

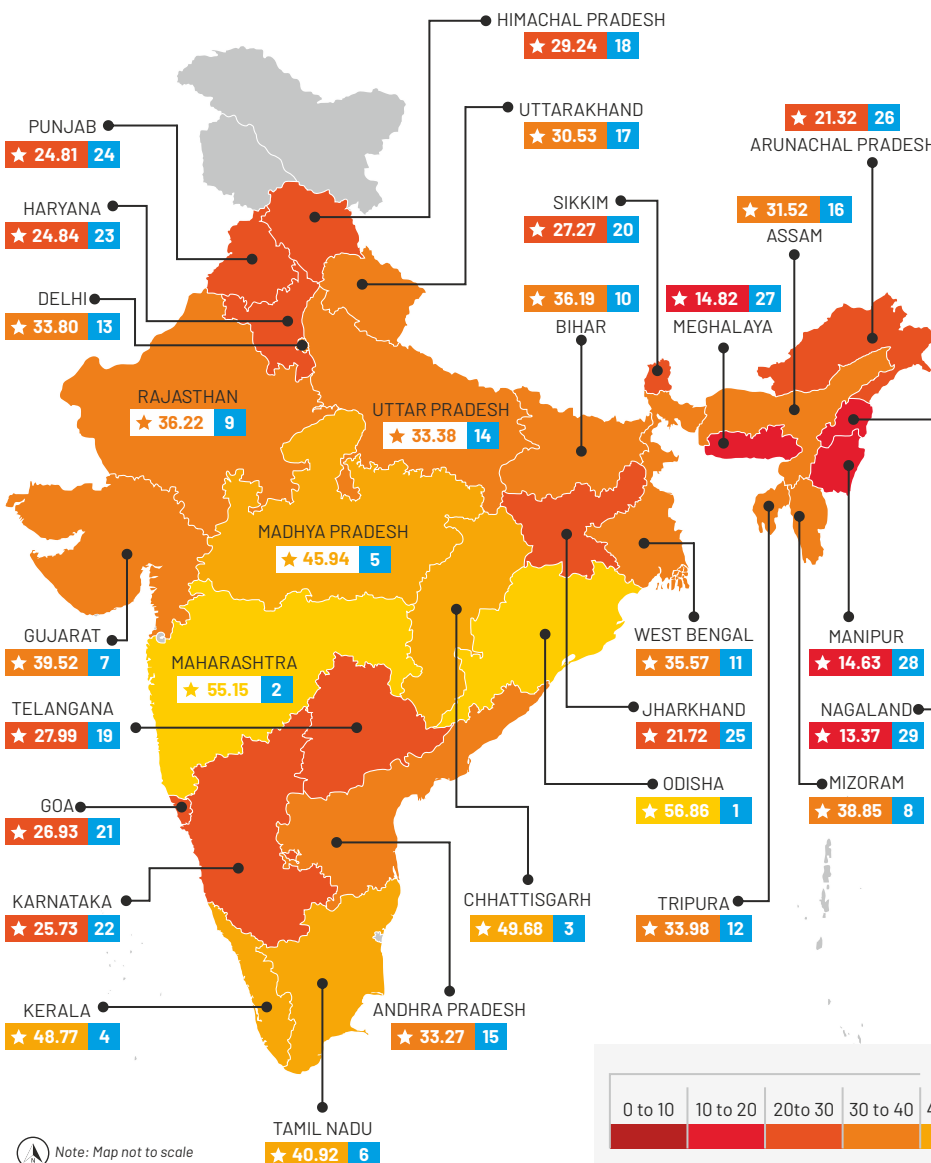


Urban Reforms Needed in Maharashtra

Praja Foundation held a Maharashtra State Level Consultation on Urban Governance Reforms required for the state, on the 29th June 2021. The objectives of the consultation were

- **To discuss and identify the reform agenda** to be implemented in Maharashtra, towards empowering grassroots democracy and holistic development of city governments in the state.
- **To identify advocacy pathways** towards implementing the reforms in Maharashtra.

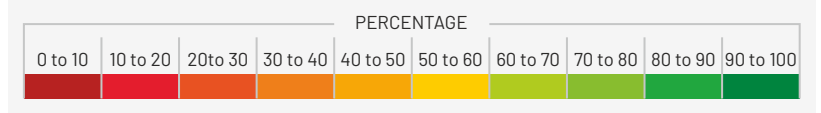
This advocacy initiative is hinged on data-based evidence of the gaps in the urban governance reforms for Maharashtra, outlined in the Urban Governance Index (UGI) 2020 report published by Praja Foundation. The UGI is primarily a mapping undertaken over three years that stretches across 28 states and National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, on indicative themes of democratic empowerment and accountability pertaining to urban governance. The ranking has been done through a framework comprising of four themes, 13 sub-themes and 42 indicators. The four themes are **Empowered Elected Representatives** and **Legislative Structure, Empowered City Administration, Empowered Citizens** and **Fiscal Empowerment**.



