Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2017

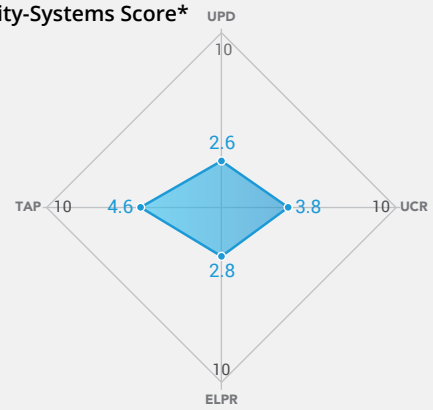
VISAKHAPATNAM

JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

SCORE
3.4/10

RANK
17/23

City-Systems Score*



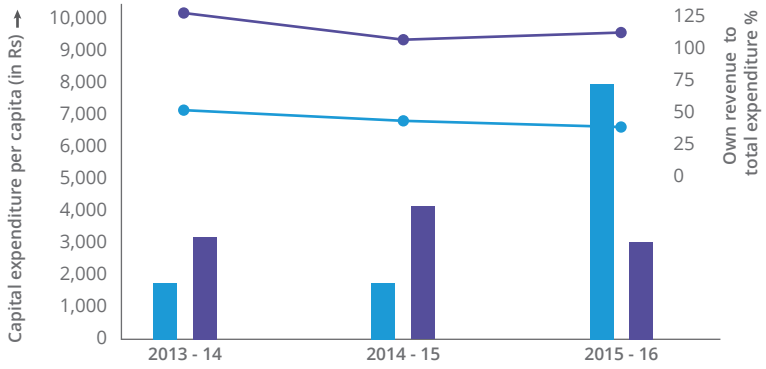
TOP INDIAN CITY
Pune | Score: 5.1

KEY FINDINGS

- Municipal elections not held since 2007
- Budget variance of 38%, on average, over the last three years
- Civic data not available in open data format
- Fares poorly on empowered mayor and council

CITY FACTOIDS

Own revenue proportion to total expenditure % and capex per capita – Visakhapatnam v/s Mumbai **



In practice, the municipal body in Visakhapatnam handles only *10 functions* as opposed to the 18 listed in the 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CAA).

The mayor of Visakhapatnam is *indirectly elected* by its citizens and has a *5 year term*.

**UPD: Urban Planning & Design, UCR: Urban Capacities & Resources, ELPR: Empowered & Legitimate Political Representation and TAP: Transparency, Accountability & Participation are the four components of the 'City-Systems' framework used for ASICS evaluation*

***Mumbai has been chosen as the benchmark city since it has the highest capex per capita*

KEY REFORMS

City Council

1. Implement an effective system to **monitor, report and penalise** Spatial Development Plan (SDP) violations *(UPD)*
2. Sharply focus on **improving collection efficiencies, explore technology and outsourcing solutions** to enable the same *(UCR)*
3. Create a **medium-term workforce plan** and an **annual workforce plan**, aligned to medium-term fiscal plan and annual budgets *(UCR)*
4. Adopt **open data standards, usher in radical transparency in finances and operations**; systematically provide actionable data at a neighborhood level *(TAP)*

State Governments

1. Overhaul planning acts, mandate **creation of three levels of SDPs with defined objectives and metrics** and covering the **planning Preparation, Implementation & Enforcement (PIE)** *(UPD)*
2. Enact **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act** legislation, mandate **audit of annual accounts by CAs** by 31 July each year *(UCR)*
3. Overhaul **cadre and recruitment rules** to bring them up to modern, contemporary standards of HR management
4. Overhaul municipal corporation acts to empower the **empower the mayor and ensure critical functions are meaningfully devolved, and mayors and councils have full powers over staffing and finances** *(ELPR)*
5. Enact **community participation law and public disclosure law**. Notify rules and implement them in spirit *(TAP)*

Government of India

1. Lead the effort on a **metropolitan governance paradigm**, evolve consensus with state governments *(ELPR)*