



URBAN GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE

Transforming Urban Governance

August, 2022

PRAJA.ORG
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



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Srinagar Municipal Fellowship Cohort 1: Orientation

Praja Foundation believes that uninformed and disengaged Elected Representatives and administration, rather than existing systems or policies, are responsible for the lack of good governance. Praja Foundation's several efforts towards better governance in the city of Delhi and Mumbai, the Elected Representative Fellowship Programme has always been one of the highlights.

The programme is designed to increase awareness in the participating fellows about the ground realities of urban governance and the powers and functions of elected representatives while working alongside them. It focuses on building the capacities of fellows to turn them into educated and skilled future political and social leaders.

Praja has been conducting the fellowship programme for youth in Mumbai since 2017. **Praja has successfully completed 3 fellowship cohorts in Mumbai and 1 fellowship cohort in Delhi and currently the 4th Cohort is ongoing in Mumbai.**

Praja Foundation signed an MOU with Srinagar Municipal Corporation on 8th February, 2022 in presence of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor. Praja Foundation extended the Fellowship Programme to Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to assist the Municipal Councillors and the administrative body.

The Srinagar Fellowship Cohort-1 launch was held on 31st May 2022 through a Press conference. Various reputed local and national print and online media covered the promotion of Srinagar Fellowship Cohort-1.

Various social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram were used to promote and reach out to youth to participate in the fellowship program. The outreach team of Praja Foundation reached out to Colleges/ Universities/ Departments, where the students were orientated about Praja's work with SMC and the Srinagar ER (Elected Representative) fellowship programme. **A total of 241 applications were received out of**



which 155 applications were shortlisted for the in-person interview round based on the telephonic conversation and application analysis.

Fellowship Interviews:

Interviews were held on 21st June 2022 in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. Some of the respected dignitaries from diverse backgrounds were part of the interview panel - Jt. Commissioners of SMC, Asst. Municipal Secretary, Chief Medical Officer of CRPF, CEO of Praja Foundation, Professor of Kashmir University and Former Chief Auditor, BMC Mumbai. **A total of 77 applicants were interviewed for the fellowship.**

Orientation:

Selected 11 fellows have undergone one-week orientation at Srinagar Municipal Corporation followed by an exposure field visit in the form of a webinar by Praja team to familiarise them with:

- **The work of Praja.**
- **SMC and its departments and website.**
- **The three tiers of government and local self-government.**
- **74th Constitutional Amendment Act.**
- **J&K Municipal Corporation Act and its history.**
- **How to read an Act?**
- **Roles and responsibilities of councillors and functions of Srinagar Municipal Corporation as per J&K MC Act.**
- **Importance and working of various committees.**
- **Deliberation: its importance and devices activity on preparing the questions/issues etc.**



Exposure Field visit:

A field visit to Councillor's wards and meeting with the Deputy Mayor as part of orientation was done in a phased manner. Councillors welcomed and patiently responded to the queries of Praja team and fellows. Meetings with Deputy Mayor were very interactive and informative for fellows. Highlights of the J&K MC Act were reiterated and the conversation mostly revolved around corporations functioning, councillors' roles and responsibilities, how to raise questions in general body meeting, and awareness of social issues etc.



Testimonies of fellows after attending the orientation:

"In this orientation program, I have learned various roles of different officers, their responsibility and how to approach them, I also learnt about Praja's work and achievement" – by Sameer Yousef, Srinagar Fellow Cohort 1

"I have learnt different skill during the orientation programs for the meeting with councillors" – by Taniya Noor, Srinagar Fellow Cohort 1

"After orientation, we met Deputy Mayor and a few councillors, learnt many things like –various section of J&K Municipal Act, Leadership with futuristic goals etc. Hope to learn many more things in the future"– by Anika Rashid, Srinagar fellow Cohort 1

Media Coverage:

- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/3964>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/3971>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/3968>
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- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/3965>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/3972>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/3969>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/3970>

Important Links:

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Website (<https://www.smcsrinaragar.in/>)

Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000

(https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/9595/1/municipal_corporation_act%2C_2000.pdf)

We would like to know your views and feedback based on the above information shared. Feel free to reach us at info@praja.org

Kind Regards,



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