



Praja's Urban Governance Index

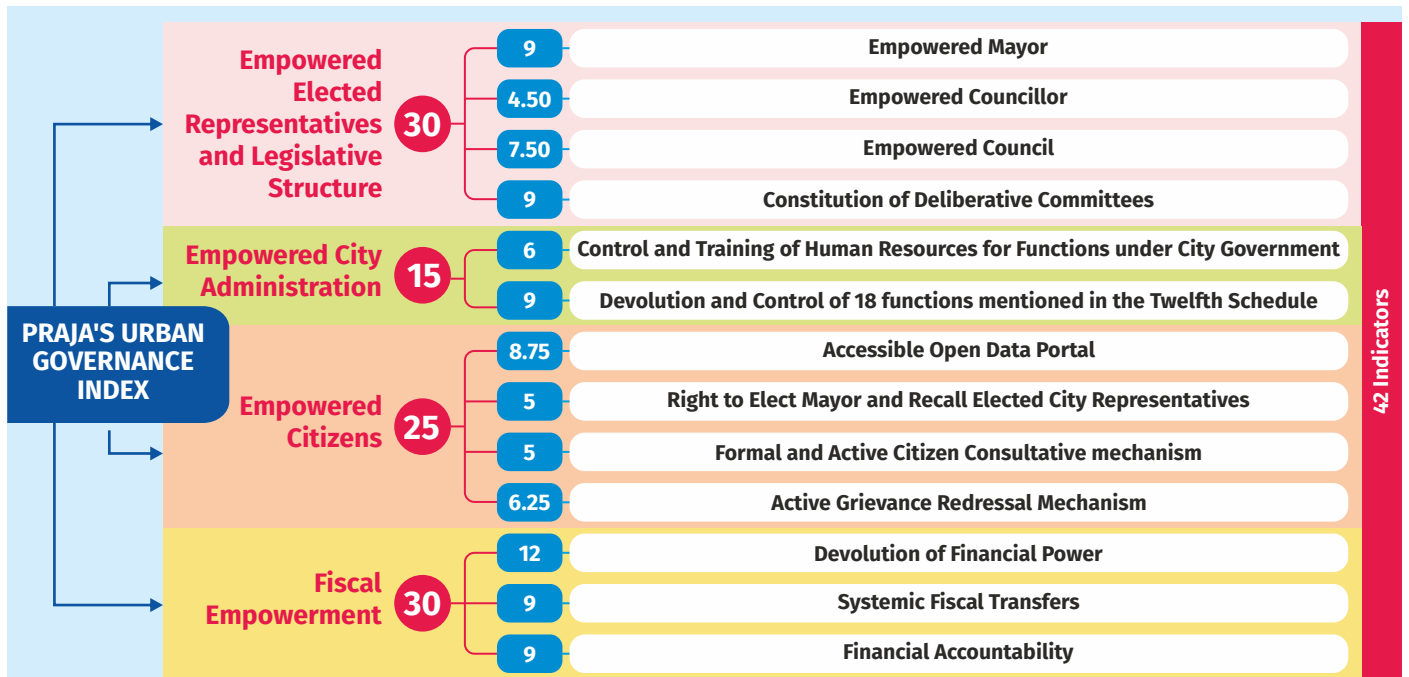
In the past few decades, the Indian economy has considerably grown. However, this rapid growth has not been managed very well and urban India is increasingly seeing problems such as inadequate infrastructure for the growing population, poor service delivery, pollution, poor health care, lack of adequate housing facilities and other issues that continue to impede cities across India from achieving its true economic potential. To propel the growth at a much larger scale, the focus needs to shift towards creating both competitive and sustainable cities through Democratic Empowerment and Accountability of City Governments and Citizen Engagement. It is important to recognise that delivery of urban services as an 'output', and any achievement through this approach, will only lead to mere visible changes. What we require are changes in the 'enabler' i.e., core reforms in structure of City Governments and long-term management of our cities.

reforms, given the direction our cities are headed Praja has been on a journey, for the last three years, of studying the pathways towards transforming urban governance systems in the country. As a part of the journey, a robust Urban Governance Reforms Study was conducted in 40 cities across 28 states and National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. Further, 20 state level consultations, one regional consultation (involving six states) and a National Level consultation (including 21 states) on Urban Governance was also held. Overall, the study involved a total of 1568 interviews held with key stakeholders such as the city Elected Representatives (ERs), city administrators and city based CSOs. The quantification of the findings from the state level urban governance studies finally culminated in the creation of the Urban Governance Index (UGI). The UGI entails a study of 29 cities across 28 states and NCT of Delhi. On the whole, UGI is primarily a mapping that stretches across states, on indicative themes of democratic empowerment and accountability pertaining to urban governance.

