

Public Concern



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

April 2018

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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YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE MAIN EVENT 2018



The Chief Guest Shri Rajmohan Gandhi flanked by Mr. Ribeiro to his left and Dr. R. K. Anand on his right

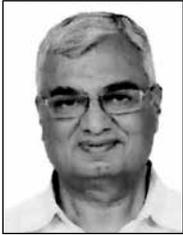
PCGT, a trust which works towards building values in citizens through its programmes RTI, Kuch Aur and Youth for Governance, held a theme based event "Unity In Diversity" on 9th February, 2018, at the Shanmukhananda Hall. The Chief Guest was Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi, grand-son of Mahatma Gandhi and also a historian and biographer involved in efforts of trust-building and reconciliation. His goal remains to bring peace between Hindus and Muslims and reconciliation between India-Pakistan. He believes in education of young people who aspire to resist and fight against communalism, thereby playing a positive role in India's youth development process.

Unity in Diversity was designed to reach all high school and college students. The event centered on music, dance, and street play on current social events. The evening began with the movie "Hum Sab Ek Hai" followed by Mr. Ribeiro's welcome speech and introduction of the Chief Guest Shri Rajmohan Gandhi. Mr. Ribeiro spoke briefly about the work that PCGT does. This was followed by an electrifying performance by Shami Tyagi of Gurukool fame. The performance was filled with energy, giving the evening a perfect start. Children of the Tardeo BMC School and Anjuman Islam High School performed the song, 'Kaun Hai Zimedar' which conveyed that we need a firm resolution to work together to combat corruption. The Purshotam High School children displayed their thematic dance on different cultures in India with full vibrancy.

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VOICES

EDITORIAL



Death on the Roads

PCGT has been partnering Mumbai Police in sensitising people to the need for following the traffic rules which

are for their own benefit. And this is why:

15000 people die in Maharashtra annually, on an average, in traffic related accidents. All India figures are 150000 per annum. An Analysis of these deaths indicates that 90% of the deaths are due to human failure of either the driver of the vehicle or of the person walking on/across the road. If the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal were to make awards in the same year (as against several years later at present) and even if the award in each case would be the lowest figure of 10 lacs, the total payout every year due to deaths in accidents in Maharashtra alone would amount to ₹ 1500 crores. This amount would be sufficient to make 150 kms of national highway every year.

If you have recently hired a vehicle for a travel, chances are that the driver reporting with it has driven through the night and has had no rest before reporting to you. There are no rules in our country on the number of hours that the driver must put in and the rest he must take and there is no mechanism to monitor implementation of such rules. Abroad not only are the hours a driver can drive in a day fixed but periods of rest are also prescribed. Every commercial vehicle is fitted with a tachograph which records the time the vehicle started, distance travelled, time travelled and the speed. Every driver must

insert a disc into the tachograph before commencing journey and this disc can be read anytime anywhere during the day and for any violation, the driver, owner of the vehicle and the person who have chartered the vehicle are held accountable. In India such efforts are resisted by the powerful lobby of the truck owners who force the drivers on their trucks to drive several hours without rest. As a result several incidents of lives lost due to accidents caused by drivers of vehicles who slept while driving are recorded.

In any big city in the country today, whatever little footpaths are available are unsafe for walking. No, not because they are in poor state of repair but because motorcyclists are riding on it, totally unmindful of the rules and safety of others. On roads, driving in wrong lane is a common habit. Travel in a city taxi and you will find that the driver's seat belt is only to dodge the challan on that account and the belt does nothing to provide any safety to the driver. Riding a two wheeler without helmet and crossing on a red light or over-speeding are considered pen for the course. These are symptomatic of a Society that is totally insensitive to driving issues and where policemen are required to be deployed at every red light to enforce compliance.

The driving training schools have miserably failed in producing good drivers. All that these schools do is to train you to change gears and hold the steering wheel while you press the accelerator and to brake in time. The need for obeying the rules and laws, courtesy to fellow drivers and to those on foot path or crossing the roads are not something that the trainers in these schools know themselves let alone impart to their pupils. The pedestrians too fail to follow basic rules and jump on the road anywhere and everywhere

with their hand held out to stop the oncoming traffic. The zebra crossing is now only for fools. While the transport department is tasked with licensing and inspecting these schools, the same is seldom done.

