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Concept Note: Mumbai ER Governance Fellowship 2026

About Praja

Over the last 26 years, Praja Foundation has been dedicated to fostering accountable governance through extensive data-driven research on civic issues. It works to inform citizens, the media, and government administration. Praja also works with elected representatives (ERs) to equip them to address inefficiencies in their work processes, bridge information gaps, and mobilise them to take corrective measures while advocating for change.

ER Governance Fellowship

The ER Governance Fellowship is a unique and exciting opportunity for young citizens to learn how the city government functions and be part of running their cities. The fellows will get an opportunity to work directly with the Elected Representatives of Mumbai (mainly councillors). The program encourages participants to channelise their skills and also get an experience of working with the elected representatives.

Objectives:

The fellowship aims to equip youth with ground level understanding of urban governance and develop informed, action-oriented young citizen through close engagement with elected representatives (Councillors, MLAs and MLCs) and city administrations, enabling informed action on civic issues in their cities.

Fellowship Format:

The Cohort-7 of the ER Governance Fellowship Programme will begin in February 2026. Following a rigorous selection process, 10 fellows will be selected. The fellows will go through a comprehensive orientation programme to build a foundational understanding of urban governance concepts and the structure of local city governance.

The fellows will be involved in research on urban governance reforms, municipal finance, service delivery, and citizen participation. They will also support the organisation of capacity-building workshops for elected representatives and the administration, as well as events such as Prajatantra – National Youth Festival.

As part of the program, fellows will work closely with city administrations and elected representatives (mainly councillors), providing research assistance to help raise questions related to civic, health, and education issues in the House and committees.

Praja will organize capacity building sessions facilitated by experts, weekly and monthly review meetings with the fellows to ensure active peer learning within the cohort. Coordinators will also share their feedback as well as guide them in their upcoming tasks. Mentors from various professional backgrounds will help the fellows to further build their skills.

Fellowship Impact:

The research conducted by Praja Fellows and their assistance in raising matters of public concern on the legislative forums has resulted in action from local governments to improve public services for the city. It led to the opening of pre-primary classes in all Municipal Schools, initiating health check-ups for students enrolled in public schools across Maharashtra, construction of public toilets for tribal hamlets located in the Aarey Colony, and more reforms.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop confidence and professional comfort in engaging with government officials and elected representatives (ERs).
- Gain an understanding of outreach and stakeholder engagement processes within governance systems.
- Build the ability to provide research support on urban governance, civic issues, and public policy to elected representatives (ERs) and other stakeholders.
- Acquire an understanding of urban governance frameworks and municipal finance across cities in India.
- Learn government data collection processes and develop skills in data entry, analysis, and report/white paper writing.
- Build working knowledge of the Right to Information Act and its practical application in governance and advocacy.
- Understand the role of media and communications in public outreach, advocacy, and citizen engagement.
- Gain hands-on experience in governance processes, event organisation, and professional networking under the mentorship of experts and changemakers.

Note: Praja's ER Governance Fellowship Programme Cohort 7, will be Mumbai based onsite fellowship for the period of 8 months, extended up to 10 months. Fellowship will start from February 2026.

Important Dates for the Fellowship: -

Application Form Date: 23rd January 2026 – 15th February 2026

Boot Camp: 16th February 2026

Link for application form: <https://forms.gle/vzHU3DW12gqnVds97>

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Concept Note: Lucknow Governance Fellowship 2026

Over the last 26 years, Praja Foundation has been dedicated to fostering accountable governance through extensive data-driven research on civic issues. The Governance Fellowship Programme is a unique and exciting opportunity for young citizens to learn how city governments function and be part of running their cities. Praja also works with elected representatives (ERs) to equip them to address inefficiencies in their work processes, bridge information gaps, and mobilise them to take corrective measures while advocating for change.

Objectives:

Praja's Fellowship Programme will build understanding on urban governance, various powers and functions of the elected representatives through comprehensive fieldwork and encourage youth participation in democracy. This program is designed to raise awareness among participating fellows about the realities of urban governance, service deliveries and the roles & functions of elected representatives in raising matters of public concern and raising questions on issues on the floor of the legislative forums and committees. In this process, fellows will undertake extensive research and data-collection work for the Urban Development Department and Directorate of Urban Local Bodies of Uttar Pradesh. The research includes Municipal Finance, Town Planning and other related governance reforms which broadens their horizons towards understanding their cities better and continue to take actions towards improving the city.

Fellowship Format:

The Cohort-4 of the Lucknow Urban Governance Fellowship Programme will have 4 youth selected through a structured selection process. The fellowship will begin in **February 2026**.

The fellows will go through a comprehensive orientation programme to build a foundational understanding of urban governance concepts and the structure of local city governance. Following this, they will be involved in research on urban governance reforms, municipal finance, service delivery, citizen participation etc. Besides, they will provide support in organising capacity-building workshops for elected representative and administration, Prajatantra- National Youth Festival, amongst other events. During the period of the fellowship, the fellows will engage with various stakeholders in the process of

governance including but not limited to elected representatives, administration and other field experts.

Praja will organise capacity building sessions facilitated by experts, weekly and monthly review meetings with the fellows to ensure active peer learning within the cohort. Coordinators will also share their feedback as well as guide them in their upcoming tasks.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding of the process of data collection and research in different government departments
- Build knowledge of the Right to Information Act and its functions.
- Experience and comfortability in interacting with government officials.
- Understanding of data entry, data analysis and the process of creating white papers/reports.
- Knowledge of the process of outreach with elected representatives and other stakeholders.
- Understanding of Urban Governance and Municipal Finance in other cities in India.
- Understanding the importance of media and communications in outreach and advocacy.
- Hands-on experience of participating in the governance process with mentorship from experts and changemakers.
- Networking with professionals and experts in their field, expanding the professional network and developing prospective career opportunities.
- Develop hard and soft skills i.e. interpersonal communications, time management, research and others.

Note: Praja's Lucknow Governance Fellowship Programme Cohort 4, will be an offline fellowship for the period of 8 months, extended up to 10 months. Fellowship will start from February 2026.

Important Dates for the Fellowship: -

Application Form Date: 23rd January 2026 – 15th February 2026

Boot Camp: 16th February 2026

Link for application form: <https://forms.gle/yzHU3DW12gqnVds97>

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