



URBAN GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE

Transforming Urban Governance

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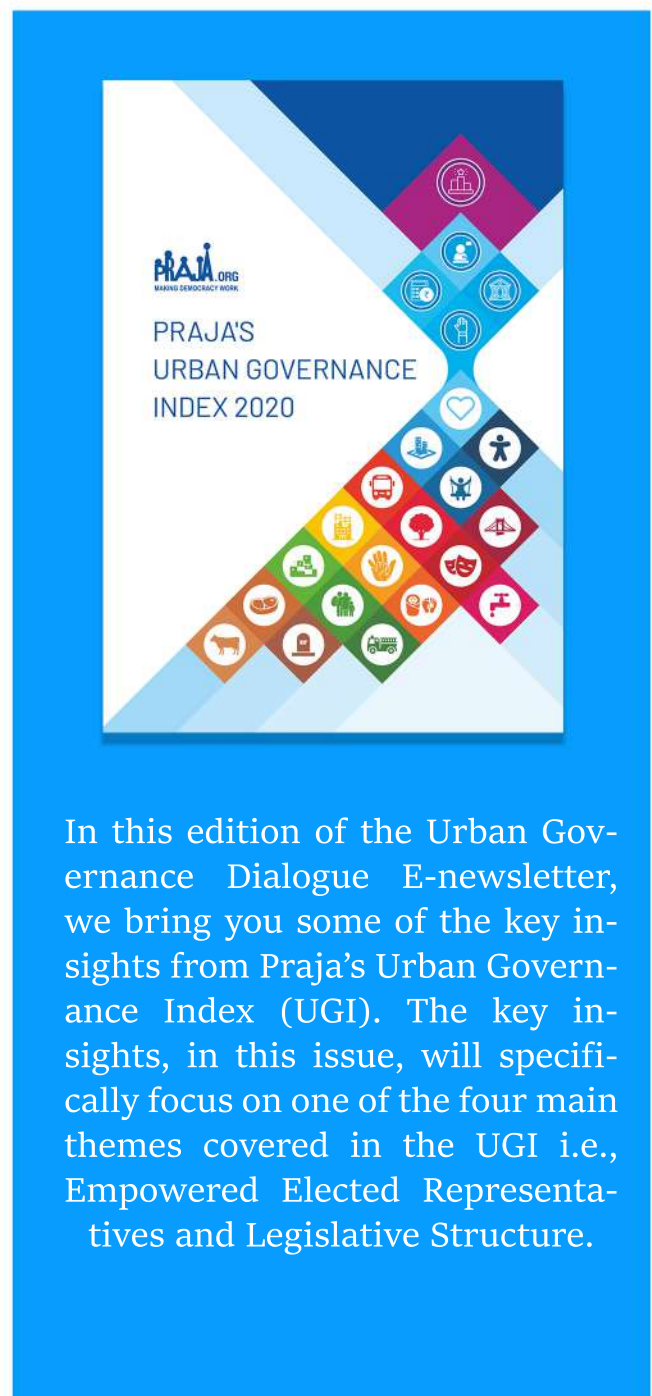
Key Insights from Urban Governance Index (UGI)

Overall Key Insights

Before delving into the background details of the theme and pointing of detailed insights, the following are the key overall insights captured from mapping across all states:

- Seven states, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra do not have term of mayor coterminous with the City Government.
- Kerala is the only State where the Mayor has an authority to write an ACR of the Commissioner. However, none of the states provide independent authority to the Mayors, to appoint and terminate the Commissioner upon ratification of council and perform appraisals of the Commissioner.
- In 13 states, there is no provision of an apex committee system such as the Mayor-In-Council.
- In 13 states, Councillors are not entitled to any monthly fixed remuneration/salary.
- None of the State Municipal Acts has provisions for regular and mandatory training of councillors.
- In 18 states, the Council have no authority to pass No Confidence Motion against the Mayor.
- None of the State Municipal Acts provide for independent authority of the Council to frame bye-laws and regulations for the functions under the complete control of City Government.