We, as citizens, could not allow 150000 of our brothers and sisters to die on roads year after year simply due to insensitivity to the traffic rules. Situation is bad and calls for a sustained and prolonged action. There has been a feeling among the governments that financing some kind of traffic education one year is sufficient. No it is not. Just like education in other curriculums has to be done year after year as new children join the schools, traffic education has to be carried out year after year. Those already on the road need to be educated too. They can't be taught all the rules all at once and so a graduated plan has to be put in place. First, rules touching the life of the driver or somebody else have to be ingrained till they become a second habit. Then will come the rules concerning safety and finally those that touch the courtesies. The compliance to rules has to come from within the citizens themselves as informed and concerned humans and no amount of police methods will work however, it may be desired by making police alone responsible at the pain of penalising the police. It is the wrong way of going about things.

The efforts of PCGT are to be seen in this light as a means of convincing citizens to voluntarily comply with traffic rules. A small beginning has been made but if concerned citizens were to join in following rules themselves and in convincing others around them, we could be a better Society. Let us all be the change we want to see.

Jai Hind

— Sanjeev Dayal

PCGT PUNE

Seminar on “Better Policing”



Post Graduate Department of D.E.S. Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune, in association with Public Concern for Governance Trust, Pune Chapter, organised one day seminar on “**Better Policing**” on 30th January, 2018 in Kundanmal Firodia Auditorium, F.C. Campus, Pune. The programme started with the welcome address by Dr. Rohini Honap, D.E.S. Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune. She introduced the contribution of Law College in organizing the various academic activities which are of socio-legal significance. She also highlighted the achievements of Law College in the last fourteen years. Dr. Rohini Honap felicitated the two speakers Mr. Prakash Singh, IPS (Retd.) & Mr. Jayant Umranikar, IPS (Retd.) along with Mr. S. C. Nagpal, IRS (Retd.), Chairman, PCGT Pune Chapter, Mr. A. V. Krishnan, I.P.S. (Retd.), Member PCGT, Pune Chapter, Mr. Satyabir S. Dodd, IAS (Retd.), Member, PCGT, Pune Chapter.

Mr. A. V. Krishnan, I.P.S. (Retd.), Member PCGT, Pune Chapter, introduced glimpses of the contribution of PCGT right from its inception till date including its prominent contribution in the field of Right to Information Act.

The First Speaker for the Seminar, Mr. Jayant Umranikar, IPS (Retd.), Former Director General of Police, opened the seminar Topic “Better Policing” from a historical perspective. He gave a brief outline of trends in reforming the police from the ancient period of Kautilya. He gave a brief account of the Police System which we are having today. We can see the predecessor of the system in the past. He stressed that the main shift in the policing happened during the British Period where people’s police shifted to ruler’s police. He referred to

various Commissions appointed for the betterment in the Police System including Ketkar Commission (1764), Second Police Commission (1902). He also stated that pragmatically speaking, the starting point of the police reform will be by having more budgetary allocation for police reforms. He also mooted that the training of the police officers and updated scientific advancement in investigation and supervision is needed for better policing.

The second speaker, Mr. Prakash Singh, IPS (Retd.), Former Director General of Police, Assam and Uttar Pradesh, shed light mainly on the legal battle which he fought in the Supreme Court of India through a Public Interest Litigation. He



pointed out that the situation of police which was there in the 20th century is as it is in the 21st century as well. The challenges faced in policing in 20th century have contemporary relevance as well. He highlighted the limitations of the framers of the legislations governing the policing because the challenges faced by police in 20th century were completely different than the 21st century challenges. Problems like drug-trafficking, human trafficking, insurgency, terrorism, Separatist, Naxalite and extremist movements were not contemplated by the framers of the legislations governing the Police administration. He emphasized that there is a demand from legal

jurists and stalwarts that the entry of police should be shifted from state list to concurrent list for uniformity and better administration of police. He also emphasized that the political interference in police administration is the main reason for stalling the police reforms. He urged to end the political interference in day to day police administration. He referred the recommendations of Malimath Committee Report, Verma Committee Report. He also highlighted the need to implement Model Police Law by the States. He also explained the main seven directions given by Hon’ble Supreme Court in betterment of police administration. He urged for filling vacancies in Police department, providing logistical and technical support to the police department, establishment of forensic laboratories in every district for effective investigation of the crimes, effective training facilities for better policing.

