

Prajatantra Samvad 2024

Issue 03



EDITORIAL

The Grand Finale of Prajatantra 2023 truly marked the pinnacle of the National Youth Festival. This year’s theme ‘Inclusive and Participatory Urban Economies, celebrated the financial significance of our cities.

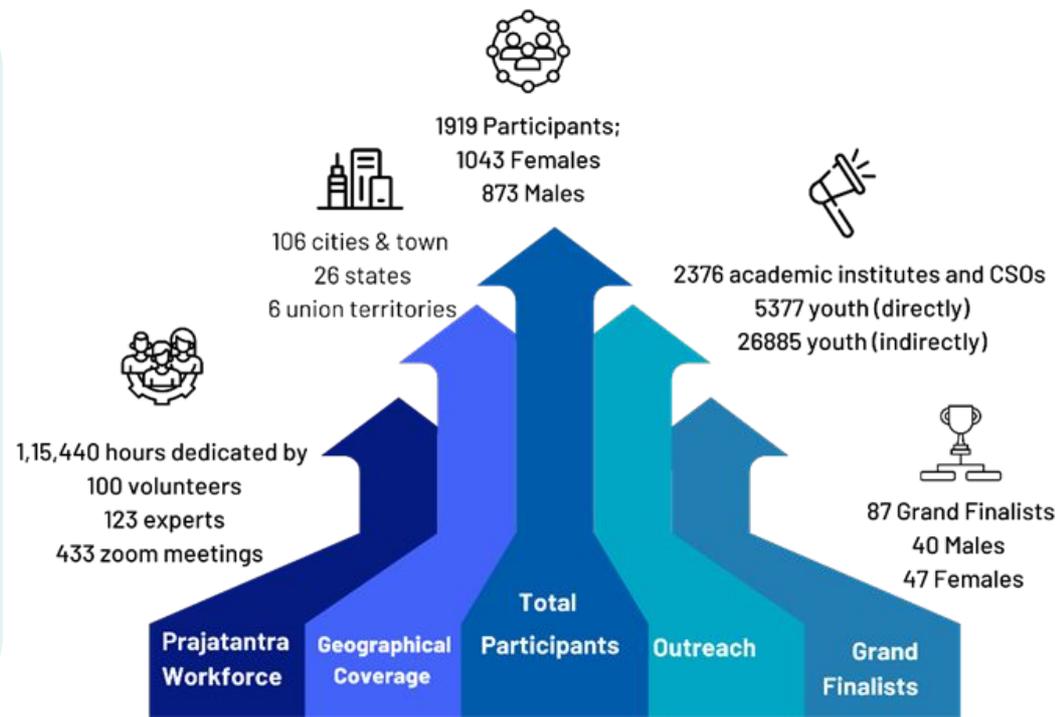
Praja Foundation in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and with the support of UN-Habitat and Friedrich Naumann Foundation South Asia, organised the Grand Finale Ceremony at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi. 3-day Grand Finale Ceremony was a combination of Competitive Events as well as non-competitive events to help grand finalists expand their intellectual and cultural horizons. This year, we also used Prajatantra Platform to facilitate an exposure visit to Delhi for a batch of youngsters from Rangoonwala Foundation, Mumbai who engaged in all activities of Prajatantra especially non-competitive activities.

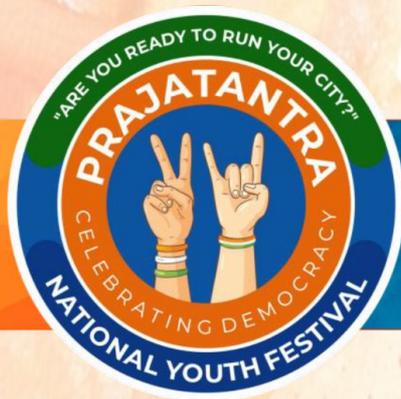
The grand finalists represented nooks and corners of India and shared diverse backgrounds including Social Sciences, Medicine, Engineering and Law. Experts, Changemakers and Leaders from fields of urban governance and policy making such as Shri Tamme Phasang, Hon’ble Mayor of Itanagar Municipal Corporation; Hyun Hee Ban, Chief of Social Policy for UNICEF India; Tikender Singh Panwar, Former Deputy Mayor of Shimla Municipal Corporation; Chakshu Roy, Head of Legislative and Civic engagement initiatives at PRS participated in the Grand Finale to guide young participants.

In this edition of the newsletter, Prajatantra Event Coordinators elaborate on individual events.

“I would like to congratulate Prajatantra Team for organising such special event. It captures so many dynamics of city governance, citizenship and public service and train youth on how they lead mobilise their communities and lead cities tomorrow.”