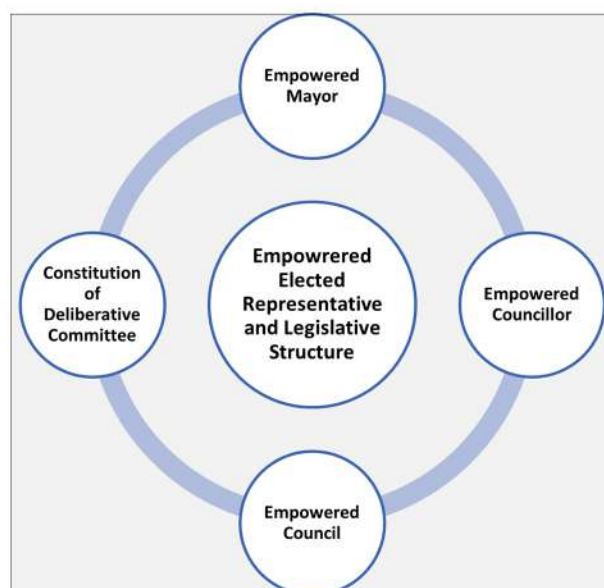
Note - Above analysis is for a total of 29 units including all 28 states and NCT of Delhi.



In this edition of the Urban Governance Dialogue E-newsletter, we bring you some of the key insights from Praja's Urban Governance Index (UGI). The key insights, in this issue, will specifically focus on one of the four main themes covered in the UGI i.e., Empowered Elected Representatives and Legislative Structure.

Empowered Elected Representatives and Legislative Structure

The theme 'Empowered City Elected Representatives and Legislative Structure' is based on the premise that Elected Representatives (ERs) of the City Government i.e., Mayor and Councillors are elected by the citizens of the city, and hence, should ensure that the citizens' mandate is represented at the designated platforms and should exercise efforts towards its implementation. For this to happen, the local ERs should be empowered to make decisions and undertake planning with respect to delivery of services and execution of projects. This also includes the necessary powers of empowered legislative structures such as the Council, the Mayor-In-Council, subject committees etc., to facilitate and enable robust deliberations and decision making within the City Government. Comprising all the above-mentioned description, the theme of Empowered City Elected Representatives and Legislative Structure is divided into sub-themes: '*Empowered Mayor*', '*Empowered Councillor*', '*Empowered Council*' and '*Constitution of Deliberative Committees*'.