Mr. S. C. Nagpal gave the concluding remarks. He summed up the points mooted by both the speakers. He also explained the role of PCGT in spreading awareness in relation to the issues which are of public importance.

Mr. Satyabir S. Dodd conducted the question-answer session. In this session students and delegates asked question to both the speakers on varied issues.

Asst. Professor Janhavi Ghodke of post-graduate department proposed the vote of thanks. Compering of the programme was done by Ms. Aishwarya Thakur-Desai, post graduate student of D.E.S. Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College.

All important Police Officers of Pune Police, members of PCGT, Faculty members and students of D.E.S. Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune were present for the function.



YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE (CONTD.)

The second phase of the evening had the Bharat Soka Gokkai Arts Division members perform a rousing rendition of Raag Malhaar followed with a powerful dance performance combined with a recitation of excerpts from President Ikeda's poems. The audience was shown a short presentation prepared by our Trustee Dr. Raj Kumar Anand on the ethos of goodness by citing examples of Afroz Shah, a young Indian Lawyer who is synonymous with the world's largest beach clean-up project. He cited another example in line with the theme of "Unity in Diversity" about the Imam and the Pastor whose hate for each other turned into love and how today, they work together to teach warring religious youth militia to resolve their conflicts peacefully throughout the world.

The final phase of the evening began with a short video on the highlights of inter collegiate competitions held on street plays, poster design, mobile documentary, slogan writing and elocution followed by Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi's talk on the theme of Unity In Diversity which led to a very interesting Q&A session with the young audience. The questions were very well framed. They concerned communal disharmony in our country and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The response given by the chief guest was very sensitive. The questions did justice to the theme

of the evening. This was followed by the prize distribution of the inter-collegiate competitions. The winning team of the street play performed on stage followed by the Elphinstone College students who performed a dance on a medley of music. The event ended with Mr. Dara Gandhi's vote of thanks to Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi and his wife, to all the participants, the compere, the youth, and the event manager and the event ended with the National Anthem.

The event was yet another feather in PCGT's cap, as it successfully involved youth to build a united India.

Earlier, Inter College competitions had been conducted by PCGT on the theme "Unity in Diversity" at Government Law College, Churchgate on 15th Jan 2018. More than 190 students participated from 25 different colleges across Mumbai. The Competitions such as Street Play, Elocution, Digital Poster Making, Slogan Writing & Short Film were conducted under the theme. **Ambedkar College** won the first prize in street play, **Miss Samruddhi Purav** from **Ruia College** won the first prize in Elocution, **Master Kritik Bangera** from **Vidyavikas Universal College** won the first prize in digital poster, **Ruia College** bagged the first prize in Short film and **Miss Shubhalaxmi Dalvi** from **Bhawan's College** won first prize in slogan writing competition.



Inter College Competitions being held at GLC Mumbai



Volunteers and performers with the Chief Guest



Purshottam High School, Bandra

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



PCGT's spirited youth of the community and the Mumbai Traffic Policemen worked together towards awareness around Road Safety in South and Central Mumbai city from 5th March to 17th March 2018. An initiative by PCGT that presented a unified voice to spread awareness about the epidemic of road accidents in India, which, in the last decade alone, have killed over 13 lakh people and seriously injured or permanently disabled over 50 lakh people across the country. PCGT may or may not be doing direct work in the area of road safety but has a strong interest in the issue and its impact on the citizens.

All said and done, managing traffic in Mumbai is as difficult as driving at peak

hour – “Always be alert” is the only option. The principles are same but the difference lies only in the quantum. A person driving has to navigate only one vehicle, while the Mumbai Traffic police have to ensure the smooth flow of over 2.7 million vehicles throughout Mumbai on a daily basis. It is a daunting task, particularly lack of parking space due to Mumbai's unique topography, growth of vehicles and last but not the least motorists who do not follow traffic rules and discipline.

Despite the challenges, Mumbai Traffic police, under the guidance of Mumbai Police Commissioner, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) and officers and personnel assisted by PCGT, tried to ensure that traffic rules,

whilst driving in Mumbai, should be a smooth affair giving equal importance to pedestrians.

The mission of PCGT, along with the Mumbai Police Traffic Department, is to enhance the quality of life for every citizen of Mumbai by working in partnership to enforce the traffic law, preserve discipline, reduce fear for people, and maintain order. The Department is committed to accomplishing its mission to protect the lives of all citizens of Mumbai City by treating every citizen with courtesy, professionalism and respect, and to enforce the laws impartially, both through deterrence and the relentless pursuit.