Tamme Phasang, Honourable Mayor, Itanagar Municipal Corporation





PRAJATANTRA 2023

National Youth Festival

Model City Government

Theme: Inclusive and Participatory Urban Economies



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS



Mayor's Speech	
1st	Manas Anand
2nd	Anmol Limbu Subba
3rd	Mayur Narute

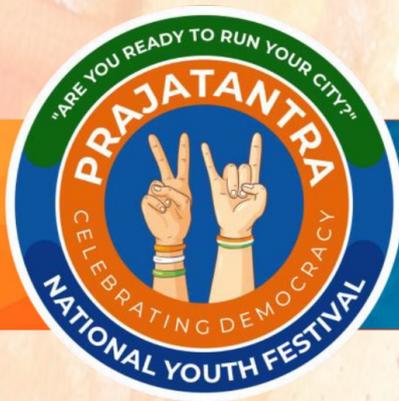
Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance	
1st	Maansi Sood
2nd	Mehvish Wani
3rd	Chaitanya Sonune Priya Singh

Policy Presentation on Urban Economy	
1st	Rakshana Devi DS
2nd	Mehak Singh Drishti Banerjee
3rd	Yash Singh Parihar

Policy Debate	
1st	Kavya Singh
2nd	Gyanesh
3rd	Akanksha Tiwari

Quiz	
1st	Mangesh Satpute Saloni Arbat
2nd	Parikshit Thakur Monika Pawan Sharma
3rd	Jiya Pathania Kaamna Sharma

Op-Ed Writing	
1st	Aarul Bhalekar
2nd	Irada Mansoori
3rd	Rachael Daniel Nadar



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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS



Best Field Engagement

1st	Manas Anand
2nd	Yeheill Shah Maansi Sood

Champions of Democracy

1st	Kavya Singh
2nd	Siddhartha

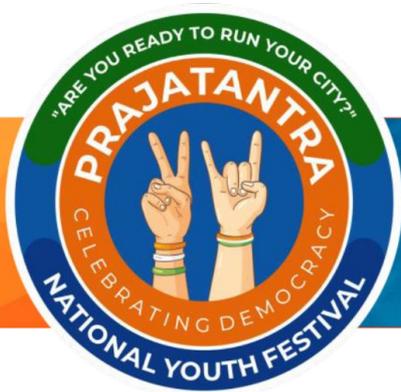
Best Team

1st	Rashtriya Janchetna Dal
2nd	Inclusive Badlav
3rd	Shahari Samridhhi Parishad

Special Appreciation

Youth Community Team From Chembur, Mumbai Apnalaya (NGO)





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MAYOR'S SPEECH

Have you ever heard of a speech competition where mayors from different towns participate to present their perspectives on issues related to their communities? Grand Finalists were encouraged to address local challenges, propose innovative solutions, and inspire others to take action. The competition served as a platform for individuals to voice their concerns, share their vision for the cities, and advocate for positive change.



Still from Mayor Speech Event

“As the coordinator of the event, I was amazed at how all the participants came up with solutions to the problems that were faced by the cities, which included Delhi, Gangtok, Jammu, Bhopal and others. Their solutions were not only innovative but they ensured that these solutions are environment friendly.”

-Maitri Bhanushali & Iman Mulla, Event Coordinators- Mayor Speech



POLICY PRESENTATION

Municipal Finance

The primary objective of the event was to encourage participants to think innovatively about finance and budgeting. Participants presented unique ideas for fund allocation funds in their respective cities at various levels.

The policies ranged from working on schemes like Waste Management, Public Private Partnerships, E-governance, Digitisation and many more concepts which were ideas that could help revive the economies of their cities.



Still from Policy Presentation Event

“As an event coordinator, I thoroughly enjoyed the entire process. From reaching out to participants to interacting with them and getting to know them better, every moment has been dear to me.”

-Rajvi Raja, Event Coordinator, Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance



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Urban Economy

Policy Presentation on Urban Economy Competition focused on the comprehensive economic development of the city and factors such as migration, sociocultural resources and others that affect the policy framework

The participants came from metropolises such as Delhi, Mumbai Kolkata but also smaller cities such as Hubli-Dharwad. The most common aspect that they talked about was boosting the tourism sector. There were also highlights on carbon credit systems and e-bikes to ensure sustainable economic development.



Still from Policy Presentation Event

“Integration and progress of the informal sectors was a subject in line with the theme. Suggestions to build smart shops and leasing them to the street vendors as well as community mobilisation emphasising the informal sector were discussed by participants across the board.”

-Saachi Sahastrabudhe & Ashish Mohite, Event Coordinators, Policy Presentation on Urban Economy



POLICY DEBATE

The motion; 'Should City Government only be a Service Delivery Agency or whether they are responsible for Economic Development' was selected as the debate motion for the grand finale. Participants were divided into Government and Opposition sides to either favour or oppose the motion on spot.



Still from Policy Debate Event

As a Debate Coordinator, it was great to witness the event unfold, where participants put forward their thought process & knowledge that were tested on the spot. The Q & A Round was particularly intense with critical questions were being moved back and forth.

-Sharvi Ambekar, Event Coordinator- Policy Debate Competition



QUIZ

Prajatantra Quiz was designed to encourage participant to learn more on urban subjects. The Grand Finale tested the knowledge of 9 finalist teams on Indian Constitution, Urban Governance, 74th Constitutional Amendment Act and Municipal Finance. The grand finale featured 5 rounds;

- First was the General Q & A Round
- Second was the Stand up and Answer Round.
- Third was the Audio-Visual Round
- Fourth was the Fastest Finger First Round
- Fifth was the True or False Round

Along with participants, audience too enthusiastically participated in the segments dedicated for them.