In Praja's Urban Governance Index (UGI) 2020 report, Maharashtra State has secured an overall UGI rank of 2 (out of 29) with a score of 55.15%. Although Maharashtra secured second rank(out of 29) in the UGI, its **score is still unsatisfactory**. This indicates that the state still has a large scope towards strengthening its urban governance system.

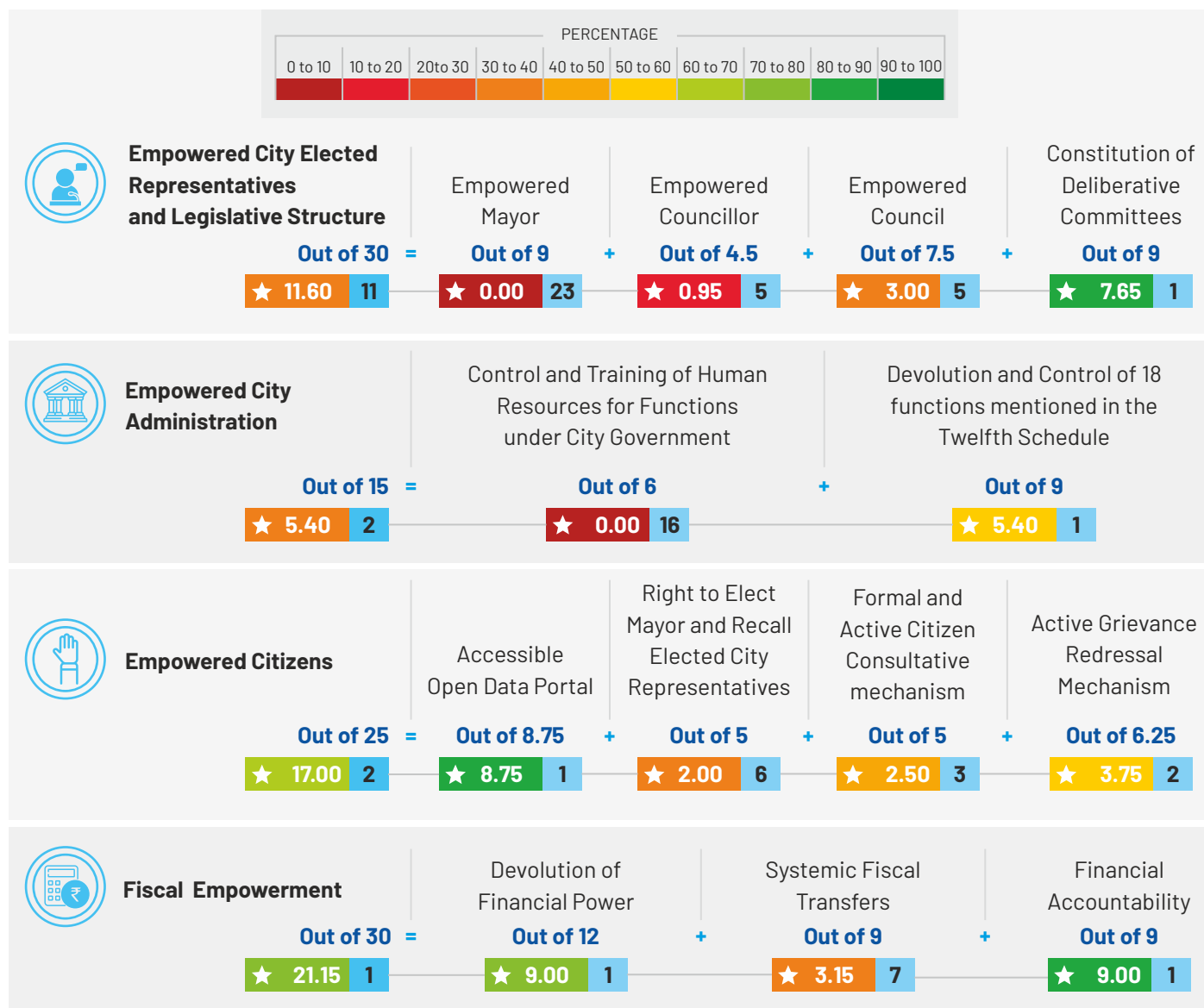
TOP 5 STATES		
ODISHA	★ 56.86	1
MAHARASHTRA	★ 55.15	2
CHHATTISGARH	★ 49.68	3
KERALA	★ 48.77	4
MADHYA PRADESH	★ 45.94	5