Life Is Precious..... Follow Traffic Rules for Safety & Security

SUCCESS STORIES

1. Cast Certificate

Mr. Kamal Narayan Movalankar, a senior citizen approached PCGT requesting help in getting an OBC Caste Certificate for his grand-daughter, which he could not get in the past one year despite repeated efforts made at Tehsil office, Andheri, as he was unable to pay a hefty bribe demand from the officials there. PCGT filed an RTI application before the tehsil office seeking to know the timelines, procedures, fees payable, etc., to get an OBC Caste Certificate duly issued by the office. In reply, the PIO dodged giving the information asked for. As the tehsil office was likely to delay the matter further, Mr. Ribeiro, Chairman, PCGT, wrote to Commissioner, Right to Services and Collector, Mumbai Suburban District, to intervene and expedite the matter. Acting on the same, the Collector directed the Tehsildar, Andheri, to dispose of the matter within the prescribed time limit of 21 days from the date of acceptance of the application. Accordingly, Mr. Kamal Narayan was issued the Caste Certificate on expiry of the due date. Mr. Kamal Narayan warmly acknowledged the help.

2. 10 year-old missing documents unearthed through RTI in MHADA.

One widow approached PCGT saying that her application for transfer of ownership of her MHADA flat was not acted upon. MHADA went on informing her that the original documents submitted for transfer of ownership were lost and she was asked to wait indefinitely. For her it was impossible to recreate the original documents as she did not have the means. PCGT filed RTI application before the MHADA office asking for the status of action taken on her application. The PIO replied saying that the concerned file was not traceable and once the same was traced, the applicant would be contacted. Then, in reply to our First Appeal, the Appellate Authority directed the PIO to trace the papers within 15 days and act as necessary. Surprisingly, the PIO found them within 15 days, which earlier he could not find for ten years! The PCGT is pursuing the matter to its logical conclusion.

KUCHH AUR



At the Youth for Governance Annual Event on February 6, 2018 at Shanmukananda Hall the BMC and Anjuman Islam High Schools performed the song, 'Kaun Hai Zimeddar' (copyright - Initiative of Change) which conveyed we need a firm resolution to work together to combat corruption. The event also had Purshotam High School children display their thematic dance on different cultures in India with full vibrancy.

Tardeo BMC School & Anjuman-I-Islam

Sessions in BMC School and Community

"The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." — Mahatma Gandhi.

As part of the Kuchh Aur programme PCGT team and interns, reached out to the Community at Rabale in the Children of the World, India, Trust Study Centre and Dr. Ambedkar BMC School, Worli. The children with whom interaction took place in both these places are those whose parents work in construction and as domestic helps. A session on Compassion, Honesty and gender equality and their traditional values was explained to the children and the importance of treating people the way you want to be treated and helping those in need and to develop an awareness of the suffering in another person, was expressed to them.



Ice-breaking Activity at Rabale

Students' Workshop on "Relationship"

A workshop on "Relationship" was organised by PCGT on March 12, 2018 for the students of B.Ed. department of Rizvi College of Education, Bandra. Mrs. Rekha Shahani, Trustee of PCGT and former principal of Kamla High School, was the speaker. She emphasized on the four pillars of a successful relationship, which are, communication, commonalities, respect and trust.

Feedback from Rizvi College

About the session

Rizvi College of Education hosted a workshop on Relationships by Mrs. Rekha Shahani on 12th March, 2018. The presentation skills, passion and knowledge of the resource person were fantastic. The real life case examples were helpful and provided a lot of context. The whole session was interactive, example driven and great takeaways especially the practical brainstorming. The enthusiasm and learnings that the resource person had to share with us were too inspiring. It had blown apart our set ideas on the relationships. Ma'am had given us a clear process or concept to follow to be successful. It was an excellent, engaging participation that had made us re-examine our approach to relationships. We really feel we can carry many of the things forward in the future roles.

Students' reflection on the session

Shakeeba (Second Year B.Ed. Student) had given the feedback that the best aspect was the hands-on approach - not just being talked at. Ma'am actually incorporates the same in her behaviour and is too lovely.

Bhavesh (First Year B.Ed. student) also felt the session was informative and the new things learnt can be put into practice. He had a very candid moment with Rekha madam, becoming too emotional while talking to her.



