

Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026 (CURE) - An Independent Assessment.

Constructive suggestions to make Hyderabad's new
metropolitan law work for its citizens.

24 July 2026



For over two decades, Janaagraha has helped shape urban governance reforms across India.

Janaagraha is a Bengaluru-based not-for-profit institution working to transform the quality of life in India's cities and towns.

- Assessed **82 municipal acts, 44 town and country planning acts, and 176 allied legislations** across all states and union territories through the **Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS)** from 2023.
- Supported the **XIII, XIV, XV, and XVI Finance Commissions, the second Administrative Reforms Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, NITI Aayog, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** across planning, finance, and governance research and reforms.
- Contributed to major urban governance reforms, including the **Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024** and the **April 2026 NITI Aayog Framework for Governing India's Million-plus Cities** (April 2026) which sets out principles for strengthening governance across India's largest metropolitan regions.
- Presently advising state governments on urban governance, finance, and planning, including Assam, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Working with councillors and citizens to strengthen local democracy and active citizenship in urban neighborhoods.

This assessment draws on Janaagraha's national experience in analysing municipal and planning laws and translating evidence into implementable city-systems reforms.

How did we assess the CURE Bill, 2026?

01

City-systems lens

- Planning and design.
- Mayor, elected council and local democracy.
- Participatory and accountable governance.
- Implementation capacity.

Our in-house framework aimed at providing better outcomes for citizens.

02

Comparative review

- The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act (GHMC), 1955.
- The Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Act, 2024.

38 questions scored on a scale of 0-10.

Five additional questions since the last GBG analysis.

03

Legal review

- Clause-by-clause review of the entire CURE Bill, 2026.

Recommendations on 135 relevant clauses.

Our assessment focuses on institutional design, clarity of legal mandates, and the effective operationalisation of the Bill.

With the CURE Bill, Hyderabad has an opportunity to set the national benchmark.

Hyderabad is an engine of growth for Telangana, and India:

\$3T by 2047

Telangana's
growth target

~\$90B

Hyderabad city's
economy

₹4.8L

per-capita income for
Hyderabad district

Note: "T"=Trillion; "B"= Billion; "L" = Lakh

Source: Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (2023); Telangana Rising 2047; Telangana Socio-Economic Outlook 2026.

Yet the city is under strain due to its rapid growth:

- **Rising congestion and longer commutes** — about 1,500 new vehicles hit the roads every day.
- **Recurrent flooding and mounting heat stress** — land-surface temperatures up ~7.5°C between 2003 and 2020.
- **Poor air quality** — cleaner than many Indian cities but still among India's most polluted capital cities.
- **Inadequate public transport capacity.**
- **Growing pressure** on infrastructure and affordable housing.

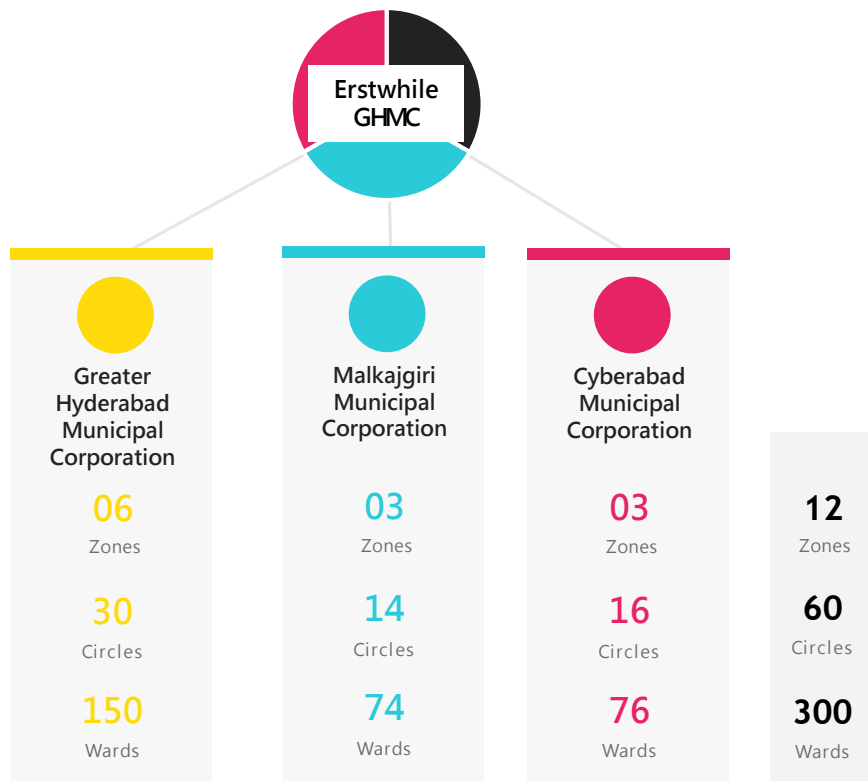
Source: Thirumurthy (2026); The Hindu Bureau (2026a), Singh (2026); Shah (2026); Swathi (2025, 2026); Baski (2026); The Hindu Bureau (2026b).

