob was about 500 strong and protesting the stopping of an unauthorised procession. We again see registration of cases but no further action against principal offenders. It beats any understanding what confidence can be inspired in the general public if swift action to book offenders can not be taken where the family of the head of the district police force is concerned. Another month later, on 18th May, seven people including four from minority community were lynched on rumours that they belonged to child lifters gang. The lynchings led to violent protests by minorities, leading to cane charge, tear gas, firing

of rubber bullets and imposition of prohibitory orders. Police admitted that rumours of child lifting had been rife for ten days prior to lynching. Pray, then why nothing was done to either scotch them effectively or have more men out on streets. The three incidents reflect that the officers in field have totally surrendered their authority to administer law and order and to uphold rule of law.

Oh! But please do not go away with an impression that the disease is only with the Police. Senior bureaucrats long given to discussing the files with their ministers and ascertaining what they wanted before putting pen to paper are now heard saying that action by investigative agencies in corruption cases hinders them from taking "bold" decisions. No one has as yet quoted any case where the officer suffered for taking clear and reasoned decision with a clean conscience. Yes, where you should have objected and strongly opposed a decision, but remained a mute spectator by a mere squiggle of your initials because you knew what the political masters wanted, you do abet what is being done and by foregoing to do your duty you lose any right to protest if hauled up later on.

It was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who recognised the need for continuation of the All India Services even after independence. These services were intended to provide leaders for the administrative machinery and also serve the important duty of holding a new fledgling nation with huge diversities of language, culture and religions together. With fissionary forces very much in evidence, they were expected to provide solidity, unity and guarantee the integrity of the Union. Gradually the services came to be recognised as the "Steel Frame" of the system. Why Steel Frame? They were expected to hold and not bend in the face of adversity, be it of any type and ensure that rule of law is upheld at all times. This "Steel Frame", poor thing, has in seventy years become some kind of an elastic band. To "adjust" is now the new by-

word. So "adjustments" have brought in the new culture where you loosen or tighten the elastic band as per the needs and desires of various types.

The Preamble to the Constitution begins with the words "We the people of India...." and ends with ".....give to ourselves this constitution." The preamble makes it thus clear that it is the People of India who have given us the Constitution and are therefore the Supreme Masters. The government bureaucracy is known as Services for it was hoped that they would serve the people and not the other way round. We have known of some State Ministers telling their Secretaries, "We are not here for governance, we are here to rule." They paid politically for their arrogance but why the bureaucrats should follow suit? Sometime during the training of the bureaucrats and for police during their passing out Parades, they take an oath to uphold the Constitution of India. It is a proud moment as the National Flag is carried through the ranks and touched by the cadets before they pass out. Has that oath been forgotten? The Constitution avows the country to be secular and guarantees justice and equality to all. These values are essential if the country is to remain as one and the police and government services are enjoined to uphold these values.

We often see now that some Officers get convinced that without them their departments could not run. So when they superannuate they are continued on extensions or reemployments, and not for just one year but for years. The time when the officer would tell the Government that he is to superannuate and that Government ought to choose his successor and that his service had enough men of calibre who could step into his shoes and thanks but he would not desire an extension, are gone. Perhaps it is not realised by these officers the derision their peers have for them. The desire to cling on leads to professional compromises and "rule of law" is first casualty.

[Contd. on Page 6]

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT – Guide for citizens of the state



In an effort to educate the community about the need for transparency and accountability, community session on 'Importance of Right to Information Act' was organized by the Janjagruti Vidyarthi Sangha in association with Public Concern For Governance Trust (PCGT) in Govandi West, Shivaji Nagar, on 14th May, 2017. Celebrated RTI activist, Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, former Central Information Commissioner (CIC) who holds the record of disposing the highest number of cases under RTI (Right to Information), conducted the session.

