



# URBAN GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE

Transforming Urban Governance

October 2024

**PRAJA**.ORG  
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



www.praja.org

info@praja.org

praja.org

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## Launch of Praja's Urban Governance Index 2024



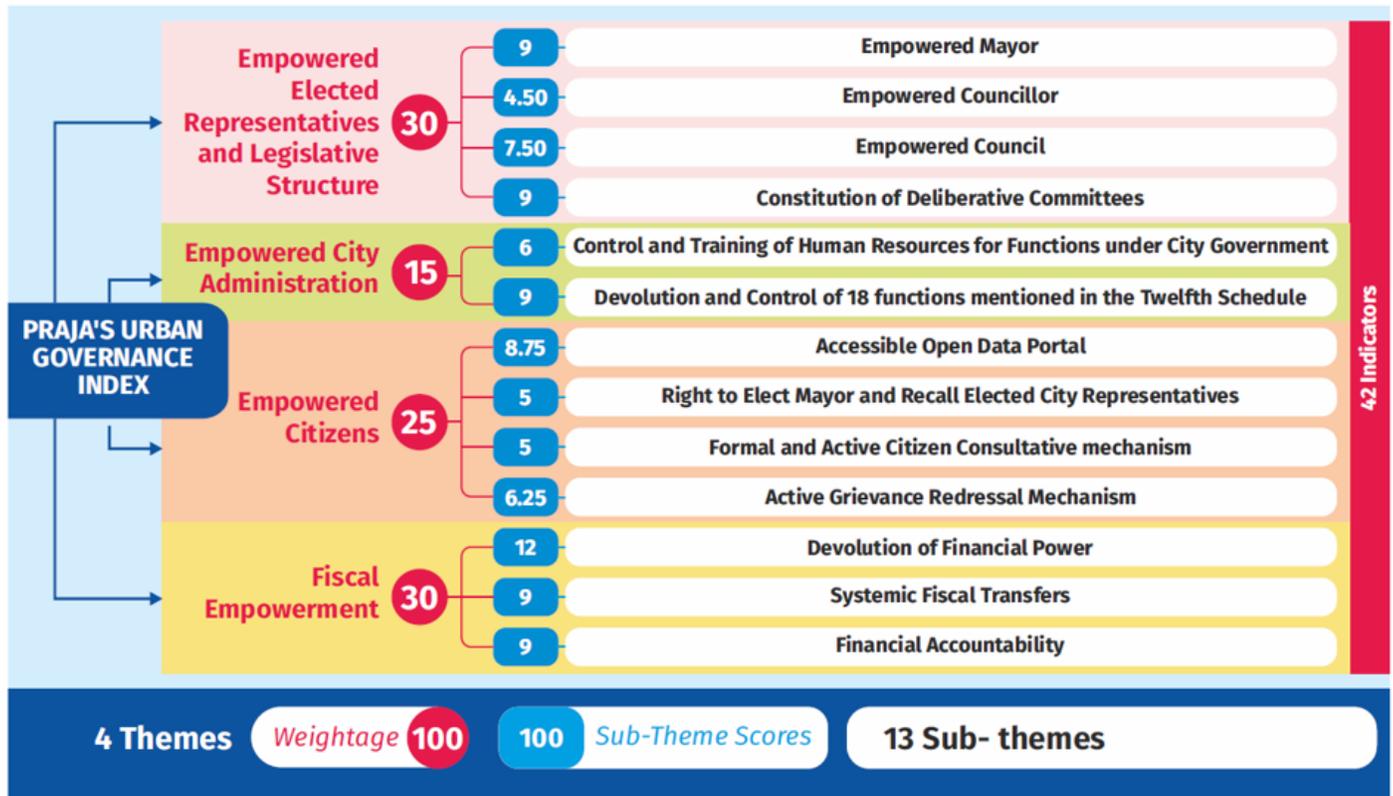
**Urban Governance Index (UGI) 2024** is the second edition of this national objective matrix developed by Praja Foundation to study the empowerment of city governments across India- identifying gaps as well as opportunities to enhance the structure of urban governance. Building upon UGI 2020, this study has comprehensively mapped the progress, developments, and policy changes undertaken by state and city governments to improve urban governance structure. For the second edition, the Praja team over the last two years has visited **43 cities** across all **28 states and three union territories**, interacting with **2,213 key stakeholders**, including elected representatives, administrators, academics, civil society, media, practitioners, and experts in the field of urban governance and policy.

