

Uttar Pradesh Urban Governance Consultation 2025

Uttar Pradesh contributes nearly **9.2% of India's GDP** and is home to over **16% of the country's population**. As India sets its sights on becoming a **5 trillion-dollar economy**, the development trajectory of UP will significantly influence the nation's overall progress. The growth of Uttar Pradesh's urban centres—ranging from large municipal corporations like Lucknow and Kanpur to rapidly growing smaller towns—will be pivotal in shaping not only the economic but also the social and environmental outcomes of India's development plans.

Improving the governance, financial capacity, and spatial planning of these urban centres is essential to ensuring that UP's cities can become engines of inclusive and sustainable growth. This includes empowering local governments to deliver better services, ensuring fiscal sustainability, and equipping city-level institutions with the tools and autonomy needed for effective planning and administration.

To support this vision, Praja Foundation released the second edition of the [Urban Governance Index \(UGI\)](#) in 2024, which assessed states—including Uttar Pradesh—on the structures and effectiveness of urban governance post the 74th Constitutional Amendment. The [Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments](#) report was also released in 2024, highlighting the pressing need for empowering cities to raise their own revenues and build stronger fiscal systems. Alongside this, [UDRI's Spatial Planning Index 2024](#) (SPI) was developed as a benchmarking tool to measure cities against a comprehensive set of indicators that reflect a decentralized spatial planning framework.

In this context, the **Uttar Pradesh Urban Governance Consultation** will serve as a platform to reflect on the status of urban governance in the state, financial empowerment of cities, and initiate discussions on spatial planning and town development. We look forward to welcoming you to this round-table discussion, to collectively chart a roadmap for enabling financially empowered, accountable, and well-planned urban centres in Uttar Pradesh.

Building on these findings, the consultation will further explore how Uttar Pradesh can strengthen the implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment by enhancing institutional capacity, deepening devolution of functions and finances, and promoting citizen participation in urban governance. Drawing insights from the budgets of 17 municipal corporations in the state, the discussion will examine patterns in revenue generation, reliance on state transfers, and expenditure priorities to identify practical ways to improve financial sustainability.

In collaboration with the **Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI)**, the session will also highlight current challenges in spatial planning and discuss how planning systems in the state can be made more decentralised, climate-responsive, and aligned with Uttar Pradesh's broader urban development goals.