The audience for this session primarily consisted of members of civil society, retired public servants, representatives from Non Governmental Organizations, teachers, daily wage earners and students. It also included people from the media. Mr. Santosh Surve of the Janjagruti Vidyarthi Sangh gave an introductory speech and as an ice-breaker, every person present introduced themselves briefly. Thereafter, Mr. Shailesh Gandhi took over and began his insightful session on Right To Information. Before he touched upon the issues of appeals, he gave a brief background on the evolution of RTI. He pointed out that "Freedom of expression without the Right to Information is meaningless". Citing the importance of information in a diverse democratic country like India, he said that information must exist if one has to file an RTI application and without which no information will be given. Information usually exists in public domain and on public records. He started by educating the people about the basics of RTI, its meaning

and its date of inception in India. He went on to relate the different names by which it is known in different countries viz. Freedom of Information and Access to Information. Further, he reminded that the people are the real rulers of the country and shouldn't shy away from enquiring about the working of their Government or

asking the authorities for information, especially in a country like India, where India takes pride in being the "world's largest democracy". In brief, he covered topics such as how to write an application, the process of filing an RTI, the right which the act is protecting, how the education department falls under it, the charges associated with filing of an application, the conditions under which the first and second appeals may be filed.

All participants had been given a copy of the format to file an application before the Government and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), a notepad a pen and a multiple choice question type feed-back form aimed at gauging the knowledge imparted to the audience.

The main objective of the session was to not only inform people about a very important tool in the hands of the citizens in the form of RTI, but also to inspire them to file applications under the Act. Another aspect emphasized upon was how they could perform their role as a citizen of India and disseminate this information among other people in order to ensure maximum awareness and participation.

Later, Mr. Gandhi provided his personal email id and urged the people to write to him in case of any doubt or problem.

The session concluded with a question-answer round where many people cleared their doubts regarding RTI and narrated problems which they were facing due to inordinate delay by the Government. In conclusion, this session was enlightening for the people and it taught them a great deal about the weapon called Right to Information. However, a single session may not be sufficient. A few more such sessions would perhaps ensure the goal of spreading awareness about RTI.

As part of the Youth For Governance initiative, Public Concern for Governance Trust had organised two community sessions. One was on 'WHY RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT IS RELEVANT TODAY' at Janjagruti Vidhyarthi Sangh in Mankhurd on Sunday, 5th March, 2017. The session was conducted by Mr. Kiran Upasane, a legal officer who highlighted the key features of the RTI Act as well as its importance in our lives.

The second community session was conducted on 'Right to Information in India: An Effective Tool to Tackle Corruption' at Mohalla Committee Mandala, Indira Nagar, Mankhurd on 9th May 2017 by Mr. Santosh Surve, for economically poor slum dwellers.

Public Concern For Governance Trust (PCGT) will conduct three more workshops for citizens in this year. For those who have missed this session and would like to enroll for future sessions, check PCGT official page or call us.



KUCHH AUR



Balloon activity at Rajgurunagar

'Kuchh Aur' caters to working with children and communities. In this quarter we had focused on activity based community sessions with a holistic development approach. Some of the key skills that we introduced were theatre in education, story-telling, expression through drawing and painting, singing and much more.



Teacher training for Colaba secondary school

Our aim is that the children who attend our sessions should take back some thought provoking messages that will mould them into better citizens. Hence, we have reworked and renamed our value education sessions as 'Lessons In Responsible Citizenship'.



Workshop on 'Am I stagnant or Creating Ripples at Home, School and Society' for St. Joseph's school, organised by ETST

In the past few months we have collaborated with Children of the World, Nerul, Rabale, Jan Jagruti Vidhyarthi Sang and Mother and Child Welfare Trust, Rajgurunagar, for outreach community sessions.

Apart from conducting community sessions, Pubic Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT) collaborated with Education Today Society Tomorrow (ETST), Initiatives Of Change (IofC), Parisar Asha, Each One Teach One (EOTO), Cardinal Gracias School, St. Joseph's, Colaba BMC School and Pragnya Bodhini School for Teacher training workshops.



Skit performance on Environment conservation at Children of the World, Rabale.

