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Madhu Mehta
Foundation

Knowledge Partner



PRAJATANTRA 2025

NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities

COMPENDIUM



We proudly announce that over 3800+ participants from 674 teams representing 28 states and 8 union territories registered for the Prajatantra 2025 this year.

PRAJATANTRA 2025

Total Registrations:

674 TEAMS



ABOUT PRAJATANTRA

Prajantra is a national convention that provides a platform for India's youth to understand, examine, and express their perspectives on urban governance. It is designed to provide participants with an immersive experience of city governance, where they role-play various positions in city administration and use their insights to develop people-centric policies for sustainable urban development.

Evolving in reach and impact with every edition, Prajantra 2025 witnessed remarkable national participation. Over **3,800 participants** registered for the convention, representing **194 cities and towns** across all **28 states** and **8 union territories**. Participants came from more than **344 academic institutions** and **6 civil society organisations**, reflecting the truly pan-Indian scale of engagement. The participant profile was as diverse as ever — from high school graduates to mid-career students — representing disciplines such as **social sciences, law, engineering, management, media studies, medicine, pharmacy, architecture, and urban planning**, fostering rich cross-disciplinary learning.

Co-organised by the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**, **UN-Habitat India**, and **Praja Foundation**, with support from **Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies** and the **Madhu Mehta Foundation**, and with **VJAL Institute** as the Knowledge Partner, the festival has evolved into a unique platform nurturing leadership, awareness, and civic engagement among India's youth.

The theme for Prajantra 2025, **"Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities,"** underscores the transformative role of AI in shaping resilient, efficient, and inclusive urban futures. It explores how emerging technologies can enhance service delivery, citizen participation, and evidence-based policymaking to create sustainable, people-friendly cities.

Prajantra 2025 featured three key components — **Knowledge Sessions, Competitive Events, and Field Engagement Activities**. The Knowledge Sessions, conducted by VJAL Institute, introduced participants to AI fundamentals, its strategic applications in governance, hands-on tool experiences, and discussions on ethical AI and data privacy. Experts and practitioners from various sectors guided participants to think critically about integrating technology with good governance and sustainable urban growth.

Since its conceptualisation in 2019, Prajantra has evolved from being a largely Mumbai-based event to a premier national youth festival, celebrating democracy and constitutional values. It is of the youth, for the youth, and by the youth. A collective force of **110 young individuals** worked together to make Prajantra 2025 an unforgettable experience for all participants. In the process, they themselves grew into leaders in their own right, actively engaging in the co-creation of the cities of tomorrow.



MESSAGE FROM DEBOLINA KUNDU

Director (Additional Charge), National Institute of Urban Affairs



India's urban transformation is unfolding at a remarkable pace, offering both opportunities and challenges for policymakers, practitioners, and citizens alike. With rapid urbanisation reshaping the social and economic fabric of the nation, it is imperative to harness innovative tools and forward-looking approaches to ensure that our cities evolve sustainably, inclusively, and intelligently.

Prajatantra, organised by Praja Foundation in collaboration with NIUA and UN-Habitat, is an annual youth festival aimed at deepening youth engagement in city governance. This year's theme, "AI for Sustainable Cities," provides a timely platform to engage young minds in reimagining the future of urban India. Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds immense potential to enhance urban governance — from

improving public service delivery, transportation systems, and waste management to enabling data-driven planning and participatory decision-making. When integrated thoughtfully, AI can play a transformative role in achieving India's vision of sustainable, resilient, and citizen-centric cities.

India's youth population — dynamic and digitally connected — stands at the forefront of this transformation. Their creativity, curiosity, and technological fluency position them as key contributors in designing solutions to complex urban challenges. Engaging youth in dialogues on AI, sustainability, and governance not only builds their capacity but also strengthens democratic participation, ensuring that the cities of tomorrow are shaped by informed and empowered citizens.

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has long recognised the centrality of youth in driving urban innovation. Through initiatives such as the Urban Youth Unit, the Climate Practitioners India Network, and the Youth Act Framework, NIUA continues to create avenues for young people to actively participate in urban development and climate action.

The collaboration between NIUA and Praja Foundation for Prajatantra 2025 reflects a shared commitment to amplifying youth engagement in governance and nurturing future leaders who can leverage technology responsibly for sustainable urban futures.

I extend my appreciation to Praja Foundation for providing this vibrant platform that brings together young citizens, policymakers, and experts to exchange ideas on the future of our cities.



PRAJATANTRA 2025

MESSAGE FROM ROI CHITI

Human Settlements Officer, ROAP & Officer- in-Charge (OiC), UN-Habitat India



Cities are living stories, shaped not only by the infrastructure we build but also by the trust, creativity, and collaboration that bind people together. At this critical moment in history, as technology transforms every aspect of urban life, the youth of India have an extraordinary opportunity to guide that transformation, ensuring it remains inclusive, ethical, and deeply human.

Prajatantra celebrates this very spirit, of dialogue, participation, and collective imagination, where young people and communities come together to co-create the future of their cities. Today's youth, fluent in digital language and driven by purpose, are uniquely placed to reshape how cities listen, learn, and lead.

Across India's towns and cities, enormous amounts of data are generated each day, through social media, citizen feedback, and local governance systems, revealing where cities succeed and where they struggle. The challenge is no longer access to information, but how meaningfully we use it. By harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI), young innovators can turn these everyday signals into actionable insights, enabling governments to respond faster, more fairly, and with greater transparency. Technology has, in many ways, become democratic. Advanced tools are no longer confined to specialists, today, a student, planner, or volunteer can use AI platforms to understand climate risks, map inequalities, or propose real solutions. Tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini allow youth to analyse, visualise, and communicate complex ideas with clarity and creativity. When used thoughtfully, such innovations can make governance more inclusive, responsive, and humane. Yet, this digital revolution also brings responsibility. AI, like all human creations, carries the risk of bias. It is crucial that technology serves equity and justice, not deepen existing divides. The youth voice is vital here, to keep innovation guided by empathy, ethics, and fairness.

India's demographic strength, its youth, remains its greatest asset. As much of the world confronts aging populations, our young generation will define how cities live, move, and adapt in the decades ahead. The success of AI and digitalisation will not depend on the power of algorithms, but on the purpose and values behind their use. I have deep faith in the young people of India, and their ability to learn, innovate, and lead with integrity. Whether advancing climate action, improving public spaces, or strengthening community participation, they demonstrate how technology can support both people and the planet. The future of urban India will not be shaped by technology alone, but by how wisdom and compassion with which it is transformed. I look forward to seeing how the youth of Prajatantra carry this vision forward, building cities that are smarter, more equitable, and truly connected to the communities they serve.



PRAJATANTRA 2025

MESSAGE BY NITAI MEHTA

Founder and Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation



Praja Foundation's mission to improve the quality of urban life by making democracy work can be achieved only by increasing citizen participation in local governance matters. We believe that informed and active citizens form the foundation of good governance. We engage the youth and nurture them into aware and responsible citizens through workshops, immersive programs like internships and fellowships, and our national youth festival, Prajatantra.

Since its inception in 2017, Prajatantra has grown into one of Praja Foundation's flagship youth initiatives. The festival provides students with a platform to experience democracy in practice. It inspires young students to think critically and motivates them to take an active part in civic life.

In its 7th edition, Prajatantra 2025 saw over 3,800 participants from 674 teams across 28 states and 8 Union Territories, with 203 teams advancing to the Semi-Finale Round. This wide and enthusiastic participation reflects the energy and potential of India's youth to contribute meaningfully to democratic and civic processes.

The theme for this year, "Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities," encouraged participants to explore how emerging technologies can make urban spaces more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable. A five-day knowledge session was conducted in collaboration with VJAL Institute, our Knowledge Partner, covering AI fundamentals, strategic applications, hands-on tool experience, and topics like ethical AI and data privacy. These sessions gave participants practical insights to envision and design AI-powered cities of the future.

Prajatantra has grown from a youth festival into a movement that nurtures active citizenship. Through knowledge sessions and competitions, participants gain a deeper understanding of urban governance and develop a stronger sense of responsibility. We hope the ideas and energy shared during Prajatantra 2025 will continue to inspire young people to shape India's democratic and sustainable future.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT NOTE

The success and growth of Prajatantra 2025 were made possible through the unwavering commitment and collaboration of our partners, mentors, and supporters. As we conclude yet another remarkable edition of this national youth festival, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to its organisation and success.

Throughout Prajatantra 2025, experts from diverse disciplines in urban governance and technology participated as Knowledge Session Speakers and Judges, sharing their valuable insights on this year's theme — Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities. Their perspectives deepened participants' understanding of how emerging technologies can shape inclusive, efficient, and people-centric urban futures.

We are also immensely thankful to the Elected Representatives and Municipal Officials from cities across India who engaged with participants during the Field Engagement, providing practical knowledge of local governance systems and civic challenges. Their time and guidance greatly enriched the learning experience.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Board of Trustees and the Panel of Advisors at Praja Foundation for their continued faith in our vision and mission. Our heartfelt thanks to our event donors — Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and the Madhu Mehta Foundation — whose generous support made it possible to host this national celebration of youth and democracy.

A special note of gratitude goes to all participants and their faculty coordinators, who served as the bridge between the organising team and the participants. The participants remain at the true heart of Prajatantra — their energy, innovation, and commitment to learning embody the festival's democratic spirit and purpose.

We also acknowledge the relentless efforts of the Prajatantra Steering Committee, Coordination Committee, and our dedicated Volunteers, Interns, and Fellows from Praja's Mumbai Governance Fellowship (Cohort 6), Delhi ER Fellowship 2024–25 (Cohort 5), Lucknow Governance Fellowship (Cohort 4), Assam Governance and Climate Action Fellowship (Cohort 1), and the Gurugram Climate Action Fellowship. Their dedication and teamwork ensured the seamless execution of every element of this festival.

Staff from NIUA, UN-Habitat, and the Praja Foundation have been the driving force behind the successful organisation and growth of Prajatantra 2025. We also extend our thanks to VJAL Institute, our Knowledge Partner. We sincerely thank everyone for their relentless efforts in making this edition a resounding success. Their collective commitment continues to be the driving force behind the success and evolution of Prajatantra.

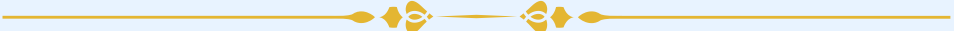
-Prajatantra 2025 Organising Team

Note: The contents of this publication are authored by the finalists of Prajatantra 2025. These views are solely those of the participants and do not necessarily reflect those of Praja Foundation, NIUA, UN-Habitat India, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, Madhu Mehta Foundation, or any other supporting organisations.



MAYOR'S SPEECH

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



In the Mayor's Speech Competition, participants were required to deliver a speech as the Mayor during the first General Body Meeting of the Corporation following a fresh election. In this speech, participants presented the policy framework of the city government for their term, highlighting significant decisions and key changes in the administrative structure. The competition aimed to enhance participants' leadership skills and provide them with insights into the process of formulating a comprehensive development vision for the city.



Judging the Mayor's Speech Competition was a refreshing experience. The participants showed an impressive grasp of urban governance and presented bold, well-researched ideas for their cities. What stood out was the confidence and clarity with which they articulated complex civic issues. It's heartening to see young people so invested in reimagining local leadership. Congratulations to Praja Foundation for creating such a thoughtful platform that inspires youth to think critically about governance and public service.



Deepanshu Baghel

Officer, Programs - Young Leaders for Active Citizenship



Akshiti Prasad

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

Governance gives a city its pulse - not through grand projects, but through everyday dignity in how people experience public life.

I am a postgraduate student specializing in Public Policy from St. Xaviers College, Mumbai, with a keen interest in urban governance, social equity and sustainable development. My academic journey has strengthened my analytical and research skills, while various projects and field engagements have deepened my understanding of governance systems and citizen participation. I aspire to work in the intersection of policy design and implementation, contributing to inclusive and responsive urban institutions. Beyond academics, I actively participate in debates and writing initiatives, reflecting my commitment to informed dialogue and civic engagement.



Participating in Prajatantra has been one of the most enriching academic and personal experiences of my journey in public policy. The platform beautifully merged civic learning with creative expression, allowing young voices to engage meaningfully with questions of governance and democracy. Among its various events, the Mayor's Speech stood out to me as a rare opportunity to step into the role of a people's representative - to think, speak and feel as a city leader would. I am deeply honoured and excited to have qualified for the Grand Finale, which feels like both a celebration of learning and a responsibility to represent my vision for inclusive and sustainable urban governance.

During the qualifying and semi-finale round, my speech centered around the theme of reimagining urban governance through empathy, equity and accountability. I envisioned a mayor who leads not through authority, but through connection, a leader who listens before speaking and serves before commanding. Through the speech, I proposed policies to strengthen participatory governance mechanisms such as digital grievance redressal systems, neighbourhood councils and youth inclusion platforms. I also highlighted the urgent need to integrate sustainability into everyday urban planning through green mobility, efficient waste management and community-based resilience initiatives. The essence of my argument was that the health of a city is reflected not in its skyline, but in the wellbeing and dignity of its people.

The process of preparing for the Mayor's Speech was a journey in itself. It pushed me to engage deeply with how governance actually unfolds at the municipal level—balancing aspirations with constraints and vision with implementation. I learned that true leadership lies in translating empathy into policy and that governance must evolve from being top-down to participatory. Listening to my peers during Prajatantra further reinforced the idea that democracy thrives when citizens become co-authors of the public narrative, not mere spectators.

Looking ahead to the Grand Finale, I am filled with excitement and gratitude. The platform has not only strengthened my confidence in public speaking but has also inspired me to take a more active role in civic life. After Prajatantra, I plan to engage in community-based policy projects, volunteer in local governance initiatives and continue writing on issues of urban equity and sustainability. For me, Prajatantra is more than an event. It is a reminder that democracy begins in the everyday actions of its citizens and that every thoughtful voice has the power to shape a better



Anandita Chand

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

Urban governance is not just about building cities; it's about shaping lives, choices, and the future we share.

Anandita is a dedicated and enthusiastic student currently pursuing her Integrated IMBA at BIITM, Bhubaneswar. She aims to build a career in strategic management and organizational leadership, combining academic insight with practical problem-solving. Alongside her studies, she actively participates in National Youth Festivals (NYFs) and various co-curricular initiatives that enhance her leadership, communication, and creative skills. Her active involvement in youth platforms reflects her commitment to personal growth, teamwork, and contributing meaningfully to society.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 was one of the most transformative experiences of my academic journey. The event brought together students from across India to discuss and design innovative solutions for urban governance and participatory democracy. Being selected as a national finalist among a large pool of participants was both an honour and an opportunity to challenge myself intellectually and personally.

Throughout the competition, I engaged in multiple rounds that tested my analytical, communication, and leadership skills. Among all the events, the Mayor's Speech simulation was the most memorable. Stepping into the role of a city mayor, I presented a vision focused on inclusive urban development, transparency, and citizen involvement.

My speech centered around participatory budgeting and transparent governance, emphasizing how citizen engagement can enhance accountability and efficiency in local administration. I proposed the creation of community-driven digital platforms that would allow residents to share priorities for municipal spending and policy improvements. Having my proposal shortlisted for the finals was a moment of pride.

Beyond competition, Prajatantra 2025 offered a space to connect with experts in public policy, urban planning, and administration. The interactions and workshops expanded my perspective on how youth can contribute to governance and sustainable development.

This experience strengthened my aspiration to pursue a career in strategic management and organizational leadership, particularly in domains that bridge governance, development, and organizational effectiveness.

Prajatantra 2025 was more than a competition: it was a journey of growth, collaboration, and purpose. It reminded me that when young voices come together with vision and conviction, they truly have the power to shape the future.





Anol Chakraborty

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

Governance begins where the street meets the soul: it's not about paperwork but about people. A well-governed city shines not with lights but with lives that feel seen.

Anol Chakraborty is a third-year undergraduate student pursuing B.A. English Honours at Scottish Church College, Kolkata. He is currently serving as the Secretary of the Scottish Church College Debating Society. A passionate orator since the tender age of nine, Anol has amassed over 50 accolades across debate, extempore, youth parliament, and elocution at district, state, inter-college, and national levels. His prowess extends beyond debating; he is an accomplished quizzer, quiz host, anchor, sports commentator, writer, actor, and a devoted logophile. For him, extracurriculars are not add-ons — they are oxygen, art and soul of life.

His talents and achievements underscore his commitment to holistic growth and intellectual exploration.



"God has given you one face, and you make yourself another."

I enter the realm of civic engagement believing fundamentally that the power of the people is exponentially greater than the people in power.

My journey through PRAJATANTRA, specifically the Mayor's Speech Competition, was a baptism by fire.

My background, having moved from a remote village to pursue education in the city, instilled in me the belief that dignity of people is paramount, irrespective of geography.

I delivered my Mayor's Speech, proposing policies that imagined cities where AI monitors waste management, optimizes traffic flows, and powers local governance to respond to citizens in real time.

Representing Kolkata, the 'City of Joy,' our mock political party sought to architect a future where technology served humanity, not the other way around.

My proposal was clear: I dared to envision Kolkata not just as a museum of history, but as a roaring laboratory of future possibility.

PRAJATANTRA shattered the illusion that civic discourse is an armchair activity.

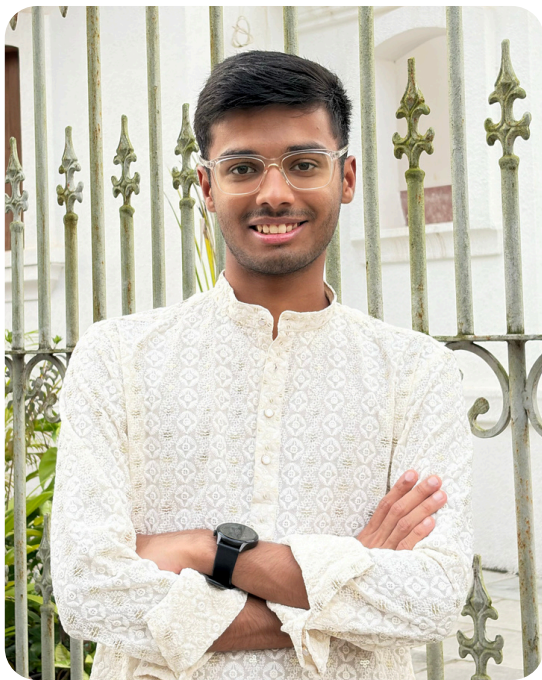
The event's key learning was that communication is a reciprocal transaction.

The knowledge sessions blazed with intensity, and the Organizing Committee's dynamic, abuzz interactions hammered home a vital truth: policy that's truly impactful is built on understanding, not just utterance; effective policy isn't about echoing your own voice but about embracing every perspective.

Post-PRAJATANTRA, transformation erupts. First, a 'People's Pulse Platform' blazes forth — monthly Civic Circles where students, residents, and local officials clash, converge, and co-create solutions for real urban issues. Second, AI & civic workshops fuel empowerment in underrepresented neighbourhoods, ensuring technology sparks inclusion, not exclusion.

To wrap it in flame—"तस्मादुच्चरतो श्रेयान् चरैवेति चरैवेति।"





Dhruv Goltekar

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

Urban governance is the pulse of a city; when it beats with empathy and efficiency, every life within it thrives. A healthy city, like a healthy body, needs both strong systems and a compassionate heart.

Dhruv is a medical student deeply passionate about healing through medicine, stories, and service. His academic journey in medicine has strengthened his skills in diagnosis, empathy, and patient care. Alongside academics, he actively engages in theatre, literary-writing, public speaking, and the NSS, which enhances his communication, creativity, and social awareness. Through these pursuits, he aims to grow into a compassionate and well-rounded doctor who not only treats illness but also connects with people through understanding and expression, fostering healing that extends beyond the hospital.



Leadership begins when empathy meets purpose, and service transforms into action.”

Participating in Prajatantra, was a transformative experience that allowed me to explore the intersection between medicine and governance. Taking part in the Mayor’s Speech Competition gave me an opportunity to voice my vision for urban health and inclusive development. Qualifying for the grand finals was both a humbling experience, proof that ideas rooted in compassion and responsibility can inspire meaningful change.

In my speech, I imagined the city as a living organism whose vitality depends on the harmony of all its systems. I proposed that urban governance should adopt a public health-oriented approach, emphasizing accessibility, prevention, and sustainability. My policy suggestions focused on strengthening primary healthcare centres in urban neighbourhoods, integrating mental health services into municipal planning, improving sanitation and waste management, and creating green public spaces to promote physical and mental wellbeing. I also advocated for participatory governance, where youth and citizens play an active role in decision-making, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Engaging with students from various disciplines helped me appreciate how multidisciplinary collaboration shapes effective public policy. The competition also strengthened my confidence in public speaking, policy analysis, and creative problem-solving.

After Prajatantra, I am determined to translate these learnings into meaningful action. I plan to engage in community health initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and youth-led outreach programs that promote preventive healthcare and civic participation. My long-term goal is to bridge the gap between medicine and governance, contributing to policies that prioritize both health equity and sustainable development.

“A city’s true strength lies not in its skyline, but in the wellbeing of its people.”





Divyadarshini

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

The strength of a city lies in governance that listens to every voice, reaches every corner, and preserves every tomorrow by being the nearest door to democracy for the citizens.

Divyadarshini is pursuing Biochemistry from Holy Cross College, Trichy. She is a passionate writer exploring many genres like essays, poetries, articles and short stories. She has been writing poems since childhood, of which many were published in various books and chronicles. Her poems, known for revealing the unspoken emotions and essence of humanity and nature. She is a geopolitical enthusiast, keen on connecting the dots of world politics into daily happenings. She has been actively participating and securing special mentions from various oratory, debate and MUNs. She is also exploring the arena of Science and Tech for building sustainability cities through vivid participation in multiple Hackathons, many selected for financial grants.



I have participated in Prajatantra for the past two years, and it has truly unveiled a new horizon of knowledge, opportunities, and possibilities for me. This journey has gradually become a defining part of who I am and how I perceive the world around me. Through Praja, I was able to propose policies that were distinct, inclusive, and better suited to address the pressing problems of my district. It provided me a meaningful platform to transform my ideas into impactful policy frameworks that could potentially uplift communities and bring about real change.

Through my active participation, I have gained a far more comprehensive understanding of how a city truly functions, how its governance operates, how decisions are made, and what crucial roles a mayor plays in addressing challenges at the local level. This exposure has widened my understanding of my own city, Tiruchirappalli, revealing its multifaceted nature, vibrant cultural diversity, and enormous untapped potential. It has also enabled me to hold greater responsibilities as a conscious citizen, to raise my voice for issues that matter, and to contribute in whatever way possible toward the betterment of my surroundings.

Through this event, I was able to perceive the diverse nature of India in depth and analyse its profound impact on how we think, how it shapes our livelihood, and how it influences our collective vision for the future. I had the privilege of meeting and learning from many contestants across India who were equally driven, passionate, and inquisitive in their pursuit of fostering a better tomorrow for everyone around them.

In my perspective, the main obstacle that stands in the way of creating a better tomorrow is the lack or absence of privileges for the underprivileged.

Through Praja I was able to express the deep concerns and desires I hold for the economical weaker sections of the society especially the Mendicants. The best government, in my belief, is the one that can sensitize people about their rights and power. Local self-governance being the very ground level of democracy it has got the utmost potential for people's participation in it. This way we can strive to create an inclusive, accessible and sustainability city governance model for all.





Grace L. Hauzel

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

Technology can build faster, taller, smarter cities, but governance guided by humanity turns them into homes where lives truly thrive.

Grace Lalrinpari Hauzel is currently a final-year BA History student at Pachhunga University College. She won the State Youth Parliament Festival 2024, represented Mizoram at the National Youth Parliament, and was named a National Youth Icon at Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect 2025. She served as Youth Representative of India at the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025 and represented India at the SOUL Global Conclave 2025. Author of five works including *Crossed to Oblivion* and *Cosmos in a Jar*, she is the leader of PUC Literature Club, serves in youth and cultural organizations, and aspires a career in policymaking and diplomacy.



As a girl from the mist laden hills of Mizoram, participating in the Prajatantra 2025 Mayor's Speech Competition felt like stepping beyond the ridges of familiarity into a landscape of new ideas and possibilities. Aizawl city, that had long framed my everyday life, appeared different, no longer just a city of winding lanes and layered hills, but a living organism breathing through its people, policies, and aspirations. Through Prajatantra, I came to see that governance is not an institution confined to buildings and laws, but a conversation, a symphony of voices shaping the pulse of a city.

Amid these reflections, I proposed weaving artificial intelligence into the city's rhythm, suggesting an AI powered smart parking system to untangle Aizawl's congested roads. I envisioned digitised governance grounded in inclusive AI, where technology serves as a bridge, helping citizens access information, offer feedback, and witness decisions unfold in real time. Inclusivity, in my vision, extends strongly to the differently abled, ensuring that urban spaces, digital platforms, and public services are designed to be truly accessible. By embedding accessibility at every level, from online portals to street level infrastructure, the city can empower all its citizens, creating a governance model that is not just technologically advanced but also compassionate and equitable. For Aizawl, I envision a city that is both efficient and compassionate, where innovation is guided by inclusivity, and technological advancement coexists with environmental stewardship and cultural preservation. Prajatantra instilled in me a belief that urban development should amplify citizen participation, to build resilient, forward-looking cities. After Prajatantra 2025, I plan to actively engage in local civic initiatives and volunteer programs, ensuring my ideas translate into meaningful action. I will also participate in community forums and digital platforms to advocate for inclusive policies, bridging the gap between citizens and governance.

In today's era, curiosity, courage, and collaboration are crucial; the courage to question, the curiosity to explore, and the collaboration to turn ideas into action. Prajatantra became a lens through which I saw Aizawl's potential, inspiring me to envision a future where the city thrives sustainably, inclusively, and vibrantly, guided by informed citizens who dare to dream and act.





Isha Baraskar

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

Our passion is not just for innovation, but for impact. Let's measure our success by the positive change we create in people's lives through technology.

Isha Baraskar is a Computer Science Engineering student at Lakshmi Narain College of Technology & Science, Bhopal, with an excellent academic record blending analytical thinking and creativity. A seasoned event host, she possesses refined public speaking and leadership skills. Her artistic vision shines through her passion for dance, and she captures moments that complement a keen sense of observation. As a black belt in karate, Isha embodies profound discipline and perseverance. An avid traveler, she embraces new perspectives and experiences. Isha represents a holistic individual who balances intellect, art, and adventure, driven by a relentless curiosity and determination to evolve.



As a citizen of Bhopal, I once viewed the mechanics of urban governance from a distance. Participating in Prajatantra has been a profoundly transformative experience, reshaping my perspective not just as a resident, but as the acting Mayor of Bhopal. The passion for shaping a better democracy that I witnessed here was truly energizing. Before this event, my understanding of civic administration was limited. Prajatantra provided me with a deep, functional knowledge of how the system works and, crucially, how citizens and youth can contribute to its betterment. I extend my deepest gratitude to the organizers for creating this vital platform.

While my engagement in the Mayor's Speech event I presented our administration's blueprint for Bhopal's future. Drawing inspiration from the forward-thinking solutions championed at the festival, our proposed policies are ambitious yet practical. We detailed an AI-driven traffic management system to ease congestion; a smart waste management protocol using sensor-equipped bins for cleaner streets; and an IoT-based smart water grid to monitor supply and prevent leakage. Crucially, we outlined an AI-powered public grievance redressal system, designed to deliver swift, transparent, and accountable governance, making citizen engagement both seamless and impactful.

Yet, my most significant learning from Prajatantra transcends technology. This realization was cemented through my invaluable interactions with officials of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, which offered real insights into the complexities of urban governance. Furthermore, interviewing citizens to understand the issues they face with municipal services brought their needs into sharp focus. The festival was a powerful lesson in collaboration and active listening; it became obvious that real innovation happens when policy is informed by both administrative reality and public need. Prajatantra teaches that the true power to transform our communities lies in the active participation of an engaged citizenry.

Inspired by Prajatantra, this new perspective demands action. I will move beyond promises to make youth participation a core part of how Bhopal is run. I am committed to creating direct channels for young leaders to have a real say in our city's policymaking and will launch platforms for them to share their innovative ideas. Guided by the festival's spirit, we will build a smarter, more sustainable Bhopal, powered directly by the vision and energy of its young people.





Kumkum Sharma

Grand Finalist for Mayor's Speech Competition

Leadership is not about being in charge, but about being in service — to people, to ideas, and to hope.

Kumkum is an enthusiastic learner pursuing an Honours degree in English Literature with a minor in Philosophy. Passionate about reading, sketching and debating, she has a knack for expressing ideas creatively and critically. She has represented her NCC Directorate - Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh as the Best Cadet at RDC 2025. She was the Grand Finalist in Prajatantra 2024, and her team was the 2nd Runner-Up for best team. She has been honoured to represent India as the Indian Youth Ambassador in Youth Exchange Programme Vietnam 2025. Inspired by her father's service in the Indian Army, she aspires to serve the nation by building a career in the armed forces.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 was one of the most enriching experiences of my journey so far. It gave me a deeper understanding of how cities function, how policies are made, and how young voices can play a role in shaping the future of governance. In the Mayor's Speech Competition, I represented Jammu Municipal Corporation as the Mayor, from the Navkranti Nexus Party. The event challenged me to think deeply about how technology can be used not just for progress, but for people.

In my presentation, I focused on using AI to make city administration transparent, efficient, and citizen- friendly. I proposed ideas like AI-based grievance redressal systems, smart waste management, and data-driven safety measures that could help make cities cleaner and more responsive.

Prajatantra helped me look at governance from multiple perspectives. Last year, I was a Grand Finalist in Prajatantra 2024. Coming back this year with a stronger understanding of urban challenges, I felt more confident about turning ideas into practical solutions. Discussing policies with youth leaders from different parts of India showed me how diverse ideas can come together to create something powerful.

Prajatantra was not just a competition for me; it was a classroom that extended beyond boundaries. It encouraged me to think about real issues, from waste management and climate resilience to digital inclusion and how I, as a citizen, can contribute to solving them.

I hope to continue promoting civic awareness, digital literacy, and sustainable growth among young people. Prajatantra has strengthened my belief that real change begins with informed citizens and compassionate leaders.





Meghna Rathore

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

*Governance flows from the people: the
nerve center that steers all decisions and
dictates the quality of their delivery.*

Meghna is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy and Governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad. Throughout her academic journey, from Hindu College to her current studies, she has been inclined towards working at the intersection of development and technology. This interest is complemented by her hands-on work with the Pravah Foundation, where she focused on capacity building and technological integration for women from vulnerable communities in Delhi and Bihar. Her volunteer experience with the Rotary organization sparked a keen interest in climate and sustainability. An avid badminton player, Meghna has cultivated a strong sense of sportsmanship and a competitive spirit. She enjoys solving Sudoku while listening to ghazals.



Participating in Prajatantra, especially in the Mayor's Speech event, has been a transformative and holistic experience for me. Throughout the qualifying and semi-final rounds, I have gained an intricate understanding of a city's governance and its critical role in upholding the human dignity guaranteed to every citizen under Article 21 of our constitution.

The opportunity to visit Hyderabad's municipal offices was particularly enriching, helping me broaden my understanding of their technical and cultural aspects. During a conversation with the Deputy Commissioner of the Ranga Reddy district, I understood how informal institutions, like cultural festivities, drive formal governance to shape laws and actions. That moment crystallized a key insight for me: governance is a two-way street. Citizens must hold the administration accountable when it fails to deliver, but they are equally responsible for upholding their end by following protocols for sanitation and hygiene.

These learnings directly informed my vision for Hyderabad as a modern metropolis where technological innovation addresses the fundamental needs of every citizen. My objective is to tackle critical urban challenges like inadequate public transport, inefficient waste management, and severe urban flooding, through a strategic, plan-based approach. Our SUGAM Yatayat-Transit Mission will leverage AI for a smart and inclusive transit system, extending connectivity to underserved areas like Rajendranagar and ensuring accessibility for all through the ENABLE Hyderabad initiative. We would deploy advanced AI-based flood management solutions to protect our infrastructure and citizens. Finally, to ensure transparent governance, our LOK SAMVAD app will empower citizens to track civic complaints, monitor services like garbage collection in real-time, and participate directly in the city's development. My plan is to build a resilient and inclusive Hyderabad where a high quality of life is a right, not a privilege.

Through Prajatantra, I also learned immensely from my co-participants. Witnessing their oratory skills and the unique perspectives each brought to improve their city was truly refreshing. This experience has pushed me to become more curious about the nuances of developing a sustainable city, especially by integrating the emerging field of AI. I aspire to be part of an ecosystem in the future that provides similar opportunities for growth and impact. I am deeply grateful to Prajatantra for this newfound confidence and the clear vision it has instilled in me.





Mohit Thakur

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

*Cities do not rise with concrete, but with
conscience — Quality of citizens reflect the
soul of governance.*

Mohit Thakur, hailing from the scenic city of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the Centre of Excellence, Government College Sanjauli. Deeply interested in politics and public affairs, he constantly seeks to understand the dynamics of governance and democracy. He is an active NSS volunteer who believes in serving society with dedication and compassion, embodying the spirit of social responsibility and leadership.

Also, a passionate public speaker, he believes in the power of words to influence thought and inspire change



Prajantra, 2025 was not just a competition for me; it was an eye-opening journey into the soul of democratic governance. Representing Shimla city as its mayor was an experience that connected me deeply with the realities of urban life, the challenges of administration, and the essence of participatory democracy. From understanding how local governments function to realizing the magnitude of a mayor's responsibilities, Prajantra became a bridge between theoretical knowledge and practical governance.

