



# URBAN GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE

Transforming Urban Governance

October, 2022

**PRAJA**.ORG  
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



[www.praja.org](http://www.praja.org)

[info@praja.org](mailto:info@praja.org)

[praja.org](https://www.facebook.com/praja.org)

[PrajaFoundation](https://www.youtube.com/PrajaFoundation)

[prajafoundation](https://www.instagram.com/prajafoundation)

## Collaborating with Jammu Municipal Corporation

Recognising the rapid growth of urban India, Praja Foundation is actively working with city governments across India to improve governance. Earlier this year we started a collaboration with Srinagar Municipal Corporation, our first such initiative in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. We are collectively working to empower citizens through the e-Governance process and empower city's elected representatives and administration.

Last month Praja signed an **MoU with Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC)**. This MoU will facilitate the immediate organisation of a workshop that will help **Elected Representatives and City Administration** to understand municipal finance better. In a long term, we have proposed to **enhance e-Governance** in the city and implement **the Municipal Fellowship programme**. Praja Foundation conducted a comprehensive study to map the current status of the implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act and the levers and barriers of urban governance practices in Jammu. This involved dialogue with relevant stakeholders and data collection from the ground. In the future, Praja will conduct a series of capacity-building activities such as workshops and seminars.

This association will also strengthen citizen participation in the process of city governance. Praja has suggested to engage Jammu residents through the **e-Governance** platform more effectively. Additionally, '**Municipal Fellowship programme**' will be a learning opportunity for the city youth, especially college students to work with their representatives and participate in running their city.

### The MoU Exchange Ceremony

The MoU was exchanged on **21st September 2022**, in the presence of Mr Chander Mohan Gupta, Honourable Mayor of JMC and Mr Rahul Yadav, Municipal Commissioner. Following the recital of the National Anthem, the Honourable Mayor delivered the opening address. He described various achievements of JMC and the collective vision of the administration and elected wing to make JMC financially self-sustainable. He also shared his optimism to achieve the vision through JMC's collaboration with Praja. Municipal Commissioner echoed these thoughts in his address. He emphasised



the empowerment of councillors and officials to take development way forward and help in learning and exploring various initiatives.

### Capacity building workshop for Elected Representatives and Administration:



Following the MoU exchange ceremony, Praja organised a workshop on the '**Fundamental concept Of Municipal Finance**' on the same day. **Mr Prashant Pisolkar**, former Municipal Chief Auditor, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Senior Advisor & Consultant to various National Programmes such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT-2), was the resource person. The Mayor, Committee Chairpersons and Senior Councillors along with the Municipal Commissioner, Joint Commissioners, Assistant Commissioner of Revenue, Chief Accounts

Officers and other senior officials of JMC participated in the workshop.

Mr Pisolkar opened the workshop by explaining the financial provisions under the '**Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000**'. He divided the workshop into four sub-modules:

- **Budget and its characteristics:** The first module focused on the fundamental concept of budget, its history and the various terminologies which come under it. Another featured topic was the framework of the *National Municipal Accounts Manual* and a simplified tool kit for the city governments to record the accounting entries.
- **Statutory provision for Budget:** With reference to the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act 2000, this module concentrated on the principles of corporation funds. The facilitator discussed the constitution and rules regarding the taxes and charges of the corporation. Concepts of revenue and expenditure were part of the discussion as well.
- **Income Sources-Tax, Non-tax, Grants, Borrowings & Municipal Bonds:** This module helped participants to understand the provisions of income sources of the JMC facilitated by the Act. Mr Pisolkar broke down each source of income in detail. Then, he shared the best practices adopted by other municipal corporations to generate income.
- **Various Stages of Budget Implementation:** The final module concentrated on stages- estimates, expenditures and adoption while planning a budget. It emphasised making the entire process transparent and accountable. The collective engagement of Ward Committees, Standing Committees and the Corporation was discussed. Another point of discussion was the use of online portals.



### Feedback:

Councillors and officials alike mentioned that they understood the entire structure of municipal finance in a simplified manner. A few of them also requested greater assistance to get a more detailed knowledge of the subject.

*"The session helped me to understand how a municipal corporation can generate income. The proceeding from this workshop will enable us to generate more revenue for Jammu Municipal Corporation. I hope more sessions on the subject of municipal finance will be held. They will help us improve our knowledge on the subject"*

~ Mr Sham Lal, JMC Councillor Ward Number 40

*"Rules and formalities related to property tax, especially the rates and valuation measures, was the most important learning for me. As councillors, we should look towards providing and maintaining civic amenities based on the revenue generated through property tax."*

~ Ms Rekha Manhas, JMC Councillor, Ward Number 62

**Media Coverage:**

- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/4063>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/4064>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/4065>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/4066>
- <https://www.praja.org/media-room/4067>

**Important Links:**

Jammu Municipal Corporation Website (<https://www.jmcjammu.org/>)

Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000

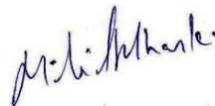
([https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/9595/1/municipal\\_corporation\\_act%2C\\_2000.pdf](https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/9595/1/municipal_corporation_act%2C_2000.pdf))

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

Kind Regards,



Nitai Mehta  
Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation



Milind Mhaske  
CEO, Praja Foundation

