

Public Concern



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

July 2025

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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SHORT FILM: ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS



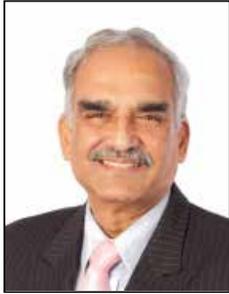
In May 2025, PCGT, with the support of CDSL and ZIK Media, produced a short film to promote road safety awareness. The film highlights the risks associated with everyday negligence, such as riding on the wrong side, improper helmet use, and distracted driving, emphasizing the importance of responsible behavior on the road.

The primary goal of the film is to raise public awareness of safe driving practices and encourage individuals to take proactive measures to prevent accidents. It serves as a strong reminder that road safety begins with personal responsibility, and simple actions — such as obeying traffic rules, wearing protective gear correctly, and staying focused while driving — can significantly reduce risks and save lives.

Through this initiative, PCGT has made a meaningful contribution to promoting road safety. By fostering awareness and encouraging responsible commuting, the campaign aims to create a safer environment for all road users.

EDITORIAL

THE CHAIRMAN SPEAKS



It Begins at Home

Why family, values, and community action are the building blocks of a just society

After over three decades in public service, including roles as Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, and Director General of Police, Maharashtra, I am convinced that the journey towards a better India doesn't begin in government offices — it begins at home, in our families, and within our neighbourhoods. Real reform is rooted in ethical parenting, disciplined living, and conscious community action.

Children Mirror What They See

Children are remarkably observant. They absorb behaviours, values, and attitudes far more from what they see than from what they are told. My own parenting experience has shown me that children reflect both virtues and flaws — often more sharply than we realise.

When we treat household staff with dignity, we teach children to value every individual. When we disregard rules casually, we normalise that behaviour for the next generation. The daily choices we make as parents, teachers, and neighbours directly influence the character of tomorrow's citizens.

Discipline and ethics are not just personal ideals — they are the foundation of a just society. Countries like Japan show us that public discipline, civic-mindedness, and

mutual respect lead to collective well-being.

Inclusive Progress Begins with Opportunity

No society can truly progress if it leaves its most vulnerable behind. Access to food, healthcare, and education should not be seen as privileges — they are basic rights that every individual deserves.

This belief inspired the creation of Mumbai Roti Bank, an NGO I founded to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Over the years, we've served 21 million free meals, proving that consistent, community-driven service can transform lives. Across India, we continue to see powerful stories of children from underserved backgrounds thriving — all because someone believed in them and extended a hand.

Challenging Biases and Fostering Inclusion

Discrimination based on caste, gender, colour, or class often takes root in small, unconscious ways — in our homes, language, or behaviour. When parents treat sons and daughters differently, or when domestic workers are treated as inferior, children internalise these cues.

But just as these patterns are learned, they can also be unlearned. Small shifts — addressing staff with dignity, supporting their children's education, or speaking of all individuals with respect — can help raise a generation that values empathy over exclusion.

Standing Up to Misinformation and Hate

In today's digital age, misinformation and hate speech spread with alarming speed, especially through social

media. Often emotionally charged and misleading, such content deepens divides and erodes trust.

We must respond with awareness and courage. Promoting digital literacy and critical thinking — especially among the youth — is essential. And it begins with small, everyday actions: questioning forwarded messages, sharing verified information, and gently but firmly challenging prejudice, even in our own WhatsApp groups. When we do this consistently, we don't just counter misinformation — we rebuild the social fabric with truth and empathy.

A Shared Responsibility

Whether we are parents, teachers, neighbours, or leaders — each of us has a role in shaping the kind of society we hope to live in. By modelling ethical behaviour, cultivating discipline, challenging injustice, and working together, we can create communities where everyone belongs, and every child can thrive.

True reform doesn't begin with policies alone. It begins when ordinary people act with extraordinary care — in their homes, schools, and streets.

If we want to build a stronger, more inclusive India, we must invest not just in infrastructure, but in values. The path ahead won't be easy, but it is necessary — and it is possible.

Let us raise ACTiZENS: Alert, Informed, and Active Citizens who don't wait for change, but help create it. Because when each of us chooses to leave the world a little better than we found it, that's when real progress begins — and that's how it lasts.

– D. Sivanandhan

KUCHH AUR

Nurturing Hearts, Building Futures

When classrooms emptied for summer, communities became classrooms of the heart.

Between April and June 2025, *Kuchh Aur* turned local spaces into vibrant hubs of learning, reflection, and transformation. With school gates closed, the program moved into communities, engaging children in sessions that brought values to life through play, stories, activities, and expression. These gatherings helped children understand themselves better, build confidence, explore differences, and cultivate empathy. Each session was more than a lesson; it was a moment of connection, discovery, and growth.