As the Mayor of Shimla, I focused on developing policies centred around sustainability, waste management, disaster management and citizen participation.

Before Prajantra, my understanding of governance was mostly limited to the central and state levels. But stepping into the shoes of a mayor helped me appreciate how urban governance forms the foundation of democracy. I realized that true development begins at the grassroots — with citizens, municipalities, and communities coming together to make their cities cleaner, safer, and more inclusive.

Interacting with participants from across the country enriched my perspective. Listening to their innovative ideas made me realize the diversity of India's urban challenges and the creativity of its youth. The experience also strengthened my communication, negotiation, and leadership skills — qualities essential for any public representative.

Prajantra has inspired me to become a more active and responsible citizen. I now plan to engage in local civic initiatives, promote awareness about sustainable living, and encourage youth participation in local governance. This journey has taught me that leadership is not about authority, but about accountability — not about power, but about purpose.





Padma Angmo

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

*The essence of good governance lies in
serving with vision and governing with
values*

Padma Angmo is currently pursuing Master's in Political Science from the University of Ladakh. Being deeply interested in governance, civic participation, and nation-building, she has always believed in the power of dialogue and awareness among youth. Her academic journey and participation in various workshops and competitions have shaped her into a confident communicator who wishes to contribute meaningfully to society. She aspires to serve the nation through leadership and public service, upholding the values of democracy and integrity.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been one of the most enriching, transformative, and enlightening experiences of my academic life. From the very first round of the selection process, the event constantly challenged me to think deeply and critically about governance, democracy, and the multifaceted responsibilities of citizens in a rapidly evolving society. Each stage of the competition brought new and thought-provoking challenges, from drafting well-structured and impactful speeches to presenting my ideas and arguments confidently before an audience. These experiences helped me grow not just as a speaker, but also as an informed and responsible individual, aware of the complex issues that shape our nation.

The journey from the preliminary rounds to the final stage taught me the value of preparation, composure, and teamwork. Interacting with fellow participants from diverse regions gave me a broader perspective on how young voices can shape India's democratic future. Being selected as a finalist was both an honour and a motivation to keep striving for excellence in public discourse.

Prajatantra 2025 has truly been a platform of learning, expression, and empowerment. It strengthened my confidence in speaking up for meaningful causes and deepened my understanding of how governance and civic responsibility go hand in hand. I am deeply grateful to the organizers, mentors, and coordinators for creating such an inspiring space for students across the nation. This journey will always remain a memorable chapter in my path toward leadership and service.





Priyanshi

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

*Let AI power our cities but let human
wisdom preserve their soul*

Priyanshi, pursuing BA at Banasthali Vidyapith, is an emerging leader passionate about urban governance, sustainable development, and social innovation. With a strong academic foundation in Geography, Sociology, and Public Administration, she aspires to work at the intersection of technology, policy, and community welfare. An active participant in debates, NSS activities, and social awareness programs, Priyanshi believes in leadership that listens, learns, and leads with empathy. Beyond academics, she finds joy in traveling and engaging with initiatives that empower women and youth. She aspires to go for Master's in Social Work to contribute towards policy-making and inclusive governance in India.



Prajatantra National Youth Festival 2025 has been a journey of transformation, a platform where learning met leadership and vision met reality. Representing Tonk as its Mayor in the Mayor's Speech competition, has given me an opportunity to explore how technology can redefine governance while keeping human welfare at its heart.

The most powerful lesson I have learnt is that Artificial Intelligence, when guided by ethical intent, can become the architect of sustainability. In urban governance, AI has the potential to revolutionize waste management, predict resource needs, and make real-time decisions for cleaner and greener cities. However, the essence of smart governance lies in using this intelligence to serve people, not replace them. A city is truly smart when its progress touches every life, not just its skyline. This is the takeaway lesson for me from the knowledge sessions and by being the audience in the policy presentation and debate competitions.

Secondly, I realized that citizen participation is the foundation of sustainable development. Technology can connect systems, but only citizens can connect society. I dream of Tonk adopting digital democracy through platforms for e-petitions, e-complaints, and e-participation, where every citizen's voice becomes a part of city planning. While preparing for Prajatantra, going through literature, it came to fore that when governance becomes participatory, cities transform into living ecosystems of shared responsibility.

Lastly, I believe that education and awareness must be the heart of sustainability. Integrating AI literacy in schools and community centers can prepare young citizens to become problem-solvers, designing solutions for climate change, waste management, and social inclusion. The combination of informed citizens and intelligent systems can shape cities that are both technologically advanced and deeply humane.

In the end, my vision is simple, to create a city where innovation walks hand in hand with inclusion, where data meets dignity, and where progress never costs the planet. Yes, we can do it!

And when someone visits such a city, I hope they'll say, "Here, intelligence builds the infrastructure, but compassion builds the community."





Sairaj Barekar

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

*True development is measured not by
infrastructure alone, but by the mindset of
those who inhabit it.*

Sairaj Barekar is pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Goa College of Engineering. With a passion for debating, quizzing, and public speaking, he represented his institution at state-level Youth Parliament and Model Gram Sabha (GIPARD, Goa) competitions, showcasing his interest in civic awareness and informed dialogue.

He has also been actively involved in several state initiatives under the I-Help Foundation aimed at building a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous Goa, reflecting his commitment to community development and environmental responsibility.

Outside of his academic and social pursuits, Sairaj enjoys cycling and exploring new places, finding in these journeys a sense of reflection, balance, and connection with the world around him.



Born and raised in Goa, I have always been inspired by the simplicity of its people and the balance between tradition and progress that defines our state.

A key part of my research, focuses on building sustainable cities through preventive maintenance of urban infrastructure. The city can implement systems to monitor roads, water pipelines, public lighting, and waste management networks in real time. This allows authorities to address issues early, optimise the allocation of resources, and extend the lifespan of city assets. Another important initiative is the pedestrianisation of key city areas, involving the redesign of streets and the creation of safe sidewalks. Pedestrian-friendly zones bring multiple benefits: they increase footfall, which supports local businesses; reduce noise pollution caused by vehicles; lower the risk of road accidents; and improve air quality.

Finally, infrastructure improvements alone cannot transform a city unless people actively participate, take ownership of their surroundings, and collaborate for the collective good. When citizens engage in local initiatives, follow civic norms, report issues promptly, and make responsible choices, they become true partners in governance.

I sincerely thank Prajatantra for this opportunity, which has motivated me to think more deeply about the responsibilities we all carry as citizens of a growing nation. The Mayor's Speech Competition challenged me to think critically about civic issues and express my ideas clearly. It provided a platform to engage with like-minded peers who are equally passionate about making a difference. Overall, the event has inspired me to take a more active role in contributing to my community and shaping the future of our cities. Jai Hind.





Shivam Vishwakarma

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

AI does not only mean Artificial Intelligence. AI means "Apli Iccha." With Apli Iccha, with our own willpower, we can transform Mumbai.

Shivam Vishwakarma is currently in his third year of Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS) program at Government of Maharashtra's Ismail Yusuf College, Mumbai. He has a strong interest in business and entrepreneurship, having explored entrepreneurial projects and earned recognition for innovative initiatives, including securing second place at the state level for a functional Automatic Waste Segregator model during his school years. Shivam is dedicated to developing comprehensive set of skills across marketing, management, leadership, and strategy to prepare himself for building impactful ventures. He aspires to create meaningful solutions that contribute to India's growth through innovation and purposeful initiatives.



Prior to Prajatantra, I attended sessions by Praja on the Constitution, RTI, and how city governments work in India.

In the Mayor's Speech competition, my proposal was simple: even with the best budget and technology, nothing works if the workforce isn't motivated or skilled. For a service organization like BMC, its people are its biggest strength. So, I suggested that BMC should focus more on internal marketing, creating an environment where employees feel valued, skilled, and connected to the larger mission of serving citizens.

Alongside that, I shared some tech-based ideas, like using buses or CCTV cameras with pattern recognition to automatically detect potholes, garbage, or overflowing drains. This would help BMC act faster and plan better.

Another idea was an app—a simple, voice-based chatbot where citizens can report issues or get help and Information in any language. The app would use geotagging to link complaints to locations and have a section for employees, showing real stories from citizens about how their work makes a difference. It would also include short training modules to help workers feel empowered and skilled.

I also proposed using empty BMC plots or building multi-story structures—the ground floor for vendors and upper floors for parking. Schools could even share premises after hours for local markets. This can reduce hawking, ease traffic, and make the city cleaner and more organized. I truly believe we, the people of Mumbai, can bring real change by asking the right questions, holding authorities accountable, and being responsible citizens. Jai Hind. Jai Maharashtra.





Vaidehi Pande

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

*Urban governance attains greater impact
when it builds upon effective service
delivery and expands its focus to
empowering citizens to design, decide, and
drive change.*

Vaidehi, an architect from Dr. B.N. College of Architecture, Pune, and is currently pursuing Master's in Urban Management at CEPT University, Ahmedabad. Her background in design and spatial planning sparked an interest in how cities function and governance shapes urban life. Through her academic journey, she has explored areas such as institutional capacity building, crowd management, transit-oriented development, and heritage-led revitalization. An aspiring urban manager, Vaidehi strives to bridge the gap between people, policy, and place to create inclusive, resilient, and future-ready cities. A creative thinker and avid reader, she draws inspiration from art, culture, and everyday urban life to shape her vision and contribute meaningfully to the future of cities.



Participating in the Mayor's Speech Competition under Prajatantra has been one of the most transformative learning experiences of my academic journey. It allowed me to deeply engage with questions central to urban governance such as how cities function, how institutions operate, and how citizens can become meaningful partners in shaping urban futures. The platform challenged me to think beyond conventional governance models and critically examine how collaboration, inclusivity, and accountability can drive transformative change.

During the Mayor's speech competition, my vision focused on the idea of placing citizens at the heart of policymaking. I proposed a multi-layered framework that combines community engagement with institutional training and capacity-building initiatives. This included participatory budgeting processes, transparent grievance-redressal systems, citizen-led monitoring of municipal services, and continuous skilling of municipal staff to implement such frameworks. I highlighted the importance of creating feedback loops where residents are not just recipients of services but active contributors in decision-making, while municipal officials are empowered with the knowledge, tools, and competencies to translate those decisions into impactful actions.

I learnt that success of governance depends on how deeply it is rooted in the lived experiences of citizens and how well-equipped institutions are to respond to those needs.

Going forward, I aspire to work at the intersection of policy, people, and institutional capacity. I aim to collaborate with municipal bodies, civic organizations, and training institutions to design competency-based modules, build skill development programs, and institutionalize participatory planning practices. My goal is to contribute to building cities that are inclusive, resilient, and citizen-driven where governance is about empowering people and institutions alike to shape their collective future.





Tarunima

**Grand Finalist for Mayor's
Speech Competition**

*The strength of city lies not just in its
skyline but also in its governance, Urban
governance provides both.*

On the way to becoming the "Tarunima." Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce (Professional) from St. Xavier's College of Management and Technology, Patna. Finance, Management, and Commerce are what have led her to her aspiration: Entrepreneurship. Hobbies cum stories, of a baker, a dancer, a gym enthusiast, a painter, a poet, an athlete, a speaker, a storyteller, and more she holds. Achievements have been my journey of learning and rewards in speeches, poetry, debates, quizzes, business presentations, extempore, and youth parliaments.



My experience with Prajatantra was deeply enriching and transformative. The platform brought together young minds from across the country, creating space for dialogue, collaboration, and critical thinking on governance and civic responsibility.

I participated in three events - Quiz, Debate, and the Mayor's Speech. While the Quiz tested analytical skills and awareness; the Debate encouraged structured reasoning; and the Mayor's Speech became my avenue for research-driven expression. Advancing to the finals of this event was a defining moment of learning. I crafted my speech, reflecting on Patna's governance structure, its challenges, and the scope for citizen - administration collaboration in sustainable development.

My address emphasized the role of education, exposure, and technology in empowering citizens. I proposed integrating digital tools and AI-based mechanisms into municipal systems to strengthen transparency, accountability, and efficiency. I also discussed practical approaches to improve urban functioning in areas such as waste management, traffic regulation, and public participation.

Prajatantra helped me realize that civic engagement begins with individual awareness and intent. Being an active citizen means contributing consciously - questioning, learning, and acting with integrity.

Inspired by this, I aspire to contribute to Patna's civic development by promoting awareness, encouraging youth participation, and fostering informed dialogue on local governance. My goal is to help build a community where people understand their roles and responsibilities within the city's growth process.

For me, Prajatantra was not merely a competition but a platform that instilled perspective and purpose. The experience continues to motivate me to act as a responsible participant in civic life - one who learns, contributes, and inspires change through awareness and conscience.



POLICY ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



Municipal Finance plays a crucial role in shaping the execution of public works and services within a city. The Municipal Budget encompassed the fiscal policies and corresponding financial plans of the Municipality. It includes a Revenue Budget for maintaining existing services and operations, as well as a Capital Budget for creating new assets and infrastructure to improve the quality and quantity of public services. Recognising its importance, many cities across India have adopted a participatory approach, inviting citizens to actively engage in the budget-making process for their local wards and the city at large. Participants were required to prepare an action plan aimed at boosting community engagement in local economic planning. The objective was to integrate citizens' voices into the financial decision-making processes of their cities, ensuring that budget allocations reflected the collective priorities and needs of the local community.



It was inspiring to see participants engage deeply with municipal finance and participatory budgeting. Many decoded their city budgets and suggested creative ways to boost revenue. Kudos to the PRAJA team for organizing such a meaningful event. It is a strong step toward promoting decentralised governance among youth.



Ninad Sansare

Associate Director, Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI),
Mumbai.



A Nithiss

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

Urban governance must be modular, transparent, and citizen-driven- because cities thrive when people shape their own futures.

Nithiss is currently pursuing a master's in urban planning at Thiagarajar School of Environmental Design and Architecture, Madurai. His academic focus lies in modular planning, municipal finance, and evidence-based governance. He leads collaborative studio teams and specializes in GIS-linked budgeting, lifecycle costing, and statutory compliance. Nithiss aspires to work in urban policy and planning consultancy, integrating field data with inclusive governance models. Beyond academics, he actively engages in comparative ingredient analysis and tracker design for personal care routines, applying the same logic of defensibility and correction to both civic systems and individual well-being.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been a transformative experience. The journey from orientation to semi-finals was rigorous, immersive, and deeply rewarding. It challenged me to translate studio-grade planning logic into actionable civic policy, grounded in statutory rulebooks and field realities.

My proposal focused on Madurai, a heritage-rich Tier-2 city with over 10 lakh residents. I designed a six-pillar modular framework: expenditure management using GIS-linked budgeting and lifecycle costing; revenue generation through property tax modernization and asset monetization; financial autonomy by ring-fencing funds and linking grants to SLB performance; institutional coordination across Madurai Corporation, MUDA, and state agencies; asset management via GIS-based registries and preventive maintenance; and citizen participation through Ward Sabhas and grievance platforms.

Through Prajatantra, I learned how to defend ideas in front of expert juries, synthesize feedback into policy corrections, and collaborate across disciplines. The knowledge sessions helped me understand how AI, civic tech, and participatory governance can converge to solve real-world urban problems. I also gained exposure to youth leaders from across India each bringing unique regional insights and civic innovations.

After Prajatantra, I plan to take this proposal forward by publishing a refined version of the framework in urban planning journals, collaborating with civic bodies like Madurai Corporation and MUDA to pilot sanitation budgeting modules, hosting citizen workshops to build awareness around municipal finance and participatory budgeting.

Prajatantra has shown me that youth-led governance is not just possible it is powerful. With the right tools, rulebooks, and community engagement, cities can be not only well-planned but well-governed. I carry forward this experience with a commitment to make urban finance work for every citizen.





Anarghya Suvin

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

Urban governance in India thrives when it balances age-old wisdom with cutting edge solutions, crafting cities that are both rooted and forward-thinking

Anarghya Suvin works at a Big Four firm in the Deal Advisory division. He has gained valuable experience in public relations and social media management by handling the social media accounts of a Member of Parliament. Serving as the Secretary of the Rotaract Club of Bangalore JP Nagar and the District Public Image Director of Rotaract District 3191, he strongly believes in true altruism. A TEDx speaker and a recipient of several public speaking accolades, Anarghya is passionate about capital markets, current affairs and event management.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 altered how I approach policy work. It was not only a presentation opportunity but a sustained, hands-on learning environment where dialogue and collaboration shaped realistic solutions. My Policy Presentation on Artificial Intelligence in Municipal Finance let me refine a citizen centred proposal: a participatory budgeting platform supported by AI analytics to make municipal finance more transparent, equitable and responsive. I also formalised the Seven Pillar Strategy called Bengaluru Mahanagara Samriddhi Yojana that balances fiscal discipline, digital governance, data driven decision making, citizen participation, performance-based funding, capacity building, and ethics with transparency and accountability.

My most important learnings were practical and human centred. First, technology enables new capabilities but cannot replace human judgement; human oversight, privacy protections and regular bias audits are indispensable. Second, citizens engage when information is accessible, processes are simple and feedback leads to visible change. Third, building pilots with measurable evaluation from day one prevents design mistakes and accelerates learning. These lessons made me reframe my work from feature design to governance design.

After Prajatantra I will take concrete actions to be a more active and participatory citizen. I will approach municipal officials and ward councillors to propose a Bengaluru ward level pilot with three clear KPIs: participation rate in budgeting exercises, alignment between stated citizen priorities and final allocations, and measurable improvements in service delivery tied to funded projects. I will organise community awareness sessions and hands on training workshops for residents and municipal staff to demystify budgets, explain how AI analytics will be used and outline human review and bias mitigation processes. I will document pilot outcomes openly, invite iterative feedback, and publish short reports so citizens can hold systems to account.

Prajatantra left me with clearer priorities and renewed responsibility. I am committed to move beyond ideas to pragmatic action that deepens citizen engagement, protects fairness and makes municipal finance more accountable, inclusive and human centred. I will also mentor grassroots volunteers to sustain long term civic participation.





Aparna Goswami

Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance

Good governance Urban governance thrives when fiscal responsibility meets citizen participation - where every rupee is a reflection of accountability, and every policy, a promise of inclusion. is less about control and more about conscience

Aparna Goswami is a law student at Amity Law School, Kolkata, with a keen academic interest in public policy, and financial regulation. Having participated in Model United Nations, Moot Court Competitions, and policy drafting forums, she blends legal analysis with pragmatic policymaking. Her previous internships have allowed her to gain exposure to regulatory and legal realities of various sections of the society. She aspires to work in legal consultancy and policy research with special focus on economic law.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been a transformative experience that deepened my understanding of urban governance, fiscal policy, and citizen-centric administration. As a participant in the segment on Municipal Finance and Budgeting, I had the opportunity to explore how urban fiscal systems can be made more transparent, technology-driven, and participatory.

I proposed a series of interlinked policy initiatives for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The policy emphasized AI-driven municipal finance, participatory budgeting, and asset-based revenue optimization. One of my central arguments was that a city's economic sustainability depends on its ability to manage resources intelligently and inclusively.

Through the deliberations, I learned that municipal finance is not merely about revenue collection or expenditure control—it is about trust-building between citizens and institutions. Discussions with other participants revealed diverse perspectives on decentralization, green financing, and digital accountability. I also realized how technology can enhance transparency, optimize budgetary outcomes, and strengthen democratic governance.

Prajatantra taught me that policymaking is most effective when it blends legal precision with economic pragmatism and citizen voice. The feedback I received from the panel encouraged me to further refine my understanding of fiscal federalism and local autonomy.

Moving forward, I intend to engage more deeply with public policy research and local governance initiatives. On a personal level, I plan to continue promoting civic engagement among youth through awareness campaigns on participatory budgeting and urban rights.

In reflection, Prajatantra 2025 has not only shaped my perspective on city governance but also instilled in me a sense of responsible citizenship—that governance is not the function of governments alone, but of every citizen committed to shaping the cities we inhabit.





Ar. Gautami Karampuri

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

Good urban governance balances visionary design with responsive management, embedding strategic planning to ensure cities grow equitably and adapt intelligently to future challenges.

Gautami Karampuri is an architect and aspiring urban planner currently pursuing her Master's in Urban & Regional Planning at MIT ADT University, Pune. She brings experience in urban design & planning, geoinformatics, and project management, having contributed to city streetscape projects for Corporations in Pune & Pimpri Chinchwad. Gautami is passionate about leveraging AI and data-driven solutions for social advocacy and sustainable urban development. An avid photographer and trekker, she actively engages in youth empowerment initiatives and urban mobility research.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been a transformative experience, allowing me to deeply engage with the complexities and possibilities within urban governance. The event I took part in, focused on “AI in Municipal Finance,” was especially enlightening. It brought together passionate peers, experts, and mentors, creating a vibrant platform for exchanging ideas and developing innovative solutions to civic challenges.

My submission, titled “Reimagining Pune’s Municipal Finance: Powering Progress with AI,” proposed data-driven reforms to modernize public budgeting and service delivery. Key interventions included launching a citizen-facing BudgetBot to enable participatory budgeting, deploying AI-based expenditure and fraud monitoring systems, and establishing a Tax Intelligence Fusion Centre to integrate datasets for equitable revenue growth. These ideas drew from global best practices, adapted to Pune’s local governance context and diverse stakeholders.

Throughout the event, I engaged in insightful discussions on barriers to technology adoption, risks of algorithmic bias, and the importance of digital literacy for citizens and administrators. Presenting my ideas before a jury of municipal commissioners and finance officials strengthened my understanding of urban management, fiscal discipline, and the value of transparency and accountability.

Beyond technical learning, Prajatantra fostered lessons in collaborative leadership, resilience, and inclusive engagement. I was inspired by the diversity of perspectives and the shared optimism for the future of Indian cities. The program emphasized bridging policy design and citizen participation, reinforcing that innovation must rest on trust and responsiveness.

Following Prajatantra, I plan to continue researching smart governance, volunteer in digital literacy initiatives, and contribute to municipal forums as an informed citizen. I aim to promote transparent decision-making, advocate citizen-centric technology adoption, and empower residents in city budgeting and monitoring. Prajatantra reaffirmed my belief that every citizen can drive change toward more sustainable and inclusive cities.





Archi Singh

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

Urban Local Governance is not merely a structure but a relationship the closest form of government that grows with its citizens, not over them. It flourishes in every dialogue, every decision that listens before it acts

Archi Singh, a third-year Economics undergraduate at Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, is deeply interested in how economic principles inform governance and public policy. An articulate speaker and active debater, she values exchanging diverse perspectives. Avid about literary fiction and Hindi literature, she believes stories shape social consciousness. Beyond academics, Archi enjoys photography and finds solace in singing. Guided by empathy, she aspires to advance women's empowerment and educational equity while nurturing her wanderlust to explore every castle in the world.



Prajatantra 2025 was more than a youth festival it was a transformative journey that empowered students to think and act like civic innovators.

In my policy presentation, I proposed two initiatives-SafaiAI, a model for improving sanitation services through predictive monitoring, and JanBudget, a participatory budgeting system that invites citizen input in local spending decisions. Both were designed within existing budget constraints and emphasized strengthening Own Source Revenue (OSR) to reduce dependency on external grants, reflecting a pragmatic approach to governance rooted in data, inclusion, and fiscal discipline.

Some of the key takeaways from Prajatantra came through the knowledge sessions and field engagements that expanded my understanding of city governance. The course on Artificial Intelligence introduced me to its basics, its evolution, relevance, and the ways it can be integrated into different aspects of public service delivery. At the same time, Prajatantra deepened my understanding of Urban Local Bodies. Interacting with peers from across India, especially those from smaller towns, broadened my view of what inclusive policymaking truly means. I realized that every city's challenge requires not just expertise but empathy. Prajatantra offered a platform to present these ideas before officials and experts, an experience that built both confidence and conviction.

Personally, I aim to stay informed about the evolving landscape of municipal governance and urban development. The knowledge gained from Prajatantra will continue to enrich my academic journey and guide me in the future.

Most importantly, it taught me that students can be policy thinkers. With curiosity, commitment and courage, we can shape the cities we live in and Prajatantra was the perfect place to begin that journey.





CR Lalromawia

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

The true test of governance is taking on meaningful projects whose full majesty we ourselves will never witness but begun with the faith that future citizens will finish what we started.

CR Lalromawia is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Economics at Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, Mizoram. His interest and passion for reforming his homeland led him to participate in the Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance. Currently serving as the Treasurer of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Club in his college, he aims to pursue a career of a civil servant, particularly the Mizoram Civil Service, hoping to one day contribute to his homeland. Being a student of Economics, he is also passionately interested in understanding as well as improving his state's economy and welfare.



My journey with Prajatantra began with a mix of excitement and uncertainty. As a student fascinated by technology's potential to solve complex problems, I was intrigued by this year's theme: the integration of Artificial Intelligence. It was a bold shift from traditional discussions, pushing us to envision a future where algorithms and data are as fundamental to city management as policies and budgets.

Participating in Prajatantra has given me an experience that I had never had before. As my first national experience, it exposed me to my fellow citizens, where I got to see many people from different regions and states sharing their various views and ideas for our country. Like many, I had a vague awareness of the municipal corporation's existence, but its financial mechanisms and its profound impact on my daily life remained a distant mystery.

For my policy presentation, I focused on creating a sustainable financial model for my city. I proposed some key reforms like "Progressive Property Taxation," which aims to collect a proportionate sum depending upon the number of properties, thereby increasing revenue while preventing speculative landholding; imposing taxes on vacant lands; introducing municipal bonds; and, following the theme for this year's competition, the integration of AI in municipal finance to achieve efficiency.

My experience with Prajatantra completely changed how I see my city. I learned that running a city well is about much more than just fixing roads and collecting trash. While I learned about the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence for optimizing tax collection and civic maintenance. I learned that technology, like AI, is merely a powerful tool and that its true value is realized only when it serves to strengthen the bridge between the government and the governed.

This experience has not only equipped me with technical knowledge but has ignited a sense of responsibility. I am now motivated to act as a bridge between the tech community and my local municipal corporation. If ever I get a chance, I plan to advocate for a pilot project on integrating AI and initiating discussions on building a data-friendly policy ecosystem. Prajatantra didn't just teach me about AI in governance; it convinced me that we, the youth, are the crucial catalysts to usher our cities into this intelligent, new era.





Jiya Yadav

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

There is no good governance without good people as they hold leaders accountable for good governance through active participation, demanding transparency, and using oversight mechanisms

A proven leader with a record of excellence, Jiya Yadav chairs the policy presentation on municipal finance at Prajatantra 2025. She is active student of SS Jain Subodh Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur. Her leadership journey started as Head Girl, building a foundation for her hard-working nature. As a dedicated student, she earns top grades since her High school and is also a dynamic voice in her college, skilled in debate, public speaking and actively participating in youth Parliaments and various competitions.



I am immensely grateful to the organizers of the Prajatantra 2025 national competition for providing a formidable platform to engage with the topic of artificial intelligence for sustainable cities.

Participating in the policy presentation was an intellectually enriching experience. To compete alongside some of the brightest minds from across India was both a challenge and an inspiration. Prajatantra 2025 truly embodies its mission by harnessing the immense potential of young individuals, empowering us to channel our analytical abilities and passion. This experience has solidified my commitment to contributing to public affairs and believe in change for good.

My vision for a Sustainable and Smart Jaipur presents an integrated roadmap. Financially, we will fortify the city using AI to optimize property tax and boost revenue responsibly. These resources will fuel transformative green projects like solar-powered streetlights and a CNG/E-bus fleet to reduce pollution. We will integrate AI to manage traffic and waste efficiently, creating a responsive urban environment. Crucially, this vision pairs technological progress with social welfare and cultural preservation, launching initiatives for child health and transforming unique heritage like Bandhani and Blue Pottery into sustainable economic engines for all.

Participating in the municipal finance policy presentation was a profound learning experience. I earned recognition as a credible leader on complex issues and strengthened my professional profile. More importantly, I deepened my practical understanding of how cities manage budgets and fund public services. I learned to analyse policy critically and the essential skill of translating complex ideas into clear, persuasive arguments, preparing me for future challenges in public discourse.

In conclusion, this holistic policy framework does more than just manage a city; it reimagines it. Having participated in Prajatantra, my journey as a citizen continues. I will channel this knowledge into action by raising awareness in my local community about municipal budgets and our role in them. I plan to engage with local councillors, attend public hearings, and use civic platforms to advocate for transparent and equitable financial policies, ensuring this experience translates into sustained civic engagement for my city's development.





Meemansha Tiwari

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

The essence of urban governance lies in participation, when every citizen has a voice, the city transforms from a mere place of residence into a true community of belonging

Meemansha Tiwari is a law student at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, and a member of Team Awaaz-e-Hind. She is deeply interested in international law and global governance, aspiring to pursue a career at the intersection of law and policy. Alongside her academic work, she engages in research, writing, and projects that explore law's pragmatic applications in society. Passionate about political science and history, she brings an interdisciplinary outlook to her work and is committed to impactful, citizen-oriented governance.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 was both enriching and eye-opening. I took part in the Quiz and the Policy Presentation rounds. While the quiz tested my knowledge of governance and public policy, it was the policy presentation on Municipal Finance that left a lasting impression.

In our presentation, the proposed ideas included reforms in property tax collection, improving user fees, and exploring sustainable sources of revenue such as municipal bonds. On the spending side, we focused on how better planning tools could reduce waste and ensure that resources reach the areas where they are most needed, like health, sanitation, and infrastructure. We highlighted the importance of involving citizens in financial decision-making through participatory budgeting and simple, accessible platforms that allow people to see how money is being raised and spent.

Working with my teammates taught me the importance of listening to diverse perspectives and merging different ideas into a single vision. The interactions with peers from across the country broadened my understanding of how urban challenges vary from place to place yet share common threads of inclusivity.

Looking ahead, I hope to continue being an active and participatory citizen. Beyond academics, I want to contribute to policy research, civic initiatives, and platforms that bring young people into conversations about governance. Prajatantra has given me the confidence to view law as a living instrument that can strengthen democratic practices and improve people's everyday experiences. The lessons of Prajatantra will stay with me, not just as a memory of participation, but as a reminder of the responsibility we hold as future professionals and citizens to make governance people-centered, transparent, and just.





Omkar Pokale

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

Urban governance is like the water in a lake - the more transparent and fuller it is, the healthier it becomes for everyone.

Urban governance is like the water in a lake - the more transparent and fuller it is, the healthier it becomes for everyone. Pokale is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Nowrosjee Wadia College, Pune. Deeply interested in governance and public administration, he enjoys exploring how political ideas shape real-world action. He has participated in debates and policy-making events such as “If I Were the Prime Minister.” As a member of his college’s Political Association ‘Vote Kar’ campaign, he helped students register as first-time voters for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Beyond academics, Omkar enjoys reading, elocution, and basketball. He aspires to serve the nation through the UPSC and values being an informed, responsible citizen.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025, the National Youth Competition, stands out as one of the most transformative and rewarding experiences of my academic journey. Although I have always been optimistic about change and deeply passionate about designing innovative policies for public administration, I had never engaged with the subject in such depth and analytical detail before. Prajatantra offered me the perfect platform to explore governance not merely as a concept, but as a living system that connects citizens, policymakers, and administrators. It encouraged me to think critically, research thoroughly, and understand the real challenges that shape urban governance in India. Through this experience, I discovered new dimensions of my own capabilities and truly began to unleash my untapped potential.

In my policy on municipal finance, I proposed that a specific share of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) be allocated directly to municipal corporations. This step, I believe, is vital not only to strengthen their financial autonomy but also to meet the ever-growing expectations of citizens who look for efficient local governance. Furthermore, I suggested the creation of an AI-driven digital platform designed to enhance transparency and accountability. This platform would feature interactive dashboards displaying registered and resolved complaints, along with detailed information about the current year's revenue and expenditure. Such openness, in my view, would bridge the gap between the government and the governed, fostering trust and civic engagement.

While formulating this policy and leading a team where every member had a unique role yet shared a common vision, I learned the importance of collaboration, coordination, and respect for diverse perspectives. Prajatantra taught me that effective governance requires more than criticism; it demands research, empathy, and a deep understanding of the interconnected systems that sustain our cities.

This journey has reshaped my outlook on urban governance and civic responsibility. I now aspire to be an aware and proactive citizen, using my rights and municipal platforms to address public issues rather than ignoring them. I am committed to contributing, in every possible way, to strengthen municipal governance and bring about meaningful, lasting change.





Siddhartha

Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance

For a secure and inclusive future, our cities need to be adaptive towards the climate crisis and contribute to mitigation strategies by promoting sustainable practices & solutions including the use of enhanced technologies.

Siddhartha is currently pursuing his Master's (final year) in Political Science at the University of Delhi. He also qualified for the NET exam with JRF for assistant professorship. He has worked with research institutions, think tanks, and a Member of Parliament's office, contributing to policy briefs, legislative research, and field studies. With a strong interest in environmental governance, climate justice, and sustainable development, he has been engaged at the interdisciplinary intersection of climate change and politics and worked at institutions like TERI (The Energy & Resource Institute). He's also interested in democratic governance and institutional functioning and wishes to contribute to grounded research on socio-political upliftment.



