

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL FELLOWSHIP

Report 2022-23



Fellows

Srinagar Municipal Fellowship 2022-23



Anika



Faiz



Haseeb



Jasneet



Rehana



Taniya



Wahid



Zarka

Praja's Urban Governance Reforms Initiative in Srinagar

Over the last 25 years, Praja Foundation has been working towards empowering city governance with collaborative action from Elected Representatives (ERs), City Administration and Citizens. In 2017 Praja conceptualised 'Transforming Urban Governance' (TUG), a national programme with the goal to transform city governance across India.

Urban Governance Reforms Initiative in Srinagar was a significant step forward under TUG. Praja Foundation signed an MoU with the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) in the presence of the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha Ji with a vision to enhance urban governance in Srinagar.

This collaboration focused on supporting Elected Representatives and City Administration to improve the urban governance and delivery of civic services in the city through various capacity-building interventions. The second important element of this collaboration was empowering citizens especially youth to understand how their city is functioning and developing avenues that will help them to effectively participate in city governance.

Praja conducted Capacity Building Workshops for Councillors and officers on the fundamental concepts of urban governance. The workshop modules covered subjects including the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Act 2000, the functioning of the Municipal Committees, the importance of deliberation in the General Body Meetings & devices of deliberation and understanding departments in Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Another important subject featured in workshops was 'Municipal Finance'. The modules explained the concept of municipal finance, property taxation systems, municipal budgeting processes and urban governance reforms in the country with references to case studies from cities across India. Praja in an advisory role, also guided in the drafting and implementation process of property tax in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Praja as a Knowledge Partner also started developing an e-Governance Portal as an urban governance reform towards citizen engagement in city governance. The Portal integrates the Programme Management System (PMS), streamlines the existing Citizen grievance redressal mechanism and Feedback system matrix and introduces the 'MyCity-MyIdea' platform for the Citizens to raise their needs and wants. Srinagar Municipal Corporation is planning to launch its new e-Governance Portal in 2023.

The Srinagar Municipal Fellowship 2022-23 was also an initiative under this collaboration. In the last 10 months, our young fellows have worked as a bridge between citizens and the Elected Representatives and SMC Administration.

About Srinagar Municipal Fellowship

Praja Foundation's Municipal Fellowship programme is conceptualised as a platform for youth to better understand the urban governance structure of their cities. The theoretical knowledge and practical field experience from the fellowship have built their capacity to be informed and educated future leaders.

Srinagar Municipal Fellowship Programme was an opportunity for Srinagar-based youth to engage with various stakeholders like the elected representatives, the administration, and other experts from Srinagar. The fellows also got a platform to understand the intricacies of urban governance and work on civic, health, education as well as other prevalent issues.

Praja Foundation initiated the promotions for fellowship in April 2022 and received 241 applications. After a rigorous selection process, 8 fellows were chosen. Fellows underwent a week-long training programme where representatives from Praja Foundation, as well as Elected Representatives (ERs) and Officials from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), guided them on the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act and the structure, functioning and departments of SMC. Training on drafting questions, raising grievances and field exposure on scheduling and conducting meetings with stakeholders, drafting questions, and raising grievances was also included in the training programme.

Praja organised 10 capacity-building workshops during fellowship to enhance the knowledge and soft skills of the fellows. The topics included Right to Information Act, Municipal Finance, Urban Planning, Etiquette of email writing and more. Eminent resource persons such as Shailesh Gandhi, former Central Information Commissioner and Sulakshana Mahajan, Senior Consultant, Urban Planning with Mumbai Transformation Support Unit guided fellows in the capacity-building workshops.

In the last 10 months, fellows have dedicated more than 5,640 hours, 104 meetings with Elected Representatives, 97 meetings with city officials and 73 ward visits. With an understanding of local civic issues, fellows continuously assisted Srinagar Councillors to draft letters and raising questions. The raised questions on civic issues were later submitted to the Mayor, Municipal Commissioner and Municipal Secretary's office for discussion in the General Body Meetings.

Fellows also worked with SMC officials, especially with the office of the Municipal Commissioner. They were tasked with validating the state of various infrastructure development projects in the city. During their ward visits and interactions with citizens, they have been generating awareness among the citizens on the Online Grievance Redressal Mechanism of the SMC. Fellows, also registered complaints through the portal, many of which were promptly resolved. The fellowship has served towards bridging gaps between citizens, councillors, and SMC administration.