During this quarter, *Kuchh Aur* conducted **41 sessions** across schools and community centers, engaging more than **1200 children in Janjagruti Vidyarthi Sangh, Children of the World (India) Trust and Anjuman-I-Islam - Dr. M.I.J Girls High School**. The sessions were curated around real-life concerns, emotional understanding, civic sense and values, with each topic rooted in relevance and interactivity.

Children explored **exam fear** through a session titled *Fearless Exams: How to Cope with Exams*, which helped them recognize and reflect on their anxiety. Breathing techniques, memory games, and visualization tools enabled them to approach studies with less stress. In the *Memory Marathon*, students engaged in fun, time-bound memory challenges that build and focus on recalling skills.



Group Discussions

Self-reflection was central to sessions like *Knowing Yourself*, where children created self-maps and mirror reflections to identify their qualities and aspirations. This activity was especially impactful in encouraging them to speak confidently about their strengths and struggles. In parallel, *Understanding Emotions* was introduced to help students differentiate and name complex feelings like sadness, fear, jealousy and joy and respond with self-regulation.



Session on Knowing Yourself

Community belonging and mutual respect came alive through the *Unity in Diversity* sessions. Children discussed festivals, traditions and daily routines, discovering how differences make communities stronger. A unique highlight was the *Role Reversal* exercise, where children acted out the roles of helpers, teachers, and family members building empathy and appreciation for people they often overlook.



Group Discussion
– Unity in Diversity

Digital exposure was addressed through sessions on *Digital Responsibility* and *Media Awareness*. Here students learned how to verify online content, protect personal information, and reflect on the influence of social media. Discussions were kept practical, with students evaluating videos, news clips, and influencer trends.

In schools, sessions on **Governance and Fundamental Rights** introduced students to constitutional values. They engaged in storytelling and questioned everyday examples of fairness and injustice.

Each session combined participatory activities including circle discussions, drawings, ranking games, emotion wheels and group storytelling with simple takeaways that children could apply immediately in their homes, schools, and social settings.



Creative Storytelling Activity



Activity – Complete the Shape, Think Different

KUCHH AUR

The impact of these sessions was both **visible and meaningful**.

Many children, especially those from underprivileged communities, began expressing themselves more confidently. During the *Knowing Yourself* session, children who were usually shy stood up to share their strengths and dreams.

Students who had previously struggled with anxiety around academics expressed that the *Fearless Exams and Memory Marathon* sessions helped them feel calmer and more capable. One student shared, "Now I close my eyes and count slowly when I feel nervous. It helps." These techniques empowered them to approach exams with less fear and more focus.



Memory Marathon Activity

Children also became more **digitally aware**. Several participants said they had begun helping their younger siblings identify safe online platforms and were questioning forwarded content on family groups. In classrooms, students demonstrated improved awareness of fairness and justice, often connecting daily experiences to what they had learned about governance and rights.

This quarter of *Kuchh Aur* was not just about knowledge sharing, it was about **nurturing their voice, bringing about visibility and values** among children. By making community spaces into informal classrooms, the program created powerful learning environments where children could be curious, vulnerable, and bold.



The Joy of Learning Session

The **visible behavioral shifts, increased participation, and emotional maturity** observed during and after the sessions underline the importance of continuing such grassroots, values-based work. As the program looks ahead, it will deepen its reach by integrating themes of **gratitude, leadership, environmental care and wellness**.

Kuchh Aur believes in the power of **one question, one conversation, one change** because that's all it takes to awaken the change maker within every child and as always we move forward **one story, one insight, one value at a time**.



PURUSHOTTAM HIGH APPRECIATES KUCHH AUR

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of Purushottam High, we sincerely appreciate the 'Kuchh Aur' initiative and its impact over the past year. The sessions have been consistently engaging, insightful, and effective in fostering creativity, critical thinking, and confidence among students. The interactive approach and real-world relevance have made learning more meaningful.

We have observed a positive transformation in students' curiosity and participation, and the initiative has also provided valuable learning experiences for teachers. We look forward to continued collaboration and more such enriching sessions in the future.

Best regards,

Director
Mrs. Prema Kotian
Purushottam High School

INTERNS

Kuchh Aur Internship

As part of their internship experience, a group of interns visited schools and community centers under the Kuchh Aur initiative. They facilitated interactive sessions for children on relevant civic and social topics such as What is Democracy and Why Does Your Voice Matter?, Role of Governance, Civic Sense and Responsibility, Basic Concepts of Media – Its Advantages and Disadvantages, and Friendly Faces in Uniform. The sessions were designed to be engaging and age-appropriate, allowing children to connect with the concepts through discussions, group activities, and real-life examples. Interns helped create an environment where children felt encouraged to

think, question, and express their understanding freely.