Being part of Prajatantra was an enriching experience that allowed me to delve deeply into the complexities of municipal governance. The event offered a detailed understanding of the local budget-making process, and the critical challenges municipalities face in managing their finances. Engaging in site visits and interacting with municipal officials and citizens gave me valuable insights into the disconnect between policy formulation and its on-ground implementation. This mix of theoretical knowledge and practical exposure provided me with a holistic view of governance at the grassroots level, revealing how vital local bodies are in shaping urban life. One of the most striking issues I encountered was the limited financial devolution to urban local bodies, despite the 74th Constitutional Amendment aimed at empowering them. Municipalities often have minimal control over essential subjects and financial resources, which hampers their ability to meet the rising demands of urban citizens.

In my policy presentation, I proposed more robust devolution of powers, accompanied by innovative revenue-generation strategies such as issuing municipal bonds, forging public-private partnerships, and improving tax collection mechanisms. This can be achieved through bi-annual surveys, town-hall style public meetings, and leveraging the power of Artificial Intelligence such as by digital platforms to gather citizen feedback and ensure accountability.

Prajatantra helped me understand that governance, especially at the city level, is a shared responsibility. It highlighted the pivotal role of active citizen participation in making urban governance more efficient and responsive. Cities are the engines of economic, social, and cultural development, but their potential can only be fully realized when citizens and governments work together. Key learnings included the importance of transparency, regular fiscal assessments, and the adoption of innovative governance practices that ensure financial sustainability and responsive administration.

I aim to take concrete steps toward becoming a more engaged and participatory citizen after this experience. I will advocate for greater public involvement in municipal budget-making processes, promote the use of AI & digital governance tools for transparency, and encourage my peers to engage in local governance. By fostering this collaboration between citizens and government, we can build cities that are more liveable, equitable, sustainable, and inclusive, ultimately ensuring that urban governance meets the needs of its people while planning for future challenges.





Subbulakshmi

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

“True urban governance is not shaped by policies alone, but by the everyday conversations where systems begin to listen to people. It lives in the balance between structure and empathy, data and dialogue.”

Subbulakshmi M is a civil engineer from Chennai and a postgraduate student in Urban Management at Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University, Ahmedabad. With a strong focus on urban governance, municipal finance, and citizen-centric development, she aspires to contribute to building accountable and inclusive city systems. Beyond academics, Subbulakshmi engages in reflective writing and exploring diverse literature, and is passionate about learning, discovering new ideas, and understanding the world from different perspectives.



Participating in Prajatantra was an enriching and transformative experience that significantly deepened my understanding of urban governance and municipal finance. As a national platform, it provided me the unique opportunity to share my proposals for the Morbi Municipal Corporation and engage with peers from across India, offering diverse perspectives on city systems and financial management.

For the event, I presented a policy proposal focused on participatory budgeting integrated with AI. This approach aimed to make budgetary decisions more transparent, inclusive, and efficient. In Morbi, where citizen engagement in municipal finance is still evolving, participatory budgeting allows residents to have a direct say in prioritizing local projects, ensuring that resources are allocated according to real community needs. The integration of AI can enhance this process by analysing citizen inputs, predicting resource requirements, and identifying patterns to improve decision-making accuracy. By combining technology with participatory approaches, the proposal sought to create a system where financial planning is both data-driven and citizen-centered.

The experience of Prajatantra was a journey of continuous learning. From the first qualifying round, where I presented preliminary ideas, to the final stage, the questions and feedback from jurors and peers allowed me to refine and strengthen my proposal. Each round offered a deeper understanding of municipal finance, showing me how theoretical knowledge could be translated into actionable solutions. Additionally, observing the proposals from students representing various cities helped me appreciate the diversity of urban challenges and solutions across India. Learning from their perspectives expanded my understanding of best practices and innovative approaches in municipal governance.

Overall, Prajatantra has been a holistic learning experience. It has enhanced my knowledge, sharpened my analytical skills, and reinforced my passion for municipal finance, a field close to my heart. The event has motivated me to continue engaging with local governance processes, explore innovative solutions for urban challenges, and become a more active and participatory citizen, committed to creating transparent and inclusive systems in my community.





Twinkle Singh

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Municipal finance**

Cities, the cradle of civilisation and engines of innovation, thrive on governance that steers sustainable growth, harnesses AI responsibly, and empowers citizens to shape inclusive futures.

Twinkle Singh holds a B.Tech in Software Engineering from Delhi Technological University and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Governance at TISS, Hyderabad. With a keen interest in the intersection of technology and governance, she aspires to contribute to policymaking that promotes the responsible and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence. As a member of the Internal Placement Committee, she demonstrates strong organizational and leadership skills. During an internship at MEPZ, she worked on the National Single Window System, gaining valuable insights into how Business Process Reengineering can enhance efficiency in government-business interactions. Beyond academics, she enjoys gardening, art and crafts, and playing badminton.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 was an intellectually enriching experience that deepened my understanding of urban governance and fiscal decentralization. I participated in the Policy on Municipal Finance event, which aimed to reimagine how Indian cities can leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to strengthen urban governance. The whole experience was much more than a simulation: it challenged me to relate governance theory to practical and implementable concepts. Our team chose Bengaluru as the target city. The main idea of the policy was to transform the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into a fiscally and citizen-focused, AI-powered institution, which was in tandem with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposal suggested gradual implementation of Rs 700 crore which is about 6 per cent of the budget of BBMP to test AI applications that can directly enhance services and income. Areas of interest were predictive waste-volume forecasting, computer-vision blackspot detection, adaptive traffic signal control, dynamic parking pricing and NLP-based grievance handling.

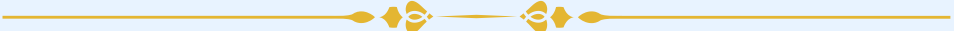
Prajatantra taught me three lessons that are everlasting. Technology is only an enabler not a panacea: institutional preparedness, training and ethical protection are required. Second, participatory processes are important - citizen inputs and transparency reporting legitimise fiscal reform and enhance allocation decisions. Third, tangible KPIs and gradual introduction allow presenting the results and creating political support.

After the festival I plan to put these lessons into practice. I intend to contribute to research and advocacy on responsible AI governance in urban finance. Prajatantra reinforced my commitment to pursue municipal finance reforms that balance prudent budgeting, responsible technological use and meaningful citizen participation.



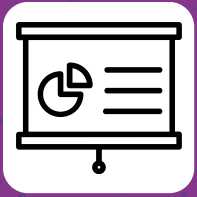
POLICY ON LEVERAGING AI TO ENHANCE MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Subject Committee will be responsible for drafting and presenting policies that explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be utilised to improve the delivery and efficiency of municipal services. This initiative focuses on creating inclusive, ethical, and technologically sound frameworks to integrate AI into everyday governance and public service systems.

The aim of the Subject Committee is to create smarter cities by leveraging data-driven solutions, enhancing transparency, and streamlining citizen-centric services. Participants examined how AI could optimise urban infrastructure, improve responsiveness to public needs and aspirations, and ensure better resource management across city governments.



The Municipal Policy Competition encourages youth to cultivate responsibility for their cities and surroundings. This year's theme of AI is especially timely, as the advent of AI is more pertinent than ever to addressing complex social and systemic urban issues. The competition challenges participants to think critically and propose innovative, forward-looking solutions. Best wishes to all the participants and organizers, and may this important initiative continue to grow in impact and reach.



Shreyas Chorgi

Senior Consultant | Strategy and Transactions

Ernst & Young LLP



Akashlina Dhar

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

*Good governance is less about control and
more about conscience*

Akashlina Dhar is a student of S.K. Somaiya College, who is currently pursuing her B.Sc. With a strong foundation in economics, she has grown deeply curious about how policies and governance shape everyday life. In Economics, has grown deeply curious about how policies and governance shape everyday life. Through her work with several NGOs and her active role in her school's environment club, she discovered how small, purposeful actions can make a real difference in communities. These experiences inspired her to pursue a path as a policy analyst, where she hopes to combine her understanding of economics with a genuine desire to create fair, lasting, and positive change for people and the planet.



Participating in Prajatantra was one of the most inspiring experiences. It was not just another competition; it felt like a glimpse into how real governance works when ideas meet purpose. I took part in Policy on Leveraging AI for Municipal Services.

My presentation revolved around three core areas: waste management, water supply, and public healthcare. I proposed that AI could be used to guide garbage trucks only to bins that are full, cutting fuel use and preventing overflows. For water, I talked about installing smart sensors in pipelines to detect leaks early, something that could save millions of litres every day. Thirdly, I shared how AI could make healthcare more accessible through telemedicine, where a senior in Borivali could consult a doctor online instead of waiting hours in a crowded hospital.

For me, this was not just about efficiency; it was about restoring trust between citizens and public institutions.

Listening to other participants, I learned how diverse perspectives on sustainability, urban planning, and education can come together to solve complex problems. I also saw how collaboration can turn debate into progress; every argument made me refine my ideas and think more critically.

After Prajatantra, I feel more determined to stay involved. I plan to collaborate with local NGOs and youth groups that work on civic innovation, digital rights, and public health. I also want to write about these issues, translating policy language into something everyone can understand. Prajatantra did not just teach me about policies; it reminded me that democracy is strongest when every voice counts and when we choose to use ours.





Angel Dipta

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Policy is a bridge between vision and reality — transforming ideas into purposeful action. When guided by inclusivity, innovation, and empathy, it becomes the most powerful instrument to shape equitable progress and sustainable growth for all

Angel Dipta, a final-year B.Sc. Life Sciences student at the Centre of Excellence Government College, Sanjauli, Shimla, believes in harmonizing science with society. She strives to design policies that are both rational and compassionate, integrating scientific insight with social responsibility. Her strong academic foundation has nurtured analytical thinking and awareness of environmental and social interdependence. A consistently excellent student, Angel combines intellectual rigor with empathy and creativity. Beyond academics, she actively engages in art, dance, and drama mediums through which she expresses creativity and community spirit, translating complex ideas into accessible, human-centered narratives.



Participating in the competition was truly a transformative experience. It provided me with a platform to convert awareness into actionable thought and to engage with others who shared a vision for sustainable change. Through this process, I realized that while many people identify social and ecological issues, the greater challenge lies in developing structured, implementable, and people-oriented policy frameworks that can genuinely make a difference. The competition also exposed me to the intricate processes of real-world governance. I learned how dialogue, data, and deliberation intersect to shape effective public policy. My interactions with mentors and experts expanded my understanding of how policies evolve from identifying issues to designing sustainable interventions rooted in both evidence and empathy. My journey to the Policy Presentation Competition stemmed from a deep desire to contribute meaningfully to society. My presentation focused on the importance of evidence-based policymaking, especially in addressing the environmental and social challenges facing mountain ecosystems and rapidly urbanizing hill regions like Shimla. One of the most valuable lessons I gained was recognizing the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in policymaking. Complex issues like waste management, water scarcity, and biodiversity conservation in the Himalayan belt cannot be resolved by science alone. They require civic participation, local governance, and behavioral change working in harmony. I have come to understand that sustainable development can only be achieved through policies that are both environmentally sound and socially inclusive. In my presentation, I proposed strengthening community-based ecological monitoring systems, promoting youth participation in conservation initiatives, and embedding environmental education more deeply into mainstream curricula. Such measures, I believe, can nurture accountability, environmental ethics, and stewardship among the next generation. Reflecting on my experience, I see the Policy Presentation Competition as far more than an academic pursuit, it was a journey of self-discovery and purpose. It allowed me to test my ideas against practical realities, gain confidence in public advocacy, and connect with individuals equally passionate about driving positive change. I realized that policymaking is not merely about governance, it is about listening, learning, and leading with empathy. Every idea, when grounded in sincerity and inclusiveness, holds the power to transform lives.





Dhanashree Rathod

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Change begins when vision turns into action.

Driven by a vision to grow beyond limits, I, Dhanashree Rathod, a 12th-grade Arts student, believe in transforming from ordinary to exceptional through knowledge, effort, and consistency. My passion for growth and positive change guides everything I do. I took my first entrepreneurial step by participating in a summit that fostered leadership and innovation. As a leader of the Peace 4 Change group under CYDA, I contribute to initiatives that promote peace and unity. In my free time, I enjoy dancing, traveling, and watching movies to unwind.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 was an inspiring and transformative experience. Throughout this journey, I developed critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills and enhanced my understanding of civic responsibilities.

Pune, the vibrant city of young energy, rich culture, and endless opportunities, faces challenges that slow down its full potential. Outdated systems and traditional approaches create gaps in various sectors.

In education, students often struggle due to outdated teaching methods and limited practical learning. The solution is to transform schools into smart classrooms with AI labs, digital tools, and well-trained teachers. Emphasizing skill-based learning can help students prepare better for the future.

Environmentally, AI can help monitor pollution, manage waste efficiently, and plan sustainable urban growth. Implementing sensor-equipped trash bins, encouraging tree plantations, and using AI for predictive maintenance in waste facilities can make the city cleaner and greener.

Culturally, modernization risks eroding Pune's rich heritage. Promoting Indian culture through AI-driven digital tools, heritage courses, and creative competitions can help younger generations stay connected to traditions while embracing innovation.

Infrastructure struggles due to rapid urbanization. Repurposing underutilized spaces, building eco-friendly structures, and integrating sustainable technologies can ensure modern, balanced growth.

Prajatantra 2025 taught me patience, decision-making, and the importance of listening to different perspectives. I became more confident in expressing my ideas and learned how to turn small thoughts into actionable solutions.

Moving forward, I aim to apply these lessons to create meaningful change in my community. By staying curious, embracing new technologies, and focusing on practical implementation, I can develop further and contribute effectively to society, ensuring that my actions have a positive and lasting impact.





Kritika Sambyal

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Artificial Intelligence is not meant to replace human governance but to redefine it - transforming it into a system that listens smarter, responds faster and serves better

Kritika Sambyal is an undergraduate student pursuing her degree in Biological Sciences, driven by a deep interest in research and scientific exploration. With a strong sense of service toward the nation, she actively engages in leadership activities that promote collaboration and social responsibility. Passionate about creative and intellectual expression, she has participated in various state and national-level debate and painting competitions. Beyond academics, she enjoys reading, sketching, and sports, embodying a balance of intellect, creativity, and empathy. She aspires to grow as a researcher, leader, and changemaker contributing meaningfully to society.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 particularly in Municipal policy making competition was one of the most enriching and transformative experiences of my academic journey. As a zoology graduate stepping into the realm of public policy & municipal governance was both an exciting and challenging leap -one that truly pushed me beyond the boundaries of my discipline.

Our policy theme "Policy on Leveraging AI to enhance Municipal Services " opened an entirely new dimension of thought process for me. Exploring how AI can streamline public utilities, improve water waste management strengthen citizen engagement & optimize resource allocation was a fascinating intersection of technology, governance & sustainability. It also allowed me to understand my city "Jammu " better.

Coming from a biological science background I have always been fascinated by the interconnection between ecology, community & urban sustainability. However, Prajatantra provided me with a platform to explore this relationship through a policy-making lens for the very first time. I learned to view local governance not merely as an administrative function but as a dynamic system influenced by services, society & civic engagement.

The competition exposed me to the structure and function of Municipal bodies including how policies are drafted and debated. The most significant takeaway from this experience was learning how to translate scientific understanding into actionable policies. It taught me the art of communication - to bridge the gap between technical knowledge & policy framework.

Prajatantra 2025 was not just a competition it was a learning journey beyond classroom & textbook. It allowed me to polish my boundaries step into unfamiliar territory & grow as a learner who understand the importance of holistic perspective in problem solving. This experience has deeply influenced my outlooks to explore the different intersections of science, policy, technology & sustainable urban development in my future endeavour's.

Moving forward, I aspire to channel these learnings on a personal level to stay involved in civic initiatives, promote environmental awareness, and contribute to positive changes in my surroundings. I wish to not only broadened my academic perspective but also strengthen my belief that impactful change begins with informed individuals who are willing to step beyond their boundaries and engage with the systems that shape our collective future.





Mrutyunjay Shingare

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Governance is not built in parliaments; it's built in the pauses between policy and people. When citizens begin to act as co-architects, not spectators, of democracy

Mrutyunjay Shingare is a third-year B.A. (Hons.) Political Science student at MIT World Peace University, Pune, passionate about research, governance, and strategic affairs. He presented “The Sorrow of Bihar: The Need for Enhanced Governance and Innovative Policies” at the 23rd IASSI Annual Conference (BIT Mesra, 2024), and his paper “Collaborative Competition: India’s Adaptive Strategy vs. China’s Economic Muscle in Africa” is under publication in Strategic Analysis (Taylor & Francis). Interested in International Relations, Political Theory, Comparative Politics, History, and Defence Studies, he authored a book on real-life stories of 50 martyred soldiers, launched at MIT-WPU on Independence Day 2025.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been more than an academic milestone. It has been a transformative journey that redefined my understanding of governance and civic responsibility. As a student of Political Science, I had often examined policy on paper; this competition allowed me to translate theory into action, to think as both a policymaker and a citizen.

Representing Pune, I developed and presented “The Pune Zero-Waste Circular Economy Act, 2025”, a comprehensive AI-driven municipal policy to transform waste management. It was born from the city’s persistent challenges. Overflowing landfills, inefficient collection systems, and the underutilization of data. This initiative taught me that innovation is not about adopting technology; it is about aligning it with local realities. Through AI-based smart bins, predictive analytics, and citizen-engagement apps, I learned how governance can evolve from being reactive to being intelligently proactive.

Yet, the greatest lesson came beyond the slides. It was about understanding human systems. Speaking to municipal officers, observing sanitation workers, and engaging with local residents revealed that the real challenge in policymaking is not scarcity of resources but scarcity of coordination. In that sense, Prajatantra became a live classroom — where academia met administration, and idealism met practicality. It helped me witness the human face of governance, reminding me that policies succeed not when they are perfect on paper, but when they resonate with people’s lived experiences.

On a personal level, this experience strengthened my belief that the youth must not wait to enter politics to influence policy. We can contribute today — through research, advocacy, and participatory governance. My encounters during Prajatantra reaffirmed that change begins where awareness meets accountability. It also reinforced my faith in India’s democratic potential: that young minds, when guided by vision and discipline, can reimagine governance for the digital age.

In essence, Prajatantra has been my bridge between scholarship and statecraft. It has shown me that policymaking is not merely about drafting documents but about understanding aspirations, harnessing technology, and leading with purpose. As I step into the finals, I do so not merely as a competitor. but as a citizen who has glimpsed the architecture of India’s democratic transformation, and who wishes to build upon it, one informed idea at a time.





Nabeel Nusrat

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Cities thrive when governance becomes a dialogue — between planners, policymakers, and the citizens who live the urban experience every day.

Nabeel is a student of Masters of Architecture specializing in Urban Regeneration at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Passionate about reimagining cities as liveable, inclusive, and sustainable, he is deeply interested in how innovative policies and design interventions can drive meaningful urban transformation. His academic focus lies in bridging the gap between theory and practice to revitalize neglected urban areas into vibrant, resilient, and equitable communities. Through his work, Nabeel aspires to shape cities that address contemporary challenges while enhancing the quality of life for all.

Essay:



Participating in Prajatantra has been an intellectually stimulating and transformative experience in my academic journey. My participation in the category “Using AI to Enhance Municipal Services” allowed me to explore how emerging technologies can strengthen the responsiveness, transparency, and inclusivity of urban governance systems.

For the competition, I presented a comprehensive policy framework titled PRAGATI – Policy for Responsible AI Governance and Advanced Technology Integration, envisioned for the city of Delhi. The proposal aimed to position Delhi as a model for smart, sustainable, and citizen-centric urban management, leveraging Artificial Intelligence to optimize key municipal functions.

The PRAGATI framework introduced a multi-tiered governance model, emphasizing coordination across strategic, operational, and local levels. It proposed the establishment of PRAGATI Centres as accessible civic hubs, integrating AI-powered tools like Nagar Mitra—a multilingual chatbot facilitating real-time communication between residents and municipal bodies. The sub-policies like Nagar Samvad (citizen engagement), Nagar Safai (waste management), Nagar Jal (water management) —collectively demonstrated how data-driven decision-making could redefine participatory governance in urban systems.

Interacting with mentors and peers reinforced the importance of transparency, inclusivity, and ethical oversight in deploying AI for public services.

Moving forward, I aim to further research the intersection of urban governance, data ethics, and participatory design, exploring how AI-driven systems can be adapted to diverse urban contexts in India. As an aspiring urban designer, I am committed to contributing towards frameworks that not only optimize infrastructure but also nurture civic empowerment. Prajatantra reaffirmed my belief that effective urban regeneration begins with informed governance where human values and technological intelligence coexist to build cities that are resilient, inclusive, and deeply humane.





Parsha Das

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Effective Urban Governance is vital for promoting sustainability, economic growth and ensuring inclusivity that contributes to democracy

Parsha Das, an engaged BA LLB (Hons) student at Dibrugarh University, is deeply committed to social service and urban governance. With over three years as an optimistic NSS volunteer, she has developed a passion for youth participation in governance. Parsha actively engages in events like the Environment Conclave Northeast India, Srishti Manthan 2024, and Icon Youth 2025. She has volunteered in cleanliness drives, legal-aid programs, and knowledge sessions across Dibrugarh, as well as with the Japan Foundation and SBI Life Ranangan. A member of Green Education Foundation Assam and Ek Prayaas, she enjoys tutoring, dancing, elocution, and hosting.



Urban governance is fundamentally crucial to realizing democracy in India. Without a robust local governance framework, the promises of democratic freedom and development remain unfulfilled. This realization was significantly reinforced during my participation in Prajatantra 2025, which provided an invaluable platform to analyse local challenges and develop viable solutions as a responsible citizen. My policy presentation at the conclave focused on strategically leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance the efficiency and transparency of municipal corporations. The experience was deeply insightful and served as a bridge between theoretical understanding and practical, policy-based problem-solving in urban governance. The event was marked by intensive research, teamwork, and the creation of a “model city government,” which enriched my understanding of democratic engagement at the local level. Conducting a virtual policy presentation came with challenges such as maintaining technical stability and ensuring audience engagement, yet the interaction with the judging panel proved most rewarding. Their mentorship and constructive evaluation provided valuable direction for refining my ideas and strengthening the feasibility of my policy framework. The central aim of my proposal was to deploy AI for gathering and analysing real-time public feedback, enabling municipalities to better diagnose and address community concerns. In developing the policy, I prioritized integrating AI across critical urban sectors, starting with infrastructure management. Given Assam’s recurring vulnerability to floods, my core idea emphasized using AI to monitor the durability and reliability of infrastructure, ensuring long-term resilience. Another key focus was automated waste management, especially in districts like Dibrugarh, where improved efficiency and environmental sustainability are essential for better urban hygiene. The most valuable takeaway from this experience was realizing that a policy’s success depends on its feasibility. I gained practical insight into AI’s applications, along with an awareness of its ethical implications in smart city initiatives. The virtual presentation also strengthened my communication, data visualization, and time management skills.

Post-Prajatantra, I am dedicated to translating these policy ideas into action by organizing local awareness programs and continuing active participation in urban governance initiatives. My goal is to contribute to building a city where citizens’ voices are consistently heard, thereby strengthening the foundations of democracy and freedom in India.





Rishita Das

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Urban governance is not just about managing cities; it's about building systems of trust. AI can be the architect of that trust, but only if guided by fairness and accountability.

Rishita Das is an exceptional student currently pursuing her BA in Political Science at Pranab College, Dimapur, Nagaland. Her deep interest in the mechanics of governance and public service delivery led her to focus her policy proposal on the complex challenges facing municipal services. An avid reader, Rishita draws insights from a wide range of disciplines—from political theory to technology ethics to inform her work. This unique, and book-informed perspective allows her to analyse systemic issues and propose innovative, human-centric solutions for the future of urban India.



As a mere tool for efficiency, but as a fundamental component of modern governance. I learned about AI's potential to optimize traffic flow, create smarter utility grids, and make waste collection more efficient. This session of my research was about connecting abstract technological capabilities to tangible, local problems.

Another insightful lesson was delivered by the reality on the ground. The experience has deepened my understanding of how the principles of ethical AI are not abstract concepts but essential safeguards for public buy-in. We had to ensure the integration of AI would not amplify existing societal biases but would instead build fairness into the core of the new system, creating localized solutions to deeply entrenched problems. By enabling citizen engagement at the local level, we could restore a sense of trust and transparent governance.

After preparing for this competition, I can better realize my role as a future active citizen. I am now empowered not only with the theoretical knowledge from my books and coursework but also with a critic. My experience preparing for Prajatantra has been a journey of profound learning. The topic, "Policy on Leveraging AI in Municipal Services," pushed me to look beyond the headlines and truly understand the systemic issues plaguing urban centers, particularly my home city of Dimapur. My initial research revealed a city grappling with severe challenges: from overburdened waste management systems and chronic power outages to chaotic traffic and inadequate public transport.

My limited understanding of AI was further challenged by this project. Before this, I viewed technology as something separate from my political science studies. However, as I delved deeper, I began to see AI not as a sense to question how technology can be responsibly integrated into governance to build a more equitable and functional society for all.

For me, this is no longer just a policy proposal; it is a personal commitment to building a more just and functional future.





Sairaj Salokhe

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

When people have a voice in decisions that affect them, governance transforms from authority to accountability.

Sairaj Salokhe is an Architect from Prince Shivaji College of Architecture in Kolhapur and is currently pursuing Urban Management at CEPT University in Ahmedabad. After working in Bangalore's urban realm for a year, he developed a passion for urban governance. This experience motivated him to strive for positive changes in city operations through effective policies and implementation strategies as an aspiring urban manager. A passionate music lover and football enthusiast, He finds inspiration in both the rhythm and the thrill, while losing himself in the pages of a great book.



Being part of Prajatantra 2025 was a transformative experience that deepened my understanding of how governance can evolve with technology. Participating in the Policy on Leveraging AI for Municipal Services competition expanded my perspective on how data-driven systems can revolutionize municipal functioning and enhance citizen engagement.

In my policy proposal, I focused on creating a framework that integrates AI into everyday municipal operations ranging from waste management and water supply monitoring to predictive maintenance of infrastructure and citizen grievance redressal. I proposed an AI-driven Municipal Dashboard that would consolidate real-time data from different departments, helping administrators make faster and evidence-based decisions.

One of the central ideas I advocated was the use of AI-powered chatbots and feedback systems to strengthen citizen-government communication.

The knowledge sessions reinforced that technology must serve as a tool for empowerment, not alienation. I also realized that for AI to truly transform cities, municipal officers need capacity-building programs, and citizens must be made aware of how these technologies affect their daily lives.

Prajatantra, once again, has instilled in me a sense of responsibility to be an active urban citizen. Moving forward, I plan to study the successful implementation of AI in other Indian and global cities and explore how such models can be adapted to my own city. As I continue my academic journey in urban management, I aspire to contribute to making cities not only technologically advanced but also socially inclusive and environmentally responsible.

Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has reaffirmed my belief that the future of governance lies at the intersection of people, policy, and technology where innovation and empathy work hand in hand to shape resilient, citizen-centric cities.





Shalnitya Devi

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

*The citizen is the centre, the criterion, and
the compass of all urban governance.*

Shalnitya Devi is a third-year B.A. (Hons.) Political Science student at Hindu College, University of Delhi. She is dedicated to understanding and improving the world around her. She is driven by interests in governance and sustainability, focusing on civic innovation to translate complex ideas into practical solutions. Shalnitya doesn't just study policy; she actively seeks to apply her knowledge through policy research. This analytical rigor is balanced by her passion for graphic design, which she uses to communicate ideas visually and powerfully. With a persistent solution-oriented mindset, her goal is always to make her efforts meaningful and impactful.



I had eagerly signed up for the Prajatantra's Policy Presentation competition, driven by a quiet curiosity to understand how a policy truly takes shape, the kind of precision and balance of ideas that transform intention into impact. But when I finally sat before a blank document, I felt that familiar paralysis. The task of shaping something as intricate and consequential as a policy felt enormous; I did not know where to begin.

One evening, returning home from college, I noticed a young boy helping his father drive an auto rickshaw. He could not have been more than eight. That small, fleeting moment of imbalance in the city, between privilege and struggle, stayed with me. It became the spark behind my project, the Pride and People Policy.

The policy was built on the belief that a city's progress must be measured not only by its physical growth but by the fairness of opportunity it extends to its people. It revolved around the idea of AI driven compassion. In education, inspired by a Brazilian model, I proposed adaptive learning platforms to identify and support at risk students, ensuring that children like the boy I saw could stay in school. In urban planning, AI could analyse satellite and weather data to predict heat hotspots, enabling the city to act before conditions turned dangerous. In traffic management, it could optimize signals and forecast congestion patterns, reducing both pollution and commute times. Across these ideas, AI was not a replacement for human judgment but a partner in empathy and insight.

Prajatantra transformed a single observation into structured imagination. It taught me that policymaking is as much about listening as it is about designing, that empathy must meet evidence, and innovation must be rooted in ethics. I learned to approach problems not as isolated issues but as connected systems, where technology can amplify care rather than convenience. My vision now is of cities that think and feel, where classrooms are inclusive, streets breathe easier, and citizens engage with governance as collaborators. I hope to keep exploring how policy, data, and design can come together to create fairer, more responsive urban spaces. I am deeply grateful to Praja for giving me the platform to turn reflection into action, and for reminding me that every meaningful policy begins with the courage to notice and the will to act.





Shreya Rawat

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

*Strong cities are built not by concrete, but
by good governance*

Shreya Rawat is a first-year Bachelor of Science student in Information Technology at Sophia College for Women, Mumbai. She completed her junior college at Lala Lajpat Rai College of Commerce and Economics, where she majored in Mathematics with IT. Alongside her academic pursuits, Shreya is preparing for the UPSC examination through Ekagraa Academy, Mumbai. Passionate about sports, she enjoys swimming and football and finds equal enthusiasm in coding and community service. As a dedicated volunteer with the Light House Team, Shreya aspires to serve the nation as an IPS officer and contribute to building safer and more progressive cities.



Participating as a finalist in the Policy Presentation on “Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Governance” at Prajatantra was an enlightening experience that deepened my understanding of how technology can reshape public administration.

Presenting three policy ideas on Traffic Management, Chatbot Services for Public Grievance Redressal, and Urban Infrastructure Management allowed me to explore how Artificial Intelligence can tackle critical urban challenges through predictive systems, automation, and citizen engagement.

Engaging with mentors and fellow participants from various academic and regional backgrounds broadened my view on the social and legal implications of AI-driven policies. The discussions prompted critical thinking on how data-driven decision-making can address issues like resource allocation, urban management, and public service delivery.

Overall, Prajatantra was more than a competition; it was a platform that nurtured leadership, encouraged informed dialogue, and inspired me to contribute meaningfully to the changing landscape of digital governance.

As an aspirant for the Indian Police Service (IPS), this experience was deeply enriching. It strengthened my belief that the future of law enforcement relies on data-driven intelligence, digital transparency, and active public engagement. The platform motivated me to think about preventive governance shaped by creativity and compassion rather than traditional policing. Prajatantra inspired me to view leadership as a blend of discipline, empathy, and innovation.

In conclusion, Prajatantra was more than just a competition. It was a journey of learning, self-reflection, and vision building. It reinforced my commitment to serve society with integrity, empathy, and innovation. The lessons I learned will support my goal of becoming an IPS officer dedicated to creating a safer, smarter, and more equitable India.



Swarangi

Grand Finalist for Policy on Leveraging AI to Enhance Municipal Services

In the global era of AI driven augmentation, our cities must evolve into cognitive ecosystems – capable of thinking, acting and enhancing itself, in the best interest of its inhabitants”



Swarangi is a third-year B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student at Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, a Central University, situated in the heart of incredible India – Madhya Pradesh. A consistent academic achiever, she consistently seeks out challenges that test her limits and yield enriching experiences and new learnings. This drive has led to several victories in cultural events, public speaking, and debate competitions. A true polymath, her passion extends well beyond law into culinary arts, music, reading, and fine arts. She proudly describes herself to be: “A Jack of all trades, though a master of none but often times better than a master of one”.



This Competition awarded me a unique experience of drafting and presenting a comprehensive policy framework detailing how AI can be used sustainably to revitalize and enhance Municipal Services in my city – from smart bins, AI-optimized waste collection routes, IoT water sensors, smart CCTV surveillance, adaptive traffic control to healthcare optimization and beyond, it mandated a holistic vision of incorporating intelligent solutions to tackle a spectrum of everyday challenges.

The competition dared us to question the government and leaders we elect by truly understanding the systems they manage – demystifying the complex bureaucracy that affects our daily lives. The necessity of the project led me to a deep examination of my city's municipal corporation website. What I found was a classic challenge of many Tier-2 cities: a system riddled with outdated records, obsolete archives, and a critical number of pages that simply returned an "Error 404: Page Not Available". Without Prajatantra, I likely would have remained pacifically unaware, never taking the initiative to investigate. It transformed the academic exercise of the competition into a real-world act of citizenship, showing that true innovation begins with critical observation and holding power to account.

The Prajatantra 2025 journey wasn't just another entry on my achievements on the CV, but rather, an inspirational experience that connected creative and passionate youth from across the country. It demonstrated that the youth are not just future stakeholders but current collaborators for positive change. Ultimately, this journey has irrevocably shifted my role from a passive resident to an active, scrutinizing, and participatory citizen.