Fellows were engaged in the National-level Projects of Praja Foundation. Fellows participated in the promotions and organisation of Prajatantra 2022-23: National Youth Festival. The Grand Finale of Prajatantra was part of the National Youth Conclave, co-organised by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (U20) and the Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs (Y20) under the esteemed G20 Forum. Fellows conducted research, data collection and analysis for Praja's Urban Governance Index (UGI) 2.0 and Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments Study.

The first cohort of Srinagar Municipal Fellowship Programme has been a resounding success. As their journey comes to an end, Praja is optimistic that fellows will continue to reflect on their learnings and strive to be leaders of tomorrow.

Acknowledgement

We attribute the success of the Municipal Fellowship Programme to the unwavering dedication and commitment of all stakeholders involved. We would like to express our gratefulness towards everyone.

First and foremost, our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Honourable Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha Ji. We are equally grateful to Shri Dheeraj Gupta, (former) Principal Secretary to the Housing and Urban Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir and Smt Charu Sinha, (former) Inspector General of CRPF, Srinagar Division for their firm support towards Praja's urban governance reforms work in Jammu and Kashmir.

We thank political and administrative leadership of Srinagar for actively participating in this programme and guiding the young fellows. Honourable Mayor of Srinagar, Shri Junaid Mattu, the Municipal Commissioner, Athar Amir Khan as well as all councillors and officers have spent invaluable time with fellows and shared their experiences and insights with fellows that helped in their growth. We especially like to thank you for exposing fellows to the reality of city governance through field visits.

We extend our sincere thanks to our panel of advisors especially and Dr Suneem Khan CMO, CRPF, Srinagar Division for their support and encouragement throughout the journey. Their guidance helped us develop the vision for the Municipal Fellowship Programme and work actively towards achieving it.

We also thank the Subject Experts from Civil Society and Academia who participated as resource persons for the capacity-building sessions. Their engagement and expert feedback have helped our fellows develop their understanding of city governance. We also appreciate the faculties from different colleges and universities who responded positively to the fellowship outreach and actively guided their students to participate in the programme.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the donors of the programme, Tata Advanced System Limited and Madhu Mehta Foundation, whose generous support made it possible for us to organise the fellowship.

Our Fellows have our utmost appreciation for their enthusiastic participation in the programme. Their dedication and commitment to the cause of better governance have been commendable. Their hard work, diligence, and willingness to learn have been pivotal to the programme's success.

Finally, a special shout out to the Praja staff who tirelessly facilitated the programme. From the selection process to guiding fellows throughout the fellowship, their contribution has enabled fellows to gain hands-on experience in governance and provided them with an opportunity to be agents of change.

Note: The contents of this publication are authored by the fellows of Srinagar Municipal Fellowship 2022-23. In no way, they can be taken to reflect the views of the Praja Foundation and other funders.



“Good governance, for me, means promoting transparency and openness, empowering citizens to actively participate in governing their cities.”



Anika Rashid Farash

B.Sc., Cluster University of Srinagar

My experiences with Praja were truly amazing! I came across a post from the organisation by chance and was immediately drawn to its mission. I made the decision to apply and went through the selection process. I was introduced to a lot of novel concepts and ideas throughout this process, such as the 74th Amendment to the Constitution and how to read an Act. These lessons opened my eyes to the inner workings of local government.

The helpful staff was one of the most noteworthy aspects of my time with Praja. The team went above and beyond to ensure that we were comfortable and content and was always willing to help us learn and progress. In addition, I had the good fortune to work with a group of co-fellows who quickly grew to be like family to me. We helped each other through difficulties and rejoiced in each other’s accomplishments, which added to the overall specialness of the experience.

The opportunity to work with the councillor from my neighbourhood was the most rewarding aspect of the fellowship. The councillor initially didn’t take our team seriously, but as we continuously offered assistance, they started to rely on us.

It wasn’t easy working with a freshly elected councillor. Firstly, it was challenging to navigate through the local political landscape and understand the variables at play. It took time to win the trust of the entire community and prove our worth as important contributors. Eventually, we were able to establish a productive working relationship with the councillor and their staff.

