



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

Outcome of

Model Municipal Law

Reporting Back Session

Speakers

Moderators



Shri Gopal Prasad
*Economic Advisor,
MoHUA*



Prof. (Dr) Debolina Kundu
Director, NIUA

Panellists



Smt Parveen Batra Joshi
*Mayor, Faridabad
Municipal Corporation*



Dr Nehal Shukla
*Mayor, Rajkot
Municipal Corporation*



Smt Sulochana Das
*Mayor, Bhubaneswar
Municipal Corporation*



Shri Subash Singh
*Mayor, Cuttack
Municipal Corporation*



Shri Susanta Kumar Dutta
*Director, Municipal
Administration, Government of
Assam*



Smt Kirandeep Kaur Sahota
*Municipal Commissioner,
Cuttack Municipal
Corporation*



Mr Amlanjyoti Goswami
*Chief – Legal & Regulation,
Indian Institute of Human
Settlements*



Dr Kaustav Kanti Bandopadhyay
*Director, Participatory
Research in Asia*

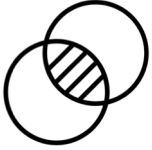


Mr Anand Iyer
*Chief Policy & Insights
Officer, Janaagraha*

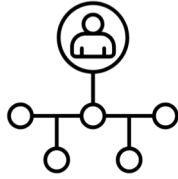
Session Format

- Presentation of the **proposed revisions to the Model Municipal Law 2003**, by the moderators
- Overview of **74 unique clauses identified** for revision across six reform areas for million-plus cities
- **Perspectives** on existing governance challenges and proposed reforms from
 - Mayors
 - Municipal Commissioners
 - State government representatives
 - Domain experts
- Moderated deliberations on political and executive authority, institutional arrangements, service delivery, fiscal autonomy and decentralised governance
- Identification of priority legislative amendments, implementation challenges and institutional capacity-building requirements to inform the revised Model Municipal Law

Challenges Identified



Overlapping responsibilities among elected representatives, Municipal Commissioners, state departments and parastatals weaken accountability and decision-making



Mayors often lack commensurate executive, administrative and financial powers, despite being the political heads of municipal governments



Municipal responsibilities are not consistently accompanied by control over personnel, financial resources and service delivery institutions



Dependence on intergovernmental transfers, limited own-source revenues and irregular implementation of State Finance Commission recommendations constrain municipal finances



Delayed elections, inadequate decentralisation and shortages of qualified municipal personnel affect continuity and service delivery

Key Areas of Deliberation

Strengthening political and executive leadership

through directly elected Mayors with five-year tenure co-terminus with the municipal body, an empowered Mayor-in-Council, and clearly defined powers, responsibilities

Establishing unified and accountable city governments

through devolution of municipal functions, municipal oversight of service delivery agencies, and empowered Zonal, Ward and Subject committees with clearly defined responsibilities

Strengthening municipal institutions and finances

through enforceable election timelines, stronger municipal finances and autonomy, transparent fiscal transfers, priority legislative amendments, implementation mechanisms and institutional capacity-building requirements

Key Recommendations

- Align the five-year mandates of directly elected Mayors with adequate executive, administrative and financial authority
- Clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, Mayor-in-Council, and Municipal Commissioner with provision for portfolio-based governance
- Transfer significant responsibility of essential urban services to Municipal Corporations. Define clear accountability and coordination arrangements with parastatals, SPVs and state departments
- Establish adequate technical staffing, rationalise deputation arrangements and prescribe minimum tenures for Municipal Commissioners
- Increase financial autonomy, streamline departmental clearances, strengthen own-source revenues and prescribe timelines for project approvals, procurement and audits
- Define the powers and responsibilities of Zonal and Ward Committees, with formal mechanisms for considering and responding to their recommendations

Way Forward

- Propose amendments to the Model Municipal Law 2003, based on the six reform areas and stakeholder deliberations
- Develop an implementation framework distinguishing reforms requiring statutory amendments from those achievable through rules, administrative orders and institutional restructuring
- Undertake structured consultations with states and municipal governments to assess the feasibility of proposed provisions across different municipal governance systems



Thank You