Vaishnav Kadam

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

*Urban governance is most effective when
data becomes dialogue where every byte
of information empowers every citizen's
voice*

Vaishnav Kadam is a master's student in City Planning at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. His academic interests lie in urban governance, digital planning systems and the intersection of technology with participatory development. He has worked on research projects exploring e-governance, urban informatics, and sustainable land reuse, emphasizing the role of data in shaping equitable city policies. Beyond academics, he is passionate about research communication and collaborative problem-solving in urban management. Vaishnav aspires to contribute to the creation of transparent, inclusive, and citizen-centric urban systems through technology led and evidence-based policymaking.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been one of the most engaging and enriching experiences of my academic journey. As part of the Policy Presentation on Municipal Services, I had the opportunity to delve deeply into how urban governance can be transformed using technology. The platform allowed me to explore real-world challenges faced by Indian cities and translate planning concepts into actionable governance strategies. The process from research and drafting to presenting before experts helped me understand the complexity of policymaking, where data, people, and administration must come together cohesively.

Our team's policy focused on "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Smart Parking Management in Pune." The idea stemmed from the growing issue of on-street parking congestion and inefficient use of limited road space. We proposed an integrated AI-based system that could use real-time data from IoT sensors, mobile applications, and GIS mapping to optimize parking demand and supply. The system aimed to reduce traffic bottlenecks, increase revenue transparency, and provide citizens with digital access to parking information. What made the proposal distinctive was its emphasis on inclusivity using AI not just as a tool for efficiency, but to create a fair and accountable municipal service framework.

Through the event and various Prajatantra sessions, I learned how policy innovation is as much about governance ethics as it is about technology. The experience deepened my understanding of how data-driven decision-making can make civic systems more transparent, responsive, and participatory. It also taught me the importance of inter-departmental coordination and citizen engagement in implementing any smart city initiative.

After Prajatantra, I aim to become a more active and participatory citizen by engaging with local governance forums, contributing to civic data initiatives, and promoting awareness about e-governance platforms. As an aspiring urban planner, I hope to continue bridging the gap between technology and policy ensuring that innovation in Indian cities is always guided by public interest, inclusivity, and long-term sustainability.





Vishesh Vasudeva

**Grand Finalist for
Policy on Leveraging AI to
Enhance Municipal Services**

Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

Vishesh Vasudeva is a second-year B.A. (Programme) Economics student at Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He currently interns at an international Chartered Accountancy firm, gaining exposure to transfer pricing and cross-border taxation. As the General Secretary of his college's debating society, he has excelled in both Asian Parliamentary (APD) and British Parliamentary (BPD) formats, which includes securing first place at the DRC Conventional Debate and reaching the semifinals at Gambit SRCC 2025. His interests in cars, and music fuel his curiosity and creativity. Vishesh aspires to build a career in investment analysis and corporate finance, combining analytical reasoning with strategic insight.



The saying that the youth are the foundation of a nation's future has always intrigued me. Yet I often wondered how this belief translates into action. My experience with Prajatantra provided that clarity. It was an eye-opening journey that exposed me to fresh ideas, pressing civic challenges, and the complexity of effective governance. Each stage demanded analytical thinking, adaptability, and a willingness to question my own assumptions. Advancing to the Grand Finale strengthened my ability to craft practical, forward-looking policies for urban development while testing my capacity to make decisions grounded in both logic and empathy.

I developed a deep appreciation for the intellectual discipline required to design and sustain liveable cities. Local governments play a crucial role in this process, and through my policy on AI, I aimed to explore how their structures could be strengthened. I proposed that ward committees should gain financial autonomy, allowing councillors to allocate budgets according to local needs. This approach would ensure funds are used strategically and equitably. I also recommended establishing an independent audit body reporting to the mayor to uphold transparency and accountability. Additionally, a dedicated grievance cell using Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques could handle disputes efficiently, while Gram Panchayats and similar bodies could be empowered to encourage local cooperation and participation.

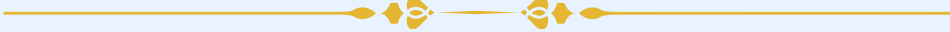
Preparing for the competition required rigorous research into my city's administrative framework. I studied existing shortcomings, examined successful policy models, and collaborated with participants from different regions. Listening to their perspectives deepened my understanding of how governance varies across contexts and inspired me to refine my arguments with greater nuance. Prajatantra sharpened my analytical mindset, taught me to think across disciplines, and helped me recognize how innovative thinking can shape public policy.

With this newfound perspective, I aim to work closely with my community to identify and address civic issues. I also intend to leverage digital platforms to promote awareness, encourage civic responsibility, and push for meaningful reform. Prajatantra reaffirmed my belief that real change begins when young citizens step forward not just to criticize, but to contribute.



POLICY DEBATE

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Policy Debate focuses on urban governance and related policies through formal and structured discussions. It provides a platform for participants to critically analyse and deliberate on current events and topics of social, cultural, political, and economic relevance. The competition was organised in the format of a debate, where teams argued for and against a resolution that called for a change in governmental policy.



Judging the debate on “AI for Sustainable Cities” at Prajatantra 2025 was an enriching experience. Participants displayed remarkable awareness, critical thinking, and originality in linking technology with sustainability. It was inspiring to see young minds address AI’s potential and challenges—from smart waste management and energy planning to ethics and data privacy. Their diverse perspectives showed that sustainability is about both innovation and responsibility. The event reaffirmed my belief that dialogue and reasoning are vital for ensuring technology truly serves humanity. Grateful for the opportunity.



Riddhi Mangesh Parab

Pehlay Akshar Foundation - Facilitator



Abhiraaj Parihar

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

*Urban governance thrives when
technology complements empathy.*

Abhiraaj Parihar is a postgraduate management student at K J Somaiya Institute of Management, with a background in B.Sc. (Hons.) Zoology from Hansraj College, University of Delhi. He is passionate about the intersection of technology, environment, and policy, with a keen interest in sustainable urban solutions. Having represented his college in numerous academic and environmental initiatives, Abhiraaj combines analytical thinking with creative pursuits such as photography. He aspires to contribute to policy design and governance frameworks that integrate innovation with social responsibility for equitable urban development.



Participating in Prajatantra was a deeply enriching experience that allowed me to explore the intersection of governance, technology, and policy through an academic yet dynamic lens. Engaging in the debate on Artificial Intelligence and Traffic Policies provided an opportunity to analyse how urban spaces can be made more efficient and sustainable by integrating technological systems into public infrastructure management.

During the debate, I argued that Artificial Intelligence, if implemented responsibly, can revolutionize urban mobility by enabling predictive traffic management, optimizing signal timings, and reducing congestion-related emissions. My key proposition emphasized the development of a hybrid governance framework—one that integrates real-time AI analytics with community-based data inputs to ensure contextual adaptability. I highlighted the necessity of maintaining ethical oversight, particularly concerning data privacy and algorithmic bias, so that AI-driven policies remain inclusive rather than exclusionary. The argument centered around striking a balance between automation and accountability, asserting that technology must serve as a facilitator rather than a replacement for participatory governance.





Adalina A

**Grand Finalist for
Policy debate**

“True transformation emerges where urban expertise meets rural ingenuity, With the power of AI and the passion of youth, we are the generation coding change — using AI to build cities that think wisely, govern justly, and sustain humanity.”

Adalina, a Commerce student, is known for her remarkable diligence and impressive versatility across many fields. She approaches every task with purpose, by always maximizing her efforts. She's on her path to becoming her family's first graduate. She is known for her leadership and communication skills and has a deep commitment to social service. Guided by principles of hard work, selflessness, and a drive for financial independence, her attitude towards growth is rooted in perseverance and continual learning; She sees every opportunity as a chance to evolve and truly stands as a Changemaker!!



Cities today are crying out for change. Congestion chokes our roads, traffic signals behave like relics, complaints go unanswered—and people feel powerless. Too often, city systems are rigid, opaque, and slow to adapt. Citizen voices are under-heard; governance feels distant. There's a real gap between what urban life should be like and how people live.

Understanding this urgency, Praja Foundation has taken a wonderful initiative to empower youth and citizens. The organisation, believes that cities can only improve if people understand the system, participate actively, and hold authorities accountable. Before the debate, I didn't grasp how much of my city systems run in silence — complaints lodged and forgotten, traffic bottlenecks caused by outdated processes, citizens with no real idea how their voices could shift policy. But from the moment Praja's sessions began, everything changed.

Being part of the debates on AI for Traffic Management and AI for Citizens' Complaint Management opened my eyes in ways I never expected. I was surrounded by experts, mentors, fellow young thinkers, and the questions I and we raised forced me to see beyond assumptions. I understood what urban governance can really be — not distant, bureaucratic, or overwhelming, but participatory, responsive, grounded in data, powered by citizen insights.

I didn't just gain knowledge — I discovered frameworks, tools, insights I was unaware, even existed: how it is designed, the possibilities (and pitfalls) of using AI to optimize traffic flows, how citizen feedback can become a force for change. I saw how technology must serve people, not just impress with novelty.

The empowerment was real. After this I felt more confident that I too belong in civic conversations; that I too can contribute meaningfully. I'm deeply grateful to the Praja team for creating this safe, inspiring space — for pushing me to think bigger, for giving me clarity, purpose, and courage. I smell more possibility, and I'm ready to act, not just as a normal citizen but as an empowered youth.





Archita Garg

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

True urban governance is not about choosing between technology and tradition, but about building systems that listen, adapt, and include. Progress is meaningful only when every citizen, connected or not, privileged or not, feels seen, heard, and served.

Archita Garg is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in law at the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya. Passionate about communication and advocacy, she serves as the host of the global podcast 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Life', where she engages with experts on mental health and personal growth. Beyond academics, Archita is an avid writer, storyteller, trained dancer, and public speaker. She has actively participated in youth parliaments, national debates, Model United Nations, and moot court competitions, and has also volunteered with several non-governmental organizations, reflecting her commitment to civic engagement and social responsibility.



Participating in the grand finale of Prajatantra 2025 has been one of the most intellectually enriching and transformative experiences of my academic journey. As a law student at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya, I have always viewed public discourse as a tool for strengthening democracy. Through Prajatantra, I had the opportunity to experience that vision in action where ideas met debate, and where policy met perspective. I participated in policy debate, where the motion revolved around whether Indian cities should adopt AI-based grievance redressal platforms for faster resolution and greater accountability. Representing the traditional standpoint, I argued that while technology can accelerate processes, it cannot replace the empathy, discretion, and contextual understanding that human-driven systems provide. I highlighted that India's diversity, cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic status, demands solutions rooted in inclusion. Citing studies like those by the Centre for Internet and Society, I emphasized that AI-based systems have, in some cases, unintentionally marginalized rural citizens due to connectivity barriers and algorithmic bias. My key proposal was not to reject technology, but to balance innovation with accessibility. I advocated for hybrid grievance redressal models where AI supports efficiency, but human officers retain final decision-making authority. This, I argued, preserves both fairness and accountability while ensuring no citizen is left behind due to the digital divide. I also discussed the importance of data privacy and the need to safeguard personal information, referencing instances like the Aadhaar data leak that exposed vulnerabilities in digital governance. Through Prajatantra, I learned that effective policymaking lies not in taking extreme positions, but in understanding nuance. Listening to participants who supported AI-driven systems helped me appreciate how innovation, if guided responsibly, can strengthen democratic governance. I also realized how crucial it is for youth to engage with complex public issues—not just as observers, but as informed voices capable of shaping discourse.

After Prajatantra, I plan to continue engaging with platforms that promote civic participation and youth-led policy advocacy. I intend to work with local legal aid and civic tech organizations to bridge the gap between law, governance, and technology. This experience has reaffirmed my belief that democracy is not a distant ideal, it is a daily practice. And it begins when young citizens like us choose to think critically, speak responsibly, and act collectively for the betterment of our society.





Aseesabjot Kour

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

*When governance listens, cities grow;
when it understands, they thrive!*

Aseesabjot Kour is a third-year B.A. Psychology student at Government College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu. Asees is deeply passionate about understanding human behaviour and translating those insights into meaningful societal change. She has a keen interest in debates, painting, and sports, which reflect her blend of creativity, confidence, and discipline.

Her journey in public speaking has been remarkable — she emerged as the winner of the 17th National Youth Parliament conducted in her college on March 22nd, 2025, where she showcased strong analytical and persuasive skills. Beyond academics, she actively participates in co-curricular and extracurricular activities that nurture leadership and critical thinking. With a growing interest in civic psychology and governance, she aims to contribute to a future, where technology and human empathy work hand in hand for better policy and administration.



Taking part in the Prajatantra Policy Debate Competition was an enriching experience that reshaped how I view governance in a rapidly changing world. The theme, Artificial Intelligence and Municipal Governance, encouraged us to explore how technology can reimagine civic systems and bridge long-standing administrative gaps. My stance in the debate was clear: I support the integration of AI in governance, but not at the cost of human empathy, inclusivity, and awareness.

In a country as diverse as India, governance cannot be one size fits all. AI can revolutionize city management, whether in traffic regulation, complaint redressal, or urban planning, but its success depends on adaptation to local realities. For instance, AI-driven traffic systems may improve mobility in metros like Delhi or Mumbai, but smaller towns with limited digital infrastructure need human oversight. The bridge between innovation and implementation must therefore rest on gradual adaptation and readiness. A key insight I gained from the knowledge sessions was that technology is transformative only when society understands and trusts it. Even digital natives need time to learn and adjust. Similarly, integrating AI in governance requires awareness, training, and confidence among citizens to make governance truly collaborative.

Another realization was that AI cannot replace empathy. Algorithms can process data, but they cannot understand distress. Hence, a hybrid governance model, where AI ensures efficiency and humans provide sensitivity, is most sustainable.

Prajatantra broadened my understanding of AI and governance, reinforcing my belief that technology guided by ethics and empathy can lead India toward a smarter and fairer future where progress serves all.





Gaurav Sharma

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

*A city must not be a monument to power,
but a movement of Purpose. Let
technology be brush and not the painter- A
city Becomes truly smart not when systems
run fast, but when Citizens live better*

Gaurav Gopal Sharma, a third-year B.A. LL.B. student at Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law, University of Mumbai, is driven by a passion to catalyze legislative action. Actively engaged in policy debates and analysis, he has excelled in Model United Nations, National and Model Youth Parliaments, earning distinctions such as Best Delegate at COEP Technological University, K.J. Somaiya University, and the Public Concern Trust and Governance Youth Parliament—one of Maharashtra's oldest forums. Recognized with multiple awards, Gaurav's record across 20+ MUNs and Youth Parliaments highlights his command over legal and diplomatic discourse. As Chairperson for the WTO Committee at DYPUMUN, he showcased leadership and analytical depth, marking him as a rising voice poised to shape India's legislative and policy future.



Taking part in the Prajatantra Policy Debate was a life-changing experience that immersed us in the complex conversations shaping India's urban future. The event provided a platform to move beyond theories and engage with the practical challenges of governance. I discovered that while my generation is full of innovative ideas, especially concerning technology, Prajatantra offered the space to test these ideas against the realities of public policy, bridging the gap between concept and implementation.

The motion on traffic management was particularly meaningful. I learned that while our cities struggle with congestion, the real obstacle lies in our adherence to outdated systems. In cities like Pune, the economic and environmental costs of traffic jams are immense, caused by rigid, fixed-schedule signals that ignore real-time conditions. This reflects a larger issue, a reactive approach to urban planning. Arguing for the motion, I proposed a phased policy for adaptive AI-driven traffic signal systems. Using sensors and machine learning, these systems could reduce commute times, lower emissions, and create clear corridors for emergency vehicles.

A truly smart city, however, demands an integrated approach. Along with AI signals, I emphasized the importance of a strong data privacy framework and public education to build trust and awareness about the technology's benefits. The debate taught me that technological progress must be aligned with transparent, citizen-centric governance.

Reflecting on this experience, Prajatantra was more than a competition; it was a journey of learning and civic engagement. It inspired me to advocate for practical solutions and to contribute actively to the transformation of India's urban landscapes.





Harshita Sawhney

**Grand Finalist for
Policy debate**

Artificial Intelligence represents the next frontier in urban governance, transforming local bodies from reactive administrative entities into proactive, data-driven institutions capable of anticipating and addressing citizen needs in real time

Harshita Sawhney is currently pursuing her Master's in Public Policy and Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science (Hons.) from Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi. Her academic journey and personal aspirations have been driven by a deep commitment to advancing the greater public good. Studying political science nurtured her curiosity about how governance structures and administrative processes influence people's everyday lives. Meeting new people, understanding their lived experiences, and contributing to meaningful change continually inspire her. Beyond academics, she finds joy in reading, which broadens her perspectives, and in gardening, where she cares for over 60 plants, teaches her patience, mindfulness, and the quiet satisfaction of growth.



My experience with Prajatantra has been truly enriching. I deeply appreciate the overarching theme of the youth festival, which focused on the emerging and highly relevant issue of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its integration into local governance to enhance citizen-centric administration. The policy debate topics were both thought-provoking and insightful, centering on crucial interventions where AI could make a significant impact such as in traffic management and citizen grievance redressal systems. The Parliamentary format of the debate added another engaging dimension, making the sessions interactive and intellectually stimulating through the question-and-answer rounds.

Additionally, Prajatantra provided a valuable opportunity through its field engagement activities. This component was particularly rewarding, as it allowed us to interact directly with officials from urban local bodies, conduct interviews, and gain first-hand insights into the functioning of local governance systems. From knowledge sessions on AI to citizen field surveys, participants were exposed to dynamic, hands-on experiences that encouraged a deeper understanding of administrative processes that affect citizens daily.

Engaging with the festival made me realize how seldom we, as citizens, explore the workings of our local bodies or interact with key officials such as Deputy or Zonal Commissioners. Prajatantra bridged this gap by fostering dialogue, critical thinking, and curiosity about governance mechanisms while highlighting the transformative potential of AI in improving citizen service delivery.





Maitreyi C

**Grand Finalist for
Policy debate**

Urban governance goes beyond administration; it is the science of aligning people, policies, and infrastructure into a coherent whole. Ensuring that efficiency is balanced with empathy, and that systems remain deeply human-centered

Maitreyi C is a third-year Bachelor of Planning student at the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. Passionate about urban governance and institutional reform, she aims to work at the intersection of city systems and public policy. She has worked with the Gender and Policy Lab at the Greater Chennai Corporation on urban policy and with Bluewhistle India on gamified learning for social science education. She is the Winner of the International Youth Hackathon by ICLEI and serves as the NOSPlan Unit Coordinator and Coordinator of the SPA B Social Welfare Society, she leads initiatives combining design thinking with social impact.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been one of the most transformative experiences of my academic journey so far. Representing the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, I participated in the Policy Debate, where I had the opportunity to explore two contrasting perspectives on technology in governance — arguing both for and against its use across two rounds. This dual position allowed me to engage with the subject from both ends of the spectrum. On one hand, I argued that technology, when used ethically and strategically, can revolutionize public service delivery, improve interdepartmental coordination, and bring transparency to governance. Drawing from my background in urban planning, I presented the idea of a data-driven and interoperable governance framework, where digital tools enable departments to share information seamlessly, creating systems that are responsive, evidence-based, and inclusive.

On the other hand, I also had to critically examine the risks from over-reliance on algorithms to the digital divide that can further marginalize the vulnerable. In that round, I argued that technology should not replace human judgment but must complement it. Governance, I realized, cannot be automated; it must remain rooted in human experience, empathy, and trust.

Engaging in both sides of this debate helped me understand the nuances of policymaking that solutions are rarely absolute and that governance operates in the complex intersection of idealism and practicality. This experience taught me to think through systems-thinking frameworks, to anticipate unintended consequences, and to approach policy challenges with both optimism and caution. Beyond the competition, Prajatantra was an eye-opening space for dialogue. It brought together students from law, political science, public policy, and urban planning all united by a shared curiosity about India's governance systems. Listening to diverse perspectives reminded me that policy is not made in isolation; it is the outcome of negotiation, consensus, and collective responsibility. As I return to my academic work, I carry with me a renewed sense of purpose. I hope to continue exploring how technology and governance can coexist meaningfully, especially in the urban context where the scale of challenges demands both innovation and inclusion. Going forward, I aim to contribute to the creation of transparent, citizen centric governance systems that don't just deliver efficiently, but also listen compassionately. Because in the end, governance isn't just about managing cities. It's about nurturing the people who build them.





Nandish Gupta

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

In the digital age, technology is the engine of urban governance, but citizen participation is the navigator that sets the right course.

Nandish Gupta is a third-year BTech CSE student at Shoolini University, focused on applying technology to public policy. With aspirations to integrate his technical knowledge with ethical governance, he demonstrates strong leadership by actively anchoring and managing major college events, including the Moksh Annual Fest, induction programs, and the Under 25 Summit. Nandish successfully secured a place in the Grand Finale of Prajatantra, a national youth festival competition, showcasing his critical thinking and persuasive argumentation in real-world policy debates.



The rigorous journey to the Grand Finale of Prajatantra was truly transformative. It pushed my preparedness beyond technical study, beginning with a demanding qualification round that included a debate, a question-answer segment, and a voting round. This process required extensive research and constant reflection on a key question: why must this policy be adopted? My technical background was challenged to move beyond sophisticated digital solutions and instead focus on the foundational needs of city governance, such as reliable local services and accessible civic tools. The debate format, which required arguing for both the proposition and the opposition, taught me that effective governance balances centralized efficiency with grassroots accountability and access.

The Policy Debate competition became a profound exercise in intellectual recalibration, shifting my focus from the predictability of computer science to the complexities of human governance. Preparing for the debate compelled me to question assumptions and look beyond short-term digital fixes. For instance, I examined the trade-off between centralized efficiency and equitable access when discussing single-touchpoint versus multi-platform complaint systems. I realized that advanced technology means little if it fails to deliver reliable local services or reach citizens with limited digital literacy.

This experience fostered a deep appreciation for policies that prioritize essential needs and measurable outcomes over innovation alone. As a BTech student, my greatest takeaway is that true governance rests on research, critical reasoning, and empathy. Prajatantra instilled a reflective approach, reinforcing my resolve to contribute to policymaking that integrates technical expertise with ethical and civic responsibility.



Nidhi Shah

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate



city that hears and understands the unheard functions for all, there's no end to the growth unity can bring



Nidhi Shah is a young law student studying at SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law. An expert debater, Nidhi regularly participates in debates. Having won multiple debates since her childhood, she also enjoys participating in quizzes and elocution competitions. She also volunteers for beach clean ups with various organization such as Project Mumbai and Beach Please. Nidhi aims to be a human rights lawyer in the future and advocates for equality and animal rights. She also wishes to see quality education for all, a sustainable education goal yet to find truth in some parts of our country. Nidhi hopes to help build a better Mumbai for a better tomorrow.



Prajantra is an excellent platform for young thinkers to deliberate over up and coming government policies. As the future of the country, engaging in dialogue over new technologies and their utilization in governance is of utmost need. I enjoyed being a part of the qualifying and semi-final rounds for Policy Debate. The unpredictability of the debate motions up until the very last minute made the whole experience challenging.

As someone who wishes to bring instrumental change into the city's governance in the near future, debating on policies is the best way to bring key issues to the table. Artificial Intelligence is entering the fields of governance in most countries of the world and is being considered as infiltration stages in the rest. India is on its way to become a leader in technology and introducing AI is only foundational. As a finalist in Policy Debate, I hope to present my ideas for the introduction of AI into my city's governance. I also hope to understand the other ideas being presented. Prajantra directs us to engage with the citizens, helping the city folk address their concerns and appreciation. Interacting with administrative officials helps find a clearer outlook of governance. Through Prajantra I learnt a lot about formulating schemes and strategies and city-building. I will walk away with insightful experiences and memorable examples.

A future built by the youth bursting with ideas, I imagine, will be a future looked upon with integrity. I can envision the ideals of governance leading my city to be more transparent and efficient. Prajantra provided me with an opportunity to contribute my voice to unite with the city's vision.





Prachi Sharma

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

A nation transforms not by silence, but by the echo of fearless, empowered voices, for when conviction speaks and justice guides, every word becomes a spark, igniting minds, breaking barriers, and rewriting the future of a brighter tomorrow.

Prachi Sharma, a B.A. third-year student at Banasthali Vidyapith, believes in the power of voice to inspire change. She is a poet by heart, a debater by choice, a leader by action and a student by curiosity. She is the national winner of the CII “India We Want” debate and participant and winner in some prestigious Parliament debates. Through her consistent and dedicated service as NSS volunteer, Prachi has been actively involved in tree plantation drive and has become a role model. As the Disciplinary Head of the LitWits, Banasthali Vidyapith’s literary society, she blends creativity with responsibility, using her words as a voice for transformation.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025, organized by the Praja Foundation, has been one of the most insightful experiences of my academic and personal journey. I learnt a lot about the real-world governance and understood how citizens can play an active role in building a better city. This understanding was the result of the Knowledge Sessions that I attended regularly. The Knowledge Sessions on AI and interactive discussions during Prajatantra exposed me to diverse perspectives, inspiring me to think critically, research further, and understand how technology can improve city management.

For the policy debate, we, the participants, were assigned four topics. Researching these topics was a turning point. I learnt how technology can revolutionize urban governance. I understood how AI can be used to manage traffic efficiently, reduce congestion, and respond to public complaints in real time. Not really being exposed to AI education earlier, these readings broadened my mental horizons and helped me realize that AI is the future, but it is we, the humans, who should establish it as a tool that enhances human capabilities while remaining under human control. However, I also understood that the traditional methods, though limited, have their own strengths, especially the human touch and the local understanding that machines often lack.

The quiz event was also an incredibly enriching experience. It deepened my understanding of municipalities, local bodies, and their functioning. While preparing, I gained valuable insights into how governance works at the grassroots level and how the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments empower citizens and local institutions.

Prajatantra National Youth Festival 2025 has not only enhanced my knowledge but also inspired me to be a more aware and responsible citizen. As a youth, this experience has filled me with motivation and responsibility. I plan to be more active in my local community, raising awareness about civic engagement and helping others understand their role in governance. The flawless orchestration of the initial rounds of this Youth Festival by a young and dynamic team that united youth across hundreds of institutions has for me become an example of teamwork and remaining spirited towards a cause. While thanking Team Praja, I wish them the very best.





Sachin Mahajan

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

When every citizen takes responsibility, governance transforms from a system of power into a partnership of purpose. Cities become stronger when governance listens, and citizens lead with awareness and action

Sachin Mahajan is a second-year BHMS student at Virar Homoeopathic Medical College, affiliated with MUHS, and is also pursuing a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Mumbai (Distance Education). He is associated with the Transforming M-Ward Project under TISS M-Power Library and Study Centre. A passionate singer, poet, and debater, Sachin enjoys discussing politics and social issues, writing poems, and participating in extra-curricular activities. As a Class Representative, he has shown strong leadership and actively taken part in medical health camps and academic seminars. He has also attended several sessions on social awareness, civic engagement, and community upliftment. Founder of the emerging Swapnraj Foundation, Sachin aims to create sustainable social change through compassion and youth participation. Inspired by his passion to serve, he aspires to become a civil servant dedicated to transforming society and nurturing responsible, empathetic citizens, believing that “doing small things with great love can truly change the world.”



Participating in Prajatantra was an extraordinary journey that expanded my understanding of democracy, civic engagement, and public policy. I had the privilege of representing my ideas in the Policy Debate on AI in Sustainable Cities. I took a stand against traditional methods of complaint management, advocating for intelligent, technology-driven solutions that could make governance more efficient, transparent, and responsive.

During the debate, I drew upon real-time data, social surveys, and reports from institutions such as TISS to strengthen my arguments. To make my presentation more engaging, I included poems and shayari that captured the audience's attention and highlighted the human side of technology. I focused on asking sharp, thoughtful questions to the opposition, which helped me refine my reasoning and defend my stance effectively. The experience taught me the importance of preparation, research, and confident communication in shaping meaningful dialogue.

Beyond the debate, the VJAL AI sessions at Prajatantra deepened my understanding of technology's role in urban development and civic responsibility. It was inspiring to see how structured learning can connect innovation with ethical governance.

My journey began in the MPower TISS Library, where a student fellow encouraged me to participate. From the start, the volunteers and judges were supportive, patient, and committed, guiding participants with empathy and purpose. Their passion for social change inspired me to embrace active citizenship.

Although the results are yet to be announced, the experience itself was deeply rewarding. Prajatantra strengthened my resolve to be a proactive and informed citizen, ready to contribute meaningfully to society through civic awareness and technological advocacy.





Syed Sofiyan

**Grand Finalist for
Policy debate**

*A city reflects the essence of its
governance in the rhythm of its people —
when guided by vision, it begins to
breathe, not merely grow*

Syed Sofiyan is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration at Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, Coimbatore. His pursuit of management stands apart for its depth and direction — not as one among many, but as a study shaped by curiosity, purpose, and vision. With particular interest in hospitality, human relations, and marketing, he aspires to build a career that bridges people and possibilities. A fluent communicator in English, Tamil, and Hindi, with working knowledge of French and Arabic, he has earned accolades in Model United Nations and cricket, reflecting his leadership, versatility, and collaborative skills. Sofiyan's pursuits embody vision, dedication, and the drive to shape experiences beyond the ordinary.



Participating in the Prajatantra National Youth Festival has been an experience that transcends ordinary competition—it has been a journey of ideas, dialogue, and self-discovery. As a Grand Finalist, I was not just part of an event; I became part of a vibrant ecosystem of thinkers, dreamers, and doers from across the nation. The energy, diversity, and enthusiasm at Prajatantra made every discussion feel alive, and every idea shared, impactful.

In my event, I focused on urban governance, exploring how policy can create inclusive, sustainable, and citizen-centric cities. I proposed strategies emphasizing participatory decision-making, transparent systems powered by technology, and environments where citizens' voices are central to planning and growth. I argued that cities are more than infrastructure—they are reflections of the lives that run through them. Engaging with counterarguments and alternative perspectives helped me refine my ideas and appreciate the depth that dialogue brings to leadership. Beyond the technicalities of the event, Prajatantra offered profound lessons. I realized that leadership is not about commanding attention—it is about listening, connecting, and growing through shared insight. I witnessed the power of empathy in policymaking, the necessity of evidence-backed proposals, and the subtle art of communicating complex ideas with clarity. Most importantly, I learned that citizenship is not passive; it is measured by action, engagement, and the courage to contribute meaningfully to society.

Looking forward, I aim to transform these insights into action. I plan to actively participate in community initiatives, collaborate with local governance platforms, and apply my skills in research, communication, and problem-solving to advocate for citizen-focused solutions. Prajatantra has inspired me to mentor peers, facilitate discussions, and create spaces where youth voices can shape the policies that influence their communities. Prajatantra has been more than a national festival—it has been a mirror reflecting the potential within each of us to influence society thoughtfully and responsibly. It has reaffirmed my commitment to active citizenship, equipped me with perspectives that extend beyond textbooks, and ignited a passion to lead with vision, empathy, and purpose. I carry forward not only the memories and recognition but also a renewed sense of responsibility: to listen, to learn, and to act in ways that strengthen the bond between citizens and the systems that serve them.





Umang Dev Sharma

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

Governance starts at our homes, at our streets and at our wards. It is high time we not only hold people in power accountable but also take actionable steps to ensure better governance at the smallest level.

Umang Dev Sharma, an undergraduate student of Political Science (honours), at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, University of Delhi, wants to build a strong academic foundation and aims to use it to contribute to the society. He has interviewed notable figures such as Cambridge's Professor Paul Cartledge and National Geographic explorer Tim Cope. Driven by a passion for research, he regularly takes part and has won many accolades in national competitions, including research paper presentation at the International Conference on Criminology at NFSU and consulting and national policy case competitions in SRCC and St. Stephen's, among other colleges. A dedicated debater and an avid French learner, Umang continually seeks to broaden his perspectives in a variety of fields



At Prajatantra 2025, representing Chennai in the policy debate on AI and Sustainable Cities was an intellectually stimulating experience that deepened my understanding of technology's role in democratic governance. The competition, designed as a simulation of municipal council proceedings, provided an authentic environment to debate real policy challenges facing Indian cities.

During the debate, I proposed three AI-driven policy frameworks for Chennai's urban challenges. My key proposal was the Chennai Integrated AI Traffic Management System (CIATS), inspired by successful models in Bengaluru and Delhi. This system would deploy adaptive AI signals across major intersections, featuring emergency vehicle detection and multilingual support in Tamil and English. Similar systems have reduced congestion by up to 30 percent in other cities. The second proposal introduced an AI-Enhanced Citizen Participation Platform, which would use natural language processing to analyse citizen feedback, predict civic needs, and personalize services, thus strengthening participatory governance. The third initiative, Chennai Climate-Resilient Urban Planning, focused on using AI for flood prediction and sustainable city growth by integrating climate data, demographics, and infrastructure capacity.

The most significant learning from Prajatantra was that successful AI implementation in governance requires balancing technological efficiency with democratic values. I realized that AI should complement, not replace, human judgment in policymaking. The idea of urban reasonableness, adapting ethical standards for AI governance, became central to my understanding.

Moving forward, I plan to engage with Chennai's Smart City Mission and civic organizations, pursue training in AI governance, and establish a youth-led think tank that connects innovation with public policy. Prajatantra reaffirmed that the future of cities depends on technology empowering democracy, not replacing it.





Vedika Das

Grand Finalist for
Policy debate

Inclusive urban governance is about listening to the silenced and designing cities that reflect every voice, not just the visible ones

Vedika Das is a fourth-year research student at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), majoring in Political Science, hailing from Meghalaya. Passionate about political research and decolonizing academia, she has actively participated in over eight Model United Nations conferences, winning multiple awards, including Best Delegate and High Commendation. Vedika has also organized and led environmental and literary events, collaborating with organizations like WWF. Her academic interests focus on governance, sustainable development, and international relations. Beyond academics, she enjoys public speaking, writing, and community engagement, striving to combine rigorous scholarship with impactful social initiatives.