The impact of these sessions was clearly visible. Children showed increased awareness about democratic values, community roles, and responsible citizenship. They shared personal observations about helpers in their neighborhoods, expressed opinions about what they watch online, and related classroom concepts to real-world situations. Interns, in turn, gained practical experience in conducting sessions, interacting with diverse learners, and building confidence in facilitating value-based education. The experience was mutually enriching, offering interns a

grounded understanding of community engagement.

Two insightful sessions were conducted by Ms. Rekha Shahani, focusing on life experiences and the power of quiet time. Through personal stories and gentle reflection, interns were encouraged to pause, look within, and connect with their inner values. The sessions offered a calming yet meaningful space, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.



INTERNSHIP – JUNE 2025

The June 2025 internship program ran smoothly with a mix of in-person sessions at our PCGT office and online classes from home, giving interns flexibility while keeping everyone engaged. The backbone of the program was the Right to Information (RTI) training led by Mr. D.S. Ranga Rao.

The flagship programme of the internship continued to focus on mentoring the interns in both the theory and practical application of the Right to Information Act, 2005 by Mr. D S Ranga Rao, a retired Intelligence Bureau official. This initiative aimed to combat corruption at the grassroots level and promote good governance across all sectors.

Interns were actively engaged in:

- Developing a thorough understanding of the legal provisions and significance of the RTI Act.
- Practising the drafting of well-structured RTI applications

tailored to seek information on matters of public interest.

- Successfully submitting these applications to various public authorities, especially when required information was not

readily accessible through departmental public domains.

Through this hands-on approach, interns developed greater confidence in their abilities to utilize the RTI Act effectively. By navigating the



INTERNS

process firsthand, they emerged as empowered, informed citizens ready to contribute to transparency and accountability—key pillars of a healthy democracy.

The highlight of the program was definitely the field visits, which gave interns real-world experience beyond the classroom. At the South Cyber Crime Police Station, interns were offered a deep dive into the evolving online risks, empowering interns with practical cyber safety insights. Officers shared current trends in cyber threats impacting young people and emphasized the importance of awareness, privacy, and cyber security in the digital age. The visit to the Cuffe Parade Police Station was equally impressive, where interns observed regular police operations and had an interactive session with

the Anti-Narcotics Cell, learning about drug prevention efforts in Mumbai.

The community engagement visits through the "Kuchh Aur" program were particularly meaningful. Interns spent time in Mankhurd and Rabale community centres interacting with local children and visited Anjuman-I-Islam - Dr. M.I.J Girls High School where they shared their knowledge with younger students. The visit to Roti Bank was both moving and eye-opening. Interns participated in distributing freshly prepared food to patients and families waiting outside KEM Hospital, many of whom rely on these meals daily. At the visit to the RTS office, the interns interacted with Mr. Manu Kumar Srivastava (State Chief Commissioner), Mr. Dilip Shinde (RTS Divisional Commissioner of Pune) and Ms. Varsha, Deputy

Secretary. They highlighted how government services are delivered to citizens, making abstract concepts very concrete.

Sessions were led by a distinguished panel of speakers, including Mr. J. F. Ribeiro, Mr. D. Sivanandhan and Mr. Mahesh Zagade. They inspired interns with stories of leadership and accountability. Sessions by Adv. Sannaya Ghandhi, Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia and Mr. Vedant Mainkar introduced interns to legal perspectives on animal rights, dispute resolution, the role of law in democracy and caste awareness. These sessions challenged interns to think critically and connect academic learning to societal issues.

What made this month special was watching these young people grow from curious students into informed citizens.

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

Child Safety - Collaboration with Mumbai Police

In June 2025, PCGT took significant steps to strengthen child safety in schools through a collaborative effort with the Mumbai Police. On 4th June, a planning meeting was held with Police officials to integrate PCGT's child safety initiative with the ongoing Nirbhaya Pathak and Police Didi programmes. The discussion focused on forming student committees that would lead peer-to-peer safety sessions on topics like cyber safety, women's safety, and legal awareness. A follow-up meeting on 20th June at Gamdevi Police Station focused on local implementation. Plans were laid out to form safety committees in each school, conduct interactive sessions on cyber safety, child sexual abuse, substance abuse, and responsible social media use. PCGT will provide NSS students who could assist the committees during these sessions, coordinate with school principals, and ensure regular monitoring through surprise visits. Students who take part in these committees will also receive certificates to acknowledge their role in promoting a safer school environment.



LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

MoUs SIGNED BY PCGT

PCGT signed MoUs with the following colleges in April 2025.
Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia represented PCGT for signing the MoUs.

SR. NO.	DATE OF MoU	NAME OF COLLEGE	REPRESENTED BY	IN THE PRESENCE OF
1.	03-04-2025	Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law	Principal, Prof. Mrs. Vaishali Gurav	Adv. Arjun Kadam
2.	14-04-2025	School of Law, NMIMS Navi Mumbai	Programme Chair SOL Prof. Band	Dr. Shubhasheesh Bhattacharya (Campus Director).
3.	17-04-2025	KC Law College	Principal Dr. Kavita Lalchandani	Vice Principal Dr. Kiran Sharma



Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia with Prof. Mrs. Vaishali Gurav & Adv. Arjun Kadam (College alumni & ex intern of PCGT)



Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia with Dr. Shubhasheesh Bhattacharya



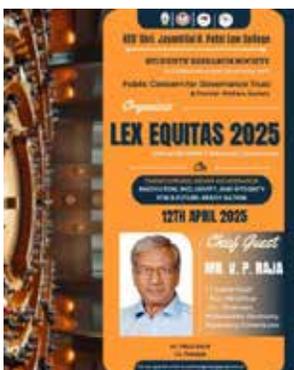
Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia with Dr. Kavita Lalchandani & Dr. Kiran Sharma

Panel Discussion on One Nation One Election

PCGT in collaboration with the Centre for Research in Public Law, Policy, and Jurisprudence (CRPLPJ), Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, organized a panel discussion on "One Nation, One Election: A Democratic Reform or a Constitutional Dilemma?" on 6th April 2025 at 9 am in hybrid mode at Maharashtra National Law University, Powai, Mumbai. Mr. V.P. Raja (Trustee, PCGT, Retd. IAS Officer) presided as the Chief Guest for the event and delivered the keynote address. The Panellists were Asst. Prof. Aditya Dharmendra Dhayfule (HOD, Department of History, Shailendra Education Society's Arts, Commerce & Science College, Dahisar, NSS Area Coordinator, University of Mumbai), Mr. Tanmay Patil (Political Researcher and Consultant, former Lead Ambassador PCGT) and Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia. More than 50 students attended the event and benefitted from the insights of the speakers who critically examined the viability, challenges, and constitutional ramifications of this proposed reform.



National Conference on Transforming Indian Governance



PCGT in collaboration with the Students' Research Society of KES' Shri. Jayantilal H. Patel Law College and Frontier Welfare Society organized LEX EQUITAS 2025: Virtual Students' National Conference on 12th April 2025. The Theme of the Conference was "Transforming Indian Governance : Innovation, Inclusivity, and Integrity for a Future-Ready Nation" and more than 50 students attended the said

conference in different capacities. Mr. V.P. Raja (Trustee, PCGT, Retd. IAS Officer) presided as the Chief Guest for the event and delivered the keynote address. This was a one-of-a-kind student conference providing a platform to aspiring legal minds, policy enthusiasts, and researchers to engage in insightful discussions, present their research, and contribute to the vision of a future-ready India.

LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

Session on Cooperative Federalism

On the occasion of Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti, 14th April 2025, Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia delivered a session on "Achieving Good Governance through Cooperative Federalism: Understanding Centre-State Relations under the Constitution of India" at NMIMS Navi Mumbai Campus, in collaboration with PCGT. Nearly 30 students from the School of Law attended the session, improving their understanding of centre-state relations as envisaged under the Indian Constitution.



RTI Workshops



A workshop on the Right to Information Act (RTI) was organized by PCGT in collaboration with Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law, Mumbai (ABACL) on April 3, 2025 from 7:30 am to 9:30 am at ABACL Campus, Dadar. The workshop was delivered by Adv. Arjun Kadam (Advocate, Bombay High Court; ABACL alumnus and former PCGT Intern), who explained the theoretical and practical aspects of the RTI Act 2005, including drafting of RTI Applications. More than 50 students of ABACL participated in the workshop.

PCGT organized a Seminar on "Understanding RTI and Constitutional Values" in collaboration with the Shailendra Education Society's Arts, Commerce & Science College Mumbai on 17th April 2025 (Friday) at 11 am in offline mode at their Principal D. G. Samant Hall. The Seminar was delivered by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi and Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia and was attended by over 60 students.



Another workshop on the Right to Information Act (RTI) was organized by PCGT in collaboration with the Pro Bono Club at MNLU Mumbai on 2nd May 2025 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in Hybrid mode. It was delivered by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi and attended by over 50 students.

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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