These workshops were conducted with the main idea of preparing the teachers to gear up and charge up for the next academic year. These workshops covered very interesting topics from IofC i.e. CCD (Connection, Correction



Workshop on 'Am I stagnant or Creating Ripples at Home, School and Society' for St. Joseph's school, organised by ETST

and Directions) which is a part of the Inner Governance as a session. The participants were asked to focus on the four absolute principles of Purity, Honesty, Unselfishness and Love (PHUL).

The session in St. Joseph's School for the teachers was "Am I stagnant or creating ripples in home, school and society? It motivated the participants to work hard and create confidence in themselves.

In a nutshell, these workshops for the educators were focused on how a happy person could be a good teacher and make a difference not only to her students but also to the society.

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



The traffic awareness campaign kick-started at the Sunder Mahal junction at Marine Drive near Pizza By the Bay restaurant. DCP Mr. Ashok Dudhe was present to flag off the event.

Those who did not wear helmets while riding two wheelers, or had not worn seat belts while driving, or were talking on mobile phones while driving and while crossing roads were endangering their own lives. Those breaking the laws were stopped and requested not to do this again and be responsible citizens who obeyed the law. They were given Public Concern for Governance Trust badges identifying themselves as responsible citizens. The intention was to appeal to their fine sentiments and good sense.

The areas covered were Colaba, Azad Maidan, Kalbadevi, Pydhonie, Malabar Hill, Tardeo, Worli, Nagpada, Byculla,

Bhoiwadi, Wadala. Almost 3000 PCGT Responsible Citizen Badges were distributed to the citizens who obeyed the Traffic Safety Rules.

Many motorists gave a thumbs-up sign when they saw the volunteers standing with the posters. Dr. Deepak Sawant, Minister of Health, stopped and got out of his car at Marine Drive to tell the volunteers how much he appreciated their efforts to instill discipline on the streets of Mumbai city.

One motorist, Mr. Rahul Bajaj, who had been given a badge for wearing the seat belt actually looked up the PCGT website and sent the following email : "Hi, I first encountered volunteers from your

organisation when I was rewarded with a badge for using the seat belts in my car. I subsequently looked you up, and the ideals and causes PCGT pursues resonates with my beliefs. I'd love to contribute my efforts and skills to these causes if you would have me. I'm a citizen of Mumbai and recently returned to the city after pursuing my MBA at XLRI, Jamshedpur and working with ITC in their FMCG marketing division. I'm currently engaged in running my family business in Mumbai.

Do let me know if it would be possible to meet with anyone in the organisation to better understand what you do and how I may fit in."

Mr. Bajaj subsequently visited PCGT and interacted with the Trustees, staff and interns. He gave valuable suggestions.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

EXCESSIVE BANK CHARGES

A group of 12 persons comprising of Mumbai-based consumer organizations, NGOs and bank unions, on May 12, 2017, met Shri Veerappa Moily Hon. Chairman, Standing Committee on Finance, Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC); Shri Dinesh Trivedi, MP (TMC) and former Railway Minister, Shri T. K. Rangarajan, MP (CPIM) etc. at Hotel Trident, Mumbai and presented a Memorandum of Protest against a series of unjustifiable and unconscionable charges on customers that the banks have been levying over the past few years. The Memorandum requested the JPC to consider the 7 points as mentioned in the letter to Shri Moily, and reverse the usurious charges imposed and being imposed by banks on the poor customers immediately.

HOUSING FOR MINORITIES

May 26, 2017 – Mr. Ribeiro wrote to the Chief Minister about instances of refusal of flats to members of minority communities in Mumbai and elsewhere in Maharashtra. He further stated that intervention of the State Government is necessary to check this development. He also stated that the Urban Development Department should bring about necessary legislative changes in the law on the lines of the laws prescribed by the Singapore Government in which housing societies will admit members from the three principal races of the country.

