



PRAJATANTRA 2024

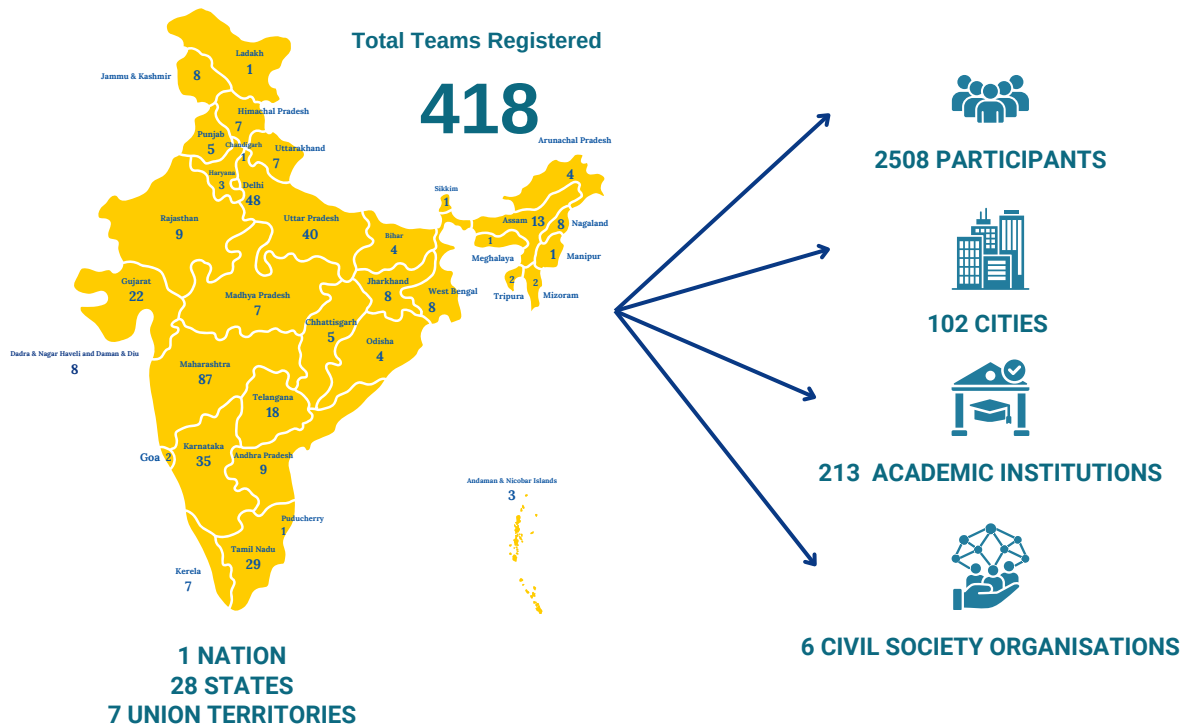
Citizen Participation: Building Block of Democracy

Prajantra Samvad

EDITORIAL

Prajantra 2024 celebrated the spirit of active citizenship through this year's theme; 'Citizen Participation: Building Blocks of Democracy'. Co-organised by the Urban Youth Unit of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), UN-Habitat India and Praja Foundation with support from Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and Friedrich Nauman Foundation South Asia. This National Youth Festival fostered an ecosystem of learning and engagement for youth in the process of city governance.

The Qualifying Round and Semi-Finals were organised virtually; the Grand Finale was organised in-person in Lucknow. The Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Government of Uttar Pradesh was the Governance partner of Prajantra and the event was hosted at its premises at Lucknow. 110 best-performing participants representing 22 states and 2 union territories travelled to Lucknow to present their vision for participatory urban governance. Urban Governance Experts and Leaders such as Shri. Amrit Abhijat, Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Urban Employment & Poverty Revolution Department, State Government Uttar Pradesh; Smt. Sanyukta Bhatia, former Mayor of Lucknow Municipal Corporation; Ms. Parul Agarwala, Country Manager UN-Habitat India and others too joined the ceremony to guide young participants. Three-Day Grand Finale ceremony combined competitive as well as non-competitive events to expand socio-political horizons of participants on active citizenship and urban governance.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

MAYOR'S SPEECH

RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Zaka
2nd	Jagriti Gupta
3rd	Disha Jadhav

OP-ED WRITING COMPETITION

RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Talha Patwekar
2nd	Daksh Sharma
3rd	Angel Lalruatfeli

