

Dear Participants

As we progress further with Prajatantra, we also experience your steady growth as a leader in your own right. We witnessed growth in your passion and maturity when you role-played as a mayor, committee chairpersons, elected representatives and social media strategists.

As we dive deeper into various areas of governance, we also witness values you hold dearly. References to sustainable and just development, gender equality and more, across competitions, were welcome to listen. Another promising aspect was your specific visions e.g. inclusion of mental health in public health, fund provisions for non-conventional projects such as solar-powered public transport. Beyond competitive presentations, it was equally delightful to interact with you in the interaction sessions. Learning about your concerns, experience and feedback was a learning for us as well. Some of you also shared personal experiences of raising your voice on local issues such as congested roads, community awareness on solid waste management. Nothing made us prouder than hearing stories where you took on the role of an active citizen.

While Prajatantra contains competitions, winning and losing is secondary. What is important, is your participation and the lessons you will take forward. We already saw it when you revised your presentations to add a more practical approach to your presentations. Keep up your journey!

We look forward to meeting you as future leaders and changemakers in your cities.

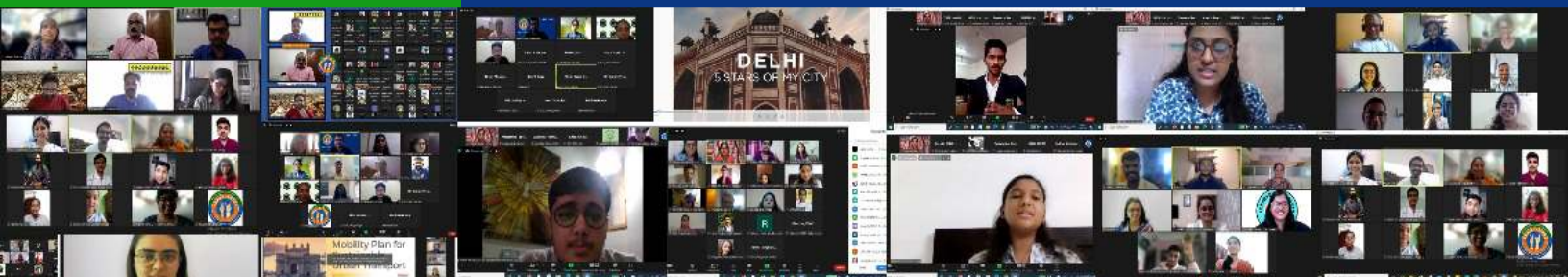
Best Wishes
Prajatantra Team



PRAJATANTRA 2021



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The day opened with the final Knowledge session. The panel of Srinivas Alavaiili and Tikender Singh Panwar and moderator P.D. Hari Prasad explained Municipal Corporation Procedures. The discussion revolved around the division of responsibilities between elected representatives and executive officers as well as the scope of citizen participation. Other points discussed were how municipal procedures impact area development and their role to strengthen the roots of our democracy.

The first phase of the competitions included **Mayor Speech** and **Policy Presentation** on **Public Health** and **Solid Waste Management**.

Points raised multiple times included gender equality, sustainability, societal inclusion and environmental concerns. Opanglemla Kichu, from St. Edmund College, Shillong centred her speech on the 'Happiness and Well-being of the People'. whereas Sandra Singh from Zakir Hussain College Delhi highlighted the need for educational reforms to empower citizens. In the public health policy competition, several presentations highlighted solutions to tackle unexpected challenges such as future pandemics and epidemics. Parimal Saraf from SIES College of Arts, Science and commerce, specifically mentioned creating a Pandemic Committee and allocated funds reserved for future pandemics in his budget distribution.



DAY Summary

Debate, Quiz and Social Media Strategy took place in the noon. The debate session concentrated on the better method to manage solid waste. With both sides passionately defending their positions, all rooms experienced strong observations. Tuba Asrar Jagirdar from Mumbai University discussed change in outlook of citizens. In her words, "we cannot solve our problem with the same mindset that created them in the first place." On the other end, social media strategies followed a trendy youth-oriented approach and discussed initiation of conversations with the city government. The round also opened up on balancing public accountability with social media conversations. In her closing remark one of the judges, Ms Shefali Ahlawat, advised participants to take a step back and analyse the target plan that will ensure their success. Lastly, the quiz focused on municipal structures, government programmes and functions under urban governance. In their feedback, many participants confessed that they found questions tougher than they expected. But they also acknowledged their curiosity to learn more on the topics. Participants also opened up on various subjects in the lean period between two rounds. Most shared their concerns over the rise of bio-medical waste and its poor management. A participant also shared his deep concern about not having public representation in the municipal body in his hometown.



Community Participation Law of 2005 is a follow up on 74th constitutional amendment. It defined a 3-tier system for governance to institutionalise citizen participation. It mandated the constitution of ward committees and area sabhas. This law would help in strengthening of municipal governments and providing of funds to support local projects.

Srinivas Alavaiili
 Head, Civic Participation,
 Janaagraha

Roads in hometown in upper Assam are in poor condition. I once tried connecting with local MLAs as well. With new understanding I will look for ways to connect with people and resolve this issue.

Divya Kumari Singh
 Tezpur University, Assam

Finally, in the evening, **policy presentations on Mobility and Municipal Finance** took place. Presentations on municipal finance prominently revolved around financial sources beyond taxes especially in the era of Covid-19. They also focused on the use of technology to make the taxation process more efficient. Presentation by Akash from Tagore Government Arts and Science college was praised for including unique points such as solar buses to save energy and overall focus on the sustainable city.

Five Stars of My City combined research with creativity to express positive steps Indians cities are taking. Ranging from services such as public health facilities or beautification of the city to governance practices such as efficient public' grievance redressal.

Videos featured metropolises such as Mumbai and Gurugram and tier 2 cities including Gangtok and Dehradun. Health was the most featured topic. Several videos featured local strategies (swift vaccination drives, contact tracing mechanism) to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in particular. Other stars include a planned approach to make city streets safer, cleaner and public-friendly.

From Mobility to Accountability to Inclusion for All.

Harshada
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#OneHandleAllConcerns #City4All

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