Building trust was a crucial aspect of our work with the councillor, and it called for constant effort and focus. We needed to make sure that we kept our word, and that our activities were trustworthy and reliable. In addition, even when it was challenging or uncomfortable, we had to be open and truthful in our communication. We were able to work together and contribute significantly to the community because of the confidence we were able to earn from the councillor and their team.

Despite the difficulties we encountered, I wouldn’t trade my experience at Praja for anything. It was an amazing opportunity to develop, learn, and do good in the world. I’m appreciative of the helpful staff, nice co-fellows, and the opportunity to collaborate with a councillor and have an impact on the neighbourhood. I am confident that the knowledge and experiences I got from Praja will stick with me for a very long time, and I would advise anyone who is interested in local governance to think about joining this outstanding organisation.

In conclusion, working with Praja was a rewarding and educational experience for me. I gained a lot of knowledge, built enduring relationships, and had the chance to advance society.

In summary, my experience with Praja was both educational and fulfilling. I learned a lot, formed valuable relationships, and had the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of society. I would highly recommend Praja to anyone interested in local governance or looking to make a difference in their community.

“To strengthen democracy, we must first strengthen citizens & local governments.”

Faiz Ahmad Khan

B.A., Amar Singh College, Srinagar



While I was in the library one day, a poster caught my attention that read, “Are you interested in running your city?” The poster resonated with me deeply and I couldn’t ignore it. I felt compelled to apply for the fellowship that was being advertised.

After being accepted into the fellowship, I had no idea what to expect. I had always been frustrated by the state of governance in my city, but I didn’t know how I could make a difference. However, the fellowship provided me with an opportunity to learn more about the challenges faced by my community and develop the necessary skills to address them.

Throughout my fellowship, I had the opportunity of collaborating with diverse community leaders and local officials. This experience enabled me to gain an understanding of the policies and procedures that govern our city, and how local government can effectively address the needs of its citizens. Initially, the thought of working alongside councillors and elected representatives was daunting. However, I soon came to realize that they were individuals who shared my drive to make a meaningful impact. Although we sometimes had differing opinions, we were able to find common ground and work collaboratively to achieve productive outcomes.

I eagerly awaited the third Saturday of every month, as it meant attending Praja’s Capacity Building program. The program was designed to provide us with exposure to various subjects by bringing in experts from different fields. We had the opportunity to attend sessions on Urban Planning, the Right to Information Act, Police Reforms, Climate Action Plans, and more. In addition, we held monthly meetings where we reviewed our past month’s activities and planned for the upcoming month. The meetings encouraged healthy self-evaluation and criticism, as well as planning and strategizing.

As a fellow, I was able to step up as a leader in my community and contribute to positive change. I took charge of organizing community events, conducting workshops on pertinent issues, and working to foster connections between various groups in the city. My participation in the fellowship gave me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those around me.

Although challenging at times, the fellowship proved to be an incredibly rewarding experience. It instilled in me the importance of determination, diligence, and teamwork while also providing me with the courage to tackle future challenges. I am grateful for the chance to be involved in such a transformative program and am enthusiastic to discover how my newfound skills and expertise will shape my future endeavours.

“In a healthy democratic system, the gap between the people and their elected representatives is minimized to the extent that it disappears.”



Haseeb Niyaz Wani

M.Sc. (Environmental Science), Sri Pratap College, Srinagar

One day, while strolling down the street, my attention was captivated by a poster that boldly asked, “Are you interested in running your city?” Without hesitation, I swiftly scanned the QR code and submitted my application for the fellowship.

Although I was uncertain about the fellowship’s exact nature and the activities we would undertake, one thing was clear: I yearned to contribute to a positive change in my community. Having witnessed the challenges of poor governance while growing up, I was determined to bring about change, even though I lacked a clear path to do so. After going through multiple screening stages, I was shortlisted for the fellowship. When I received the call informing me of my selection, I was in disbelief and had to ask them to repeat it. The prospect of the journey ahead filled me with excitement and ambition.

Having joined the program later than my peers, I had a lot of catching up to do. When I learned that I would be working alongside the Municipal Councillors, I felt overwhelmed. This was a new concept in Srinagar, and both the councillors and citizens were unaware of the role and responsibilities of these positions. I was no exception, as I too was unsure of what exactly the responsibilities of a councillor are. Despite the odds, I decided to push forward, and within a few weeks, everything started to make sense.