POLICY PRESENTATION: MUNICIPAL FINANCE & PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Anarghya Suvin
2nd	Siddhartha
3rd	Akshaya Iyer
	Chahak Thakur

POLICY DEBATE

RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Harshitha Devaguptapu
2nd	Gaurav Kumar
3rd	Umang Dev Sharma
	Siddhant Thomas

POLICY PRESENTATION: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Hrishi Jadhav
2nd	Khushi Bhardwaj
3rd	Ananya Gulati



QUIZ COMPETITION	
RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Jolasamit Lepcha
	Shrijan Pradhan
2nd	Jiya Pathania
	Shivangi Jasrotia
3rd	Naman Kumar
	Naman Thakur

FIELD ENGAGEMENT	
RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Harshitha Devaguptapu
2nd	Yash Singh Parihar
3rd	Darshan P R
	Mylavarapu Sivani Lahari

DIGITAL POSTER-MAKING	
RANK	PARTICIPANT'S NAME
1st	Shalnitya Devi
2nd	Sanjeet Bakshi
3rd	Guruprasad Phaneskar

CHAMPIONS OF DEMOCRACY
PARTICIPANT'S NAME
Parth Dharod
Zaka

BEST TEAMS	
RANK	TEAM NAME
1st	Sarvodaya Nirman Dal
2nd	Progressive Mizoram Party
3rd	Janatantra Dynamo



MAYOR'S SPEECH



Acting as mayors of municipalities, students presented innovative solutions to local challenges primarily centred around improving citizen engagement, including solar-powered public tracks, rural development to curb urban migration, and women's empowerment initiatives.



Judges, including Smt. Sanyukta Bhatia, praised the participants' creativity and practical approaches, with one noting, **"The future of urban governance looks bright with such visionary young leaders in the making."**



POLICY PRESENTATION: MUNICIPAL FINANCE & PARTICIPATORY BUDGET



The Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance encouraged participants to tackle the complexities of budgeting and financial management in urban governance. Students presented innovative ideas to enhance **revenue generation**, such as **auctioning naming rights for public spaces** and **implementing congestion pricing**, alongside measures to **increase budget transparency and accountability**.



Participants also proposed strategies to optimise spending, including capital asset management and efficient public-private partnerships. These strategies were meant to enhance the effectiveness of government funds, and also encourage citizen engagement in planning, disbursement and accountability.

One participant noted, **“Democracy is not just about voting—it’s about participating.”** This activity underscored the importance of fiscal innovation and youth engagement in governance.



POLICY PRESENTATION: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



The Civic Engagement Policy Presentation spotlighted innovative approaches to enhance public participation in governance. Participants proposed tailored strategies, such as **senior citizen outreach programmes**, **gamified civic engagement initiatives**, and **partnerships with local businesses to amplify policy dissemination**.

The presentations also emphasised leveraging digital tools to improve transparency, accessibility, and accountability in civic processes. Participants confidently presented their deep research and nuanced understanding of citizen engagement, with many ideas focusing on **inclusivity and empowering marginalised groups**.

This activity highlighted the transformative role of citizen-driven solutions in fostering more connected and participatory urban communities.



POLICY DEBATE



The Policy Debate challenged participants to critically examine the role of governance. Debating the motion **“Should Area Sabhas have decision-making powers or remain advisory bodies?”**



One side emphasised the **need for local representation and expertise**, while the other highlighted **risks of inefficiency and resource strain**. The debate concluded with a split audience vote, reflecting the complexity of the issue. However, the **importance of increased citizen participation**, whether to implement or recommend, was unanimously agreed



QUIZ COMPETITION



Prajatantra Quiz was designed to encourage participant to learn more on urban subjects. The Grand Finale tested the knowledge of 16 finalist teams on Indian Constitution, Urban Governance, 74th Constitutional Amendment Act and Municipal Finance. The grand finale featured 5 rounds;

- First was the General Q & A Round.
- Second was the Buzzer Round.
- Third was the Audio-Visual Round.
- Fourth was the Fastest Finger First Round.
- Fifth was the True or False Round Along with participants.