129 'DEADWOOD' GOVT. OFFICERS SHOWN THE DOOR IN LAST ONE YEAR

May 25, 2017 – A letter by Mr. Ribeiro was sent to the Prime Minister commending him on taking bold decisions in retiring officers of Group A & B services after review as provided in service rules. He further opined that this step will send positive signals that the inefficient shall not be allowed to continue in the service and that this constructive and useful step of the Central Government needs to be emulated by the State Governments.

A copy of the letter to the Prime Minister was also sent to the Chief Minister commending similar action by the State Government. Some steps for a mechanism to facilitate undertaking a similar exercise were also suggested.

NATIONAL POLICY FOR WOMEN

May 22, 2017 – An email was sent to Maneka Gandhi commending her for her decision to keep a comprehensive and far-reaching policy in place for the wellbeing of all womenfolk of our country. The message further stated that a suitable and empowered monitoring mechanism to effectively implement the policy may be incorporated and institutionalized, so as to make the policy credible and productive.

ASSAULT ON AN RMO IN DHULE

April 6, 2017 – Another letter to the Chief Minister was sent appreciating his proactive role in resolving the strikes of the doctors following the brutal assault on an RMO in Dhule. Some suggestions were made to improve the ancillary aspects like space, environment and social niceties and the CM was asked to consider them.

EDITORIAL

[Contd. from Page 2]

Whenever I think of what the founding fathers of the nation and those who fought for the independence would like to say to us, this song comes to mind, "hum laye inhain toofan se kishti nikalke..." (We have rescued the boat from a storm). We have progressed economically no doubt but even that is not equal. Else 70 kms from Mumbai children would not be suffering bloated stomachs with malnourishment.

This Government at the Centre has no doubt introduced several good

economic policies and has economic progress in its heart but unless peace is maintained, unless rule of law is allowed to be implemented, an atmosphere conducive for investment which shall bring economic progress will be difficult to come by. It is the duty of the Government Servants to rise to the needs of the hour.

And that brings us to the final point. Anthropologists tell us that in the evolution of the Man, first came "homo erectus" so known for he could

walk erect on two feet. Later came the "homo sapiens" who could walk on two feet and also could think and reason out. Now we are witnessing the evolution of a new species the "homo crawler". He can walk straight but prefers to crawl; he can think for himself but prefers to only obey. It remains to be seen that as the theory of "survival of the fittest" works out which of the species will survive.

Jai Hind.

— Sanjeev Dayal

GET INFORMED

RTI Clinics In Mumbai

PCGT : Every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

For appointments and details:

Call : 23526426 / 23526452.

Address : B/2, Mahalaxmi Chambers,
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai-400026.

Email : publicconcern@gmail.com • Visit us at www.pcgto.org



Giants International Charitable Trust : 1st & 3rd Monday of every month between 4.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

• For appointments and details call 23679698

Address: Orient Club., 2nd Floor,
9, Chowpatty Sea Face, Mumbai-400007

Email: giantwld@mtnl.net.in

Visit us at www.giantinternational.org



BCAS Foundation : 2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturday of every month between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

• For appointments and details call 66595601-05

Address: 7, Jolly Bhavan No.2, Ground Floor,
New Marine Lines, Mumbai-400020

Email: bca@bcasonline.org

Visit us at www.bcasonline.org



Indian Merchants' Chamber 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month from 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Resource Person: Mr. S. K. Nangia

• For appointments and details call 22046633

Address: IMC Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020

RTI Clinics In Pune

Pune Municipal Council : Every Friday between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

• For appointments and details call

Mr. Marutirao Sail – Tel. 020 - 64005613

Address: Nagrik Suvidha Kendra, Pune Municipal Council,
Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411005

Email : pcgt@rediffmail.com • Visit us at www.pcgto.org



PCGT: Every Saturday between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

• For appointments and details call

C. R. Kutpelli – Tel. 020 - 64005613

Address: No 3, Thube Park, 16 Shivaji Nagar,
Pune-411005

Email: pcgtpune@rediffmail.com • Visit us at www.pcgto.org

मुम्बई में आरटीआई क्लीनिक

पीसीजीटी: हर मंगलवार दोपहर २.०० बजे से शाम ४.०० बजे तक

मिलने और जानकारी पाने के लिए फोन कीजिए : २३५२६४२६ / २३५२६४५२.