Urban Governance Index (UGI) 2024 was launched on 26th September 2024 at **Praja's National Urban Convention 2024** at the Ashok, New Delhi. Along with UGI, Report on the **Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments** with **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** and **Spatial Planning Index** with **Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI)** too were launched at the convention. The Convention saw active participation from a distinguished group of over 150 participants from 24 states, including State Urban Development Ministers, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and senior officials from Union, State, and City Governments, as well as experts from civil society organisations and academia.

The distinguished participants led a meaningful dialogue on urban governance. As UGI provides a roadmap for robust urban governance responses, Praja Team will be conducting state-level outreach with associated stakeholders to share insights and recommendations in details.

### Urban Governance Index – Themes & Weightages

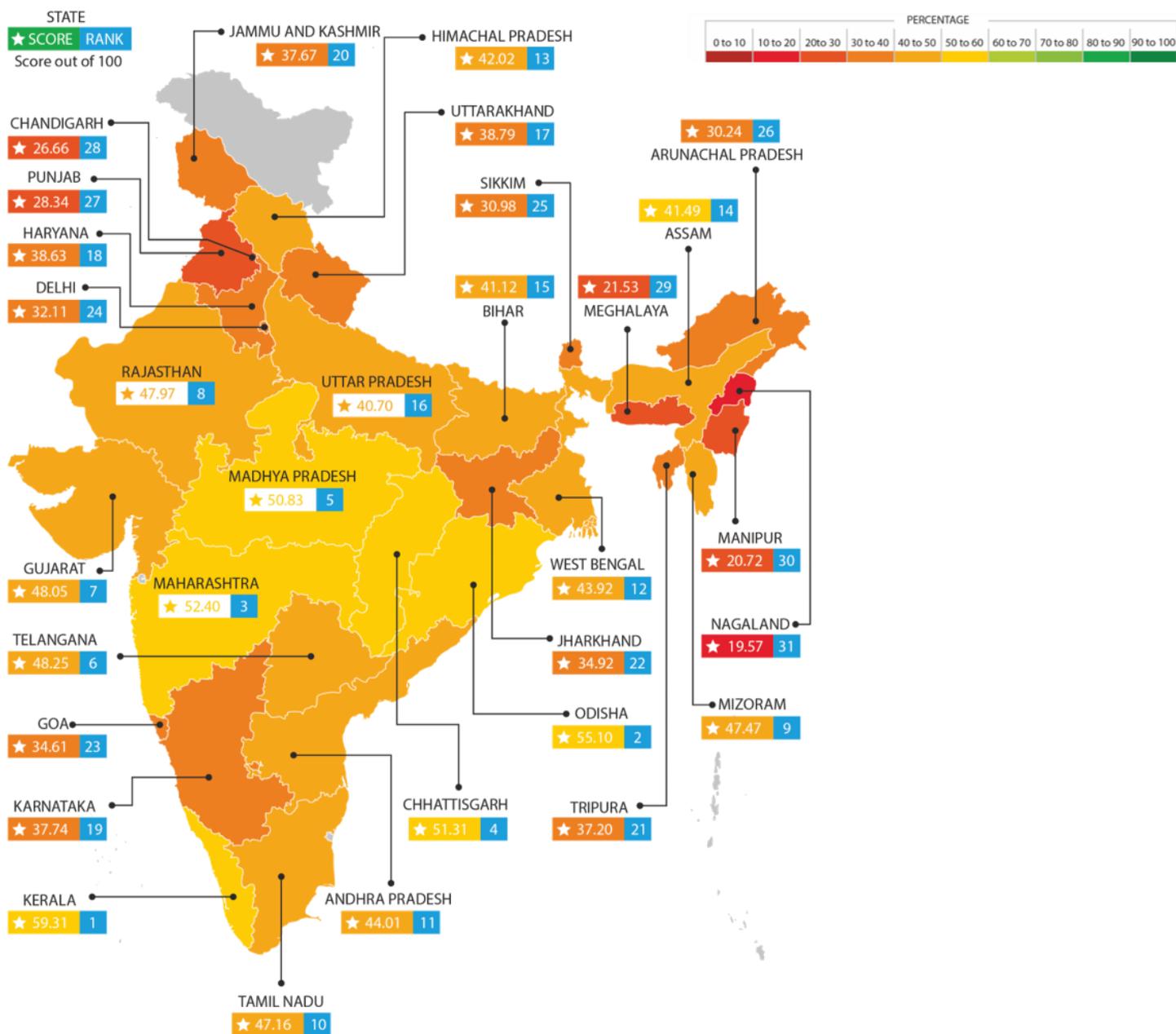
The UGI is built on four core themes. They are significant in enabling the functioning of democratic and empowered urban governance. These themes are further divided into 13 sub-themes and comprise 42 indicators in total.