OP-ED WRITING



Students tackled topics such as wealth inequality, digital access, and innovative citizen engagement policies, presenting research-backed solutions with compelling narratives. Judges stressed, the impact words can have in shaping public sentiment and encouraged students to be more creative with their op-eds by incorporating more visual elements. One participant concluded their essay with the powerful reminder, **“Democracy thrives when people allow it to work.”**

DIGITAL POSTER-MAKING



This vibrant segment of Prajatantra 2024, successfully brought together young talents to creatively envision the future of urban governance and civic participation. Centered on the theme **“Platform for Citizen Participation in Local Governance – Best Practices in your City/Indian City”**, the competition showcased innovative digital artworks emphasizing citizen involvement in enhancing accessibility, accountability, and transparency in governance. Through this initiative, participants highlighted best practices and inspired proactive engagement, fostering creativity and a deeper understanding of inclusive local governance.

SMART CITY

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF URBAN LIVING

THEMAI PLATFORM FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE: BEST PRACTICES IN YOUR CITY/SMART CITY

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN SMART PLANE MISSION

PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED THROUGH:

1. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS
2. ONLINE PLATFORMS
3. SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT
4. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

HOW TO TAKE IT SMART: PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED ACROSS THE ENTIRE PROCESS: IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS, FEEDBACK AND REPORT ISSUES.

TECHNOLOGY USE: ONLINE PLATFORMS AND MOBILE APPS FOR PARTICIPATION AND REPORTING.

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DEHRADUN

WARD SARSHA

BEST PRACTICES IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE PARTICIPATION

BE AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN NATION BUILDING

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE WITH THE PEOPLE

माझा महाराष्ट्र

Groups: Register on WhatsApp

Do: Identify and Engage local leaders

Discuss: Group meetings and national forums

Poll: Make your Opinion Count

Blog: Share your Experiences and Opinions online

Talk: Participate in Public Hearings

PRAJATANTRA

DIFFERENT FORM OF PARTICIPATION IN CITY

- LEAD OR JOIN LOCAL VOLUNTEER PROJECTS
- PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY PLANNING
- USE APPS TO REPORT ISSUES
- SHARE FEED ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- HELP DECIDE ON PUBLIC SPENDING
- JOIN CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP

jansunwai.up.nic.in

जनवाणी मंच

Public orientated platform for citizen participation in government

- Open on weekends. नाका विधे शाखा
- Platform to share opinions, feedback and suggestions to government
- Reward for posting opinions. (Vouchers, certificates and many more)

"Local Voices, Local Solutions: Strengthening Grassroots Governance."

Crafting a Connected Ahmedabad

"One Puzzle Piece at a Time."

YOUR CITY. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

To fulfill the responsibility placed upon ourselves

Designated by: Maharashtra

स्वच्छ भारत SWACHHTA APP

Report cleanliness related issues on the Swachhata app and get them resolved

INSTALL NOW

इंदौर BEST PRACTICES IN THE CITY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Waste Segregation and Management

Biogas and Composting from Wet Waste

Indore 311

Ward Committees

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

2017-2023 1st Rank

APNA PATNA, APNI ZIMMEDAARI!

APNA PATNA, APNI ZIMMEDAARI!

734263000

POLICY FOR THE PEOPLE, POWER OF THE PEOPLE

KEY POLICIES -

1. KARAM - THE NEW WAY
2. AGRI-CONNECT
3. PAW-WELL
4. SURVEILLANCE MECHANISM
5. GRIEVANCE RE ADDRESSAL

THE FUTURE IS in your hands

YOUR VISION SHAPES OUR CITY

Asya Raatha, St. Xavier's College



FIELD ENGAGEMENT



The Field Engagement Activity immersed participants in the realities of urban governance. Through detailed research and on-ground interactions with **municipal officials**, **elected representatives**, and **citizens**, students gained firsthand insights into the challenges and successes of city administration. Participants conducted surveys, analysed municipal processes, and identified actionable improvements, such as enhancing service delivery and addressing resource gaps.



VISIT TO UTTAR PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA

The grand finale of Prajatantra 2024: National Youth Festival concluded with a guided visit to the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha. Participants across the India, got an opportunity to understand how legislative processes and decisions are conducted in the largest Legislative Assembly in India.



PRAJATANTRA STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director (Additional Charge), National Institute of Urban Affairs

Parul Agarwala, Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat India

Nitai Mehta, Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation

Milind Mhaske, CEO, Praja Foundation

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**SCAN TO READ
PRAJATANTRA
2024
COMPENDIUM**

NEWSLETTER DESIGN BY - YASH MORE