RIGHT TO INFORMATION

RTI Sessions



PCGT in collaboration with Desai Foundation organized two RTI sessions at Somaiya Centre for Life Long Learning, Fort, on Feb 3, 2018. The speakers for the sessions were Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, a former Central Information Commission (CIC) and Mr. Arjun Kadam, an ex-Intern of PCGT. They addressed final year law students of various Law colleges of Mumbai and junior advocates who were enthusiastic about RTI.

Mr. Gandhi explained various parts of the RTI Act and some of its most important sections. He also explained how the RTI was derived from the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India. He shared many cases of RTI and urged every citizen to use RTI to checkmate corruption. At the end there was a Q&A session where he solved the doubts of the students regarding RTI.

Mr. Kadam's session was equally informative and impressive. Being a young and energetic speaker he made the entire audience pay attention. Real life examples of RTI matters presented by the speaker were appreciated. The booklet provided by PCGT was felt to be handy by the audience for filing RTI Applications/Appeals.

RTI Session at Desai Foundation For Change



"Give a Man a Fish, and You Feed Him for a Day. Teach a Man To Fish, and You Feed Him for a Lifetime." With this objective in mind, the PCGT organized a session on Right to Information (RTI) Act for the Employees and Trainees of Desai Foundation For Change at MBPT Colony, Govandi (East), Mumbai on Saturday, 24th Feb, 2017, with the purpose of addressing a particular community and empowering them to resolve their problems with the help of RTI. It was conducted by Mr. Krishna Gupta, an RTI

trainee and a notable activist from Moneylife Foundation, Mumbai. He explained the brief history of the evolution of the RTI Act and its objectives, followed by the session highlighting the key features of the RTI Act as well as its importance in their lives. Further, Mr. Gupta explained to the participants about how PCGT is helping people in solving their issues related to MHADA, MCGM, SRA and other Govt. offices.



RTI Session at VG Vaze College, Mulund

"We are the Badshahs and Begums of this great nation" stated former Chief Information Commissioner Mr. Shailesh Gandhi as he began explaining some of the important sections of the RTI Act, 2005. The informative session was organised by the NSS units in association with Money Life Foundation and Public Concern for Governance Trust on the 5th of February, 2018, at Vaze College auditorium, Mulund. Largely conversing with the audience and not indulging in monologue, Mr. Gandhi made the audience feel that people are the masters and not servants of the government officials and MPs and MLAs.

Mr. Gandhi briefly explained important sections of the RTI Act, 2005 and advised all to exercise this great Fundamental Right of ours. He also urged all to file one RTI application every month at least and follow up on it, which will benefit in the long run. A couple of success stories narrated by various individuals were discussed. It was heart-warming to see the law was being used for the people and not against the people, Mr. Gandhi commented. The Q & A session with Mr. Gandhi helped many students clear their doubts and individuals also gave their opinions as to how RTI could be made more effective and useful to the citizens at large.



RTI CLINIC IN MUMBAI

PCGT :

Every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For appointments and details :

Call : 022-2352 6426 / 2352 6452

Address : B/2, Mahalaxmi Chambers
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,
Mumbai-400 026

E-mail : publicconcern@gmail.com

RTI CLINIC IN PUNE

Pune Municipal Corporation

Every Friday between 11 a.m. & 2 p.m

For appointments and details :

Call : Mr. Marutirao Sail

Tel : 020-6400 5613

Address : Nagrik Suvidha Kendra
Pune Municipal Corporation
Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411 005

E-mail : pcgt@rediffmail.com

Visit us at : www.pcgt.org

DONATIONS TO PCGT

All activities of PCGT are undertaken from the funds received from the donors. People who want to donate any amount of ₹ 5,000/- and above may please issue cheques in favour of 'Public Concern For Governance Trust'.

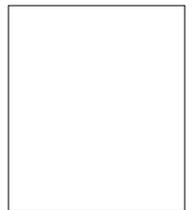
Donations to PCGT qualify for deduction u/s. 80G(5)(VI) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

VOLUNTEERS

People who believe in the Vision & Mission of PCGT are welcome to work as volunteers and contribute to various programmes under-taken by PCGT. They can contact us at our Office at the address given below or call on 022-2352 6426

✂ tear along this line

BOOK POST



PUBLIC CONCERN

C/o. Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT)

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