I gained a lot of knowledge, particularly about the Municipal Act and the role of a councillor in raising issues at the council. I had the opportunity to meet and interact with many councillors, learning about their perspectives on serving as elected representatives. Some of the councillors were well-informed about their roles, while others were not.

The fellowship brought together strangers who soon became family. The fellowship centred on building trust between people and their elected representatives. First, we built trust between us - the fellows; next, between us and the councillors; and finally, we assisted them in building trust with the general public. Soon after, we began to have an increasing number of meetings, and councillors began to take us seriously.

The fellowship provided me with numerous opportunities and equipped me with unexpected skills, for which I am grateful. Through this experience, I have become more aware, responsible, and knowledgeable about my constitutional rights and duties. Instead of merely complaining, I now strive to find solutions and actively work towards improving myself and my society. I owe this positive change to the fellowship.

In essence, the fellowship was transformative, enabling me to acquire practical skills and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by my city and its residents. Interacting with councillors and engaging in community projects provided valuable insights into local governance and the policymaking process. Despite the hurdles encountered, the fellowship was immensely fulfilling and has had a lasting impact on me.



“Good Governance is the effective, transparent, accountable, participatory, and responsive management of public affairs.”



Jasneet Singh

B.Tech.,SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Tamil Nadu

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As a Fellow of the Praja Foundation ER-Fellowship, I was presented with an opportunity to gain a perspicuous understanding of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and the tribulations encountered by citizens. Under the tutelage of distinguished faculty members from Praja, and enlightened by Joint Commissioners, the Municipal Secretary, the CMO, and the Chief Enforcement Officer, our primary role was to work for the ‘Capacity Building of the Elected Representatives.

During the fellowship, I visited several wards and areas of Srinagar, whereupon I engaged with different Councillors, officials, and citizens. This facilitated a deep-rooted appreciation of the methodology deployed by elected representatives in their approaches to matters, and their efficacious exploitation of resources to improve the exigencies of the populace. Furthermore, I garnered an extensive comprehension of the operations of different departments of SMC, and the expediency of utilizing the amenities offered by the Corporation to augment the quality of life of the citizenry.

I was also instrumental in ‘Online Grievance Redressal’ through the SMC website. I assisted local citizens from different wards in filing complaints, more than 50% of which were promptly addressed. Additionally, I was involved in the UGI Research project, whereupon I conducted interviews with the elected wing and administration, thus earning deeper insights into the workings of the city. Monthly capacity-building workshops organized by the Praja Foundation, served as a font of knowledge from which I gleaned a plethora of information.

My fellowship experience furnished me with several salient takeaways, including a profound discernment of municipal governance and the predicaments encountered by the citizenry, the significance of effectual communication and collaboration, a heightened sense of civic responsibility, and a yearning to reciprocate towards the community, the dexterity to differentiate between needs and wants, and exposure to eclectic perspectives and people.

Interacting with officials, councillors, and fellow citizens, allowed me to cultivate a nuanced appreciation of the issues besetting our communities and the strategies by which we can organize the requisite resources to assuage them. This experience of my association with officials and citizens has been instrumental in enhancing my communicative dexterity and building lasting relationships that have promised to be beneficial in both personal and professional realms.

This experience has had a transformative impact on me, and I remain devoted to crafting constructive change within my community. Furthermore, it has fortified my ability to prioritize my own needs, and to make better-informed decisions. Lastly, my fellowship experience exposed me to a diverse cadre of people and perspectives, thus widening the ambit of my cognitive horizons, and enriching my understanding of the world at large.

In summation, my fellowship experience proved to be an enriching and edifying voyage, which empowered me with an array of valuable insights, skills, and perspectives that have allowed me to grow both as an individual and as a citizen. I am grateful for this opportunity and remain eager to traverse further down the path of personal and professional growth while striving to contribute to the betterment of my community.

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“City governance is not just about managing infrastructure and services, it’s about creating a community that is equitable, sustainable, and inclusive.”