My experience at Prajatantra was intellectually enriching and transformative, particularly through my participation in the Policy Debate. This platform allowed me to engage deeply with civic issues, formulate evidence-based arguments, and propose practical solutions to governance challenges. Preparing for the debate pushed me to research thoroughly, analyse policy frameworks, and present ideas persuasively, reinforcing my understanding of how effective governance impacts citizens' daily lives.

During the debate, I proposed measures to improve urban governance through AI-based citizen complaint platforms. I highlighted inefficiencies in traditional systems, such as delays, lack of transparency, and accountability gaps that hinder timely problem resolution. My proposals included automatic complaint classification to route issues to the responsible department, real-time tracking for citizens, and dashboards for departmental accountability. I also suggested social media integration, where posts about civic issues like flooding or potholes could be automatically converted into formal complaints. These measures aimed to enhance transparency, reduce response times, and rebuild public trust in municipal governance.

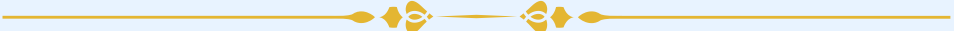
Beyond the debate, Prajatantra offered valuable lessons through interactions with participants and mentors, helping me appreciate diverse perspectives on policymaking and civic engagement. I learned the importance of structured reasoning, active listening, and collaborative problem-solving in formulating impactful solutions.

Following Prajatantra, I am committed to applying these learnings by engaging in research and initiatives that promote inclusive, technology-driven governance. I also plan to participate in forums and community programs encouraging youth involvement in policymaking. Prajatantra was not just a debate but a journey of civic awakening, inspiring me to advocate for governance that is efficient, transparent, and responsive to citizens' needs.



QUIZ COMPETITION

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Quiz Competition tests participants' knowledge and understanding of Urban Governance. It aims to promote healthy competition, foster a deeper understanding of governance, and enhance the overall learning experience. The competition served as a platform to assess participants' knowledge and skills related to the theme, while also stimulating their political and constitutional awareness. It was designed to improve quick decision-making as well as spontaneous and rational thinking among participants.



Prajatantra Quiz stands strong on its core principle — nurturing curiosity for conscious citizenship. I see it as an annual learning journey that helps me explore the fascinating dimensions of the Indian Constitution, democracy, and urban governance. I deeply admire the meticulous research undertaken by the organising team to maintain a perfect balance between education and enjoyment. At the conclusion of every quiz, I am filled with a deep sense of satisfaction, knowing that a new cohort of youth across India has become more informed, engaged citizens who will continue to learn and grow in their understanding of citizenship.



Abhishek Gijare

Communication Associate, UNDP India

(Abhishek has been Quizmaster of Prajatantra Quiz since 2021)



Adila Zosangkimi

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Urban Governance is the cornerstone of public institutions and other organizations upholding the principles of transparency and integrity, remaining steadfast in its adherence to the rule of law

Adila Zosangkimi, a third-year Political Science student at Government Hrangbana College, Aizawl, is an aspiring academician who dedicates much of her time to reading and research. Venturing beyond her comfort zone through the National Cadet Corps (NCC), she was selected as one of only 100 cadets from around 14 lakh participants across India to attend the prestigious Attachment and Training Camp at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai, in September 2025. She also represented her college in the Inter-College Quiz Competition organized by ZOHANDCO on National Handloom Day, securing the First Runner-Up position and winning a trophy with a ₹20,000 cash prize.



Becoming a finalist at Prajatantra has been a long-cherished aspiration of mine, even before I entered college. Witnessing students from Mizoram reach the finals, breaking barriers and making exemplary use of the platform provided by the Praja Foundation, inspired me to follow in their footsteps and become part of this transformative initiative.

The knowledge sessions on Artificial Intelligence were particularly enlightening, as they reshaped my fundamental understanding of AI. They provided valuable insights into its rightful applications, significance, capabilities, and identity as a tool that can drive informed governance and societal progress.

The quiz event syllabus — covering urban governance, the Constitution of India, and the concepts, theories, and history of democracy — significantly broadened my knowledge in these areas. It deepened my understanding of the practical application of democratic theories while stimulating political and constitutional awareness among participants. Furthermore, it served as an effective means to assess our comprehension of city governance and its multifaceted responsibilities.

Prajatantra 2025 has made me realize that the process of urban governance cannot be rushed. It must be deliberate, structured, and rooted in the principles of good governance. Effective city governance requires strict adherence to the rule of law, participatory decision-making, and a sustained commitment to addressing the evolving needs of urban populations. Good governance is not merely an administrative function — it is the foundation upon which inclusive, resilient, and well-functioning cities are built.

After gaining a deeper understanding of the functioning of urban governance through Prajatantra 2025, I am committed to contributing meaningfully to this sphere through every possible avenue. I intend to highlight administrative shortcomings where they exist and actively promote and support effective governance practices that serve the public interest.





Aditya Pandey

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

“Good urban governance starts with understanding people’s everyday problems and turning that understanding into lasting solutions”

Aditya Arvind Pandey is a Political Science student at PTVA’s Sathaye College (Autonomous), with a strong passion for public policy, civic engagement, and research. A semi-finalist at the Prajatantra National Youth Festival 2024, he has presented research papers at national and international conferences, including the BRICS-RI International Conference 2025, with several publications in reputed journals. He has won multiple awards in debates, elocution, and quizzes, participating in over 30 competitions across India. Aditya received the Best Award from Younity for his contributions to social entrepreneurship and was recognized as a Top Writer at the Global Poetry Festival 2025. He also holds a world record in poetry publication.



Prajatantra was more than just an event; it was a live classroom where I learned how policies move from paper to practice. As a Political Science student, I often study governance and policy in theory, but Prajatantra allowed me to understand these concepts in action. I participated in the policy presentation competition on “Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Municipal Services,” which encouraged me to explore how technology can make governance smarter, faster, and more citizen friendly.

During the event, I proposed how artificial intelligence could be integrated into daily municipal operations such as using machine learning for predictive waste collection, AI-enabled dashboards for real-time citizen feedback, and automated systems to ensure better service delivery in sanitation, water supply, and electricity management. I also emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability, and ethical AI use. Through this, I understood how thoughtful policies, supported by innovation, can improve governance outcomes significantly.

Prajatantra was more than just a stage to speak; it was a space to learn. My participation enhanced my knowledge of the Indian Constitution, local government frameworks, and how municipal bodies function. It also improved my awareness of policy-making processes, budget allocation, and the challenges faced in ground-level implementation. My interest in quizzes also found a meaningful extension through the interactive sessions, which broadened my understanding of governance structures.

After Prajatantra, I feel more confident and motivated to be an active citizen. I plan to engage with local civic bodies, spread awareness among youth about participatory governance, and use my writing and research skills to contribute to meaningful discussions on policy reforms. I also wish to explore further opportunities to promote digital tools in civic engagement. Prajatantra helped me realise that change begins when we understand our systems; and dare to be part of their improvement.





Ankit Bhagat

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

*Change starts when young people start
caring about their cities*

Ankit is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Life Sciences from Dronacharya Government College, Gurugram. Along with his studies, he shares his understanding of science through teaching, encouraging curiosity and practical learning among students. He has a deep interest in innovation and research, and has actively participated in various science exhibitions, showcasing creative ideas and models that promote scientific thinking and problem-solving.

Ankit's curiosity extends beyond science into politics, parliamentary proceedings, and policymaking. He hopes to work at the intersection of science, education, and public administration, contributing ideas that make governance more scientific, efficient, and citizen focused.



Participation in Prajatantra 2025 provided an insightful understanding of how governance directly shapes the daily life of citizens. The sessions emphasized how cities function as interconnected systems where every administrative decision has a social and environmental impact.

The discussions on the Constitution of India highlighted its role as the foundation of fair and transparent governance. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act was particularly significant, as it showcased how local bodies were empowered to manage urban challenges independently. It underlined the importance of local representatives such as councillors and mayors in addressing issues related to waste management, water, and traffic regulation.

Further exploration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Gurugram Climate Action Plan (GCAP) brought attention to the relationship between environmental protection and urban development. The learnings reflected that sustainable progress depends on collaboration between citizens, policymakers, and scientific innovation.

The program also emphasized that good governance is not a one-sided effort by the government alone but a shared responsibility of the people. When young citizens engage with awareness and purpose, they contribute fresh ideas and positive energy to society.

Prajatantra 2025 demonstrated that informed youth participation, evidence-based thinking, and social responsibility together form the foundation of a transparent, inclusive, and sustainable democracy.





Ankit Sharma

Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition

Effective urban governance in the age of AI is not about replacing human judgment but about amplifying it through data-driven empathy and precision.

I hold a B.Tech in ECE from IIIT JABALPUR, after which I dedicated several years to UPSC preparation, qualifying for the Mains examination 3 times. This experience strengthened my analytical thinking and understanding of governance. Currently, I am pursuing a Master's in Analytics from TISS Mumbai, where I aim to integrate data-driven insights with public policy. I aspire to build a career in policy analytics, with a keen interest in leveraging AI tools to enhance governance systems, particularly in the context of rapidly growing urbanization.



Participating in Prajatantra was an enriching and intellectually stimulating experience that deepened my understanding of democratic governance, public policy, and citizen engagement. The event brought together students from diverse disciplines, united by a shared interest in governance and civic responsibility. It provided a platform to exchange ideas, test knowledge, and reflect on the values that drive our democracy. As a participant in the Quiz Competition, Prajatantra was not just a contest of facts but an opportunity to connect analytical thinking with participatory citizenship.

The quiz covered governance, constitutional principles, public policy, current affairs, and international relations. It tested comprehension and the ability to link policies with societal outcomes. My preparation involved revisiting constitutional debates, understanding institutional structures, and keeping up with government initiatives, especially in technology-driven governance and urban development. I approached each question as part of a larger policy ecosystem, reflecting my interest in how analytics and AI can make governance more efficient and citizen-centric.

While competitive, the quiz atmosphere was collaborative and encouraging. Interacting with peers and mentors helped me appreciate different perspectives on sustainability, urban planning, and digital governance. I realized that active citizenship requires awareness of rights and duties along with understanding policy design and implementation challenges. This reinforced my belief that data-driven governance, combined with empathy and inclusivity, can transform society.

The key takeaway from Prajatantra was the importance of informed participation. I plan to channel these learnings into my academic journey at TISS Mumbai through projects evaluating government schemes and exploring AI tools for urban governance. Beyond academics, I aim to engage in civic forums, policy hackathons, and community initiatives to promote data-informed decision-making.





Apoorva Shaliwal

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

The future of cities lies where artificial intelligence meets human integrity — a partnership shaping governance that sustains both life and progress.

Apoorva Shaliwal is a third-year B.A. student at Banasthali Vidyapith, studying Economics, Applied Statistics, and Political Science. An avid learner and confident speaker, she was a finalist in elocution and secured second place in the Quiz on Mahatma Gandhi at a national-level event in Wardha, Maharashtra in January 2025. She serves as Treasurer and Organizing Head of LitWits, the literary society of Banasthali Vidyapith, combining leadership and creativity to organize engaging academic events. As an active member of Jaipur Toastmasters Club, she continues to refine communication and leadership skills, striving to make a meaningful impact through every opportunity.



“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

— Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961)

Prajatantra 2025 reshaped my understanding of governance, technology, and sustainability. Knowledge sessions on Municipal Finance and Artificial Intelligence revealed how interconnected these areas are in building resilient, people-centered cities.

The Municipal Finance session clarified the financial backbone of local governance. Every development initiative—from clean water supply to waste management—depends on sound fiscal planning. I realized that AI, if harnessed efficiently, can transform participatory budgeting and citizen-led accountability, making democracy thrive not just through voting but through continuous civic engagement.

Field engagement offered firsthand insights into municipal functioning. Interactions with the Municipal Commissioner and Land Revenue Officer of Tonk Municipality highlighted challenges in resource mobilization and the urgent need for financial autonomy. Observing administrative practices revealed gaps between policy design and implementation.

The AI session added another layer of understanding. Data-driven tools can enhance urban sustainability, optimize resources, improve waste segregation, and support smart mobility. AI emerges not merely as technology but as a bridge between innovation and inclusive governance. The quiz competition consolidated these learnings. Preparing strengthened my grasp of the Constitution, urban governance, and their practical relevance. It deepened my curiosity to explore how India’s cities can evolve sustainably, guided by human empathy and intelligent systems.

Prajatantra 2025 reinforced that youth are not mere observers but active contributors. Through awareness, creativity, and participation, we can shape transparent, sustainable, and technology-driven cities that embody the spirit of democracy.





Ashirbad Rath

Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition

A city's data streams roar with the voices of the connected and the metrics of the visible, but wisdom in governance is not found in this roar. It is found in the discipline of listening to the silence—to the needs that have no sensor, the communities that cast no digital shadow, and the aspirations that can never be quantified.

Ashirbad is a final year undergraduate student in urban planning, pursuing Bachelors of Planning at OUTR, Bhubaneswar. He holds strong academic interests which has brought him 3 certificates of merit awards consecutively for highest CGPA in the course. He is also interested in learning world affairs, geopolitics and diplomacy. His hobbies include mostly travelling, quizzing cricket, learning languages & cultures. He aspires to be a successful urban planner and bring about a change through human-centric solutions for the complex challenges faced by modern cities.



The modern city is awash in data. We are told that the path to a brighter urban future is paved with sensors, algorithms, and real-time analytics. This digital symphony promises unparalleled efficiency, from optimized traffic flows to predictive resource management. It is the seductive roar of the "smart city," a metropolis that sees, measures, and manages itself with machinelike precision. In this vision, governance becomes an act of engineering, a response to the clear and quantifiable metrics of the visible and the connected. But true wisdom in governance is not found in this roar alone; it is found in the discipline of listening to the silence.

For every data point that charts a commuter's journey via a smartphone app, there is the unrecorded journey of an elderly citizen walking to a local market. For every metric on digital payment trends in a commercial hub, there is the unquantified economic activity of an informal vendor in a forgotten lane. These are the communities that cast no digital shadow, the residents whose most fundamental needs—for a shaded bench, a safe pedestrian crossing, or a clean public well—generate no data stream. Their aspirations for dignity, community, and belonging can never be captured by a sensor. To govern only by the numbers is to risk creating a city that is efficient for some but alienating for many, a city that hears the loud voices of the digitally enfranchised but is deaf to the quiet pleas of the marginalized.

Ultimately, a truly intelligent city is not one that simply collects the most data, but one that cultivates the deepest understanding of its people. It requires leaders and planners to step out of the control room and onto the streets, to supplement big data with the "thick data" of human experience. It demands that we actively seek out the stories in the silence. For a city that only listens to the roar of its data is merely a machine; a city that learns to hear the silence of its people is a home.





Bhoomi Jain

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

*Awareness begins with curiosity, and
change begins with participation.*

Bhoomi Jain is a recent graduate in History, Political Science, and Economics from SS Jain PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur. She aspires to pursue higher studies in Political Science and International Relations and build a career in public service. She has participated in debate competitions and mock youth parliaments, including the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, where she qualified at the district level. A district-level handball player, she values teamwork and discipline and continues to learn through new experiences and opportunities.



Participating in Prajatantra National Youth Festival, 2025 has been a memorable experience. I had taken part in the quiz competition last year and reached the semifinals, which encouraged me to return this year with better preparation and curiosity. Being part of the grand finale of a national-level competition for the first time was exciting and motivating, bringing opportunities to learn and grow.

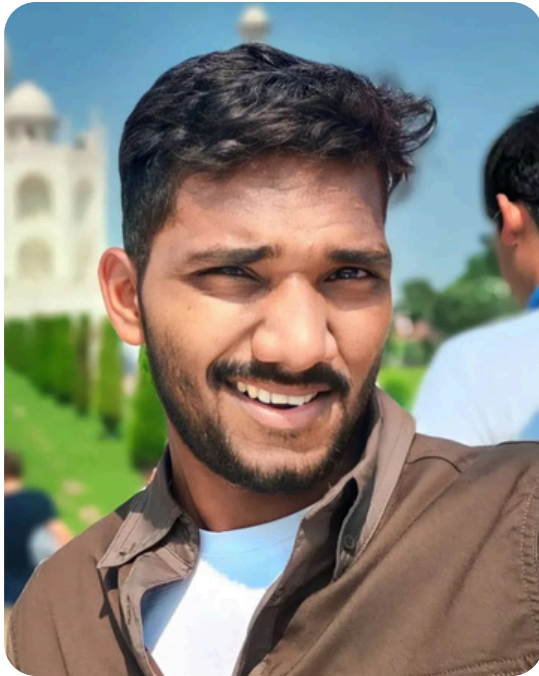
The Quiz Competition was both thrilling and educational. It helped me explore governance, public policies, and current affairs more deeply. Each round required focus, teamwork, and presence of mind, making the process challenging but rewarding. The knowledge sessions were informative and explained concepts about Artificial Intelligence and its role in governance. They encouraged me to think about how technology can enhance city functioning and transparency.

For the Reel Making Competition, I created a short video on how AI can transform waste management, recycling, and sanitation systems, turning challenges into opportunities for cleaner, smarter living. My idea highlighted how technology and citizen participation together can make cities sustainable. Working on the reel taught me that communication is a powerful tool to spread awareness and inspire action.

Through Prajatantra 2025, I gained a better understanding of urban governance and the shared responsibilities of administrators and citizens. I learned that good governance depends on cooperation, awareness, and participation. The event also allowed me to interact with participants nationwide and appreciate the variety of ideas young people bring to civic discussions.

After Prajatantra, I plan to stay engaged with local governance and community initiatives. Small, sincere steps can create a meaningful difference in building stronger, informed communities.





Charan Teja Anumati

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

The Macro level change can be observed in the country when the change has started from the block level which is the effective urban governance & Citizen participation.

Anumati Charan Teja's journey transcends the conventional narrative of a single-sport athlete. His story is a testament to the power of diverse passions and excelling in multiple arenas. Beginning his rifle shooting career at 16, he has achieved milestones in the sport and shown proficiency in Kabaddi, chess, and numismatics while balancing academics.

Teja's foray into rifle shooting saw immediate success. Rapidly winning gold at district-level tournaments, he established himself as a rising talent. His silver at the School Games Federation of India in 2016 and participation in the 62nd National School Games 2016-17 in Hyderabad (Boys U14 category) provided invaluable national-level experience, laying the foundation for continued excellence in the sport.



The knowledge sessions organized by Prajatantra were eye-opening, especially discussions on localizing sustainable development and the role of youth in urban dynamics. The competition exposed me to the intricate workings of local governance.

Decentralized governance is a cornerstone of modern democracy. Cities face diverse social, economic, and environmental challenges, and centralized systems often struggle to meet local needs. By transferring authority and resources to local bodies, decentralization empowers citizens, enhances accountability, and promotes inclusive, responsive, and sustainable development.

It brings decision-making closer to the people. Local governments understand their communities and can tailor solutions effectively. Whether managing water in drought-prone areas or promoting micro-enterprises in small towns, locally designed policies ensure efficiency and ownership, reflecting “Sabka Prayas”—collective effort for collective growth.

Sustainable development requires coordination between social justice, environmental protection, and economic progress. Local governments, when autonomous and capable, can integrate these goals. Urban planning enables eco-friendly waste management, renewable energy adoption, and better land-use. Rural panchayats can promote sustainable agriculture, rainwater harvesting, and rural tourism, creating jobs while preserving ecosystems.

Technology supports decentralization. Digital platforms, open-data, AI, and analytics allow authorities to deliver services transparently and base decisions on evidence.

Decentralization demands capacity building, fiscal autonomy, and civic awareness. India’s 73rd and 74th Amendments laid the foundation for participatory governance, contributing to SDGs. Empowered local governments transform citizens into active partners, making sustainability a shared, resilient effort.

I look forward to exchanging ideas with like-minded people at Prajatantra 2025 and beginning my literary journey.





Dev Kishore Dutta

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Every community holds the key to its own liberation, and our role is to help them find it-by ensuring their children are safe, their women are empowered, and their collective voice is heard.

Dev Kishore Dutta is a postgraduate Social Work student at Tezpur University, Assam, committed to inclusive and sustainable community development. His interests span rural development, child welfare, gender issues, and medical social work. Gaining hands-on experience through internships with the Public Health Engineering Department, the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program, and the Assam Cancer Care Foundation, he contributed to public health, awareness, and social support initiatives. A national-level athlete in powerlifting, weightlifting, arm-wrestling, and boxing, Dev combines discipline with fieldwork. Passionate about reading, quizzing, and women's empowerment, he aspires to a career promoting community-led rural development, blending compassion, commitment, and action.



Participating in Prajatantra was one of the most enriching experiences of my academic journey. The event served as a vibrant platform bringing together young minds from across the country to discuss governance, democracy, and the role of youth in shaping the nation's future. It was not just a competition but a celebration of civic participation and responsible citizenship. I participated in the quiz competition, which allowed me to express my views, challenge perspectives, and understand democratic institutions more deeply. The atmosphere was intellectually stimulating and full of energy, with every participant contributing unique insights and ideas.

During the event, I proposed policies related to Urban Governance. In my presentation, I emphasized inclusive policymaking, where young voices and marginalized groups are actively involved in decision-making. I suggested creating grassroots youth councils as local think tanks to address civic issues. Additionally, I highlighted the need to promote digital literacy and transparent governance to reduce corruption and ensure accountability. My idea revolved around making governance participatory, transparent, and youth-driven, ensuring every citizen feels responsible and included in the democratic process.

Prajatantra taught me that democracy thrives not just on elections but on civic engagement and dialogue. The discussions showed how diverse perspectives can create balanced solutions. Interacting with mentors and peers strengthened my confidence in public speaking, policy analysis, and teamwork. Most importantly, I realized collaboration and constructive criticism are essential for policymaking.

After Prajatantra, I am motivated to engage actively in community initiatives, organize youth forums, and advocate for inclusive governance. My goal is to help build a society where every citizen is informed, involved, and empowered.





Gyanalok Swain

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

The future of sustainable cities lies in governance that combines technology with empathy, and innovation with inclusion.

Gyanalok Swain completed his schooling at Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Cuttack, and earned his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Christ College, Cuttack. He is currently pursuing an MBA in Urban Management and Governance at XIM University, Bhubaneswar. With a strong interest in urban development and public policy, Gyanalok aims to contribute to creating sustainable and well-managed cities. Beyond academics, he is passionate about football and sketching, which reflect his creativity, teamwork, and balanced approach to both professional and personal growth.



To start with, I want to say that I am deeply grateful to our teacher coordinator and the Prajatantra team, who offered me a chance to attend this year's Prajatantra -National Youth Festival. It was my first encounter with Prajatantra and, therefore, I did not know how to conduct myself. Nevertheless, even without attending some of the knowledge sessions, I am extremely grateful that the team was supportive and comprehensive during the competition. Their unwavering efforts in making sure that all the participants were well-informed and knowledgeable with the necessary information was critical in influencing my learning experience.

This rewarding experience permitted me to discover the multifaceted aspects of urban governance, its historical development, policy formulation, structure and importance of people participation in urban development. I got a better understanding of what successful city governance involves in terms of challenges and opportunities.

Being the participants of the quiz contest on Artificial Intelligence in Sustainable Cities, my teammate and I thoroughly researched and analysed in order to be prepared. The process enabled us to learn more about the ways AI technologies can be used to promote sustainable urban development based on data-driven governance, effective resource usage, and enhanced public services. In addition to technical expertise, this experience has enabled us to develop some of the much-needed skills like teamwork, patience, consistency, and critical thinking.

The fact that I was also one of the grand finalists was something unbelievable. My practical involvement in field activities also enhanced my realization about practical problems about the city and the processes of governance. I also am keen to give the knowledge and experience of Prajatantra to other people- creating awareness on the need of urban governance and encouraging my colleagues to be active in programs that will enhance smarter and greener cities.





Ipsita Sahu

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

*From Vision to Value: Uniting City
Planning, Fiscal Strategy, and Governed
Action for Real-World Impact.*

Ipsita Sahu isn't just counting down the days until graduation; as a final-year Urban Planning student at Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar, she is actively sketching the future of urban spaces. Driven by an unwavering desire to instigate meaningful change, Ipsita channels her high-achieving academic rigor - a testament to her consistent excellence. This commitment to structure and vision is beautifully balanced by her artistic talent, athletic prowess and deep appreciation for cultural events, proving that the most effective city planners are those who understand both the mechanics of a city and the vibrancy of its soul.



Realizing visionary urban plans calls for an effective link-up between city planning, financial strategy and governed action. Urban development and urban planning lay out the framework for sustainable development, creating a vision of urban areas that are liveable, inclusive and durable. Policy-relevant action as the bridge between planning and implementing. Clear policies, inclusive governance and robust accountability mechanisms guarantee that financial investments yield tangible social and environmental returns. Where planning, finance, and governance are in alignment, cities can respond more effectively to challenges such as housing, mobility and climate resilience.

In today's complex urban landscape, effective governance and sound municipal finance are crucial for urban planners to turn visionary plans into real results. Good governance promotes transparent, inclusive, and accountable decision-making. This approach builds public trust and encourages collaboration among stakeholders. At the same time, strong financial strategies, such as new revenue generation, careful budgeting, and performance-based financing, provide the necessary support for infrastructure projects, affordable housing, and sustainable transportation solutions. Together, these elements help planners connect long-term urban goals with practical, funded actions, ensuring fair, resilient, and impactful city development.

“From Vision to Value” represents our goal of turning ideal city values into real progress. Smart urban planning meets responsible use of money and proactive governance. This practical, all-in-one approach would not only encourage economic development but also improve community well-being. It ensures that every rupee spent helps build a more sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready urban India.

Taking part in the Prajatantra Competition was a life-changing experience, showcasing the immense potential of young individuals like me to make a positive impact on society. The event served as a platform for young individuals to discuss and tackle the social problems.





Lalkroshlui

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

A city thrives when its people rise above comfort to embrace conscience, seeing themselves not as mere spectators but as stewards of its future

Lalkroshlui, hailing from Aizawl, Mizoram, is a Political Science student at Government Hrangbana College. She ranked among the top four in her HSLC examinations and was the Science topper in 2022. Driven by a vision to serve society, she aspires to become a civil servant, focusing on transforming urban cities through improved infrastructure and responsive governance. Academically inclined towards the social sciences, she has a keen interest in international relations, cultural history and social studies. Beyond academics, she enjoys reading, writing, music, and art. Determined and committed, she approaches every endeavor with unwavering dedication.



Joining Prajatantra quietly reshaped my perspective—both about the world and my place in it. It was transformative, allowing young people to showcase potential, gain confidence, and develop deeper interest in city governance and municipal finance. For me, Prajatantra 2025 was intellectually enriching and personally inspiring.

Participating in the quiz initially felt intimidating. The topics—Indian Constitution, municipal finances, democracy, and the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act—were challenging. One of the most impactful moments came from the Knowledge Session on Artificial Intelligence (AI). These sessions showed how technology enhances municipal efficiency and inclusivity. AI tools such as digital portals and chatbots make citizen engagement faster, easier, and more transparent, highlighting the transformative role of innovation in governance.

The session on Fundamentals for Next-Generation Innovators emphasized how creativity and problem-solving, combined with AI, can empower citizens to propose practical solutions for urban challenges. It offered a fresh perspective on tackling city problems with an innovative, citizen-focused mindset. Equally valuable was the session on the Legislative Structure of City Government and Municipal Finance, deepening my understanding of local governance, responsibilities, and how transparent financial management ensures effective services.

I am grateful to the Prajatantra team for this opportunity. Every quiz question challenged me to apply lessons from the Constitution, democracy, municipal finance, and AI to real-world contexts, reinforcing that active citizen participation drives meaningful urban transformation.





Piyush Das

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Be the actor in your city's story. Even a single informed voice possesses the power to transform municipal silence into necessary civic change.

Piyush is currently pursuing a Bachelor's program in Political Science. The primary academic objective is the procurement of the NET-JRF qualification, enabling the pursuit of a professorial career distinguished by specialized research in International Relations, Geopolitics, and defence strategy. Hailing from Gurugram, his intellectual paradigm is strategically informed by the philosophical tenets and governance principles of seminal historical figures, notably Chanakya, Shri Krishna, and Maharana Pratap.

A commitment to civic engagement is demonstrated through active membership in the NSS and Youth Red Cross. His analytical proficiency is rigorously tested via sustained participation in Zonal Youth Festivals, formal debates, and collegiate quizzes. Furthermore, a disciplined practice of introspection and meditation maintains the intellectual acuity required for effective scholarly discussion.



Prajantra 2025 was a definitive convergence of policy, knowledge, and high-stakes strategy. Participation in the Quiz Competition and Policy Debate served as a continuous, high-stakes exercise in translating theoretical acumen into actionable governance insights. The quiz demanded instant, factual recall on subjects like Urban Governance, Municipal Finance and Democracy, while the debate required coherent structuring of arguments on complex urban issues. My experience underscored a fundamental truth: effective citizenship is not passive, but an informed, high-tempo activity requiring rigorous application of knowledge from the preceding Knowledge Sessions.

The Knowledge Sessions, particularly those on Artificial Intelligence, Urban Governance, and Municipal Finance, were pivotal. In the Quiz, detailed questions on urban resource allocation were navigated thanks to the deep dive into fiscal tools like municipal bond markets and property tax structures. In the Policy Debate, I leveraged these learnings to propose evidence-based arguments. A key debate focused on systemic risks and ethical deployment of AI in municipal operations, such as traffic management and complaint resolution. My argument emphasized structuring a data governance policy that ensures algorithmic equity, proposing predictive analytics for resource distribution with citizen-led audit mechanisms to prevent bias. This demonstrated that effective policy is technologically informed but citizen-centric in oversight.

The most profound learning was the recalibration of strategic perspective. Prajantra showed that national policy integrity depends on resilient local implementation. Digital disparity is the newest form of social stratification, making local technological policy a matter of national equity. Post-Prajantra, I plan to channel this learning into action—academically into research on technology-enabled local governance, and civically via advocacy campaigns on digital literacy and participatory budgeting within Gurugram.





Priyam Pathak

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Urban governance is not just about managing cities — it's about empowering people to build the kind of city they want to live in

Priyam Kumar Pathak completed his B.Sc. in Biotechnology, which helped him build strong analytical and research skills. During his studies, he realized he enjoys communicating ideas and stories more than working in labs. That's when he developed an interest in Mass Communication. He aims to combine his scientific background with creative communication to make complex topics easier for people to understand—especially through media, journalism, or digital content creation. His hobbies include watching biographies, travelling, and exploring cultures. Other than this, he loves to take part in co-curricular activities like quizzes and debates. He also received First Prize in the National Science Day Quiz competition in his college.



Attending Prajatantra 2025 – the National Youth Festival on Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities was one of the most meaningful experiences of my academic journey. Even though it was online, the event was vibrant, interactive, and full of learning. It focused on how artificial intelligence can make cities sustainable, efficient, and citizen-friendly — especially in urban governance and municipal corporations.

I participated in the online quiz competition, which was challenging and exciting. The quiz tested our knowledge of AI, sustainable urban planning, and smart city innovations. Each round included questions on real-life applications — like how AI can reduce pollution, improve waste management, or make public services more efficient. Competing virtually with participants from across the country was thrilling. Qualifying for the semi-finals made me proud and encouraged me to explore how technology can improve urban life.

The online sessions and expert talks were inspiring. Speakers discussed how AI is transforming governance, and how youth can contribute to sustainable urban spaces. Despite being virtual, the discussions felt engaging. Chat interactions, Q&A sessions, presentations kept everyone motivated. I learned that sustainable development is not just about technology — it's about citizen participation, awareness, and responsibility.

This event inspired me to become a more active citizen. I plan to stay updated on local governance issues and take part in civic engagement programs. I also want to contribute small tech-based projects addressing everyday problems like waste segregation or promoting cleaner environments.

Overall, Prajatantra 2025 was more than an online event — it was an eye-opening learning experience blending innovation with social responsibility. AI may build smart cities, but responsible citizens make them sustainable.





Riya Dey

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

*When data meets empathy and innovation
meets purpose, cities evolve from being
smart to truly sustainable.*

Riya Dey is a first-year MBA student in Urban Management and Governance at XIM University, Bhubaneswar. She holds a B.Com (Hons.) in Financial Marketing and Management from the Central University of Lucknow. With a strong academic background in finance and governance, her lifelong dream is to build a career focused on sustainable urban development and policy innovation. A trained Kathak dancer, Riya embodies the cultural diversity of India. Her analytical acumen and artistic expression are an indication of her interest in ensuring the growth of inclusive, efficient, and liveable urban spaces.



The Prajatantra National Youth Festival 2025 was not just a contest but a learning, self-reflective, and empowering experience. The Quiz Competition on Urban Governance was intellectually stimulating and thought-provoking. It broadened my understanding of how emerging technologies, especially artificial intelligence, can help create smarter, more sustainable cities. What began as an experiment with my knowledge of civic administration became insight into how information-based innovation can improve urban life.

The challenging questions and debates encouraged me to look beyond traditional governance systems and explore how technology can enhance city operations. My focus on Artificial Intelligence for sustainable cities emphasized digital transformation as a driver of transparent, participatory, and efficient governance. Predictive analytics, for example, could manage traffic, air pollution, waste sorting, water quality, energy usage, and environmental risks in real-time through smart sensors.

In my policy presentation, I proposed three key ideas: Urban Data Hubs to integrate departmental data for evidence-based decisions; machine learning models to create flexible budgeting responsive to community needs; and ethical technology systems to ensure data privacy, accountability, and inclusiveness. These proposals focused on responsible innovation balancing progress, social responsibility, and environmental care.