Hyderabad will be only the second Indian city, after Bengaluru, to have a metropolitan governance law. The challenge for the Bill is to create institutions with accountability that deliver a better quality of life for citizens.

Changes introduced by the CURE Bill –A snapshot.

One city, three corporations

The former GHMC area was reorganised on 11 February 2026



Before (GHMC Act, 1955)	Now? (CURE Bill, 2026)
One municipal corporation (GHMC).	Three corporations governed under one common law .
No metropolitan coordination mechanism.	CM-chaired CURE apex governance council and executive committee to coordinate across the metropolitan region.
One ward committee per Ward.	Four committees per ward.
Provided for area sabhas .	No area sabhas.
Ward committee has significant powers, rights, and earmarked allocations .	Severely restricted functions, no rights and no earmarked allocations .
No special cells/committees for climate, gender, livelihoods and heritage.	Provides for special cells/committees for climate, gender, livelihoods and heritage.
Digital governance missing.	Emphasis on digital governance .

Overall assessment: The CURE Bill performs marginally better than the GHMC Act, but worse than the GBG Act. Both the CURE Bill and the GBG Act fall short of a modern metropolitan governance law.

Criteria (on a scale of 10)	CURE Bill, 2026	GHMC Act, 1955	GBG Act, 2024
Will the city be planned better? (10 Q)	1.33	0.00	2.33
Will my mayor and council have more power? (10 Q)	2.72	4.25	3.33
Will the urban local government become more transparent and accountable? (6 Q)	3.33	1.11	0.65
Will citizens have a stronger voice in governance? (2 Q)	2.50	2.50	5.00
Will the institutions actually be able to deliver? (10 Q)	4.00	3.50	7.50
Overall assessment (% score)	28%	23%	38%

The CURE Bill, 2026 strengthens transparency and introduces important metropolitan institutions. However, it remains weak in the areas that ultimately determine whether cities are well governed: metropolitan planning, institutional capacity, and an empowered local democracy.

There is intent.

However, there are significant institutional gaps.

What the Bill gets right

Where it falls short

- **Fairer property taxation:** Capital-value basis with a capped transition means greater predictability for taxpayers.
- **One identity for every property:** Connecting property records, taxes, and services with one ID.
- **Climate action backed by law:** Climate-proof infrastructure, clean-air measures, water-body protection, shade, EV charging, and grey-water reuse – all have a place in the bill.
- **Stronger gender and accessibility mandate:** Representation, gender audits, and safer, more accessible public infrastructure.
- **More transparent and simpler digital services:** Mandate to publish civic data and a common billing and payment system.
- **Metropolitan planning remains unresolved:** No mandates for strategic, spatial, and investment plans at the metropolitan level. No place for the Metropolitan Planning Committee.
- **15+ bodies, weak architecture:** Unclear mandates, no apex council secretariat, and overlapping institutions can lead to weaker delivery and accountability.
- **Promises without deadlines:** 78+ provisions depend on future rules or executive notifications. 1,000+ discretionary provisions. Risk of key bodies, functions rules, and frameworks remaining on paper and unenforced.
- **Weak local democracy:** No metropolitan mayor; Corporation mayors, councillors, and citizens have limited influence over the city's decisions.
- **Weak capacity:** No consolidated public reporting at the metropolitan level, missing Human Resources (HR) framework, not enough provision for robust fiscal planning.