Recognising the dire need for urban governance

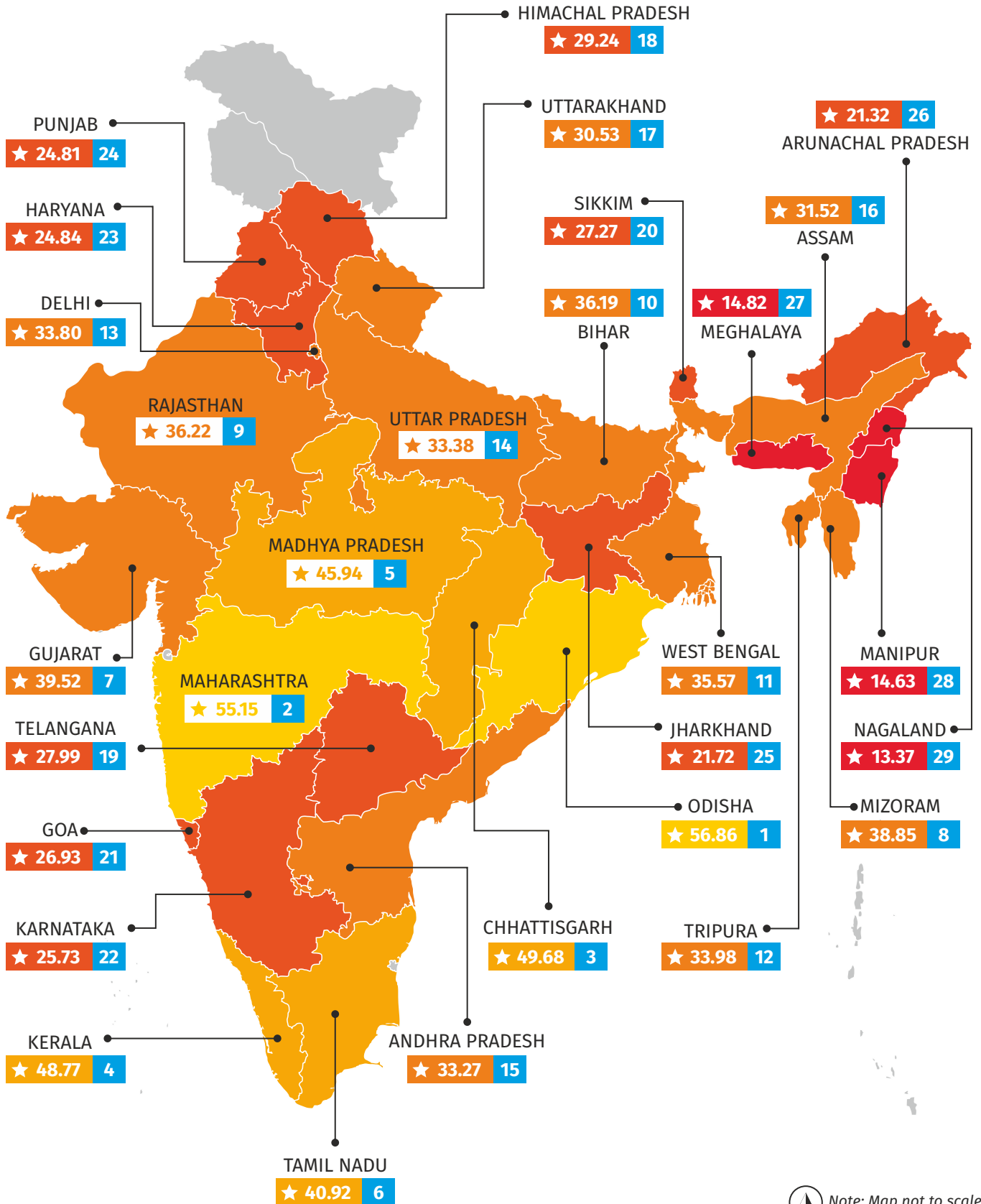
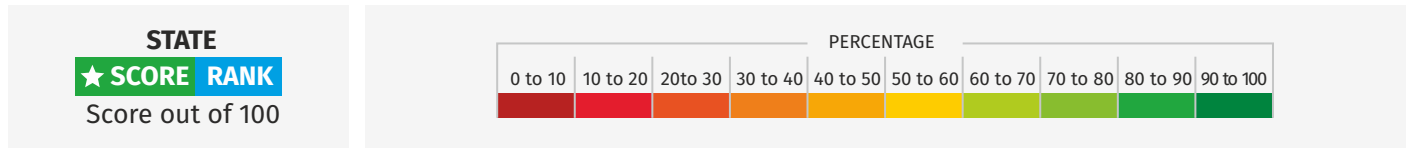
Urban Governance Index – Themes & Weightages