Rehana Mir

B.Tech. (Civil Engineering), Punjab Technical University, Chandigarh

As a civil engineer, I am always eager to expand my horizons and gain new knowledge. Upon learning about the Praja Foundation fellowship program through a friend, I decided to apply for it. I submitted the online application form. Soon after, I received a call to participate in the interview. There were multiple applicants and I feel fortunate that I was selected for the fellowship program.

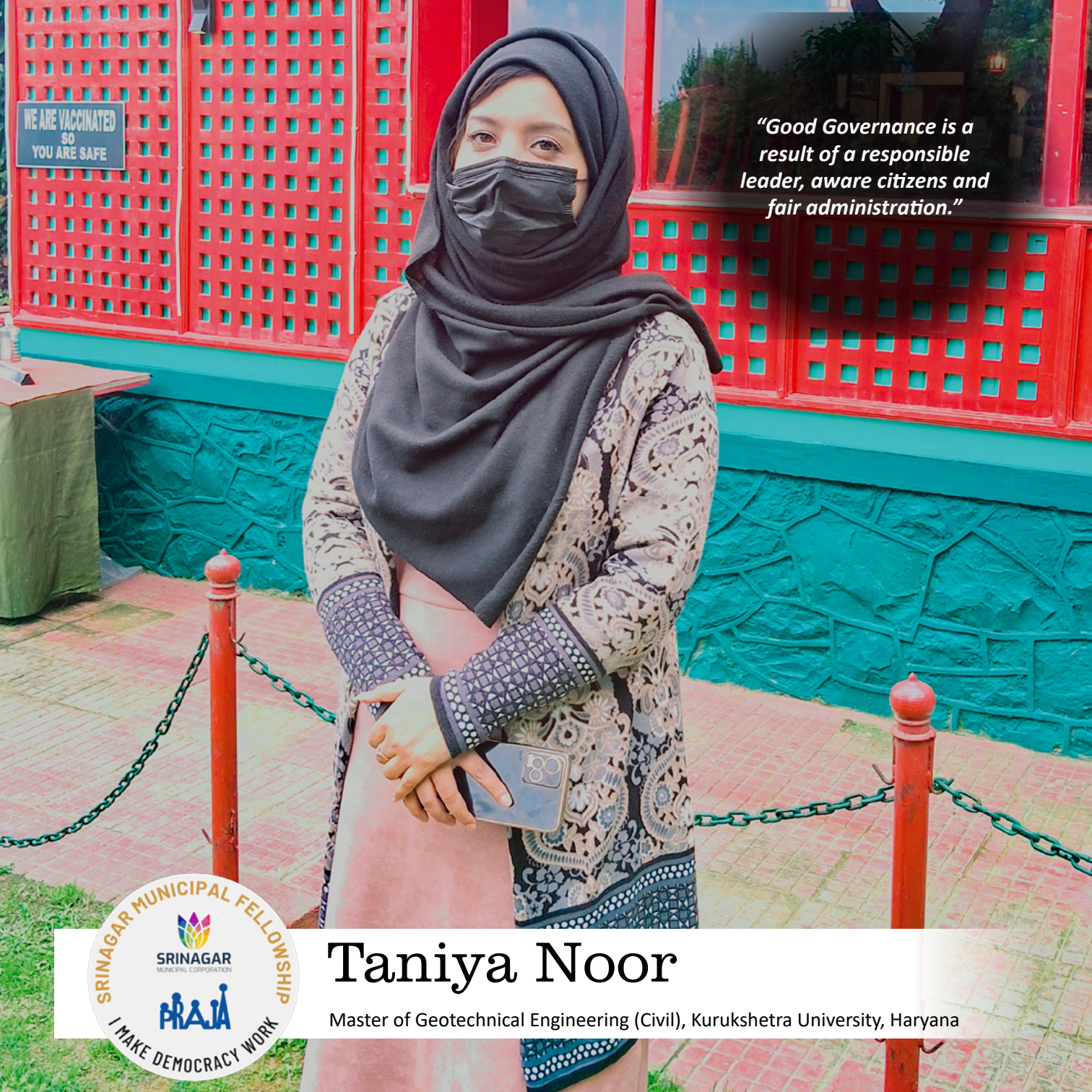
During the start of the fellowship, we participated in an orientation programme that lasted a week. The programme included a range of topics such as SMC’s functioning, assisting elected representatives, utilizing the Right to Information Act, formulating letters for elected representatives, and raising questions to the administration in meetings.