Prajatantra also offered a motivating environment for conversation and collaboration. Interaction with experts, mentors, and peers reinforced that technology alone cannot make cities sustainable; it must be supported by community engagement, proper policies, and open governance.

Since Prajatantra, I am committed to active citizenship: volunteering in civic technology projects, promoting ethical digital governance, and collaborating with peers on small-scale, technology-based solutions to urban challenges. The festival reaffirmed that sustainable city development is a shared responsibility, achievable through ethical, inclusive, and citizen-driven innovation.





Rupantar Saikia

Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition

Youth engagement is the foundation of a progressive society. When young minds are guided, inspired, and empowered, they become the driving force for social transformation and inclusive growth.

Rupantar Saikia, a master's student in Social Work at Tezpur University, is dedicated to using education and community engagement for social change. Passionate about youth development, he has worked with youth groups to raise awareness on substance abuse and promote healthy living. His experience in medical social work at institutions like LGBRIMH and old age homes has deepened his empathy and understanding of human behaviour. Deeply rooted in Assamese culture, Rupantar expresses his creativity through folk music and cultural activities. A curious learner and traveler, his enthusiasm for quizzing and social issues reflects an analytical mindset, making him an insightful participant in the Prajatantra Quiz Competition 2025.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 has been one of the most enriching and memorable experiences of my academic journey. As a Social Work student at Tezpur University, I have always been interested in understanding how governance, democracy, and civic engagement shape society. The Prajatantra Quiz Competition offered a unique platform to explore these themes in an intellectually stimulating and personally transformative way.

Preparing for the quiz encouraged me to go beyond textbooks. I explored topics such as constitutional values, democratic governance, social justice, and sustainable development. Each round deepened my understanding of how governance functions and how public policies influence lives. It was not about memorizing facts but connecting them to real situations and reflecting on the role citizens play in shaping the nation's future.

The competition was a dynamic learning experience. Collaborating with teammates required communication, teamwork, and trust. Supporting each other through brainstorming and preparation taught me the value of collective effort and mutual learning. It reminded me that good governance is achieved through cooperation and shared responsibility.

Prajatantra 2025 went beyond being a quiz. It encouraged critical thinking about democracy — transparency, accountability, participation, and equality. The experience helped me connect my academic knowledge with governance challenges like policy implementation, social justice, and inclusive development.

This journey strengthened my belief that democracy is not limited to voting but is a continuous process of awareness and participation. I aim to stay informed, engage in community initiatives, and inspire others to take active roles in building an inclusive and responsible society.





Sameer Shaik

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Good governance flourishes when citizens actively take part in policymaking and closely monitor how those policies are carried out for the collective good.

Shaik Sameer is pursuing an M.A. in Economics at the Central University of Karnataka, focusing on public policy, financial inclusion, and sustainable development. He previously worked as a Statistical Analyst with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and completed a data visualization internship with Saint Louis University, USA. Representing Andhra Pradesh at the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025, he also participated in the 36th Inter-University South Zone Youth Festival (AIU) in Debate and Elocution, winning his university's debate competition. Sameer actively promotes youth engagement, evidence-based policymaking, and participatory democracy. His personal interests include traveling, watching movies, and listening to music.



I would like to congratulate the Praja Foundation for organizing such a remarkable youth fest. I deeply appreciate the knowledge sessions, which were a treasure of insights, especially about citizen participation in public policy and real-life experiences of administrators. They highlighted obstacles and limitations faced by local bodies in effective functioning.

The rapid pace of urbanization in the twenty-first century has placed immense pressure on cities to meet growing demands for housing, transport, energy, and public services. While cities drive economic growth, they also contribute significantly to climate change and resource depletion. In this context, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative tool guiding cities toward sustainable, inclusive development.

AI enables cities to function intelligently by collecting and analysing vast amounts of real-time data. Smart infrastructure powered by AI, such as adaptive street lighting, automated waste segregation, and water management, can reduce energy consumption and resource wastage. Intelligent sensors and IoT networks allow municipal authorities to monitor urban systems, detect inefficiencies, and act proactively.

Transportation and mobility can be revolutionized through AI-driven traffic management. By analysing traffic patterns, AI optimizes signal timings, reduces congestion, and minimizes carbon emissions. Similarly, AI-based route planning and autonomous vehicles enhance accessibility and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

AI also supports waste management, pollution control, and social sustainability. Machine learning algorithms predict landfill capacities, monitor air and water quality, and identify underserved populations for targeted welfare programs. In disaster management, AI-based early warning systems can predict floods, heatwaves, or epidemics, minimizing human and economic losses.

Prajatantra 2025 provided a wealth of information and deeper knowledge on the functioning and constraints of urban local bodies.





Shivam Kumar Prajapati

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Effective governance at the urban and rural level is very much important for the productive development

Shivam Kumar Prajapati has completed his Intermediate and graduation from Marwari College Ranchi. Currently he is pursuing his master's in physics from Marwari college as well. During his graduation he had represented Ranchi University in quiz at national level youth festival. He is also being an active volunteer of NSS. From where he learned the importance of education for poor and needy people. Along with the other members of NSS, he conducted special Sunday classes in every week at Madhukam village, Ranchi for the poor and needy children.



I am deeply grateful to the Praja Foundation for providing enriching and interactive knowledge sessions. These sessions have helped me understand how effective governance can significantly improve the lives of people facing challenges in their localities.

The concept of local self-governance in India dates back to Lord Ripon's 1882 Resolution, which aimed to empower local bodies like municipalities and district boards. This resolution is often called the "Magna Carta of Local Self-Government." Interestingly, India's first municipal corporation was established in Madras in 1688. Even in ancient times, panchayats existed to handle dispute resolution, tax collection, and community decisions. Many freedom fighters envisioned that post-independence India should revive panchayats to promote grassroots democracy.

To fulfil this vision, the framers of our Constitution included Article 40, directing the State to organize village panchayats and endow them with powers for self-governance. As a large portion of India's population still lives in rural areas, sustainable village development requires effective, transparent, and accountable governance. Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enhance efficiency and help governments address local needs.

Similarly, municipalities and municipal councils ensure urban mobility, sanitation, and health infrastructure, improving quality of life in towns and cities. To perform these functions, they need adequate financial resources. The Municipal Finance Committee determines annual expenditure and budgets, but in several states, inefficiencies and poor fund utilization hinder progress. AI-driven planning and data analytics in municipal governance can optimize funds and enhance transparency and accountability.

Conclusion: The Prajatantra 2025 sessions have been highly insightful, helping me realize that effective governance requires consistent effort, cooperation, and dedication from local bodies and citizens. Together, through transparent and technology-driven governance, we can build an inclusive and progressive India.





Siddhika Pisal

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

*Urban governance attains its true strength
when democracy transcends
representation and embraces participation
—where informed citizens, accountable
institutions, and inclusive ideas collectively
shape sustainable cities.*

Siddhika Raju Pisal is a third-year BA Political Science student at PTVA's Sathaye College (Autonomous). She has held leadership roles since school, serving as Head Girl at MGM Academy High School and Secretary of the Marathi Sahitya Mandal at Narsee Monjee College. Passionate about public speaking, she actively participates in debates, elocution, quizzes, essay writing, and anchoring, winning several awards. Siddhika has presented research papers at national and international conferences, including the BRICS RI International Conference, with multiple publications in reputed journals. She enjoys exploring new ideas, nature, and cooking, and aspires to pursue an MA in Political Science and become a Civil Servant.



Participating in the Prajatantra National Youth Festival was an intellectually stimulating and transformative experience that deepened my understanding of democratic governance, citizen engagement, and sustainable urban development. Organized by the Praja Foundation, the festival provided a platform for young minds to engage in informed policy discussions, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving. The theme, “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities,” inspired participants to explore how emerging technologies foster transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity in governance.

I participated in two events — the Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance and the Quiz Competition. In the Policy Presentation, I emphasized the critical role of municipal finance in urban governance, influencing service delivery, infrastructure, and citizen welfare. I proposed innovative measures, including AI-driven fiscal monitoring systems and digital transparency portals to enhance accountability and participatory governance.

In the Quiz Competition, I tested my knowledge of governance, policy, and current affairs, strengthening analytical thinking, teamwork, and decision-making skills. Both experiences reinforced that informed youth participation is vital for a robust democracy.

Through Prajatantra, I learned that democracy thrives through active participation and informed discourse. Interactions with experts broadened my perspective on how AI can address urban challenges like waste management, traffic regulation, and sustainable planning, while ethical and inclusive use of technology ensures progress remains people centric.

Post-Prajatantra, I aspire to contribute meaningfully to urban governance through community initiatives, digital literacy, civic education, and research on urban sustainability, promoting participatory governance and greater youth involvement in shaping our cities.





Vedant Desai

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Good governance turns crowded cities into connected communities. Strong urban governance is the bridge between civic dreams and sustainable development.

Vedant Desai is a dedicated FYBA student pursuing a dual degree — one in Economics and another in Civil Services, a UPSC-oriented program designed to build a strong foundation in governance, administration, and public policy. With a keen analytical mindset, Vedant has developed a deep interest in understanding how economic principles influence policymaking and societal progress. His academic pursuits reflect a balanced blend of theoretical insight and practical awareness, especially in areas of urban governance, sustainable development, and citizen participation. Vedant is passionate about international relations and geopolitics, exploring global trends and their impact on India's growth, aiming to promote evidence-based governance, inclusivity, and sustainable development for societal progress.



Participating in Prajatantra was a deeply enriching experience that broadened my understanding of India's democratic framework and civic life. I took part in the Quiz, an event that challenged not only my knowledge but also my comprehension of how the Constitution shapes governance, citizenship, and justice. The quiz pushed me to study the Constitution analytically, allowing me to appreciate its depth beyond theory.

The event emphasized understanding citizens' rights and duties, the functioning of democratic institutions, and the spirit of equality and justice that underpins our Republic. My preparation involved exploring lesser-known aspects—such as directive principles, fundamental duties, and landmark amendments—which gave me a holistic view of how constitutional values are practiced in governance.

Through participation, I realized that Prajatantra was more than a competition; it was a platform for experiential learning. It helped me connect my academic interest in Economics and Civil Services with practical aspects of constitutional governance. The event encouraged critical thinking, teamwork, and quick decision-making under pressure—skills essential for anyone aspiring to contribute to public administration or policymaking.

One key learning was that true democracy thrives when citizens are informed, engaged, and proactive. The sessions deepened my respect for participatory governance and the need for every individual to uphold constitutional principles. Civic education strengthens accountability and transparency in governance.

After Prajatantra, I am motivated to take concrete steps toward civic engagement, participate in awareness programs, and volunteer in projects that promote equality, justice, and sustainable development—values rooted in our Constitution.

Overall, Prajatantra was a transformative journey that reinforced my belief in knowledge, civic responsibility, and collective participation, inspiring me to pursue my goals with purpose.





Vivek Ghuge

**Grand Finalist for
Quiz Competition**

Good governance turns crowded cities into connected communities. Strong urban governance is the bridge between civic dreams and sustainable development.

Vivek Ghuge is a committed and hardworking student currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (3rd Year) and Bachelor of Arts in Civil Services (2nd Year). He has an excellent record in both academics and extracurricular activities. Vivek has represented Maharashtra at the national level in football and chess multiple times, winning state championships in both chess and athletics. He has also earned medals in long jump and running. In addition, Vivek is an active participant in poetry, elocution, and quiz competitions, earning numerous awards for his performances.



I recently got a great opportunity to participate in the Quiz Competition organised by Praja Foundation. This event aimed to increase students' understanding of democracy, urban governance, and the Indian Constitution. It was a valuable experience that helped me gain knowledge and confidence.

The organizers held a session on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The expert explained what AI is, how it works, and its impact on the world. The session focused on using AI in public administration and governance. I learned that AI can help governments make better decisions, manage data, and deliver services faster. For example, it can improve urban planning, waste management, traffic control, and transparency in government services. This session inspired me because it showed how technology can strengthen democracy and improve life.

After the session, the quiz began. I participated with my teammate, representing our college. We were nervous at first due to many strong teams, but quickly gained confidence and excitement.

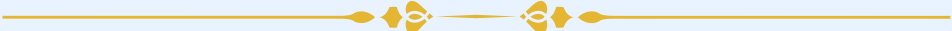
The qualifying round covered the Constitution, democracy, fundamental rights and duties, urban governance, current affairs, and government schemes. With teamwork, we cleared it and advanced to the semi-final. The semi-final was more challenging, with analytical questions on local government, policy-making, and citizens' roles. My teammate and I discussed answers quickly and performed well. I felt proud when we reached the final.

In conclusion, participating in the Praja Foundation Quiz Competition was memorable and enriching. It gave me a chance to learn about governance and democratic values. The AI session highlighted how modern technology can support democracy. Overall, the experience encouraged me to stay aware, think critically, and become an active, responsible citizen.



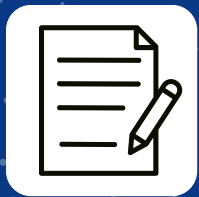
OP-ED WRITING

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Op-Ed Competition serves as a platform for individuals to express their views on specific issues. Traditionally featured on the left side of a newspaper in the editor's column, the Op-Ed in this competition focused on the theme 'Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities'. It aimed to celebrate the art of writing and the skill required to craft well-researched, insightful articles on this important subject.

Participants had the opportunity to explore various aspects of urban governance and articulate their thoughts and opinions through informative Op-Eds. By taking part in this competition, participants enhanced their knowledge, deepened their understanding of urban governance issues, and refined their communication skills, thereby empowering them to effectively advocate for and contribute to the development of citizen-centric governance practices in the future.



It was a pleasure to be a part of Prajatantra 2025 and to review some of the Op-Ed submissions. The entries reflected a remarkable diversity of thought and perspective from participants across different states. I particularly appreciated how students brought in state-specific and city-based narratives, thoughtfully connecting them to broader discussions on AI practices and potential areas for improvement. Many participants also drew parallels with global case studies, demonstrating strong research skills and the ability to contextualise ideas for local application. It was truly engaging to read such insightful and well-articulated pieces.



Bhaskar Basava

Independent Journalist



Ashakumar Mayanglambam

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

*The future of our cities depends not on
how advanced our tools are, but on how
responsibly we use them to make
governance more human*

Ashakumar Khuman Mayanglambam is a third-year B.A. Political Science (Honours) student at D.M. College of Arts, Imphal. Passionate about governance and justice, he aspires to build a career in law or law enforcement to uphold fairness and accountability. Outside academics, he is an avid writer who creates fantasy stories exploring morality and human choice. Through Prajatantra 2025, he seeks to connect civic ideals with real-world solutions that make governance more humane and inclusive.



Participating in Prajatantra this year was an inspiring experience that allowed me to explore the intersection of technology and governance. I took part in the Op-Ed Writing event on the theme AI and Governance, which offered me a platform to critically examine how emerging technologies can strengthen democratic processes, policymaking, and public administration, while also reflecting on the responsibilities of citizens in a tech-driven world.

In my Op-Ed, I argued that Artificial Intelligence, if responsibly integrated, can greatly improve governance and society. The real challenge lies not in the technology itself, but in how humans choose to adopt it. Instead of fearing or underusing AI, we should harness it to streamline public services, enhance transparency, and make policymaking more efficient and data-driven. I emphasized that citizens, policymakers, and administrators must collaborate to ensure AI is used ethically, equitably, and effectively, transforming governance into a more responsive and accountable system.

The process of researching, structuring arguments, and presenting them taught me the importance of clarity, evidence-based reasoning, and linking technology to real-world impact. Engaging with fellow participants broadened my outlook, showing that meaningful solutions emerge from collaboration, critical thinking, and active citizen engagement.

This experience inspired me to become a more aware and participatory citizen. I now understand that improving governance is not solely the duty of policymakers but also of informed citizens. Prajatantra strengthened my belief that technology can enhance democracy, but only when we, as responsible individuals, choose to engage, question, and contribute to shaping a more transparent and inclusive society.





Atul Birari

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

Cities flourish not through concrete and steel alone, but through the vision of citizens who dare to innovate and the compassion of those who choose to serve

Atul Pralhad Birari is a Civil Engineer, currently serving as an Assistant Engineer with the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA). A university topper from Datta Meghe College of Engineering, Airoli, he has been associated with the Mumbai Building Repairs and Reconstruction Board (a unit of MHADA) for the past three years, contributing to the restoration and strengthening of dilapidated cessed buildings in Mumbai. Passionate about public service, he aims to apply his technical expertise to advance MHADA's mission of providing affordable and sustainable housing for all. Beyond his professional commitments, Atul enjoys travelling and exploring the beauty of nature.



Through Prajatantra, I embarked on a journey that deepened my understanding of both technology and governance. The competition was more than an academic exercise—it was an exploration of how innovation, ethics, and civic responsibility intersect in shaping our collective future.

As Carl Sagan once said, “We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology.” This thought feels even more relevant today. Prajatantra encouraged me to think critically about how science and technology influence our lives, and how awareness, accountability, and empathy must guide their use.

In the Op-Ed Writing event, I focused on the theme Artificial Intelligence in Urban Governance. My article, “Defining Today through Artificial Intelligence: Data-Driven Decisions for Cities’ Sustainability,” examined how AI can transform Indian cities from reactive systems into predictive and participatory ecosystems. I argued that AI should not only make cities efficient but also fair, transparent, and inclusive. For instance, it can help map potholes, optimize waste management, and anticipate floods or heat zones—yet its real strength lies in promoting accountability and equity. I also realized that real progress depends on how responsibly we, as citizens, use such innovations.

The knowledge sessions provided deeper insights into AI platforms, municipal systems, and the importance of citizen engagement in governance. They reinforced my belief that effective governance emerges when informed citizens actively participate in decision-making. After Prajatantra, I aim to spread awareness about civic responsibility and the ethical use of technology. While AI may power the future of cities, empathy and active citizenship will remain their foundation. Technology can make cities smarter, but it is people who make them truly sustainable.





Disha U Singh

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

The future of urban governance rests on how well we integrate human intelligence with artificial intelligence to balance efficiency with inclusivity. ” (Michael Batty, The New Science of Cities)

Disha U Singh is pursuing her Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) – Second Year from Mumbai University. A gold medallist in her graduation, she continues to excel in both academics and field practice. A skilled writer and communicator, Disha secured the First Prize in Letter Writing in a university-level competition. Passionate about community engagement, she actively participates in field visits to understand people’s realities and challenges. Aspiring for the civil services, Disha envisions becoming a rights activist, spreading legal awareness and empowering citizens to claim their rights through empathy, justice, and purposeful social action.



Participating in Prajatantra was an enriching and transformative experience that deepened my understanding of governance, policymaking, and civic issues. Often, we recognize societal problems only superficially, but this competition encouraged me to study them critically and trace their root causes. It became a bridge between my academic learning and real-world governance, showing how citizen participation can shape effective policy outcomes.

Before Prajatantra, I viewed public issues as persistent inconveniences caused by government inefficiency. However, research and participation revealed that these challenges are layered and interconnected, shaped by social, economic, and administrative factors. While writing my Op-Ed on urban floods in Mumbai, I discovered that these floods are not just due to rainfall but stem from poor drainage planning, over-concretisation, unregulated construction, and weak coordination among civic bodies. This shifted my focus from merely identifying solutions to understanding the importance of their execution.

The theme of this year's competition, the role of Artificial Intelligence in improving governance, inspired my team to propose a practical idea: an app that alerts citizens and institutions about weather disruptions to prevent urban flooding. This project highlighted how technology, when integrated with good governance, can make public systems more efficient and citizen-friendly.

Reaching the finals in the Op-Ed category was a moment of pride and growth. It taught me the value of evidence-based thinking, teamwork, and active citizenship. The biggest takeaway was my mindset shift, from a complainer to a participant. I realized that meaningful change begins with engagement. Prajatantra was not just a competition but an awakening, one that strengthened my resolve to contribute to a more informed, empathetic, and participatory democracy.





Khushi Joshi

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

*Urban governance is reborn when
algorithm serve as bridge not barrier.*

Khushi Joshi is an accomplished third-year Political Science student at Mithibai College of Arts, where she serves as the leader of the Women Development Cell, championing gender equity and empowerment. A dedicated NCC cadet, she actively participated in over 15 rigorous camps and audits, demonstrating discipline and leadership. She has contributed to academic research on transport and gender issues, presenting her findings at Somaiya College. Committed to social impact, Khushi volunteers with Akshara NGO, supporting women's empowerment initiatives. With strong communication and analytical skills, she aspires to a career in the Indian Army and has recently undertaken the UPSC CDS examination.



Prajatantra proved to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience, offering a platform to engage with democratic principles and the evolving dynamics of urban governance. Having narrowly missed the finalist position in the debate competition last year, my participation this year was driven by renewed purpose and determination. The event brought together insightful individuals, providing an opportunity to demonstrate analytical acumen on pressing socio-political issues.

During the competition, I argued for the integration of Artificial Intelligence in urban governance frameworks. I emphasized its potential to enhance transparency, citizen engagement, and administrative efficiency, while asserting that technology must support democratic processes rather than replace human oversight. I also stressed the importance of embedding gender inclusivity within urban policy, advocating for equitable access and representation as core elements of smart city initiatives.

The lessons from Prajatantra extended beyond the event, deepening my understanding of democratic participation and the role of informed citizenry. Engaging in rigorous debates and encountering diverse perspectives reaffirmed that democracy thrives through respectful dialogue, collaboration, and inclusion. The platform fostered critical thinking and empowered youth to contribute meaningfully to governance discourse.

Informed by this experience, I am committed to strengthening civic engagement through active participation in community initiatives, particularly those fostering youth involvement. I aim to pursue further research on the intersection of technology and democracy, promoting inclusive urban development and awareness.

Ultimately, Prajatantra was more than a competition; it was a catalyst for civic awareness and intellectual growth. It reinforced my commitment to advancing participatory governance and inclusive progress within my community and beyond.





Manisha Singh

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

Real development occurs where knowledge is combined with imagination, and although technology may design cities of the future, it is up to the wisdom, ethics, and care that frame its application.

Manisha Singh is studying Master's in Political Science from Modern College of Arts, Science, and Commerce, Pune, Maharashtra. Her interest lies in political systems, public policy, and governance. Apart from her academic pursuits, she has a keen interest in writing, graphic design, and part-time creative work, applying these as means to explore ideas and depict thoughts meaningfully.

During her leisure time, Manisha likes reading novels, creative writing, outdoor games, and traveling, all of which help to broaden her vision and influence her work. As she moves through her academic career and leisure interests, she continues to cultivate a balanced personality, seeking to leave a positive contribution through knowledge, imagination, and reflection.



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Navya Lakhotia

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

AI is the new heartbeat of urban governance, turning cities from systems of survival into engines of possibility.

I completed my schooling at Delhi Public School, Indirapuram, and am currently pursuing Economics Honors at Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University. I am a very active student and have served as the Treasurer of the Economics Department at my college. I have been associated with various societies at both school and college levels. I am currently working as the Associate Editor at the Editorial Board of my college. I am also a Core Team Member of the Placement Committee.

I wish to pursue a career in the Finance Industry as I have a strong passion for problem-solving and creative thinking. Whether it's brainstorming new ideas, tackling challenges, or finding innovative solutions, I believe in pushing boundaries and exploring new possibilities. Beyond academics, I love to travel and explore new culture and cuisine.



Prajantra 2025 was one of the most enriching experiences I've had as a student. It gave me the space to think deeply about governance, policy, and the role young people can play in shaping public opinion. I took part in the Op-Ed Writing Competition, which pushed me to express complex ideas in a way that could connect with readers. Writing an opinion piece was both challenging and exciting it wasn't just about presenting facts but about building a strong argument that reflected both logic and empathy.

My article focused on AI-driven urban governance and how technology can make cities more transparent, efficient, and people-oriented. I wrote about the potential of AI in improving everyday civic services like waste management, traffic monitoring, and grievance redressal systems. I suggested the idea of AI-based citizen feedback platforms, where residents could report issues or share ideas directly with municipal authorities. At the same time, I made sure to highlight that technology must be guided by ethical principles—especially fairness, privacy, and inclusivity. My main argument was that AI should not replace human decision-making but rather help make governance smarter and more responsive.

Through this experience, I realized how powerful writing can be in influencing change. I learned that good governance depends not only on policies but also on how actively citizens engage with them.

After Prajantra, I also plan to get involved in local initiatives that focus on civic awareness and digital governance. The event reminded me that citizenship is not passive it's about staying informed, speaking up, and contributing in whatever way we can to make governance more inclusive and effective.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire Prajantra Team for giving me this platform to express, learn, and grow and for the seamless organization of the event. I would also like to thank the event heads for their constant support and guidance!





Poomija Appaswamy

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

Urban governance is the art of turning collective vision into equitable action, where transparency guides decisions, participation shapes outcomes, and accountability ensures that every plan truly serves the people

Poomija Appaswamy is a postgraduate student at the Thiagarajar School of Environmental Design and Architecture, pursuing a master's in urban planning. A registered architect with a keen eye for creative design, she blends artistic expression with spatial understanding to craft meaningful and people-centric environments. Passionate about exploring diverse cultures and urban identities, she draws inspiration from her travels to envision inclusive, aesthetic, and sustainable urban spaces. Her interests in calligraphy, sketching, and art continue to fuel her innovative approach toward design and planning.



“The more we engage, the more we understand; and the more we understand, the better we can transform our society.” This thought echoed in my mind throughout my journey at Prajatantra 2025.

Taking part in the Op-Ed Writing competition was a defining experience that allowed me to merge my passion for urban planning with my belief in participatory governance. My article, “Participatory Budgeting 2.0: A Digital Fix for Chennai’s Civic Woes,” explored how technology and civic engagement could work together to reshape local governance.

I proposed the concept of a “City-Build Simulator” a digital platform where citizens could simulate civic projects, understand real-time budget constraints, and directly influence the city’s priorities.

Engaging with peers from across the country exposed me to diverse perspectives. Every discussion reaffirmed that democracy thrives when citizens actively participate, when policies are made not for people but with them. The constructive criticism and insights I received during Prajatantra helped me refine my vision democracy.

Beyond the event, Prajatantra inspired a sense of civic responsibility within me. I plan to contribute to participatory planning initiatives, engage in local governance forums, and advocate for open-data systems that make urban decision-making more transparent. As an architect and planner, I see it as my role to design spaces both physical and digital where citizens can truly engage with their city.

Prajatantra has been more than a competition; it has been a reminder that governance is a shared process, built on dialogue, awareness, and empathy. And as the democratic “play” continues, I hope to keep contributing my verse one that speaks of participation, purpose, and progress.





Romawizuala

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

Good governance happens when those in power remember that cities are made of people, not just systems and budgets

Romawizuala is a final-year English student at Government Hrangbana College in Aizawl, Mizoram, where he balances academic life with creative pursuits. He is passionate about art and filmmaking, with his interests spanning across writing, acting, graphic design, and editing. He runs a freelance editing career working with clients across the world, publishes stories and poems on his Substack blog, and creates graphic designs in his free time. He views creative expression as central to how people communicate and understand their world.



When my close friends invited me to join Prajatantra, I was curious but hesitant. These were people I admired for their creativity, intelligence, and engagement, and their enthusiasm was contagious. What impressed me most was how the Prajatantra team operated. They were responsive, kind, and genuinely passionate about the event, filled with youthful energy that valued every voice and ensured no one felt confused or left out. Their constant communication made the experience feel personal rather than formal.

Participating in the Op-Ed Writing Competition pushed me beyond my creative comfort zone. I have always been drawn to imaginative, metaphorical storytelling, but this required research-based writing. The topic of AI in Aizawl's urban governance was both fascinating and challenging. As an artist, I had viewed AI cautiously, seeing its disruption in creative fields. But exploring its role in waste management, water supply, and citizen services revealed a parallel: AI in governance, like AI in art, needs human direction to remain meaningful and ethical.

Through research, I discovered Aizawl's Integrated Command Control Centre and the inner workings of municipal systems, their budgets, innovations, and limitations. I moved from being a passive observer to someone who could critically understand governance structures.

The knowledge sessions were equally valuable, offering insights into the balance between innovation and inclusion, efficiency and equity. I realized that good governance, like good art, is about human-centred decisions.

My biggest takeaway from Prajatantra is that sincere effort drives change. I plan to use my creative skills to highlight governance issues, motivate others to care about their cities, and participate actively. Democracy thrives when people engage, not just vote.





Ruchira Verma

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

A sustainable city is one where long-term wellbeing is prioritized over short-term growth.

Ruchira Verma is pursuing her Bachelor's in English Literature. She plans to pursue higher studies in the field and is committed to contributing to both scholarly and creative discourse through future publications. Beyond the classroom, Ruchira is an avid reader and a multidisciplinary creative. She is the founder of the Reading Club at her academic institution. She enjoys painting and sketching and has participated in several art competitions that reflect her imaginative sensibility. An enthusiastic cinephile, she finds inspiration in storytelling through cinema. She also loves exploring fashion as a form of self-expression and creativity.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 was an intellectually enriching experience that deepened my understanding of how governance, technology, and civic engagement intersect to shape the cities of tomorrow. As a student of English Literature, I've always been drawn to the power of language and ideas to challenge systems and provoke change. Prajatantra provided a platform where words became instruments of civic engagement.

I entered the forum with curiosity and the enthusiasm of new experience, an opportunity for personal growth. I participated in the op-ed competition, and the piece I submitted was my first public work of writing. It critically examined the systemic inefficiencies, corruption, and bureaucratic stagnation that often hinder progress and pose formidable challenges to the responsible integration of AI in governance. I argued that the promise of technology alone cannot reform civic systems unless accompanied by transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership. Writing that piece was both analytical and empowering.

Beyond my event, Prajatantra was a transformative exchange of perspectives. It allowed me to engage with participants from diverse academic disciplines, regions across India, and most importantly, beyond my comfort zone. I also gained valuable insights into the workings of my municipal corporation through direct field engagement.

My greatest takeaway from the event is the realization that data and democracy must coexist in empathy. While algorithms can calculate, they cannot care; that responsibility rests with us. The event redefined my understanding of active citizenship as a practice rooted in informed participation, empathy, and integrity.

Moving forward, I intend to channel this learning into writing and research, using my voice to critique, question, and contribute to discussions around governance, education, and ethical technology. It was an invigorating and personally thought-provoking experience.





Samriddhi Shet

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

*Concrete builds structures; coordination
builds cities.*

Samriddhi Shet is a second-year undergraduate student of Political Science in Mumbai. Coming from a commerce background, her transition into the study of politics, administration, and governance has been both challenging and transformative. Deeply intrigued by the interplay between theory and lived social realities, she channels these insights into her work as the Design Co-Head of her college's Politics Association. Passionate about research, content writing, and the creative arts, she brings together analytical precision and artistic expression. Her experience spans research analysis, public speaking, mentoring, and impactful communication through storytelling and design.



Participating in Prajatantra was an intellectually invigorating and deeply rewarding experience that allowed me to explore the intersections of governance, youth participation, and public discourse. As a student, I viewed Prajatantra not merely as an event, but as a living dialogue between students and democracy—one that demanded both critical reasoning and creative articulation. My participation in the Op-Ed Writing Competition gave me a platform to express policy perspectives through persuasive writing. The Op-Ed felt like stepping into the shoes of a citizen-journalist—using words as instruments of awareness and reform.

Implementing AI with Mumbai's existing human systems, rather than substituting them. Predictive tools for local transport to enhance safety and efficiency. Route and delivery apps for Dabbawalla's. Leveraging AI for urban planning to preserve livelihoods in Dharavi. Adopting AI in urban planning to forecast climate and budgeting for social equity.

This experience taught me that the articulation of governance and the crafting of policies are important constituents of the same mechanism. Through op-ed writing, I developed the ability to: Write simple civic discourse accompanied by academic theories. Construct dispassionate, evidence-laden pieces, juxtaposed with passionate narratives. Understand the dual role of the media as a mirror and a mediator of democracy. Interacting with the peers and mentors during Prajatantra enlarged my grasp of youth narrative accountability, and contemporary inclusion and reform.

Post-Prajatantra, I aim to actively apply these insights beyond academic spaces. I plan to continue writing opinion pieces on issues of governance, education, and gender in digital publications. Collaborate on student-led research and civic literacy drives. Pursue academic opportunities in public policy and communication, merging analytical depth with storytelling. Ultimately, Prajatantra reaffirmed my belief that democracy grows stronger when citizens not only vote but writes, questions, and engage.





Sharmistha Roy

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

The future of Urban Governance lies in data with purpose, AI that serves citizens, making cities smarter as well as fairer where data empowers people as well as systems and not just statistics

Sharmistha Roy is an architect and emerging urban planner currently pursuing her Master's in Urban & Regional Planning at MIT ADT University, Pune. She brings experience in urban design & planning, geoinformatics and visualization having contributed to India's Viksit Bharat Trade Fair held in Delhi as well as riverfront and heritage corridors for Haryana Authority, Green Building rating in Delhi for a Lucknow Project as well. Sharmistha is passionate about sustainable city development and integrates Artificial Intelligence into urban governance frameworks, particularly in advancing climate action and resilient infrastructure. Deeply rooted to Indian culture Sharmistha is an active participator in cultural activities as a singer, dancer as well as an eager reader and vlogger, an active social media expert.