### UGI 2024 Scoresheet

The average score for 28 states, 2 Union Territories, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi stands at **39.70 out of 100**. The **top five** states are **Kerala, Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh** while the **bottom five** states & union territories are **Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Punjab and Chandigarh**.

	UGI		Empowered City Elected Representatives & Legislative Structure		Empowered City Administration		Empowered Citizens		Fiscal Empowerment	
	Out of 100		Out of 30		Out of 15		Out of 25		Out of 30	
Kerala	59.31	1	18.63	1	2.46	20	15.00	9	23.22	1
Odisha	55.10	2	15.26	7	2.40	22	21.00	1	16.44	7
Maharashtra	52.40	3	9.91	21	5.34	1	16.00	5	21.15	2
Chhattisgarh	51.31	4	18.03	2	1.92	26	16.00	5	15.36	10
Madhya Pradesh	50.83	5	14.09	11	3.90	10	17.00	3	15.84	8



“This Urban Governance Index provides insights to local self government institutions for the way forward. This kind of report help you to find out where we can improve and what should be our policy priorities for urban governance.”

- M.B. Rajesh, Minister for Local Self Governments, Rural Development and Excise, State Government of Kerala

Report on Fiscal Empowerment of City Government 2024



The study on Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments is initiated with the premise that state governments should have empowered city governments financially. This report, prepared in collaboration with National Institute of Urban Affairs has studied **43 cities** across **28 states and two Union Territories** over a period of four years from January 2021 until August 2024. The analysis involved reviewing **320 budget documents for seven financial years** (2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24). This report features actual figures from the budget documents from 2016-17 to 2021-22. Key themes analysed in the report are Devolution of Financial Powers, Municipal Income, Municipal Expenditure, and Accounting Practices followed by City Governments.

Spatial Planning Index 2024



Spatial Planning Index 2024 is developed by Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI) and Praja as a benchmarking tool to compare cities against a comprehensive set of indicators that reflect a decentralised spatial planning framework from the regional to the precinct level. The report provides the status of planning structures in 25 cities across 23 states and 2 union territories. The Index was developed using a framework of five key themes. These were further bifurcated into 15 sub-themes and 45 indicators offering actionable insights, allowing state and local governments to assess and their spatial planning systems.

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To read Urban Governance Index 2024 Full Report Scan the QR Code or Click on the link below

Link: [Urban Governance Index 2024](#)



To read full Report on Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments Scan the QR Code or Click on the link below

Link: [Report on Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments](#)



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Link: [Spatial Planning Index 2024](#)

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We would like to know your views and feedbacks 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