Praja Foundation assigned me and another fellow to work in the North Zone of Srinagar Municipal Corporation. We had capacity-building sessions in the third week followed by monthly meetings, which were a constant support for skill-building. During the monthly meetings, we discussed the activities of the previous month and planned for the next month.

I had the opportunity to meet with Councillors from the assigned wards and learned how to frame questions for the meetings. I also drafted various letters and questions for the Councillors’ different wards. One of the Councillors even visited my home to help draft more letters and questions for his ward.

Throughout my journey with Praja, I had the opportunity to develop my skills in Microsoft Office and MS Excel, which helped me become more proficient in using these essential tools. The fellowship not only provided me with practical knowledge of education, health, law and order, civics, and urban governance, but it also helped me become a more confident and responsible citizen.

I am truly grateful for this amazing experience with Praja. The staff was supportive, knowledgeable, and creative, and I learned something new every day. I am confident that the practical knowledge and skills I gained from this fellowship will benefit me in the future.



“Good Governance is a result of a responsible leader, aware citizens and fair administration.”



Taniya Noor

Master of Geotechnical Engineering (Civil), Kurukshetra University, Haryana

“The modern world would benefit and prosper not by hankering after materialistic goals but by producing brave and loyal citizens.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

It was while reading this poem that I came across a poster on the internet that asked, “Are you going to run your city?” That sentence ignited a sense of responsibility within me and piqued my curiosity.

I filled out the registration form and attended the boot camp. I discovered the interconnectedness of different realms of society and the importance of working together as a whole and as a unit.

After successfully passing the interview, I had the opportunity to attend a week-long workshop at the SMC premises, I was amazed and overwhelmed by the wealth of new knowledge I acquired during the workshop. My understanding now extended to areas such as city governance and the functioning of local bodies. I finally grasped the significance of the 74th Amendment and felt a sense of regret for remaining ignorant for so long.

Throughout the fellowship, I had the privilege of meeting numerous councillors and administrators. My preconceived notions have been completely transformed as I witnessed firsthand the unwavering dedication with which these councillors work tirelessly day in and day out, striving to fulfil their hopes and aspirations.

Most of my experiences during the fellowship were both exhilarating and fruitful. From my visit to Dunikhand and to the Anchan Waste Disposal Site, to exploring the inner parts of Dal, venturing into Downtown, and observing in-situ civil engineering projects, each experience broadened my horizons and provided valuable insights.

Additionally, Praja ensured our continuous growth and development through capacity-building workshops conducted by experts from various disciplines. These workshops played a crucial role in our overall grooming and expanded our understanding of diverse subjects.

During my fellowship, I had the privilege of interacting with key elected representatives and administrators such as the Deputy Mayor, Commissioner, Joint Commissioners, and Executive Engineers. These interactions allowed me to gain firsthand knowledge from these experienced individuals. Additionally, I was fortunate to participate in a pan India Grand Youth Festival called Prajantantra, which has instilled in me a profound sense of pride as I realized the vastness and diversity of our country.

Throughout the fellowship, I also had the opportunity to learn about the functioning of other municipal bodies, such as those in Nagpur and Chattisgarh. This exposure provided me with invaluable insights into the intricacies of urban governance and the inherent challenges that accompany it.

This fellowship has transformed me into a more informed and aware citizen. The presentation skills, soft skills, and proficiency in MS Office especially in Excel that I acquired as well as the knowledge gained in utilizing tools like the Right to Information (RTI), will surely benefit me in the future. The work culture and professionalism instilled in me throughout this fellowship will have a lasting impact on my life.

“Good governance with good intentions is the hallmark of our government. Implementation with integrity is our core passion.”

My journey with Praja began when I saw an advertisement in the newspaper for a fellowship on good governance. It was an intriguing opportunity for me to serve my city and learn how it functions. I was curious about the interview but also confident that I could pass it because I was simultaneously studying for the Civil Service Exams. Then, after passing all the rounds, the induction process began. One of the crucial pillars of the fellowship because we learn about the entire system from scratch.

Overall, my experience was pleasant and challenging. Working as a link between the administration and the Elected Representatives required bringing them together while encouraging them to focus on their respective wards. This fellowship also allowed me to become more involved in policymaking and make a modest contribution to it with the help of the Elected Representatives. We worked on the ground, gathering information from the public, organising it with Elected Representatives, and assisting them in creating an effective plan that meets their needs and wants.