Will the city be planned better?

Why does this matter?

Roads, transport, drainage, and housing may still be planned separately rather than as a single city leading to sub-optimal outcomes for citizens.

What the Bill gets right	Where it falls short
Climate and resilience become statutory responsibilities, with climate action and sustainability integrated into municipal governance. Metropolitan coordination is recognised for the first time, creating a formal platform for agencies to work together.	No institution is clearly responsible for planning Hyderabad as one city, so transport, housing, drainage, and land use may still be planned separately. Residents still have little say in neighborhood planning, limiting community participation in local development. No mandate for a single standard for designing streets and public spaces across agencies, leading to inconsistent roads, footpaths, and public infrastructure.

Evaluation scores (out of 10)	CURE Bill, 2026	GBG Act, 2024	GHMC Act, 1955
	1.33	2.33	0.00

Will my mayor and council have more power?

Why does this matter?

The people you elect may still have limited ability to influence how your city is run.

What the Bill gets right		Where it falls short		
- A five-year mayoral tenure provides greater continuity. - Corporations retain the authority to approve their budgets.		Day-to-day executive authority continues to rest largely with the commissioner, limiting the role of mayor and councils. - The State Election Commission (SEC) has no role in ward delimitation, limiting the independence of the electoral process. Councillors have limited control over municipal functions, finances, and staff, reducing their ability to respond to citizens' needs. Mayors and councillors are not guaranteed training or capacity-building, affecting their ability to effectively perform their roles. There is no requirement for councillors to publicly disclose their interests, limiting transparency and public trust.		
Evaluation scores (out of 10)		CURE Bill, 2026	GBG Act, 2024	GHMC Act, 1955
		2.72	3.33	4.25

Will the Corporations become more transparent and accountable?

Why does this matter?

Urban local governments may have power, but it will help only if citizens know how the power is being used and are able to hold them to account for how they use it.

What the Bill gets right	Where it falls short
- Citizens will have better access to operational and financial information. - A digital governance framework and a common payment system can make dealing with the corporation simpler.	No independent authority(Ombudsman) to investigate complaints about poor municipal services, maladministration, or corruption. No mandate for internal audits, making it harder to identify problems early and hold institutions accountable.

Evaluation Scores (out of 10)	CURE Bill, 2026	GBG Act, 2024	GHMC Act, 1955
	3.33	0.65	1.11

Will citizens have a stronger voice?

Why does this matter?

Urban local governments may become more transparent, but citizens still have limited ways to make their needs and priorities heard and influence decisions.

What the Bill gets right	Where it falls short
There is a provision for ward committees to be constituted in each ward.	- There is no clarity about the constitution of the ward committee or how the members will be selected. The ward committees have limited powers and no allocated budgets for proper functioning. - There are no area sabhas, a provision present in the GHMC Act, that can strengthen local citizen participation.

Evaluation scores (out of 10)	CURE Bill, 2026	GBG Act, 2024	GHMC Act, 1955
	2.50	5.00	2.50

Does the city have the institutional set up and resources to actually deliver?

Why does this matter?

Better laws alone will not improve services unless institutions have the people, resources, and systems needed to implement them.

What the Bill gets right		Where it falls short		
- Corporations receive greater financial flexibility, including borrowing and investment powers. Independent financial audits strengthen financial oversight.		Cities continue to depend heavily on the state for revenue, limiting their ability to improve local services (<i>No profession and advertisement tax powers</i>). No mandate for long-term financial planning, making it harder to sustainably fund infrastructure and services. No framework to build the skills and performance of municipal staff, affecting the quality of service delivery. Several reforms depend on future rules and state government notifications -improvements may take years to become operational—or may not happen at all.		
Evaluation scores (out of 10)		CURE Bill, 2026	GBG Act, 2024	GHMC Act, 1955
		4.00	7.50	3.50

Whose Bill is it? What the text reveals.