Empowered Mayor and Councillor

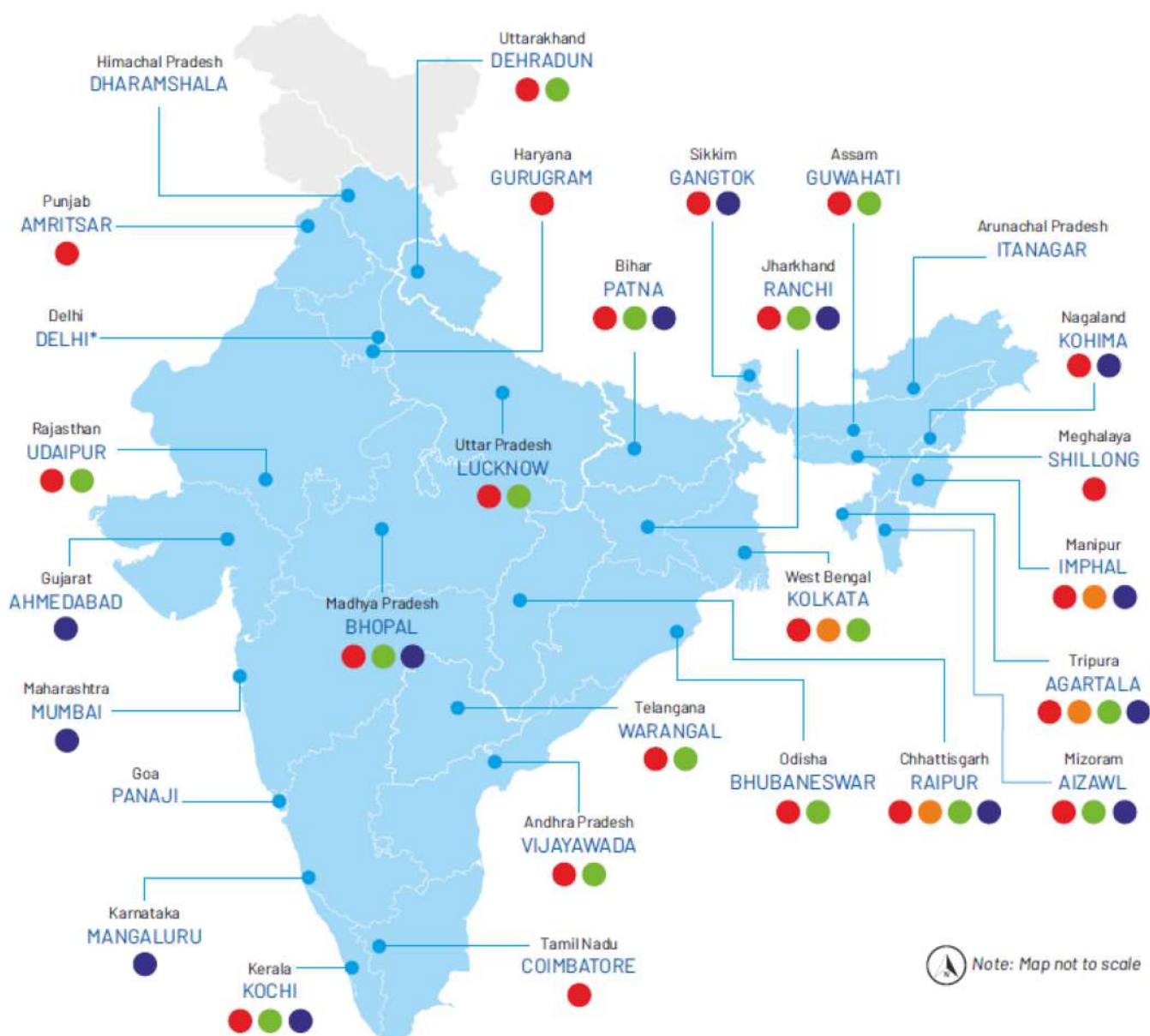
The need to strengthen the Mayoral system has been emphasized since a long time. The fact that city Mayors only play a ceremonial role, and lack the needful authority and powers, remains a sorry state of affairs in the realm of city governance. The UGI has tried to capture the variation and status of Mayoral system across states through an assessment of the following: (i) Tenure of Mayor; (ii) Executive authority of Mayor over Commissioner; (iii) Provision of Mayor headed apex committee system such as the Mayor-In-Council and (iv) Mayor's control over appointing chairpersons of other sub level committees such as Standing Committee/Subject Committee. Some of the key insights from the assessment has been presented in the maps inserted below.

The empowerment of councillor, on the other hand, is crucial being the first direct interface with the citizens as a grass root level elected representative. Citizens will communicate their needs, flag relevant issues to the councillor and ultimately hold councillor accountable to fulfilling their mandate. However, as we are aware, the councillor faces multiple limitations to perform in their roles and responsibilities effectively. On this note, the UGI has mapped the following provisions: (i) Participation in atleast one deliberative committee; (ii) Conducting of mandatory and regular trainings of councillors and (iii) Entitlement to commensurate fixed monthly salary and office allowances. The key insights pertaining to the assessment is shown in the maps inserted below.