Participating in Prajatantra was an enriching experience that deepened my understanding of civic engagement, democratic values, and the role of youth in shaping sustainable urban futures. Among the various events, the Op-ed Writing competition particularly stood out as an intellectually stimulating platform that encouraged critical thinking and expression through writing. It allowed me to translate policy ideas into persuasive narratives addressing real-world urban and environmental challenges.

During the event, I focused on climate action planning as a crucial aspect of sustainable urban governance. My Op-ed explored how frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 11 and SDG 13), the Paris Agreement, and the Kyoto Protocol have guided global and local policy efforts. I discussed the success stories of Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Indore, Bhopal and Pune, where climate-conscious planning, renewable energy adoption, and AI-based monitoring systems have advanced sustainability goals. These examples demonstrated how integrated data systems and adaptive policies can help cities transition towards carbon neutrality and resilience.

The experience strengthened my ability to analyse policies through both a local and global lens, balancing evidence-based research with civic empathy. Through constructive feedback and peer discussions, I learned the importance of framing arguments that not only highlight challenges but also propose actionable, inclusive solutions. Prajatantra enhanced my awareness of participatory governance and reinforced the belief that informed citizens are the backbone of democratic and sustainable progress.

Moving forward, I plan to take an active role in climate literacy and urban policy awareness initiatives within my academic and local community. I aim to engage in research projects and outreach programs that promote AI-driven climate action strategies and data transparency at the municipal level. By combining academic learning with civic participation, I aspire to contribute to building cities that are not just smart and efficient, but also equitable and environmentally conscious.





Trisha Banik

**Grand Finalist for
Op-ed Writing**

*Urban governance succeeds not through
the vision of one, but through the
responsibility, collaboration, and systems
embraced by everyone who calls the city
home*

Trisha Banik is a Mechanical Engineering student at Tripura Institute of Technology with a keen interest in sustainability, policy, and innovation-driven development. She aspires to pursue opportunities at the intersection of technology, governance, and education. Her projects on constitutional literacy, biodegradable packaging, and clean energy reflect her commitment to analytical and practical problem-solving, she strives to create meaningful change and inspire informed citizenship



Navigating complex societal challenges through Prajatantra felt like decoding a city's hidden blueprint. Every problem was a puzzle demanding more than creativity—it required clarity, evidence, and foresight. While researching about the topic of my op-ed I realized that in doing something as crucial as city planning the solutions must be actionable, measurable, and adaptable, much like digital twins allow cities to simulate traffic flows, flood risks, and emergency scenarios before committing resources.

What struck me most was the power of perspective. Viewing problems through social, environmental, and infrastructural lenses revealed that sustainable solutions are rarely one-dimensional. Collaborating with mentors and peers reinforced that leadership is about translating vision into impact and balancing ambition. Observing applications like AI flood-forecasting models providing early warnings even in low-data regions crystallized the lesson: predictive insight paired with actionable steps is transformative.

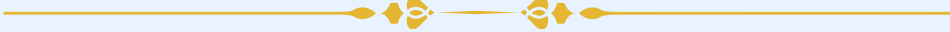
This experience reshaped how I see problem-solving. I understood that meaningful change emerges when ideas are grounded in reality, tested through evidence, and refined through collaboration. It reinforced a simple but powerful principle: foresight alone is not enough—impact demands action.

Today, I carry forward a vision as a future torch bearer of this country to bridge ideas and execution, to tackle challenges with analytical rigor and empathy, and to ensure that every solution I pursue is inclusive, scalable, and transformative. Prajatantra didn't just teach me to think—it taught me to act, to envision the possible, and to turn vision into tangible progress.



DIGITAL POSTER MAKING

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



Prajatantra 2025 recognises the importance of technology and the crucial role it plays in the lives of today's youth. Keeping this in mind, the Digital Poster-Making Competition aimed to promote the constructive integration of technological and creative abilities while enhancing the overall learning experience.

The competition served as a platform to assess participants' knowledge, skills, and perspectives on the theme 'Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities'.



I was truly inspired by the creativity and thoughtfulness participants displayed in the Digital Poster-Making Competition. Their visual interpretations of AI for Sustainable Cities showcased not only artistic excellence but also a deep understanding of how technology can address urban challenges. The way participants explored themes like smart infrastructure, environmental monitoring, and data-driven urban planning reflected genuine innovation and forward-thinking. This initiative is an encouraging step toward fostering civic responsibility and technological literacy, and I wholeheartedly wish the team continued growth and success.



Anjali S. G.,
Architect and Interior Designer



Anuja Lavand

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

Urban governance is not about building smarter cities, but about building fairer ones, where every street, system, and citizen's voice shapes the city's future

I'm a second-year Political Science student at SIES College, deeply interested in law, governance, and public policy. My academic work focuses on connecting theory to real-world governance challenges through research and presentations. As Co-Head of Documentation for the Politics Association, I helped strengthen our communication and outreach. Through my involvement in Rotaract and Leo Club, I've developed teamwork and leadership skills while contributing to community service. I hope to pursue a career in policy or law, aiming to make governance more responsive and citizen-centered.



Prajatantra was a transformative experience, an intersection of governance, creativity, and purpose. As part of the Yuva Niti Dal: Mumbai, Maharashtra, I worked on the theme “Leveraging AI to Enhance Municipal Services.” My presentation envisioned Mumbai as a city where artificial intelligence builds trust and accessibility, not just efficiency. The policy I proposed focused on five key areas: predictive maintenance, accessibility, ethical AI, waste management, and service response, framing technology as a democratic tool for inclusion rather than control.

I conceptualized, designed, and presented the policy and poster around the same idea, AI as a humane ally in governance. My proposal introduced AI-driven predictive maintenance using computer vision and anomaly detection to identify infrastructure risks before failure, aiming for a 30 percent reduction in emergency breakdowns by 2028. I also proposed an AI accessibility framework featuring multilingual chatbots, voice-based grievance systems, and physical kiosks in underserved wards to bridge Mumbai’s digital and linguistic divides. The accompanying poster, “AI: Roots of a Sustainable Future,” portrayed AI as a tree whose roots draw from ethics, environment, and empathy, symbolizing harmony between technology and human values.

What struck me most about Prajatantra was how collaboration outweighed competition. Every discussion reflected a shared desire to make governance more transparent and compassionate. I learned that public policy thrives on responsibility, on designing systems that listen before they act.

Moving forward, I aim to engage in civic initiatives and policy discussions that explore how technology can strengthen democracy while preserving human connection.





Bhavya Damor

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

*True urban governance starts with people -
every story matters*

Bhavya Damor is pursuing a Bachelor of Planning at the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. She aspires to become an urban planner who envisions cities built on principles of inclusion and participation. She is currently serving as the Editor-in-Chief of NOSPlan for the tenure 2025–26, where she leads communication and creative initiatives. Alongside her academic pursuits, she enjoys drawing and exploring new art forms, which inspire her to view urban spaces not merely as functional systems but as canvases for creative expression and thoughtful design



I had the opportunity to participate in Prajatantra this year, which focused on the theme “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities.” I was part of the Digital Poster event, where participants were encouraged to creatively explore how emerging technologies like AI can contribute to sustainable urban development. This platform gave me the opportunity to combine my interest in urban planning, design, and technology, and showcase them in a way that communicates complex ideas visually and effectively.

My poster highlighted the role of AI in enhancing optimizing waste management, Cultural Heritage Promotion and facilitating better stakeholder engagement. Through this work, I emphasized that technology should act as a medium to serve communities rather than replacing the human perspective, reflecting my guiding principle that true urban governance starts with people — every story matters. By integrating AI with participatory planning, I aimed to demonstrate how cities can become more responsive to citizen needs while maintaining efficiency and sustainability.

The key learning from Prajatantra was the importance of collaboration, creativity, and inclusivity in urban planning. I realized that sustainable development is not only about technological innovation but also about understanding human experiences, listening to diverse voices, and translating them into actionable solutions. The event reinforced the value of visual communication and storytelling in making complex concepts accessible and engaging for both citizens and planners.

Following this experience, I plan to actively participate in local urban initiatives, organize and contribute to community dialogues, and use my skills in design and communication to promote inclusive, transparent, and citizen-centered governance. Prajatantra strengthened my commitment to ensuring that every voice is heard, every story is valued, and every citizen has a meaningful role in shaping the cities of tomorrow, making urban planning a truly participatory process.





David Momin

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

When thoughtful design and citizens take part, a city thrives with a vibrant, beating heart

David Momin is a technology enthusiast with a passion for creative media. Currently pursuing his B.Tech in Computer Science from the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, David channels his creativity into freelance video editing and graphic design. His work has been showcased at prestigious events like the Prag Cine Awards and Prag Prerona Awards. A multifaceted creator, David is also a published poet, with two of his poems featured in an anthology by Writer's Pocket.



Participating in the Prajatantra 2025 National Youth Festival was more than a competition; it was a catalyst for personal and civic awakening. The Digital Poster Making Competition became the perfect intersection of my two worlds: the structured logic of computer science and the creative freedom of design. It was not just about creating a poster but translating a complex technological vision into a clear and compelling message for a smarter, more sustainable urban future. This festival invited me to look beyond code and explore how technology can serve people, fostering a new era of civic engagement.

My poster, “Data into Decisions, Cities into Sustainability,” visualized a future where Artificial Intelligence functions as the central nervous system of cities. In an age of abundant information yet limited insight, it argued that AI can transform data chaos into intelligent systems. From predictive models that prevent water crises to adaptive traffic signals that reduce congestion, AI can make governance more transparent, data-driven, and citizen-centric. My poster envisioned technology not as a tool of efficiency alone, but as a pillar of democratic empowerment.

The greatest lesson I gained was the power of accessible communication. While designing, I learned that even the most advanced solution is meaningless if it cannot be understood by the people it aims to serve. Prajatantra also revealed the energy and optimism of India’s youth, united by a shared vision for progress. It inspired me to engage with smart city initiatives in Assam and create visual media that promotes civic awareness. True progress, I now believe, is collective, and I am committed to contributing my skills to that journey.





Jaisuda Bhatti

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

“Good urban governance means planning cities that work for everyone — where people, nature, and progress grow together. It's about making smart choices today to build cleaner, fairer, and more livable cities for tomorrow”

Jaisuda Rajram Bhatti is pursuing her Bachelor's in Arts (T.Y.B.A) from Guru Nanak College of Art's science and commerce. Passionate about creativity and digital engagement, she is an active member of the social media Team for her college programs. She contributes by designing posters, creating invitations, maintaining attendance, and participating enthusiastically in every event. She enjoys working on all kinds of digital and social media projects, constantly exploring Artificial Intelligence to enhance her knowledge and creativity. With a curious and dedicated mindset, Jaisuda aims to continue learning and applying innovative ideas in her future endeavours.



Prajatantra provided an incredible platform to explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in building sustainable cities. It inspired me to understand how technology can be used not merely for convenience but to create smarter, greener, and more liveable urban spaces. Artificial Intelligence–driven innovations such as intelligent traffic systems, energy-efficient infrastructure, and data-based waste management are redefining the way cities function and grow.

In my view, Artificial Intelligence serves as a bridge between development and sustainability. By integrating data, technology, and human values, it enables cities to become more responsive, inclusive, and environmentally conscious. Prajatantra’s focus on AI motivated me to think deeply about how it can empower citizens and authorities to make better decisions for a sustainable future.

This competition was more than a creative challenge; it was a journey of discovery. While researching and designing my digital poster, I was fascinated by the many ways in which Artificial Intelligence already contributes to urban sustainability. From optimizing energy use and improving waste systems to enhancing public transport and monitoring environmental conditions, AI is helping cities become cleaner and more efficient.

The poster format gave me a platform to express these complex ideas through visual storytelling. Every design choice, from layout to colour scheme, was aimed at showing how AI can guide cities toward a more sustainable future. This experience strengthened my understanding of innovation and design, teaching me how creative communication can spark awareness and inspire change. Being selected for the final round has been an inspiring milestone that motivates me to keep exploring the intersection of technology, sustainability, and design.





Khushi Hinge

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

Good governance sees the city not as a machine to be maintained, but as a garden to be tended.

Khushi Hinge completed her B.A. in Government and Administration from MIT World Peace University, Pune, securing third rank, and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Political Science at Savitribai Phule Pune University. She has gained research and policy analysis experience through her internship at YASHADA, Pune, and academic projects, presenting papers and publishing article. Actively engaged in university initiatives, she served as a Student Placement Representative and aspires to build a career in public policy, international relations, research, and governance. Her interests include badminton, trekking, and photography.



My heartfelt thanks to Prajatantra for creating a space where ideas could grow into possibilities and young voices could be heard. The experience was far more than an event; it was a journey that transformed my understanding of participatory citizenship from a distant concept into an active responsibility. The forum provided a vibrant space where ideas met policy and creativity was tested against the practical demands of governance. Among the various events, my participation in the Digital Poster Making Competition became a turning point in how I perceived innovation, policy, and collective responsibility.

My poster on “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities” explored how technology can support inclusive and efficient urban development. At its core was the idea of the City VISA, a unified AI-driven system designed to optimize city resources such as water, land, energy, and migration. The vision emphasized adaptive governance that evolves with citizens’ needs.

A key feature of this model was AI-based Smart Waste Management, where hyperspectral imaging and machine learning identify and segregate recyclable materials directly at collection points, reducing landfill dependency. Policy-Level Scaling in Education would allow AI to analyse attendance and performance data to address dropouts and skill gaps. Similarly, Local Air Quality Monitoring would integrate pollution data into navigation apps, promoting cleaner travel choices.

Prajatantra taught me that innovation must balance vision with viability. It is not enough to imagine smarter systems; they must ensure fairness, adaptability, and collective ownership. The experience reinforced that democracy thrives when citizens choose to participate, question, and contribute to building better communities.





Komal M. Chaudhari

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

Good governance is not about grand gestures, but about the quiet consistency of fairness, transparency, and empathy in every decision.

Komal is a third-year undergraduate in Political Science at MIT-WPU, Pune, with a keen interest in governance, public policy, and development studies. She has conducted fieldwork on the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra, assessing policy implementation and outcomes through school visits and interviews. She has also researched migrant experiences in Pune to understand grassroots governance. Formerly the Creative Head of the Young Democrats Club and Co-Curricular Activities Head in school, she has demonstrated strong leadership and management skills. Her hobbies include drawing, painting, and exploring political issues through art and writing.



Participating in Prajatantra 2025 under the theme “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities” was an insightful and transformative experience. It was not just about creating a poster but about envisioning a meaningful role for technology in solving real-world challenges. The platform allowed me to explore how innovation can support sustainability, while the process of designing the poster encouraged critical thinking about how AI can address urban issues such as resource mismanagement and environmental degradation through transparent, citizen-oriented governance.

One key realization was that while policies for sustainability exist, their implementation often lacks precision and accountability. AI can transform this gap by turning data into action. For instance, AI-based monitoring can track air quality and water usage in real time, enabling authorities to respond quickly to pollution or leakages. Similarly, smart waste segregation, route optimization, and recycling analytics can reduce inefficiency and landfill waste. These are practical steps toward creating cities that are both intelligent and inclusive.

Another significant learning was the link between technology and civic engagement. A sustainable city cannot rely solely on algorithms; it needs informed and active citizens. My research on welfare schemes like the Mid-Day Meal Program showed how community involvement and timely data sharing improved outcomes. Likewise, AI-led governance succeeds only when citizens trust and participate in it.

Overall, Prajatantra 2025 was more than a competition; it was a space for reflection and imagination. It reinforced my belief that technology guided by empathy and civic responsibility can build cities that are efficient, transparent, and humane.





Kumar Vaibhav

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

In the rhythm of data and the reason of machines, our cities will rise not from concrete and steel, but through intelligence guided by human wisdom

Kumar Vaibhav is a masters student of Public Policy and Governance at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad. Passionate about climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable urban governance, he strives to integrate AI, design and data-driven policy innovation for inclusive and nature-positive solutions. He has represented his college in carrom and cricket reflecting his team-oriented spirit and holds a keen interest in visual communication and design, which he continues to develop as a skill for impactful storytelling. Kumar has also actively volunteered in biodiversity documentation initiatives, including the Peacock Census organised by the Government of Telangana and the Damsel and Dragonfly Survey conducted by WWF Hyderabad.



Taking part in the Prajatantra Competition was a transformative experience. It provided me with a platform to present my creative ideas and understand how Artificial Intelligence can contribute to sustainable urban governance. The competition encouraged young minds like mine to reimagine how technology, when combined with citizen participation, can redefine the way our cities function.

My digital poster titled “AI for Namma Bengaluru: Smart Data, Sustainable Future” focused on Bengaluru, a vibrant city facing challenges such as traffic congestion, poor drainage, unsegregated waste, and recurring water crises. Through my poster, I illustrated how AI can enable data-driven decision-making by mapping and monitoring urban systems in real time. It showcased solutions like AI-powered smart traffic lights to manage congestion, AI sensors for waste segregation, satellite-based monitoring to prevent flooding and garbage accumulation, and AI chatbots to help citizens raise complaints efficiently.

During this journey, I realized that Indian cities often do not lack policies but struggle with weak implementation and coordination. Despite existing initiatives, poor inter-departmental communication and limited data integration hinder effective execution. In this context, AI can act as a bridge, bringing transparency, accountability, and efficiency into local governance by converting citizen data into actionable insights.

Prajatantra helped me see that governance is not just about administration but about understanding people and responding proactively through data. The field activities and collaborative sessions offered practical exposure, deepening my appreciation for evidence-based policy and participatory governance.

For me, Prajatantra was more than a competition; it was a journey that revealed how technology can strengthen democracy and make cities more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable.





Mahadasyam Vaahini

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

While education is the soul of AI; its heart serves humanity, building an innovative world, anchored in altruism.

Mahadasyam Vaarshika Vahini Naidu, a second-year B.A. LL.B student at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar College of Law, Andhra University, is known for her curiosity and reflective approach to learning. She delves deeply into legal and social concepts, seeking genuine understanding over surface knowledge. Driven by a strong desire to serve people through law, she combines intellect with creativity, winning several art and speech competitions. Balancing academics, part-time work, and personal growth, she manages her time with discipline and purpose. A finalist in the Digital Poster Making Competition by Prajatantra, Vaarshika continues to explore how creativity and law can together inspire social change.



Prajantra is more than a competition—it is a journey blending research, creativity, and social responsibility. This year, focusing on urban governance, democracy, and sustainable development, we explored real-world challenges, conducted surveys, and developed innovative solutions to enhance city life and citizen participation.

Joining Prajantra became a turning point. Working with peers, I experienced the true meaning of “unity is strength.” Beyond competing, it offered personal growth, national exposure, and social connections, uniting young minds to build smarter, sustainable cities.

I participated in the Digital Poster Making Competition on “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities.” Our poster, “AI: Pulse of Vizag,” depicts AI as the city’s living heartbeat—managing traffic, conserving energy, handling waste, and ensuring justice and inclusion. Our app, “Two Wrist AI,” symbolizes compassion through technology, assisting travelers, elders, and citizens, turning data into humane decisions. The tagline, “Sense the flow, make the cities grow – as the nerve we know,” reflects how intelligence and empathy merge in urban progress.

Through this project, I examined Visakhapatnam’s challenges: rising population, traffic congestion, infrastructure strain, and coastal vulnerability. Yet, the city progresses—selected as a finalist in the Bloomberg Mayor’s Challenge 2025 for its V-PULL project and advancing AI, STEM, and robotics education in 50 schools. Initiatives for women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship highlight its inclusive, future-ready vision.

Prajantra taught resilience, patience, and purpose. Every setback became a lesson, every effort a step toward growth.

“Great journeys don’t just lead to success—they lead to self-discovery.”





Neha Agrawal

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

“True urban governance goes beyond management, it empowers citizens, turns data into dialogue, and builds cities rooted in transparency, inclusion, and trust.”

Neha Agrawal is an architect and postgraduate student in Urban Planning at CEPT University, Ahmedabad. A graduate of Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai, her work explores the intersection of policy, design, and governance, focusing on data informed and climate-responsive urban systems. With experience in architectural practice and urban policy research, she aims to strengthen participatory and evidence-based planning processes. Passionate about visual storytelling, art, and civic communication, she believes thoughtful planning and technology can create inclusive, adaptive, and people centric cities. Her travels and engagement with art continually inspire her understanding of culture, place, and urban life.



“Cities are not just about concrete and steel. They are about people, their aspirations, and the spaces that give meaning to their lives.” – Charles Correa

Prajatantra 2025 was a transformative learning experience that deepened my understanding of how participatory governance and technological innovation can shape inclusive and resilient cities. The platform encouraged us to reimagine governance through creativity, dialogue, and collaboration, inspiring us to see cities not as physical structures but as living systems powered by people and ideas.

Participating in the Digital Poster Making Competition was an enriching part of this journey. My poster, “Building a Sustainable Rajkot: Sustainability, Prosperity, Participation,” focused on Rajkot, Gujarat, a city of growth and resilience facing challenges of flooding, waste accumulation, mobility, and heat stress. Through this work, I explored how Artificial Intelligence can bridge governance, technology, and citizen participation, turning data into decisions and decisions into action.

The poster showed how AI could become an ally for city administrations. Predictive flood management could prevent overflow, AI-based waste collection could improve route efficiency, smart mobility could enhance accessibility, and integrated climate-health data could identify vulnerable areas. Together, these systems could help Rajkot act proactively and create a city where intelligence supports people.

Through Prajatantra, I learned that technology alone cannot make a city sustainable; citizens can. Going forward, I aim to engage in civic data and awareness initiatives that translate policy into accessible tools, fostering collaboration where governance, technology, and people together shape humane, equitable, and democratic cities.





Rajveer Vishwakarma

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

*In a city of millions, let AI be the brush that
paints the unseen stories of Bombay's
heart blending — tradition with tomorrow.*

Rajveer is a highly creative individual pursuing a Bachelor's in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at Elphinstone College, Mumbai, exploring the intersection of technology and creativity. He has won multiple awards, including Student of the Year (2019–2023), 1st prize in an Aple Mahanagar drawing competition, and 2nd prize in a Panvel Mahanagar Palika poster contest. Recognized for artistic talent with an 'A' grade in Elementary Drawing, he also earned the Best Athlete Award and served as Head Boy. Proficient in AutoCAD and Financial Accounting, Rajveer actively engages in workshops, competitions, and academic events to enhance his AI expertise.



Getting selected for the Grand Finale of Prajatantra 2025 for Digital Poster Design and Reel Making still feels unreal. What began as a creative idea became a learning journey on how technology, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), can build a more sustainable Mumbai.

My poster, “Defining Today Through Artificial Intelligence — Data-driven Decisions for Mumbai’s Sustainable Future,” shows how AI can address traffic, monsoon flooding, air pollution, and waste management. Each part reflects not just a problem, but a hope — a way AI can make city life smoother, greener, and more efficient.

One of my favourite elements is the handshake between human and robot, symbolizing partnership. My reel extends this idea, showing how human empathy combined with AI intelligence can create meaningful change.

This project taught me that creativity gains power when connected to purpose. Prajatantra sessions on governance, AI, and city management revealed how innovation can enhance transparency, accountability, and community well-being. Youth don’t have to wait for change — we can imagine and build it.

AI can predict floods, improve waste systems, and make cities safer — but it needs thoughtful humans to guide it responsibly.

As I enter the Grand Finale, I am grateful to Prajatantra, my mentors, and teammates. This journey has boosted my confidence and shown that even one idea can light the path toward a better tomorrow.





Tripti Kashyap

**Grand Finalist for
Digital Poster Making**

The future of cities depends on governance that integrates innovation and technology with policies to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Tripti Kashyap is a third-year B.Sc. Computer Science and Statistics student at National Post Graduate College. She has completed the Community Journalist UPSDM programme and a certificate course in Multimedia and Animation, strengthening her creative and technical expertise. With a keen interest in visual storytelling, she aspires to build a career as a VFX artist. She holds the rank of Corporal in NCC. Also, she has produced short films and engaged in poster design, reel-making, and documentary fests. Tripti also contributes as Social Media Coordinator of the Alumni Cell and works as an online content creator and freelance video editor.



Being part of Prajatantra 2025 was an amazing and eye-opening experience. It helped me understand how our cities are managed and how crucial it is for ordinary citizens like us to participate in making them more sustainable, inclusive, and livable. I took part in the Digital Poster and Reel Making contests on the theme “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities,” which gave me a perfect opportunity to explore how AI can transform urban life, making everything smarter, safer, and more efficient.

In my reel, I focused on two main ideas—keeping the River Gomti clean and protecting heritage monuments. I imagined AI as a vigilant watchguard that constantly monitors pollution levels, detects irregularities, and suggests immediate solutions to restore the river’s health. For monuments, I envisioned AI scanning surfaces to identify cracks or structural damage early, allowing experts to carry out timely repairs. Combining technology with tradition felt like a powerful way to preserve our culture while embracing innovation.

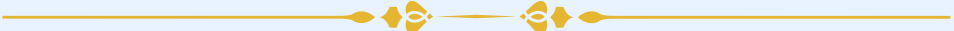
My digital poster presented an idea for an AI-powered app designed to help citizens save energy and take part in city governance. The app would display real-time energy consumption for each appliance, send alerts during peak hours, and include a Citizen Dashboard showing individual and community-level savings through the Lucknow Smart Urja system. It would also feature Community Rewards for wards that save the most energy, solar power sharing across neighborhoods, and Predictive Maintenance to identify transformer or feeder faults before blackouts occur.

Through these projects, I learned how AI can enhance governance and improve city services. After Prajatantra, I am inspired to develop a prototype of my app, present it to the Municipal Corporation, and continue exploring AI-based solutions for cleaning the River Gomti and safeguarding our heritage. I truly believe that when technology meets active citizenship, we can make Lucknow India’s first AI-powered smart city.



REEL MAKING

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



Social media platforms have become powerful tools for civic expression and youth engagement. The Reel-Making Competition invited participants to create short and impactful videos (reels) on themes related to governance and civic issues, incorporating elements of artificial intelligence.

Participants were encouraged to use creativity and storytelling to hone their digital skills and craft content that could inspire, educate, and mobilise citizens—especially the youth—towards active civic participation. The competition aligned with the spirit of Prajatantra, empowering young voices to actively contribute to the democratic process.



The creativity, enthusiasm, and thoughtfulness displayed by the participants were truly impressive. Each reel reflected a unique perspective and a strong sense of social awareness — a testament to Praja Foundation's efforts in nurturing young voices and promoting meaningful expression. I wholeheartedly appreciate the initiative taken by Praja Foundation in creating such impactful and creative platforms. My best wishes to the entire team for continuing their commendable work in inspiring youth participation, civic engagement, and creative dialogue.



Sarvesh Deshpande

Head And Podcaster, 'The Postman' Youtube channel



Akanksha Kamble

**Grand Finalist for
Reel Making**

Good governance is built when the law protects, the government enables, and the citizen participates—because progress is never the duty of one, but the responsibility of all.

Akanksha is a third-year B.A. Political Science student at Abasaheb Garware College, Pune, with a strong interest in governance and public policy. She actively engages in practical learning beyond academics, including managing a photography page that later helped her create impactful reels in Prajatantra.

Through a constituency-based field survey, she realised the importance of solving ground-level issues rather than focusing only on visible urban development. This experience deepened her interest in research, communication and governance. She believes effective governance emerges when law, technology and citizen participation work together. Aspiring to pursue law or civil services, Akanksha aims to build a transparent, citizen-centric system rooted in real societal needs.



Sustainable cities are often imagined as modern skylines, advanced infrastructure, and clean surroundings. During Prajatantra 2025, I learned that true sustainability begins not with big projects, but with ground-level realities many people overlook. While working on my reel based on the theme “AI for Sustainable Cities,” I witnessed hidden challenges faced by municipal workers and ordinary citizens, especially in waste management.

The reel told the story of a girl who wanted to dispose of waste properly but could not find a dustbin. As she walked through the streets, she noticed overflowing garbage, poor drainage, and the struggle of workers who had to deal with mixed waste because many people do not separate wet and dry trash. During filming, I experienced strong smell, dirt on roads, and difficulty of workers’ job. Sustainable cities cannot exist without dignity for those who keep them clean.

This made me think: how can technology help? AI can map ideal dustbin locations, create smart reminders for citizens to segregate waste, and design efficient routes for garbage collection. It can also support workers by reducing burden and improving safety. In this way, AI becomes more than a tool—it becomes a partner in governance.

However, technology alone is not enough. For AI-based solutions to work, there must be coordination between citizens and government. Citizens must participate responsibly, and policies must be inclusive and practical. Prajatantra taught me that leadership is not about giving instructions—it is about understanding problems at roots and finding solutions that respect people and progress. My reel reflected my belief that small ground-level changes, supported by tools like AI, can transform cities into sustainable spaces.





Bhoomi Jain

**Grand Finalist for
Reel Making**

*Awareness begins with curiosity, and
change begins with participation.*

Bhoomi Jain is a recent graduate in History, Political Science, and Economics from SS Jain PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur. She aspires to pursue higher studies in Political Science and International Relations and build a career in public service. She has participated in debate competitions and mock youth parliaments, including the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, where she qualified at the district level. A district-level handball player, she values teamwork and discipline and continues to learn through new experiences and opportunities.



Participating in Prajatantra National Youth Festival, 2025 has been a memorable experience. I had taken part in the quiz competition last year and reached the semifinals, which encouraged me to return this year with better preparation and curiosity. Being part of the grand finale of a national-level competition for the first time was exciting and motivating, bringing opportunities to learn and grow.

The Quiz Competition was both thrilling and educational. It helped me explore governance, public policies, and current affairs more deeply. Each round required focus, teamwork, and presence of mind, making the process challenging but rewarding. The knowledge sessions were informative and explained concepts about Artificial Intelligence and its role in governance. They encouraged me to think about how technology can enhance city functioning and transparency.

For the Reel Making Competition, I created a short video on how AI can transform waste management, recycling, and sanitation systems, turning challenges into opportunities for cleaner, smarter living. My idea highlighted how technology and citizen participation together can make cities sustainable. Working on the reel taught me that communication is a powerful tool to spread awareness and inspire action.

Through Prajatantra 2025, I gained a better understanding of urban governance and the shared responsibilities of administrators and citizens. I learned that good governance depends on cooperation, awareness, and participation. The event also allowed me to interact with participants nationwide and appreciate the variety of ideas young people bring to civic discussions.

After Prajatantra, I plan to stay engaged with local governance and community initiatives. Small, sincere steps can create a meaningful difference in building stronger, informed communities.





Kishor Dolas

**Grand Finalist for
Reel Making**

*smart city is one where the administration
and citizens come together to pave the
path of progress.*

Kishor Dolas is currently pursuing SY B.Com (CA) at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Mahavidyalaya, Aundh, Pune. He came to Pune in 2013 from his village to continue his education, supported by his hardworking parents. Alongside his studies, Kishor has built his identity as an artist and dancer, beginning his journey in 2014 and now working as a dance teacher and choreographer. He was among the Top 30 contestants in the DMD Dance Reality Show and has contributed to the Rhythmica Dance Show, Marathi album songs, and a movie as an assistant choreographer. He is also passionate about acting and directing, having acted in several short films and directed one, while actively sharing his creative work on social media.



My experience with Praja has been truly inspiring. The entire Praja team was very cooperative and supportive throughout the program. They maintained good communication with all participants, helping us whenever we needed — no matter how small the issue was. Even during online meetings, they guided us patiently and clearly. They also stayed connected personally, which made the experience even better. I genuinely feel that Praja is a dedicated and hardworking team that works with real commitment.

Another important thing I realized because of Praja is how much we can learn from everyday life. Many things we use or see daily might seem ordinary, but Praja helped me understand their deeper value and importance. It gave me confidence to think differently, to try new ideas, and most importantly — not just to think, but to act.

Praja has been a great learning opportunity for me. Among the many things I learned, what I liked the most was the emphasis on time management. I realized that to do any task effectively, a person must have clarity — and I understood this clearly through Praja's guidance. I also learned how to bring ideas into reality, how to express thoughts properly, and how to present them confidently.

Overall, Praja has changed my perspective towards society. It taught me when to speak, when to listen, and how to focus on the issues around us. I now understand that if we want change, we must first understand what's happening in our community. Bringing change is our right, and expressing our thoughts responsibly is our strength.

Thanks to Praja, I now feel more aware, confident, and motivated to contribute positively to my city and society. What once felt difficult now seems achievable — and for that, I am truly grateful to Praja.





Piyush Mittal

**Grand Finalist for
Reel Making**

*Real change doesn't flow from the top — it
breathes from the ground, from its roots:
local governance.*

Piyush Mittal is a third-year Bachelor of Commerce student at DAV College, Chandigarh. He has been an active participant in various college clubs and has played a key role in organizing major college fests. A keen debater, Piyush has participated in numerous competitions and gained extensive experience in Model United Nations, attending over 20+ conferences. He is the founder of Social Sizzler, a professional community of 1,600+ members that organizes events across Chandigarh in collaboration with schools and colleges, including the upcoming PSS MUN in November 2025. He has also served as a Campus Ambassador with Innovation Mission Punjab, promoting entrepreneurship and startup culture.



Participating in Prajatantra Youth Fest 2025 turned out to be a much more eye-opening experience than I had expected. When I first got to know the first two rounds would be held online, I wasn't sure how transparency or fairness would be maintained. I thought it might be another formality. But once it began, I was proven wrong. The Praja Foundation team ran everything so smoothly I couldn't help but admire the effort. The whole experience—from the level of competition to exposure we got—was different altogether. Through Prajatantra's idea of creating imaginary political parties and simulating municipal functioning, I didn't just read about local governance; I felt how it works on the ground.