Note: Word size reflects the true frequency across 271 pages, this word cloud was generated for illustrative purposes with the help of AI tools.

The state government retains discretion far more than holding itself accountable to delivery.

“Government may” 130

"Government shall" 38

Commissioner vs Mayor – where the text spends its attention:

“Commissioner may/shall”: 219 mentions

“Mayor may/shall”: 7 mentions

Whose bill is it?

“Citizen” appears just **6 times** in 271 pages – versus **475** for “Government” and **780** for “Commissioner”. Although Public does appear **290** times.

Some words appearing too rarely in the Bill:

Consultation (7) · Participation (5) · Accountability (1).

Vocabulary does not treat citizens as decision-makers.

Our key recommendations.

- 1 Plan the metropolitan region as a whole.** Today, roads, drains, housing, land use, and environmental systems are planned by different agencies, often without adequate coordination. The Bill should clearly define the respective roles of the MPC, Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), and the CM-led apex governance council. The MPC should perform its constitutional and representative planning role; HMDA should provide the statutory and technical planning capacity; and the apex council should align sectoral plans and investments, resolve inter-agency conflicts, and oversee coordinated implementation across the metropolitan region. The apex council should also include adequate elected local government representation so that metropolitan coordination and implementation remain democratically anchored. The council should complement, rather than replace, the MPC.
- 2 Make the roles of the new authorities and committees clear, accountable, and time bound.** The Bill creates more than 15 new authorities, committees, and cells. Each one needs a clear job, clear powers, the staff to run it, and someone it answers to – so they do not overlap, work at cross-purposes, or leave citizens unsure who is responsible. Across the Bill, at least 78 provisions rely on discretionary “may” language or contain no timeline for constituting institutions, notifying rules or operationalising frameworks.
- 3 Make walkable, accessible streets a single, binding standard.** Universal accessibility is a welcome start, but on its own it will not deliver safe, walkable streets. We recommend the Bill require a single “Complete streets and public space design standards” – notified within a year of the commencement of the Act – that every corporation, department and parastatal within the CURE area must follow when they plan, build or maintain any street or public space across the region.
- 4 Give institutions the people and money to deliver.** Good rules on paper mean little without the capacity to act. Each institution needs dedicated staff, the right skills, and reliable funding. The Bill should guarantee these and not leave them to chance.
- 5 Give citizens and their elected representatives a real say.** A city works best when the people you elect have genuine power to fix things, and when residents have a real voice in decisions that affect their neighbourhoods. The Bill should strengthen the role of mayors and councils, open up meaningful ways for citizens to participate, and setup independent checks that hold the system accountable.

Our detailed recommendations.

1

Replace "may" with "shall" for the 70+ provisions relating to the constitution of statutory bodies, notification of governance frameworks, and essential implementation rules. **Insert mandatory timelines throughout the Act** to establish institutions, notify rules, and operationalise key reforms.

Suggested amendments	Provision in the Bill
Specify a deadline for the first elections, ward notification, and operationalisation of the three corporations.	Municipal elections and transition (Sections 8 and 319 respectively).
Constitute within 3 months of the commencement of the Act, with the first meeting held within 30 days thereafter.	Apex council & executive committee (Sections 231 and 233).
Notify all rules within 6 months of commencement of the Act.	Rules under the Act (various provisions).
Constitute all bodies within 6 months of the commencement of the Act wherever the Act presently says Government "may" constitute them.	Climate, traffic, heritage, disaster, gender and other statutory bodies (various provisions under Part III).
Notify within 12 months of the commencement of the Act, along with interim milestones and annual reporting.	Climate action framework (Section 246).
Notify standards for data protection and digital service delivery and the digital governance implementation roadmap within 12 months of the commencement of the Act.	Digital governance framework and common billing system (Sections 269 and 270).