I worked in several wards, drew attention to common citizens’ issues, and did my best to achieve results with the assistance of Elected Representatives and administration. As a volunteer of Prajatantra 2022-23, I played the role of Municipal Secretary, and I enjoyed taking part in the National level Grand Youth Festival and contributing to making it successful.


The fellowship also helped me improve my communication skills. I also learned about writing emails and numerous political philosophies. The research on the functioning of various corporations helped me to do a comparative analysis and understand more effectively how to carry out the plans for our city’s needs.

In the end, the Praja Fellowship was beneficial for me because I learned about the pillars of governance, how it functions, and what the needs of the people are. The experience will help me become an active citizen for the rest of my life and inspire others to do the same because Praja is what makes democracy work.



Wahid Nawab Mir

Bachelor of Computer Application, Islamia College of Science & Commerce,
Srinagar



“Good Governance, a model of city governing, aims to provide effective citizen participation, transparent and accountable processes through a sustainable approach.”

When I came across Praja’s advertisement for Srinagar’s first Municipal Fellowship Program, which aimed to involve young citizens in the process of urban governance by working alongside Srinagar’s Municipal Councillors and administration, my immediate thought was, “This is something that truly captures my interest.”

Consequently, the news of being selected for this fellowship held immense significance for me. The fellowship started with a week-long orientation program where the first and foremost thing that we were taught was the significance of unity and teamwork. We received training on how to interact with elected representatives and the administration, which included insights on the importance and functioning of various committees, deliberations, and other related devices.

The experience of interacting with elected representatives during the fellowship was a different experience altogether. It was both exciting and challenging to work alongside elected representatives who had varying temperaments and statuses. While most of them were supportive and welcoming, there were a few who proved to be more difficult to engage with. Nevertheless, this experience served as a valuable opportunity for me to enhance my capacity to win over people’s confidence.

My journey with National Youth Festival Prajatantra began by promoting the event. It was truly rewarding to receive a positive response from colleges and universities after successfully convincing them to participate in the event. This process enhanced my ability to effectively communicate and influence others. In my role as a Municipal Secretary, hosting a pan-India event was a completely new experience for me. It helped me to be skilled at multitasking and attentive. One of the most enlightening aspects was witnessing the diverse ideas brought forth by participants from different parts of the country.

Throughout the fellowship, we had monthly meetings scheduled to address roadblocks and challenges, while also setting new targets for the upcoming month. Additionally, we attended capacity-building sessions where esteemed professionals shared their valuable knowledge and experiences that proved to be very useful.

I enjoyed working on several projects, including Prajatantra, the Citizen Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and a project assigned to us by the Commissioner. The assigned project focused on conducting surveys related to engineering development projects.

Being a Municipal Fellow has been an incredibly valuable experience for me. The journey not only provided me with valuable professional learning and experiences but also imparted lifelong lessons. It was a perfect blend of continuous learning, unwavering perseverance, and the opportunity to forge meaningful connections.



Zarka Shafiq

Master of Disaster Management, University of Kashmir

Highlights from Municipal Fellowship

Week-long orientation programme with Officers from SMC and Praja Team



Workshop of Srinagar Fellows
Municipal Finance

14th October 2022
P C Pissikar
Praja Foundation
Mumbai



Capacity Building workshops on different themes to upskill fellows

Organisation and Promotions of Prajatantra: National Youth Festival 2022-23



Monthly in-person meetings with Praja Staff to discuss their learnings and experience



Background and field research for Urban Governance Index 2.0 in Srinagar



“Praja Fellows have very elaborately and precisely helped in bridging the gap between the elected representatives and the people on one hand and the elected representatives and the executive wings of the Municipal Corporation on the other.”

**Shri Junaid Azim Mattoo,
Honourable Mayor,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation**

“Fellows had an urge to work towards Srinagar City. I congratulate all the fellows who have worked with us. They have done a very good job in resolving gap between SMC and Elected Representatives”

**Syed Abul Qasim,
Joint Municipal Commissioner,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation**

Field visits with ERs and SMC Officials to different municipal wards



Praja Foundation

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