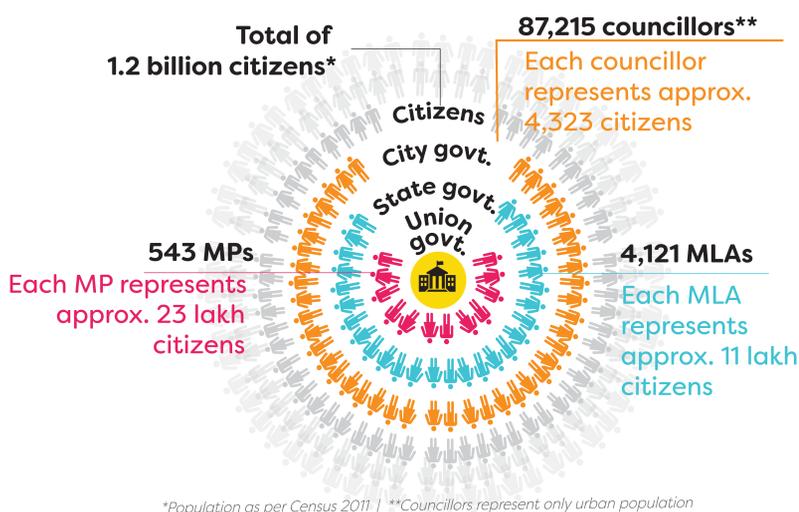


EMPOWERING CITY LEADERS FOR BETTER URBAN GOVERNANCE

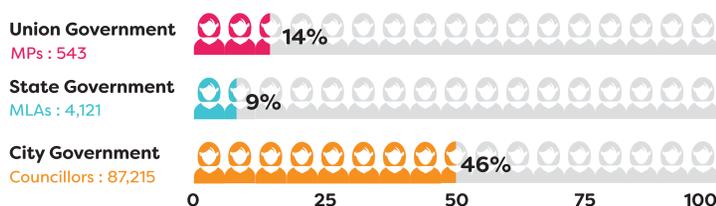
V R Vachana, Manager-Advocacy | Mythreyi Mugundan - Senior Associate - Advocacy | Reetika Syal - Consultant - Research and Insights

Though councillors are key to solving 21st century challenges, they are highly disempowered in India. 'City Leaders' is a study on the needs and opportunities of a systematic leadership programme to empower elected leaders, particularly women, in India's cities for a sustainable urban future.

Councillors are the bridge between citizens and the government at the "first mile"



Women councillors are a significant force in India's cities

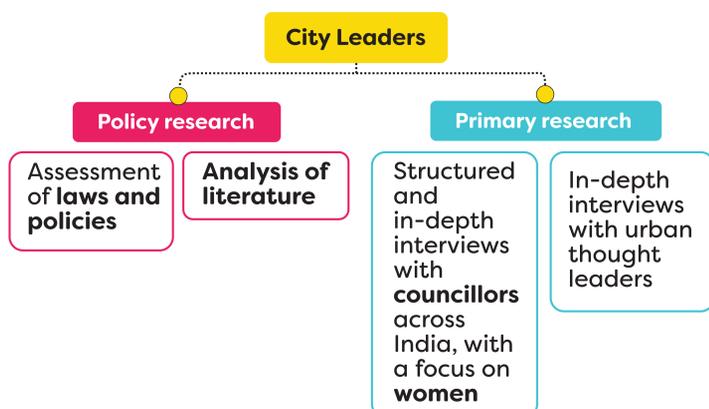


Councillors are our city leaders

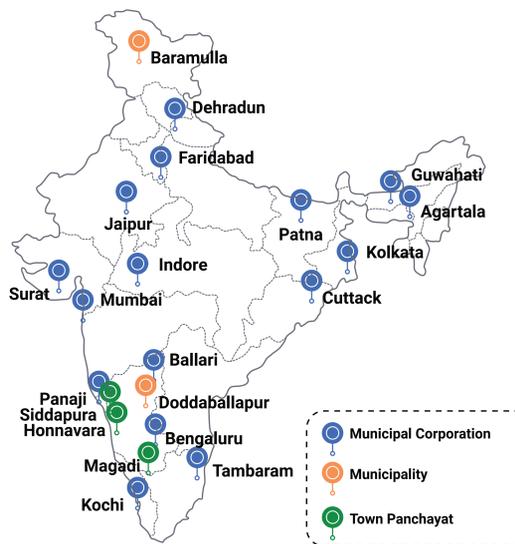
81%, 64% and 74% of respondents approached councillors for addressing issues with respect to electricity, water supply, and sanitation respectively in cities such as Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Kochi, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

Source: Jana-Brown Citizenship Index

How did we conduct the study 'City Leaders'?



Where did we go to capture the voice of councillors?



However, our councillors and city governments are disempowered

- » 11 states have mayors with tenure > five years
- » Only 1 state has devolved all key taxes to at least one city government category in the state
- » On average, only 9 out of the 18 functions under the 12th schedule of the constitution have been devolved to city
- » No state has empowered its city governments over the hiring and firing of municipal staff governments

Source: Janaagraha's Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS), in turn, based on the assessment of 82 municipal legislations across all states/UTs in India, as of December 2022 (Ongoing research).

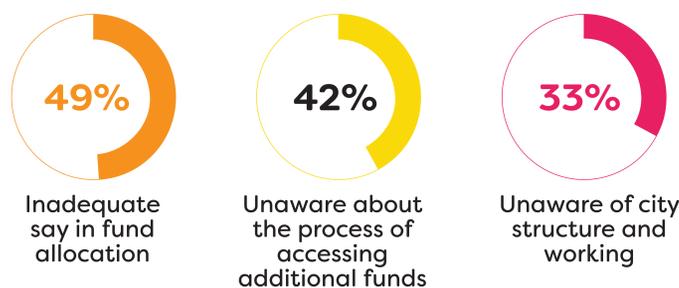
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We found that councillors navigate several challenges, especially women



Councillors know how to win elections but they do not know how to govern the city



100% councillors in India believe that a systematic training programme is important. 57% of the councillors received no induction training.

Councillors have identified ten key training areas across hard and soft skills

Hard skills



Soft skills



82% councillors interviewed say that, to be truly empowered and effective, along with leadership building, greater decentralisation is also key



I am a young lady and this is my first time in politics. I contested elections so that I could help people. But there is no such degree/course which trains/teaches councillors about what are the responsibilities of a councillor.

Kajal Bhinwal, Councillor, Jaipur

Janaagraha's City Leaders Programme has now reached 771 councillors/mayors from 23 cities across 3 states.
 Email : cityleaders@janaagraha.org