Why does this matter? Without mandatory provisions and timelines, new institutions may never be created, rules may remain unnotified, leaving the key provisions non-operational, and elections to corporations can be delayed.

Our detailed recommendations.

2

Give mayors, councillors, corporations, and ward committees greater powers and autonomy.

Suggested amendments	Why does it matter?
Ensure any changes to the corporation boundaries take place in consultation with the corporation and aligned with decadal delimitation. (Section 3)	Altering jurisdictions will have significant effects on citizens' quality of life and on the autonomy of the corporation. Consulting the corporation will help make these changes in a planned and deliberate manner.
Create the office of a democratically elected metropolitan mayor with vested executive power over the corporation. (Section 5, Section 11, Section 34)	A democratically elected and empowered mayor is accountable to the city's citizens - unlike a commissioner. Major cities around the world are governed by directly-elected mayors with promising results.
Prohibit MLAs and MPs from being members of the corporation. (Section 5(2))	Allowing MLAs and MPs to participate and vote in the corporation's affairs allows for state or union interests to override city interests and influence the elected mandates of the corporation.
Ensure commissioners are appointed in consultation with the mayor. (Section 24 and section 25)	The commissioner, being someone appointed to carry out the corporation's functions, must be appointed by an elected head of the corporation.
Create area sabhas, make ward committees' constitution clear, and empower these committees with powers, rights, and earmarked allocations. (Sch.II, clause 4).	Ward committees improve governance and service at the last-mile, improving quality of life. Missing or dysfunctional ward committees reduce a city's ability to provide better citizen outcomes.

Our detailed recommendations.

3 Strengthen provisions to build institutions that are designed to deliver.

Suggested amendments	Why does it matter?
- Explicitly define the metropolitan planning role of the CURE apex governance council and clarify its relationship with the MPC (Art. 243ZE) and HMDA. (Sections 231-234) - Establish a common institutional design framework for all authorities, committees, and cells, including minimum requirements on powers, composition, reporting relationships, staffing, budgets, meeting frequency, and accountability. (Sections 231-281) - Create statutory bodies to mandate secretariats, staffing, budgets, and create statutory implementation timelines, replacing discretionary ("may") provisions with mandatory ("shall") obligations where they relate to core governance functions. (Across Part III provisions) - Mandate for the CURE apex governance council to prepare and lay before the legislature a consolidated annual report on the functioning and performance of all institutions constituted under Part III of the Bill. (Section 232)	- One institution should lead metropolitan planning and align transport, housing, land use, and infrastructure across the metropolitan region. - Citizens should know who decides, who coordinates, and who is accountable, while reducing overlap between institutions. - Institutions without people, resources, or timelines risk remaining only on paper. - Enables legislative oversight and allows citizens to know whether the 15+ new statutory bodies are actually functioning and delivering results.

Our detailed recommendations.

4 Provide frameworks for strong HR and financial management.

Suggested amendments	Why does it matter?
• Provide for a robust HR framework for staffing, performance management, and professional development/capacity building. (Section 49) • Include provisions for medium-term fiscal planning and comprehensive debt limitation policy. (Section 68, 69, and Sch.III and IV)	• Implementing the Bill in its full spirit requires a strong institutional set up and resources. This includes having a robust HR framework and strong financial capacity.

In conclusion.

- 1** **The Government of Telangana has recognised the need for a metropolitan governance framework for Hyderabad.**
The CURE Bill would replace the GHMC Act, 1955 with a common legal framework for the three corporations and introduces a new metropolitan governance architecture.
- 2** **The Bill gets some important things right.**
It brings in more transparency by requiring the government to disclose information publicly, moves services and billing online, makes property tax fairer and more predictable, takes climate action seriously for the first time, and strengthens gender inclusion.
- 3** **However, the institutions it creates need to be stronger.**
The Bill should clearly make the new apex council responsible for planning the whole city, give the new bodies a sound design and clear lines of accountability, give real power to the corporations, and make sure every reform has the staff, money, and timelines to actually work.
- 4** **And, it must be made to happen — not left for later.**
The key institutions, rules, and reforms should be compulsory, with firm deadlines. Also, once a year, the state government should report to the legislature on how the whole system is working.

