



URBAN GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE

Transforming Urban Governance



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Strengthening Urban Governance Praja's Collaboration with Government Institutions

In a stride towards strengthening urban governance, Praja Foundation has taken a significant step by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with two Government Institutions of India.

In first quarter of the financial year 2023, [Praja Foundation](https://www.praja.org) has signed MoU with **Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Government of Uttar Pradesh** and **Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation** in collaboration with Woman in Need Given Support Foundation (WINGS).

This collaboration marks important steps towards enabling good governance in these cities through **Building capacities of Elected Representatives** and **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**, **implementing Robust Corporation Procedure Rule** and, **Strengthening Municipal Finance**.



MoU with Directorate of Urban Local Bodies,
Government of Uttar Pradesh



MoU with Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation
[in collaboration with Woman in Need Given Support
Foundation (WINGS)]

MoU with Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Government of Uttar Pradesh

On 24th July 2023, **Praja** signed a MoU with the **Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Uttar Pradesh** to strengthen Municipal Finance, implement Robust Corporation Procedure Rule, and build the capacity of Elected Representatives & Urban Local Bodies in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Sitaram Kunte, Former Chief Secretary of Maharashtra; Nitin Bansal (IAS), Director, Directorate of Urban Local Bodies; Akhil Singh, Assistant Director (Accounts), Directorate of Urban Local Bodies; Nitai Mehta, Founder of Praja Foundation; and Milind Mhaske, CEO of Praja Foundation.



The collaboration with government of Uttar Pradesh will undertake following programme interventions to strengthen urban governance in Urban Local Bodies in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

- A. **Built capacity of Elected Representatives of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** – Elected Representatives will be more aware about Municipal Corporation Act, devices and deliberation, Municipal finance, provisions of Act, importance of property tax, financially self-sufficient and sustainable of corporation etc.
- B. **Robust Corporation Procedure Rule and implementation** – The functioning of the urban local bodies will be simplified and well-structured for better deliberation and discussion.
- C. **Strengthening Municipal Finance** – A sustainable and effective municipal finance and accounting for financially empowered urban local bodies.

MoU with Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation

On 17th July 2023, the **Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (VCCMC)**, **Praja Foundation**, and the **Women In Need Given Support (WINGS) Foundation** signed a MoU to strengthen urban governance in Vasai-Virar city.

WINGS is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation, and through their Prajakalp project, they are working towards empowering Elected Representatives by undertaking research and training programs for good governance.

Under this collaboration, **Prajna Foundation** and **WINGS Foundation** will extend expertise and support to VVCMC in various areas. This includes strengthening urban governance through facilitating municipal finance study in Vasai Virar, conducting capacity-building programmes for the administration of VVCMC, and implementing e-Governance reforms to empower citizen participation.

This partnership marks a great stride towards promoting Good Governance and making democracy work in Vasai-Virar.



The collaboration with Vasai-Virar will undertake following programme interventions to strengthen urban governance in Vasai-Virar

- A. **Build capacity of VVCMC Administration** – Members of the administration will develop a detailed understanding of the Municipal Corporation Act, fiscal empowerment and equipping them with best practices in urban governance through learnings from Praja's National study on Urban Governance Index.
- B. **A report on Fiscal Empowerment of VVCMC** will be prepared by Praja and WINGS after studying the finance documents of VVCMC which will provide VVCMC with specific recommendations to enhance and strengthen its finance.
- C. **Increasing Citizen Participation through e-Governance reforms** with provisions for Open Government Data, Transactions, Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism and Citizen Participation Forum.
- D. **Municipal Fellowship will engage the youth** of Vasai-Virar in city governance to gain practical exposure on the functioning of the City Government and understand the real challenges that are faced on the ground by engaging with administration and elected representatives in the City Government.

Prajā Foundation's these strategic partnerships with key Government Institutions of India have set the stage for significant advancements in strengthening urban governance. The signed Memorandums of Understanding with Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (in collaboration with Woman in Need Given Support Foundation), and Directorate of Urban Local Bodies in the Government of Uttar Pradesh pave the way for constructive interventions in these cities.

By focusing on capacity-building for Elected Representatives/Urban Local Bodies, implementing robust corporation procedure rules, and strengthening municipal finance, Prajā Foundation aims to create a more transparent, efficient, and inclusive governance system for the betterment of all citizens. Together, we are poised to drive positive change and build a brighter future for urban communities.

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

Kind Regards,



Nitai Mehta

Managing Trustee, Prajā Foundation



Milind Mhaske

CEO, Prajā Foundation