I took part in the Reel Competition, which caught my interest because it connected governance with the way young people communicate—through short videos and storytelling. My reel focused on the journey of Chandigarh—from small villages near the Shivalik foothills to becoming India's first planned city designed by Le Corbusier. I tried to show how Chandigarh, which came into existence after the loss of Lahore in 1947, became a symbol of modern India, but behind this image, there's another side where people face struggles that go unnoticed.

I talked about problems like Dadumajra landfills, potholes, and how rain can bring the city down. I suggested practical ideas like AI-based waste segregation, absorbent road materials, and an app linked with the RTI Act to track complaints. The idea was simple: use technology to make governance cleaner, faster, and more transparent.

Prajatantra taught me governance isn't only about laws or officials—it's about us. Real change starts when citizens act.





Rajveer Vishwakarma

**Grand Finalist for
Reel Making**

*In a city of millions, let AI be the brush that
paints the unseen stories of Bombay's
heart blending — tradition with tomorrow.*

Rajveer is a highly creative individual pursuing a Bachelor's in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at Elphinstone College, Mumbai, exploring the intersection of technology and creativity. He has won multiple awards, including Student of the Year (2019–2023), 1st prize in an Aple Mahanagar drawing competition, and 2nd prize in a Panvel Mahanagar Palika poster contest. Recognized for artistic talent with an 'A' grade in Elementary Drawing, he also earned the Best Athlete Award and served as Head Boy. Proficient in AutoCAD and Financial Accounting, Rajveer actively engages in workshops, competitions, and academic events to enhance his AI expertise.



Getting selected for the Grand Finale of Prajatantra 2025 for Digital Poster Design and Reel Making still feels unreal. What began as a creative idea slowly turned into a deep learning journey about how technology, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), can help build a better and more sustainable Mumbai.

My poster, titled “Defining Today Through Artificial Intelligence — Data-driven Decisions for Mumbai’s Sustainable Future,” reflects how AI can solve the everyday challenges Mumbaikars face — from traffic congestion and flooding during monsoons to air pollution and waste management. I wanted each part of the design to show not just a problem, but a hope — a way AI could make city life smoother, greener, and more efficient.

One of my favourite elements in the poster is the handshake between a human and a robot. For me, it symbolizes partnership — a reminder that technology should work with people, not replace them. My reel extended this idea, showing how combining human empathy with AI’s intelligence can create lasting, meaningful change.

Working on this project taught me that creativity has real power when it’s connected to purpose. The Prajatantra sessions on governance, AI, and city management opened my eyes to how innovation can support transparency, accountability, and community well-being. I realized that we, the youth, don’t have to wait for change — we can be the ones to imagine and build it. This journey also made me more aware of how important it is to balance technology with empathy. AI can help predict floods, improve waste systems, and make our cities safer — but it needs thoughtful humans to guide it responsibly.

As I step into the Grand Finale, I feel grateful — to Prajatantra for giving young minds like mine this platform, and to my mentors and teammates for their constant support. This experience has not only boosted my confidence but also made me believe that every creative idea, no matter how small, can contribute to a larger vision of progress.

For me, Prajatantra has been more than a competition — it’s been a journey of learning, self-discovery, and hope. A reminder that when innovation meets intention, even one idea can light up the path toward a better tomorrow.





Rishita Yadav

**Grand Finalist for
Reel Making**

Effective urban governance is the art of connecting technology and empathy, ensuring that the city's growth is not just smart, but also sustainable and equitable for every citizen.

Rishita is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc.) in Cyber Security, with a clear intent to specialize her career in Digital Forensics. This path aligns with her fervent interest in digital problem-solving, as she aspires to leverage advanced technical skills to investigate cybercrime and enhance digital security infrastructure. She proactively engages in extra-curricular reading and explores new technologies, continually expanding her knowledge base to remain at the forefront of this rapidly evolving field. Her ultimate goal is to contribute her expertise in cyber resilience to both public and private sector organizations.



My experience at Prajatantra was a profound initiation into the mechanics and potential of democratic participation at the local level. It transformed my theoretical understanding of citizenship into a tangible, action-oriented commitment. While the entire forum offered invaluable exposure to diverse policy discussions, my specific event—a presentation centered on integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions into municipal governance—was the pivotal experience that cemented my view on urban innovation.

My Reel presentation, titled *From Chaos to Code: AI as the Backbone of Smart and Sustainable Cities*, was inspired by daily urban challenges such as chaotic traffic, inefficient waste management, and infrastructure decay. I proposed three core ideas. First, to combat traffic congestion, I argued for AI-powered Smart Signals that adjust timing based on real-time flow, prioritizing emergency vehicles. Second, addressing poor waste management, I proposed Smart Waste Bins with sensors to monitor fill levels and optimize collection routes. Finally, for infrastructure, I presented a model using smart sensors and predictive analytics for early detection of road damage, shifting from reactive maintenance to proactive preservation. The central idea was that AI is a tool for creating inclusive and sustainable public services.

The key learning was the difference between a technical and a governance solution. Technology is ready, but challenges lie in policy implementation, partnerships, and ethical data use. Prajatantra taught me that governance requires collaboration among policymakers, technologists, and citizens.

Moving forward, I plan to initiate Digital Literacy and Cyber Hygiene workshops and engage with the local municipal office through small, scalable pilot projects for waste or parking management.





Tripti Kashyap

**Grand Finalist for
Reel Making**

The future of cities depends on governance that integrates innovation and technology with policies to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Tripti Kashyap is a third-year B.Sc. Computer Science and Statistics student at National Post Graduate College. She has completed the Community Journalist UPSDM programme and a certificate course in Multimedia and Animation, strengthening her creative and technical expertise. With a keen interest in visual storytelling, she aspires to build a career as a VFX artist. She holds the rank of Corporal in NCC. Also, she has produced short films and engaged in poster design, reel-making, and documentary fests. Tripti also contributes as Social Media Coordinator of the Alumni Cell and works as an online content creator and freelance video editor.



Being part of Prajatantra 2025 was an amazing and eye-opening experience. It helped me understand how our cities are managed and how crucial it is for ordinary citizens like us to participate in making them more sustainable, inclusive, and livable. I took part in the Digital Poster and Reel Making contests on the theme “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Cities,” which gave me a perfect opportunity to explore how AI can transform urban life, making everything smarter, safer, and more efficient.

In my reel, I focused on two main ideas—keeping the River Gomti clean and protecting heritage monuments. I imagined AI as a vigilant watchguard that constantly monitors pollution levels, detects irregularities, and suggests immediate solutions to restore the river’s health. For monuments, I envisioned AI scanning surfaces to identify cracks or structural damage early, allowing experts to carry out timely repairs. Combining technology with tradition felt like a powerful way to preserve our culture while embracing innovation.

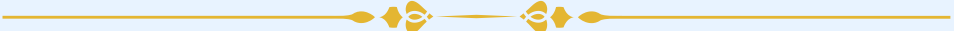
My digital poster presented an idea for an AI-powered app designed to help citizens save energy and take part in city governance. The app would display real-time energy consumption for each appliance, send alerts during peak hours, and include a Citizen Dashboard showing individual and community-level savings through the Lucknow Smart Urja system. It would also feature Community Rewards for wards that save the most energy, solar power sharing across neighborhoods, and Predictive Maintenance to identify transformer or feeder faults before blackouts occur.

Through these projects, I learned how AI can enhance governance and improve city services. After Prajatantra, I am inspired to develop a prototype of my app, present it to the Municipal Corporation, and continue exploring AI-based solutions for cleaning the River Gomti and safeguarding our heritage. I truly believe that when technology meets active citizenship, we can make Lucknow India’s first AI-powered smart city.



FIELD ENGAGEMENT

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Field Engagement was a two-week-long activity for the Grand Finalists of Prajatantra 2025. Reflecting on their learnings from the Knowledge Sessions and Competitive Events, participants engaged in activities designed to help them gain a deeper understanding of the urban governance structure within their cities.

The first activity involved a literature review of one urban policy from their respective cities, analysing its linkages with the urban economy. Following this, participants met with at least five elected representatives or administrative officers from their cities to understand their work and gather insights on urban governance. Lastly, participants conducted field research, interacting with various community members to assess public opinion on service delivery in their cities. The accumulated insights and experiences were presented during the Grand Finale.



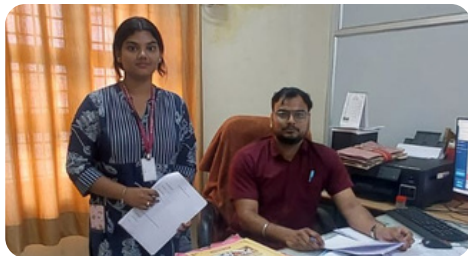
Unlike other Municipal Governments that have long-established systems, AMC is still evolving, yet carries the same weight of responsibility and expectations that come with governing a city. The Municipal Government carries a significant responsibility. As a city, AMC must manage itself effectively, though this is often a challenging task. It is essential for corporators to have capable leaders who value good governance and genuine progress. Nurturing young minds through proper training is vital, and the initiative by Prajatantra is truly praiseworthy. With the collective hopes of Aizawl's residents and corporators, AMC's vision for the city will surely be realized.



Ramthanzauvi

Corporator, XIV, Aizawl Municipal Corporation

GLIMPSES FROM FIELD ENGAGEMENT



Jaipur, Rajasthan



Gujrat



Gurugram, Haryana



Aizawl, Mizoram



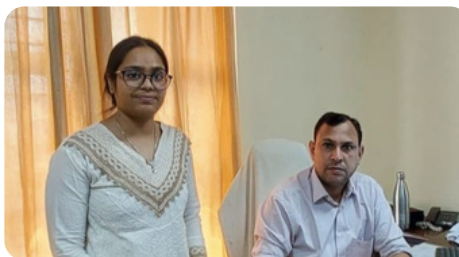
Panaji, Goa



Shimla, Himachal Pradesh



Morbi, Gujarat



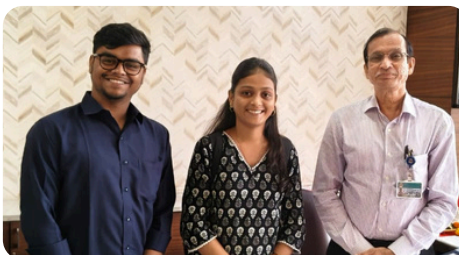
Jaipur, Rajasthan



Pune, Maharashtra



Kalyan, Maharashtra



Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra



Bengaluru, Karnataka



GLIMPSES FROM FIELD ENGAGEMENT



Aizawl, Mizoram



Aizawl, Mizoram



Dibrugarh, Assam



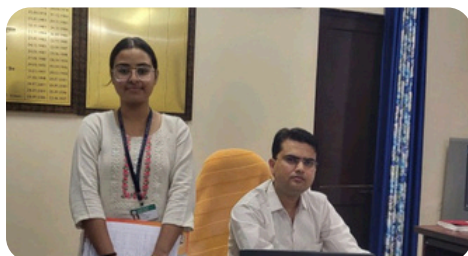
Delhi



Lucknow Uttar Pradesh



Bhubaneswar, Odisha



Tonk, Rajasthan



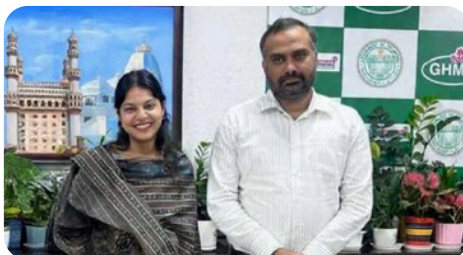
Delhi



Ahmedabad, Gujrat



Mumbai, Maharashtra



Hyderabad, Telangana



Tamil Nadu



PRAJATANTRA TEAM

• Prajatantra Steering Committee:

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

Parul Agarwala, Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat India;

Nitai Mehta, Founder and Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation;

Milind Mhaske, CEO, Praja Foundation.

• Prajatantra Coordination Committee:

Dr Gayatri Doctor, Programme Chair and Senior Associate Professor, Faculty of Management, CEPT University, Ahmedabad;

Dr Amit Singh, Associate Professor, Special Centre for National Security Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi;

Dr Geeta Kubsad, Associate Professor, Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai;

Arvind Pandey, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Tirupati;

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Priyanka Sharma, Director Programmes, Praja Foundation;

Kunaljit Bhatta, Manager, Praja Foundation;

Pratik Jagtap, Program Officer, Praja Foundation.



PRAJATANTRA KNOWLEDGE SESSION

Prajatantra 2025 brought together a dynamic series of knowledge sessions aimed at fostering meaningful engagement with ideas of governance and sustainable urban futures. Designed to bridge theory and real-world practice, these sessions empowered young minds with the insights and tools needed to reimagine cities through innovation, collaboration, and informed leadership. Combining conceptual clarity with hands-on experience, the sessions enabled participants to gain valuable insights and practical skills to design people-centric, AI-driven solutions for the cities of the future.

I would like to thank and congratulate Praja Foundation for coming up with such remarkable initiatives that nurture and strengthen the future torchbearers of democracy. It was wonderful to interact with young participants from across the nation and to witness their enthusiasm, involvement, and commitment towards their society and the nation at large. Apart from imparting knowledge on finance, structure, laws, and procedures, the initiative also instilled confidence that the future of our democracy is in safe hands. I was truly inspired by the innovative ideas and out-of-the-box solutions presented by the participants — it is heartening to see such bright minds being nurtured. Praja Foundation is doing commendable work towards nation-building.

P. D. Hariprasad

Former Dy. Controller of Accounts,
Municipal Corporation of Delhi.



KNOWLEDGE SESSIONS

As part of Prajatantra 2025, a five-day learning series was conducted by VJAL Institute - the Knowledge Partner, focusing on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in building sustainable cities. The sessions spanned 5 core themes:

1. Understanding GenAI

This session introduced participants to the foundations of Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI, mainly how machines learn, create, and support human innovation.

2. Prompt Masterclass

Focusing on the art of communicating with AI tools, this session helped participants master the skill of designing precise and creative prompts through live examples and interactive exercises.

3. Design and Creativity with AI

This session unlocked the creative potential of generative tools such as ChatGPT, Adobe Firefly, Suno AI, and NotebookLM to assist in content creation, music generation, and visual storytelling.

4. Bots in Action

Participants explored how AI-driven bots are simplifying real-world tasks across sectors to boost efficiency, reduce errors, and create smarter systems that respond dynamically to human needs.

5. AI in Education and Data Analysis

This session focused on AI's transformative role in learning and data-driven decision-making to support personalized education, research, and policy development.

Knowledge Session on Legislative Structure of City Government and Municipal Finance:

The second knowledge session was led by Mr. P.D. Hari Prasad, former Deputy Controller of Accounts, East Delhi Municipal Corporation. The session provided participants with an understanding of the functioning of city governments. It also unpacked key elements of municipal finance, including city budgeting, revenue generation, and accountability mechanisms in urban governance.



PRAJATANTRA TEAM

Abhigya Ambastha	Diksha Maruti Kadam	Neha Kori	Sharvi Ambekar
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Adithya Kamesh	Eknath Pawar	Nilesh Kadam	Shreya Satapathy
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Aviral Dubey	Kartikeya	Ruttu Gamare	Yashi Yuvraj
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Jharna Das	Sweta Shivam



LIST OF PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

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- Andaman Law College

Andhra Pradesh

- P.G. Department Of Legal Studies And Research, Acharya Nagarjuna University
- Andhra Loyola College
- Azam Khan Government Commerce College
- Dr.B.R.Ambedkar College Of Law, Andhra University
- Giet School Of Pharmacy, Dept. Of Pharmacy
- Iit Tirupati, Hss (Humanities And Social Science)
- R.V.R & J.C College Of Engineering
- The Apollo University-Cse
- Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute Of Technology
- - Computer Science And Engineering
- Vignan Institute Of Pharmaceutical Technology & B. Pharmacy
- VVITU - Vasireddy Venkatadri International Technological University And Branch - Inf

Arunachal Pradesh

- Wangcha Rajkumar Govt College
- Indira Gandhi Govt College

Assam

- Women'S College, Tinsukia, Assam
- Assam Don Bosco University, Dept Of Social Work
- Bosco Institute, Department Of Social Work
- Centre For Management Studies Dibrugarh University
- Centre For Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University
- DHSK College
- Dibrugarh University, Departments- Centre For
- Juridical Studies (Du)
- Dibrugarh Hanumanbox Surajmal Kanoi Law College
- Dibrugarh University Centre Of Management Studies
- Diet Jorhat, Titabar
- Dr. Rkb Law College
- Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Vishwavidyalaya , Department Of Social Work
- Master Of Social Work, Assam Don Bosco University
- Nagaon University, Political Science

- Nerim Group Of Institutions
- Tezpur University, Department Of Social Work

Bihar

- Amity University
- Department Of Education, Dariyapur
- Dr.C.V. Raman University
- Government Degree College
- Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic And Persian University/ Patna University - Journalism And Mass Communication
- Patna Medical College
- Shyama Prasad Mahila Collage Jamui
- St. Xavier'S College Of Management & Technology, Patna

Chandigarh

- Dav College & Political Science

Chhattisgarh

- Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute Of Information Technology, Naya Raipur; Department-Cse
- Government Digvijay Autonomous Pg College Rajnandgaon
- Govt Digvijay Autonomous Pg College Rajnandgaon Gg
- Govt Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel College Kotri
- Govt. Digvijay Autonomous Pg College Rajnandgaon
- IIIT Naya Raipur
- Maharaja Agrasen International College & Department (Combined)
- S.V.B.P. Govt. College Kotri
- Shahid Durwasha Nishad Govt College Arjunda District -
- Balod Cg, Hemchand Yadav University Durg, Nss Department

Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu

- Sarvajani Vidyalaya Daman

Delhi

- Acharya Narendra Dev College
- Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, University Of Delhi
- Cluster Innovation Centre. Delhi University
- College Of Art Delhi
- Delhi School Of Economics (Du)
- Department Of Management Studies, Rdias, Affiliated To Ggsipu
- Department Of Pol. Sci. Hindu College, University Of Delhi,



- Dyal Singh College Delhi University
- Guru Tegh Bahadur Institute Of Technology (B.Tech)
- Hansraj College, University Of Delhi And Botany Department
- Hansraj College, University Of Delhi, Life Science
- Hindu College, Ramjas College And Hansraj College (University Of Delhi)
- Hindu College, University Of Delhi
- Indian Institute Of Mass Communication, New Delhi
- Indraprastha College For Women | Department Of Economics
- Jamia Millia Islamia / Department Of Foreign Language
- Jamia Millia Islamia, Department Of Architecture And Ekistics
- Maharaja Agrasen College, University Of Delhi
- Pgdav Eve University Of Delhi
- Ramjas College - Delhi University
- University Of Delhi
- University School Of Law And Legal Studies Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
- Vivekananda Institute Of Professional Studies

Goa

- Goa College Of Engineering
- Goa Engineering College - Department Of Information Technology
- Goa University

Gujarat

- B.R.C.M. College Of Business Administration
- Baroda Citizens Council
- Cept University, Faculty Of Management
- Cept University, Faculty Of Planning
- Cept University, Urban Management
- Marwadi University Rajkot, B.A. Department.
- Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar
- Rk University
- Vishwakarma Government Engineering College

Haryana

- Aggarwal College Ballabgarh
- CDLU Sirsa
- DGC Gurgaon
- Dronacharya Government College And Arts Department
- Ducat It Training School
- Girls College Sec 14
- Government Girls College
- Govt. Clg. For Girls Gurugram (Geography Department)

- Gurugram University
- Lingaya'S Vidyapeeth
- Lingayas Vidyapeeth Faridabad
- School Of Pharmacy
- Markanda National College And Dep. Of Political Science
- Mdu Cpas Gurugram
- Op Jindal Global University
- Vaish Arya Shikshan Mahila Mahavidyalay

Himachal Pradesh

- Centre Of Excellence , Government College, Sanjauli
- Himachal Pradesh University (Dept. Of Laws And Political Science)
- Shoolini University
- Sri Sai University

Jammu And Kashmir

- Central University Of Jammu (Department Of Educational Studies, Social Work, Mass Communication And Media, Mathematics)
- Government College For Women Parade Jammu
- Govt. Degree College Akhnoor
- Govt. Mam Pg College Jammu, J&K

Jharkhand

- Cambridge Institute Of Technology & Computer Science Engineering
- Central University Of Jharkhand, Department Of Political Science International Relations
- Chaibasa Engineering College
- Icar-Iari Jharkhand, Gauria Karma, Barhi & Ug 1St Year In Agriculture
- Jamshedpur Women'S University
- Marwari College , Ranchi
- Model College Chatra
- National University Of Study And Research In Law
- Netaji Subhash University And Bba Iib

Karnataka

- Central University Of Karanataka - M.A Economics-Department Of Economic Studies And Planning.
- Central University Of Karnataka / Department Of Economic Studies And Planning
- Fmc And Fet, Ramaiah University Of Applied Sciences
- Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College
- Karnataka State Open University, Mukthagangothri Mysuru



- Kle Technological University
- Shridevi Degree College
- Srinivas University- Icis
- St. Joseph'S University, Bangalore

Kerala

- Bharata Mata College (Autonomous), Thrikkakara
- Central University Of Kerala
- Central University Of Kerala, Department Of International Relations And Politics
- IGNOU
- Kkrm Govt College Pullut
- Calicut University
- Noorul Islam Centre For Higher Education Kumaracoil
- Polytechnic College Punalur
- Xavier Institute Of Management And Entrepreneurship
- Xime Kochi

Ladakh

- Ladakh University Political Science
- University Of Ladakh

Lakshadweep

- Government College Of Education Kadmat Lakshadweep Affiliated To Pondicherry University

Madhya Pradesh

- Aks University Satna
- S.P.Jain Gurukul H.S. School Khurai
- Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya (Department Of Business Management And Department Of Law)
- Gyan Sagar College Of Engineering Sagar
- Gyanodaya Smvm Hr. Sec. School Khurai, Saugor (M.P.)
- Holy Family Convent Sr. Sec School Khurai Dist-Sagar(M.P.)
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- Manit Bhopal Bachelor Of Planning
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- School Of Planning And Architecture Bhopal

Maharashtra

- Elphinstone College, (Data Science And Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence And Machine Learning, Cybersecurity And Digital Forensics)
- Abasaheb Garware College Pune

- Atmasantosh Foundation
- Av College Of Arts , Commerce, And Science.
- B.K Birla College, Kalyan
- Bharti Vidyapeeth Yashwantrao Chavan Law College Karad
- Burhani College
- Centre For Youth Development And Activity
- Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College
- Coep Technological University Pune.
- Planning Department
- College Of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan
- CYDA
- D Y Patil Unitech Society'S Dr D Y Patil Arts, Commerce And Science College
- D.E.S Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College
- Dr. Ambedkar College Of Commerce And Economics
- Dr. D.Y Patil Law College, Pimpri, Pune, Law
- Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar College Aundh Pune
- Elphinstone College (Data Science And Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence And Machine Learning, Cybersecurity And Digital Forensics)
- G H Raisoni College Of Engineering
- G. S. College Of Commerce And Economics, Nagpur
- Government Law College(Glc), Mumbai
- Govindrao Secseria College Of Commerce And Economics Nagpur
- Guru Nanak College Of Arts Science And Commerce
- Ideal Konark College
- IISM, Marol
- Institute Of Management And Entrupreneurship Development (Bharati Vidhyapeeth Deemed To Be University)
- Jitendra Chauhan College Of Law
- Joshi Bedekar College - Political Science Department.
- K J Somaiya Institute Of Management
- K.C. College
- Kbtcoe Nashik (Computer Engg.)
- Kc College, Hsnc University, Department Of Political Science, Mumbai
- Ket'S V.G Vaze College, Political Science Department
- KJ Somaiya College Of Arts And Commerce
- Lady Amritabai Daga (Lad) College
- Lord'S Universal College Of Law, B.A. LL.B
- M Power Library And Study Center
- Khalsa College



- Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj'S Karmaveer Adv. Baburao Ganpatrao Thakare College Of Engineering,Nashik
- Mit Adtu School Of Architecture & Planning
- Mithibai College Of Arts, Political Science Department
- Modern College Of Arts, Science And Commerce, Shivajinagar, Pune. Department Of Biotechnology.
- Muktangan Ngo (Alumni Department)
- Mumbai University, Law Department
- Nari Gursahani Law College
- Nes Ratnam College Of Arts , Science And Commerce
- New Viva College Computer Science
- Nowrosjee Wadia College (Savitribai Phule Pune University)
- Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College Of Commerce And Economics
- Pravin Gandhi College Of Law
- PTVA'S Sathaye College (Autonomous)
- Ramnarain Ruia College
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- Dept.Information Technology (If)
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- Department - Mathematics And Political Science
- Shri Shiv Chhatrapati College Junnar, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune
- Shri.M.D.Shah Mahila College Malad (W)
- Sir Parashurambhau College (Empowered Autonomous) Pune-30
- Smt. Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College
- Smt. CHM College
- Sndt College Of Arts And Scb College Of Commerce And Science For Women, Churchgate
- Somiya School Of Humanities And Social Sciences,Somaiya Vidyavihar University
- Sonopant Dandekar Shikshan Mandal'S Law College
- Sp College, Pune
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- Symbiosis International University- Symbiosis School Of Economics
- Symbiosis School Of Economics
- Tata Institute Of Social Science (Tiss , Mumbai)
- Tata Institute Of Social Science, Mumbai: Msc In Urban Policy And Governance
- Thakur College Science And Commerce
- The Lighthouse Project
- University Department Of Applied Psychology University Of Mumbai
- University Of Mumbai
- University Of Mumbai & Department Of Master Of Social Work
- University: Tata Institute Of Social Sciences. Department: School Of Habitat Studies.
- V.P.Ms K.G.Joshi College Of Arts And N.G.Bedekar College Of Commerce (Autonomous), Thane
- Vivekanand Education Society'S College Of Arts, Science & Commerce
- Vidya Prasarak Mandals Tmc Law College Thane
- Virar Homoeopathic Medical College
- Vishwaniketan'S College Of Architecture, Art And Design (Vcaad)
- Viva School Of Architecture

Manipur

- DM College Of Arts
- National Sports University

Meghalaya

- Department Of Law, University Of Science And Technology Meghalaya
- University Of Science And Technology Meghalaya, Department Of Political Science
- University Of Science And Technology, Department Of English

Mizoram

- Govt. Hrangbana College
- Pachhunga University College/Mizoram University

Nagaland

- Pranab College

Odisha

- Ajay Binay Institute Of Technology
- Biju Patnaik Institute Of Information Technology And Management Studies
- Central Sanskrit University
- Imi Bhubaneshwar,Pgdm



- Kalinga Institute Of Social Sciences Kiss Deemed To Be University
- Mahannga Women'S College Sania Nasrin (English Department)Nosin Sanobar(Home Science)Lopamudra Bhuyan(History Department)Sabina Parween(History Department)Puspita Nayak(Odia Department)
- Odisha University Of Technology And Research
- Odisha University Of Technology And Research, Bhubaneswar (School Of Infrastructure And Planning)
- Urban Management And Governance, Xim University
- Xim University
- Xim University, Mba Urban Management & Governance

Puducherry

- Pondicherry Institute Of Hotel Management And Catering Technology. Bsc. Hospitality And Hotel Administration

Punjab

- Chitkara University
- Dav University/ Engineering & Cbme Dept.
- DHWDHP
- Guru Kashi University
- Lovely Professional University
- Lovely Professional University , School Of Law
- Rajiv Gandhi National Law University
- Rajiv Gandhi National University Of Law

Rajasthan

- Banasthali Vidyapith
- College Of Agriculture , Bhusawar
- (Skn Agriculture University, Jobner)
- College Of Agriculture Bhusawar, Bharatpur
- Icfai University Jaipur
- S.K.N College Of Agriculture. Jobner , Bsc Agriculture
- S.S.Jain Subodh P.G. Mahila Mahavidyalay, Rambagh,Jaipur
- Department: Political Science
- Skn College Of Agriculture Jobner
- SKNAU
- Sri Karan Narendra College Of Agriculture

Sikkim

- Sikkim Government Law College

Tamil Nadu

- Anna University - School Of Architecture And Planning, Department Of Planning.

- Avinashilingam University
- B.Sc Computer Science With Artificial Intelligence At Rathinam College Of Arts And Science
- Holy Cross College
- JOY University
- Kumaraguru College Of Liberal Arts And Science
- Rathinam College Of Arts And Science
- School Of Architecture And Planning, Anna University.
- Sri Sairam Engineering College
- Thiagarajar School Of Educational Design And Architecture
- Women'S Christian College, Chennai - B.Com (General B)

Telangana

- College: Tata Institute Of Social Sciences, Department: School Of Public Policy And Governance & School Of Gender And Livelihoods
- Gitam University - CSE
- Kakatiya Institute Of Technology And Science
- Kakatiya Institute Of Technologyand Science
- Kompass Junior College
- M.A. Public Policy And Governance, Tata Institute Of Social Sciences, Hyderabad
- Mlr Institute Of Technology
- Rajiv Gandhi University Of Knowledge And Technology
- St Francis College For Women
- St. Peter'S Engineering College,
- Tata Institute Of Social Sciences
- Tata Institute Of Social Sciences, Hyderabad - School Of Public Policy And Governance
- Vaagdevi Degree College Bcom

Tripura

- Kalinga Institute Of Social Science (Kiss)
- Tripura Institue Of Technology & Branch - Intra College
- Tripura University
- NIT Agartala

Uttar Pradesh

- Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University , Department Of Life Long Learning And Extension
- Acharya Narendra Dev Nagar Nigam Mahila Mahavidyalaya
- Amity University Noida
- Avviare Educational Hub Noida(It Department)
- Babu Banarasi Das Northern India Institute Of Technology



- Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University, Department
- Of Social Work
- City Academy Law College
- Divya Jyoti College Of Dental Sciences And Research Modinagar
- Dr. Apj Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow-Faculty Of Architecture And Planning – Aktu
- Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra
- Faculty Of Architecture And Planning, Aktu, Lucknow
- Institute Of Management Studies(Ims) Ghaziabad
- Isabella Thoburn College
- Mangalmay Group Of Institute And Technology
- Modern Degree College
- Modern Degree College Ccs University
- Modern Group Of Instituteduhai
- Motilal Nehru National Institute Of Technology Allhabad (Computer Science And Engineering Department)
- Multanimal Modi College
- National Post Graduate College, B.Sc.
- Noida Institute Of Engineering And Technology
- Pro Rajender Singh Rajju Bhiya University
- Riya Kesarwani-United Institute Of Management
- Sharda School Of Law, Sharda University
- Sharda University (Humanities & Social Sciences)
- Shefali Jaiswal - United Institute Of Management -
- Shuats
- United Institute Of Management
- United Institute Of Management (Faculty Of Undergraduate Studies)
- United Institute Of Technology
- United Institute Of Technology From Computer Science Department
- United Institute Of Technology, B.Tech Cse
- Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj UniversityDepartment- Msw
- University Of Lucknow

Uttarakhand

- D.A.V (P.G) College
- HNBGU
- IIT Roorkee
- Indian Institute Of Technology, Department Of Architecture And Planning

West Bengal

- Amity University Kolkata
- Indian Institute Of Technology Kharagpur & Architecture
- And Planning Department
- Indian Institute Of Technology Kharagpur (Department
- Of Architecture And Regional Planning)
- Indian Institute Of Technology, Kharagpur & (Department
- Of Architecture And Regional Planning, Department Of Physics)
- Jagannj Rani Dhanya Kumari College, Commerce Department
- Loreto College
- Scottish Church College
- Department Of English

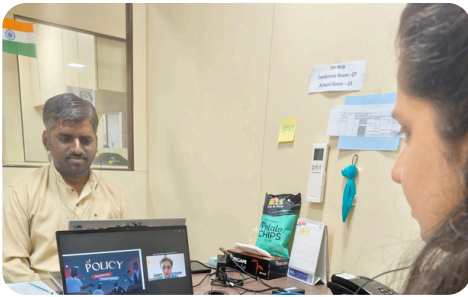
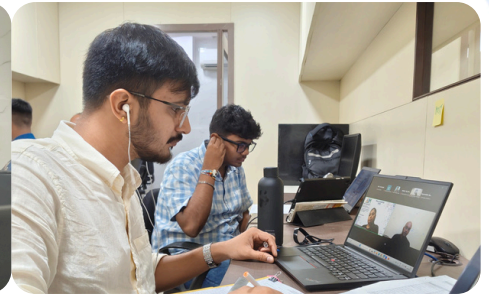




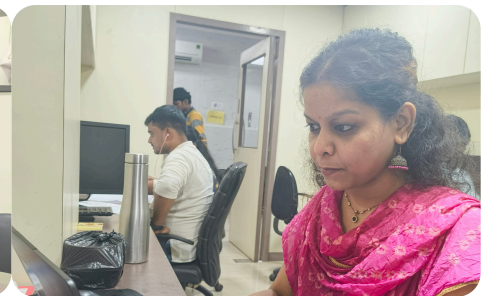
PRAJATANTRA MEMORIES



PRAJATANTRA 2025



PRAJATANTRA MEMORIES



MEMORIES PAGE

Stick your Prajatantra memories here — in photo form!



YOUR EXPERIENCE, YOUR STORY!

Write about your Prajatantra 2025 experience and what you learned.







Mumbai Office: Basement Gala No. B, Chanchal Smruti Co-op Hsg Soc Ltd., G.D. Ambekar Marg, Kohinoor Mill, Wadala Mumbai - 400031.



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