-Poonam Prajapati, Event Coordinator- Quiz Competition



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OP-ED WRITING COMPETITION

The Opinion Editorial competition's climax in Delhi was a nail-biting, thrilling, and enjoyable experience for both finalists and the engaged audience. As the event's focal theme revolved around "Inclusive and Participatory Urban Economics," inquiries from judges not only tested participants' research but also their opinions on this very topic. This interactive scrutiny wasn't just a challenge; it became the heartbeat of the event. The journey from ease to exhilaration became a testament to the unpredictable thrill of unfiltered expression. This finale isn't just a culmination; it is a testament to the courage of unfiltered voices shaping our future discourses.



Still from Op-Ed Writing Event

-Srimurty Poulomi & Anjan Chheda, Event Coordinators- Op-Ed Writing Competition



FIELD ENGAGEMENT

The Field Engagement was a new activity introduced this year. It was designed to provide grand finalists with a functioning of city governance in their cities. During the Grand Finale, every Grand Finalist made a presentation on their findings.

The activity was divided into two phases: in Phase I, participants conducted a comprehensive review of urban economic policies in their respective cities. They also mapped the demographic profile of their cities, studied the website of the City Government, and analysed the Municipal Corporation Act.

Phase II focused on Field Visits and Citizen Surveys, where participants interacted directly with administration officials, elected representatives, and citizens. These interactions provided valuable insights into the implementation of urban economic policies and the effectiveness of service delivery.



Stills from Field Engagement

"As the Activity Coordinator, I was particularly impressed by the ability of participants to identify challenges and formulate practical recommendations for improvement. Their perspectives on their respective cities and communities provided a nuanced view of urban India."

-Pranjal Garg, Event Coordinator Field Engagement Activity.



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Prajatantra 2023 featured six non-competitive event that were designed to emphasis on community-building, idea and cultural exchange between Grand Finalists as well as expose them to deeper thoughts on society, citizenship and governance.

- **Knowledge Sessions:** Before the Grand Finale, 4 Knowledge Sessions were organised focusing on Writing Skills, Reading the Municipal Act, Right to Information and Constitution and Active Citizenship to guide the preparation
- **Reel Retreat hosted in collaboration with Ashris Choudhary Founder of India in Pixels:** 2 documentaries 'I am 20' and Where are they now? Indians from 1967 were screened under this segment. Both documentaries focused on the aspirations and ideas of 20-year-old Indians from 1967. The screening was followed by an eventful discussion with grand finalists.
- **Prajatantra UnPlugged in collaboration with Youth Alliance:** This was a community-building segment for participants to know each other better. Through different interactive activities anchored by unique card games, participants were tasked to share hidden aspects of their personalities.
- **Networking Dinner:** A special dinner was hosted between grand finalists as well as stakeholders of Praja Foundations and Praja Alumni, former interns, employees and fellows to engage and network.
- **Cultural Night:** In this segment, they were invited to celebrate the diversity of Prajatantra through cultural performances ranging from folk/traditional music, dances and poetry recitals.
- **Visit to Indian Parliament:** For the first time, we facilitated a guided tour of Parliament House (old). During the visit, participants closely observed the structure of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Central Hall and how proceedings of Parliament take place.

We are now all set to achieve a bigger milestone in Prajatantra 2024

Best regards,
Prajatantra Team



Stills from Cultural Night



Stills from Parliament Visit



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"The experience of these four days at Prajatantra has been unmatched. It was more than just a competition. It gave me a glimpse of all of India's diversity and cultural richness. Events has left a mark on my life and I have learnt bags of things from everyone."

-Priya Singh, Prajatantra 2023 Grand Finalist, Policy Presentation on Urban Economy



Group Photo of Prajatantra 2023 Team and Grand Finalists

Prajatantra Steering Committee:

Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs; **Parul Agarwala**, Country Manager, UN-Habitat India; **Nitai Mehta**, Founder and Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation; **Milind Mhaske**, CEO, Praja Foundation.

Prajatantra Coordination Committee:

Dr Gayatri Doctor, Senior Associate Professor and Program Chair, Faculty of Management, CEPT University, Ahmedabad; **Dr Amit Singh**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, Delhi University; **Dr Geeta Kubsad**, Assistant Professor, Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai; **Dr Vikas Tripathi**, Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science, Guwahati University, Assam; **Pushkal Shivam**, Urban Planner, UN-Habitat, India; **Lovlesh Sharma**, Head, Urban Youth Unit (UYU) National Institute of Urban Affairs; **Himani Verma**, Manager, Urban Youth Unit (UYU) National Institute of Urban Affairs; **Kaustubh Parihar**, Project Associate, Urban Youth Unit (UYU) National Institute of Urban Affairs; **Priyanka Sharma**, Director Programs, Praja Foundation; **Kunaljit Bhatta**, Program Coordinator, Praja Foundation; **M Hasan Nizami**, Program Officer, Praja Foundation.

Want to know more about Prajatantra 2023.

Scan this QR Code to find Prajatantra 2023 Compendium