Empowered Council

Council is the highest platform and a significant forum for deliberations and decision making. It is vital that the council be vested with adequate powers and authority at its disposal, to ensure the effective functioning and facilitation of high standard of deliberations on collective issues pertaining to ensuring provision of good quality urban life to citizens. Therefore, in account of this, UGI has assessed the following: (i) Authority over framing bye-laws and regulations; (ii) Status of framing procedure of conduct of business rules of Council; (iii) Provision of privileges and immunity to councillors to all acts done/statements made in the Council; (iv) Provision to conduct regular elections as constitutionally mandated before existing council is dissolved and (v) Provision for Council to able to pass No Confidence Motion against the Mayor. The related key insights are shown in the maps inserted below.

Key Insight – Empowered Mayor and Councillor



*South Delhi Municipal Corporation

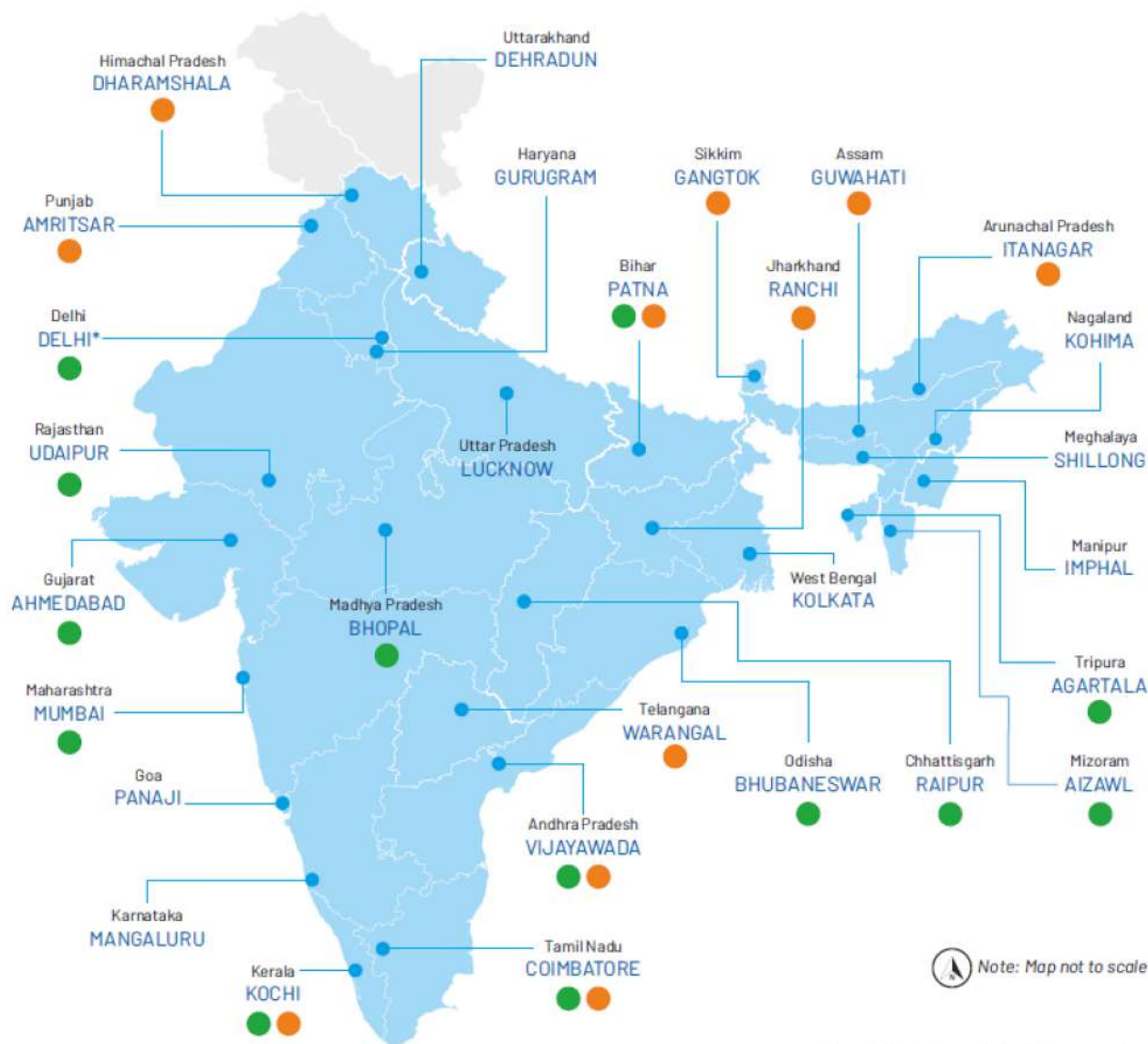
Empowered Mayor and Empowered Councillor	Yes
Is the post of Mayor co-terminus with the term of City Government?	Red
Does the Mayor hold independent authority to appoint chairperson of Standing/Subject committees?	Orange
Is Mayor the chairperson of apex committee such as Mayor in Council (MIC)/Steering committee?	Green
Do the councillors receive monthly fixed salary?	Blue