The UGI is built over four themes. These themes act as bedrocks to achieving empowered urban governance. They are significant in enabling the functioning of democratic and empowered urban governance. These themes are further divided into 13 sub-themes and comprises a total of 42 indicators.

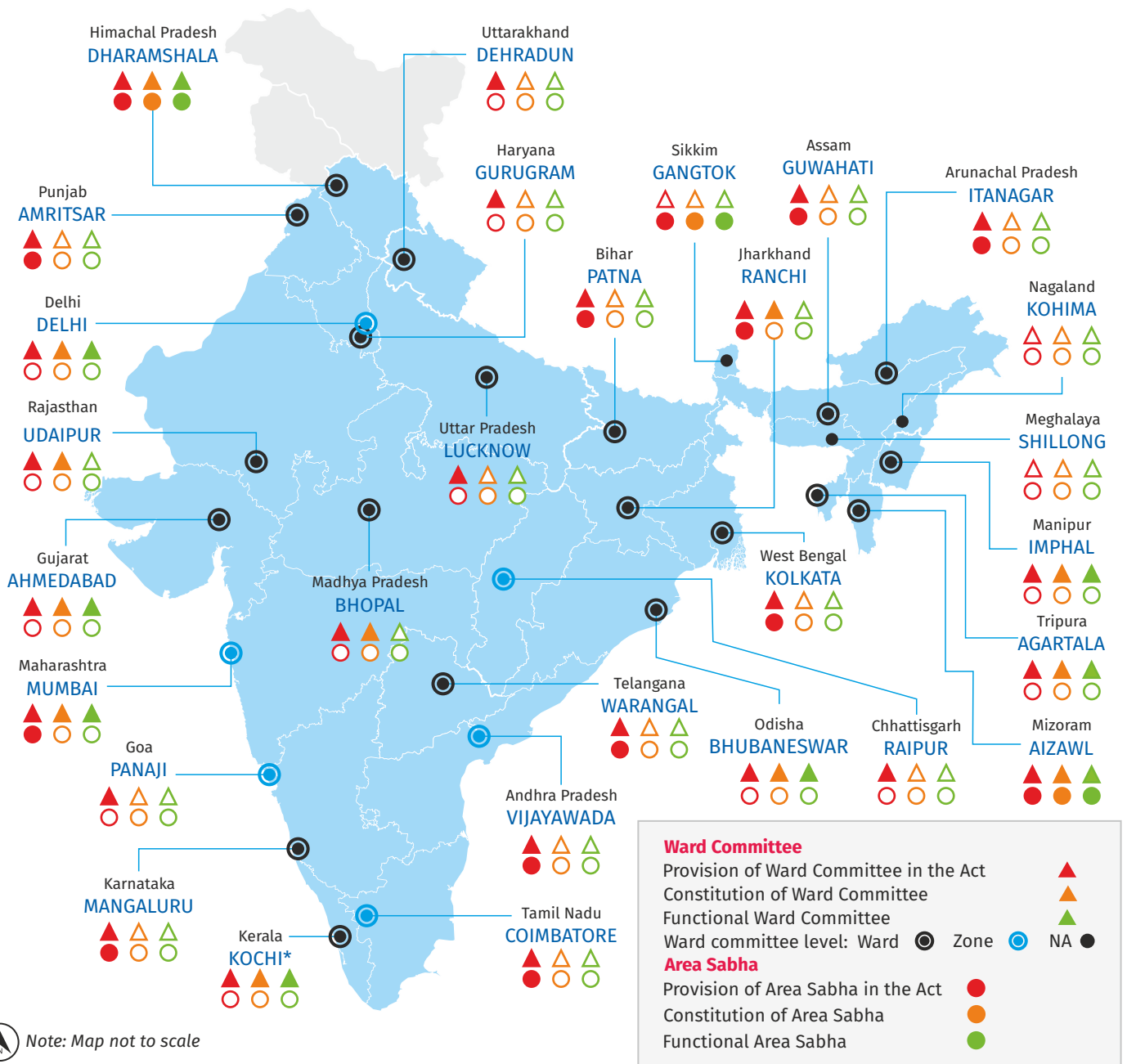


4 Themes *Weightage* **100** **100** *Sub-Theme Scores* **13 Sub- themes**

UGI Score & Rank



Status of Ward Committees & Area Sabha



Note: Map not to scale

INSIGHTS:

- Only nine cities out of the 29 cities have functional ward(s) committee. The cities are namely Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Bhubaneswar (functional until last term i.e., until January 2019), Agartala, Delhi, Dharamshala, Imphal, Kochi and Mumbai.
- Ward(s) committee is constituted only in 12 out of 29 cities i.e., namely, Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Delhi, Dharamshala, Imphal, Ranchi, Kochi, Mumbai, and Udaipur.
- 14 out of 29 cities have not constituted ward(s) committee although Municipal Act has provision for constitution of the same.
- There are no provisions of Ward(s) committee in the municipal acts applicable to Shillong, Kohima and Gangtok.
- Only three cities out of the 29 cities have functional area/ward sabhas. The cities are namely Aizawl, Dharamshala and Gangtok.
- 11 cities have not constituted area/ward sabhas, although respective municipal act has provisions for the same. The cities are namely Amritsar, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Itanagar, Kolkata, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Patna, Ranchi, Vijaywada and Warangal.
- There are no provisions of area/ward sabha in the municipal acts of 14 out of 29 cities. The cities are namely Agartala, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Dehradun, Delhi, Gurugram, Imphal, Kohima, Lucknow, Panaji, Raipur, Shillong and Udaipur.

- Above analysis is for a total of 29 units including all 28 states and NCT of Delhi.
- The data shown on map corresponds to status as of March 2020. If City Governments have constituted and or have functional ward(s) committees after the mentioned month, the same is not reflected in the above map.
- *Kerala Municipalities Act, 1994 (Section 42A) states that Town Panchayat, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporations with population less than one lakh shall constitute ward sabhas. Hence, ward sabha is not applicable to Kochi city.

Status of Devolution of 18 Functions

States	18 Functions																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	7	8	9	10	11	12	13a	13b	14	15	16	17a	17b	18
Andhra Pradesh																					
Arunachal Pradesh																					
Assam																					
Bihar																					
Chhattisgarh																					
Delhi																					
Goa																					
Gujarat																					
Haryana																					
Himachal Pradesh																					
Jharkhand																					
Karnataka																					
Kerala																					
Madhya Pradesh																					
Maharashtra																					
Manipur																					
Meghalaya																					
Mizoram																					
Nagaland																					
Odisha																					
Punjab																					
Rajasthan																					
Sikkim																					
Tamil Nadu																					
Telangana																					
Tripura																					
Uttar Pradesh																					
Uttarakhand																					
West Bengal																					

- 1 Urban planning including town planning.
- 2 Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings.
- 3 Planning for economic and social development
- 4 Roads and bridges
- 5 Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes
- 6a Public health, sanitation conservancy
- 6b Solid waste management
- 7 Fire services
- 8 Urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects
- 9 Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded
- 10 Slum improvement and upgradation
- 11 Urban poverty alleviation
- 12 Provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens, playgrounds
- 13a Promotion of cultural and aesthetic aspects.
- 13b Promotion of Education
- 14 Burials and burial grounds; cremations, cremation grounds
- 15 Cattle pounds; prevention of cruelty to animals
- 16 Vital statistics including birth and death registration
- 17a Public amenities including street lighting, parking lots and public conveniences.
- 17 b Bus stops
- 18 Regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries

Functions under city government
 Functions under multiple agencies
 Functions under State government

The way forward

The UGI will help in understanding the extent of decentralisation of the Urban Governance framework and the associated devolution of powers to the City Governments across states in the country. The corresponding gaps and necessary reforms to improve with respect to each state has been distinctly outlined through the Index report. The UGI can be used by the states to evaluate their urban governance systems vis-à-vis other states, and in identifying the necessary reform actions that are to be taken for improvisation in the system. Stakeholders from civil society, academia, experts from the sector, media, administrators, and more importantly elected representatives can use the index as a base to monitor implementations, and further, can collaborate towards advocating for reform actions included in the UGI for their respective states.

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