आरटीआई हेल्पलाइन नं: ९३ २२८८ २२८८

पता : बी/२, महालक्ष्मी चैम्बर्स, २२ भूलाभाई देसाई रोड, मुम्बई-४०० ०२६

ईमेल: publicconcern@gmail.com

हमारे यहां www.pcgto.org पर पधारिए



जाइन्टस इन्टरनेशनल चैरिटेबल ट्रस्ट : हर माह पहला और तीसरा सोमवार शाम ४.३० बजे से शाम ६.३० बजे के बीच

मिलने और जानकारी पाने के लिए फोन कीजिए : २३६७९६९८

पता : ओरिएन्ट क्लब बिल्डिंग, दूसरा फ्लोर, ९, चौपाटी सी फेस, मुम्बई - ४०० ०६७

ईमेल : giantwld@mtnl.net.in

हमारे यहां www.giantsinternational.org पर पधारिए



बीसीएस फाउन्डेशन : हर माह दूसरा, तीसरा और चौथा शनिवार सुबह ११.०० बजे से दोपहर १.०० बजे के बीच

मिलने और जानकारी पाने के लिए फोन कीजिए : ६६५९५६०१-०५

पता : ७, जॉली भवन नं. २, ग्राउन्ड फ्लोर, न्यू मरीन लाइन्स, मुम्बई - ४०० ०२०

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इंडियन मर्चेन्ट्स चैम्बर : हर माह पहला और तीसरा बुधवार शाम ४.०० बजे से शाम ६.०० बजे तक

इनसे मिलिए : श्री. एस. के. नांगिया

मिलने और जानकारी पाने के लिए फोन कीजिए : २२०४६६३३

पता: आईएमसी बिल्डिंग, चर्चगेट, मुम्बई - ४०० ०२०

पुणे में आरटीआई क्लीनिक

पुणे म्युनिसिपल काँसिल : हर शुक्रवार सुबह ११.०० बजे और दोपहर २.०० बजे के बीच

मिलने और जानकारी पाने के लिए फोन कीजिए:

मारुतीराव सेल : ०२० - ६४००५६१३

पता : नागरिक सुविधा केंद्र, पुणे म्युनिसिपल काँसिल, शिवाजी नगर, पुणे - ४११ ००५

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पीसीजीटी: हर शनिवार सुबह १०.३० बजे से दोपहर १२.३० बजे के बीच

मिलने और जानकारी पाने के लिए फोन कीजिए : ०२०-६४००५६१३

पता: नं. ३, थुबे पार्क, १६ शिवाजी नगर, पुणे - ४११ ००५

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FRIEND / VOLUNTEER WORK FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Tel. No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

Mobile: _____

I would like to volunteer with PCGT : YES NO From home At office (specify time)

Skills that I would like to contribute:

I would like to be involved in the following projects of PCGT:

RTI Corruption Hatayenge Kuchh Aur

Date: _____

Signature _____

Please join PCGT. There are three options :

DONOR CATEGORY

- Corpus Donation ₹ 100,000 and above
- "I Bless You" ₹ 25,000 and above
- "I Support You" ₹ 10,000 and above
- Annual Supporter
 - Admission Fees ₹ 200
 - Annual Subscription ₹ 300

*(Please note that donations to 'Public Concern for Governance Trust' qualify for deduction u/s. 80G(5) (VI) of the Income-tax Act, 1961)***Note : Cheques to be drawn in favour of
'Public Concern for Governance Trust'.****Detach & send form to:**

Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT)

B/2, Mahalaxmi Chambers,

22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,

Mumbai-400026

Tel.: (022) 2352 6426

E-mail: publicconcern@gmail.com <http://www.facebook.com/PCGT>

Registration No. E-20164 (Mumbai)

(The BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT, 1950)

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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 _____