INSIGHTS:

- Seven states, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra do not have term of mayor coterminous with the City Government.
- In states except Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Tripura and West Bengal, Mayor does not have authority to appoint chairperson of Standing/Subject Committees.
- In 15 States Mayor is not the chairperson of apex committee.
- Only in 13 states, Councillor receive a fixed salary.

Note - Above analysis is for a total of 29 units including all 28 states and NCT of Delhi.

Key Insight – Empowered Council



*South Delhi Municipal Corporation

	Empowered Council	Yes
City Government have Procedure for Conduct and Business Rules		●
Councils have authority to pass no confidence motion against the Mayor		●

INSIGHTS:

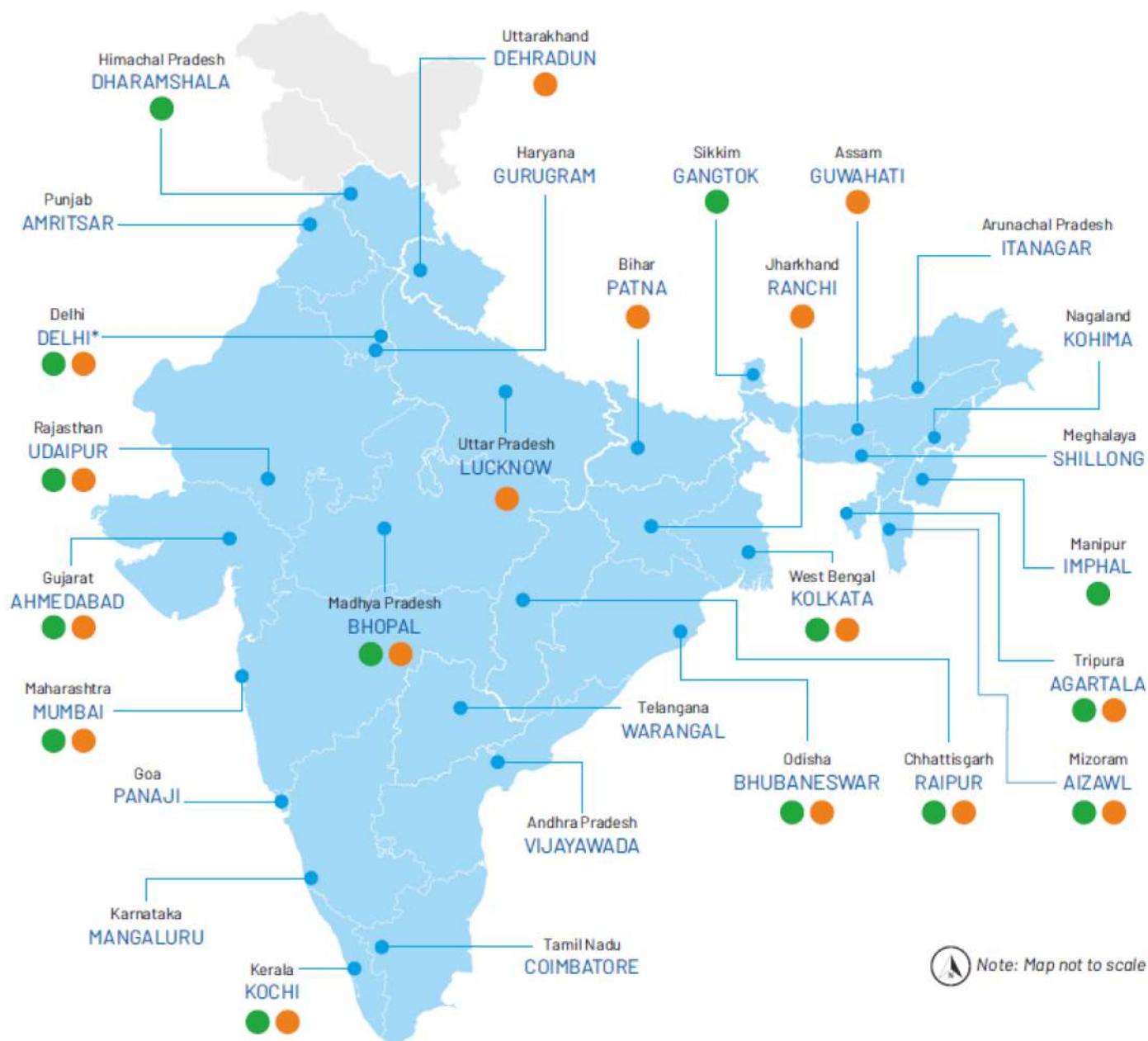
- 16 out of 29 states do not have a Procedure for Conduct and Business Rules.
- Only in 11 States, council has authority to pass no confidence motion against Mayor.