STATE		
★	SCORE	RANK
Score out of 100		



STATUS OF URBAN GOVERNANCE IN MAHARASHTRA

The score and rank achieved by Maharashtra state over each theme and sub-theme of the UGI is shown below:



Some of the key data insights on the status of empowerment of urban governance system in Maharashtra is mentioned below:

- Mayor and councillors of Maharashtra are not empowered.
- There is no provision for regular and mandatory training of councillors.
- Not all city governments across Maharashtra have a detailed and robust Corporation Procedure and Conduct of Business Rules.
- The city governments in Maharashtra do not have authority on control and training of Human Resources for functions under city governments.
- The citizens do not have right to elect Mayor and recall elected city representatives.
- The city governments do not have authority to raise their own finances.

URBAN GOVERNANCE REFORM AGENDA FOR MAHARASHTRA



The participants of the consultation, built consensus for implementing the outlined Reform Agenda to empower urban governance in Maharashtra:



Corporation procedure rules lay out the details and procedures of conduct to ensure structured discussion and deliberation in council and committee meetings. Therefore, a **Standardised Robust And Detailed Municipal Corporation Procedure and Conduct Of Business Rules** to be drafted and approved for all municipal corporations in Maharashtra.



Regular and Structured Training

It is observed that the newly elected councillors need 2-3 years to understand the procedure of working of the corporation, municipal corporation act and the budget processes and departments due to absence of a robust training system. Therefore, provision for **Regular and Mandatory Trainings** for councillors in the state municipal acts of Maharashtra should be made, and strictly implemented.



Citizen participation in governance process is the key to effective governance. Citizen participation in planning, consultation and feedback should be included through **area sabha** or similar platforms, through a robust **e-Governance system** which includes provision for **Open Data Portal, Transactions, Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism and Citizen Participation Forum**.



Mayor, being the head of the city government, should have de jure and de facto executive powers which should be implemented through **Mayor-in-Council System** and **Direct Election of Mayor** in Maharashtra.



Cities are complex systems and specialised skills are required to run and manage them. There is need for forming a **Special Municipal Cadre** having required skills. Their capacity should also be built with **Regular and Structured Trainings**. This will ensure effective functioning of metropolitan cities as well as smaller city governments.



The city governments need to be empowered financially through **Direct Transfer of GST** and with **Authority to Raise Own Finance** by increasing the collection of property tax and introduction of new taxes.

ADVOCACY PATHWAYS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REFORM AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA

The participants discussed on possible advocacy pathways for implementation of the agreed reform agenda and came to a consensus of taking the following steps:

- Praja Foundation will outline the reform agenda and write a letter to the Urban Development (UD) Minister, Government of Maharashtra and Urban Development-2 Secretary, Government of Maharashtra for a meeting to discuss implementation of reforms.
- This meeting will be attended by a delegation of participants of the consultation and Praja foundation.
- Post the meeting along with the UD minister, the delegation will present the agenda to the Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra to modify municipal corporation acts and set up mechanisms for implementing the outlined reform agenda.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sr No	Name	Designation	Party
1	Ajay Choudhari	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Shiv Sena
2	Amin Patel	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Indian National Congress
3	Anil Sole	Former Mayor, Nagpur; Former MLC, MH; Former chairperson, AIMC	Bharatiya Janata Party
4	Atul Bhatkalkar	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party
5	Manisha Chaudhary	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party
6	Prasad Lad	MLC, Maharashtra Legislative Council	Bharatiya Janata Party
7	Prithviraj Chavan	Former CM, Maharashtra, MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Indian National Congress
8	Rais Shaikh	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Samajwadi Party
9	Sanjay Kelkar	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party
10	Vandana Chavan	Former Mayor, Pune Municipal Corporation; MP, Rajya Sabha, Government of Maharashtra	Nationalist Congress Party
11	Yogesh Sagar	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party
12	Zeeshan Siddique	MLA, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	Indian National Congress



Marathi

URBAN GOVERNANCE REFORMS FOR MAHARASHTRA

To watch explainer videos on Urban Governance Reforms for Maharashtra, **SCAN QR Codes**



English

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