Note - Above analysis is for a total of 29 units including all 28 states and NCT of Delhi.

Constitution of Deliberative Committees

Effective deliberation and decision making can be facilitated only through designated platforms set up at various levels within the City Governance structure. Decentralised platforms to engage with citizens at the grassroots level is equally critical. Taking these into consideration, the UGI has assessed the following: (i) Status of constitution of committees as specified in State Municipal Act; (ii) Provision to hold Committee and Council meetings once a month; (iii) Provisions of constituting ward(s) committee as mandated in the constitution and (iv) Constitution of District/Metropolitan Planning Committees.

Key Insight – Constitution of Deliberative Committees



*South Delhi Municipal Corporation

Constitution of Deliberative Committees	Yes
Has the City Government constituted committees according to State Municipal Act?	●
Does the State Municipal Act have provisions for constituting an apex committee such as Mayor in Council (MIC)/Steering committee?	●

INSIGHTS:

- Cities in 15 states have not formed the committees mentioned in the State Municipal Act.
- 13 states do not have provision for constitution of an apex committee.

Note - Above analysis is for a total of 29 units including all 28 states and NCT of Delhi.

References:

1. To know more about UGI 2020: [Urban Governance Index 2020](#)
2. To view explanatory Videos on UGI:
 - [Need for an Urban Governance Index](#)
 - [Framework of Urban Governance Index](#)
3. To access all the State Level Urban Governance Study reports: [State - Urban Governance Reports](#)

We would like to know your views and feedbacks based on the above information shared.
Feel free to reach us at urbandialogue@praja.org

Kind Regards,



Nitai Mehta
Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation



Milind Mhaske
Director, Praja Foundation

Mumbai

B18, 2nd Floor, Shri Ram Industrial Estate,
13, G.D Ambekar Marg, Next to Wadala Udyog Bhawan,
Wadala, Mumbai - 400031. Tel: 022-6666 1442

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