Strengthening the institutional foundations now will improve the Bill's ability to deliver a better-planned city, agencies that work together, a government that answers to its citizens, and services that actually improve daily life.

Thank You

About Janaagraha

Janaagraha is a Bengaluru-based not-for-profit institution working to transform the quality of life in India's cities and towns. It defines quality of life as comprising quality of infrastructure and services, and quality of citizenship. To achieve its mission, Janaagraha works with councillors and citizens to catalyse active citizenship in city neighbourhoods, and with governments to institute reforms to city-systems. Janaagraha has worked extensively on urban policy and governance reforms for over two decades including on JnNURM, and with the XIII, XIV and XV Finance Commissions, Second Administrative Reforms Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, NITI Aayog/Planning Commission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), as well as the state governments of Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Assam.

Find out more at www.janaagraha.org



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Annexures

Assessment criteria: Will the city be planned better? (1/2)

- 01 Does the law provide for a metropolitan authority with a clear mandate for integrated metropolitan planning?
- 02 Does the law require 3 levels of Spatial Development Plans (SDPs) for Metropolitan cities?
 - a. Metropolitan SDP | b. Municipal SDP | c. Ward / zonal SDP
- 03 Does the law mandate participation of all parastatals/agencies / Urban Local Governments (ULGs) in the creation of SDPs (metropolitan or regional / municipal / zonal or ward)?
- 04 Is there a clear decentralised procedure for approvals of each level of plans?
 - a. Does the law mandate that the metropolitan SDP be approved by the state government?
 - b. Does the law mandate that the municipal SDP be approved by the Metropolitan Planning Committee (or State Government for small/medium cities)
 - c. Does the law mandate that the ward SDP be approved by the ULG?
- 05 Has a Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) for planning been constituted and its role clearly defined?
- 06 Is there any provision for incentives for green buildings in cities?
- 07 Does the municipal law mandate the planning for:
 - a. city sanitation | b. city resilience | c. comprehensive mobility | d. city sustainability |
 - e. city heritage | f. social development (affordable housing, health, education, gender, and livelihoods)
- 08 Is there a mandate for urban design standards to guide the execution of urban projects?

Assessment criteria: Will the city be planned better? (2/2)

- 09 Does the law mandate public participation in the preparation of each level of plan (metropolitan, municipal and ward) through area sabhas/ward committees and other means?
- 10 Does the law mandate public scrutiny at (including objections and responses) each levels of plan (metropolitan, municipal and ward/zone) through area sabhas / ward committees and other means?

Assessment criteria: Will my mayor and council have more power?

- | | |
|----|--|
| 01 | Do ULGs have the following powers with respect to its employees?
a. Appointment b. Disciplinary action c. Termination |
| 02 | Does the mayor have a five-year term? |
| 03 | Is the mayor directly elected? |
| 04 | Does the mayor/council have the authority to appoint the municipal commissioner/chief executive of the ULG? |
| 05 | Is the Mayor ex-officio member of the MPC/metropolitan authority? |
| 06 | Is the ULG responsible for providing all functions and services it is mandated to as per the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act? |
| 07 | Does the council have the final say in approving the ULG budget? |
| 08 | Are locally elected officials mandated to undergo training? |
| 09 | Is the State Election Commission (SEC) empowered to conduct delimitation of wards? |
| 10 | Are locally elected officials required to publicly disclose their income and assets, and their interests (in public works and contracts taken up by their immediate family)? |

Assessment criteria: Will the urban local government become more transparent and accountable?

- 01 Has the state government mandated ULGs to publish key civic data in line with the model Public Disclosure Law (PDL) with respect to:
a. Audited financial statement on quarterly basis | b. Audited financial statement on annual basis | c. Service level benchmarks | d. Particulars of major works | e. Details of plans, income and budget | f. Minutes of its meetings
- 02 Are the ULGs required by the law to carry out an internal audit (audit of process/internal controls) within a predetermined frequency, at least annual? Are the ULGs mandated to publish the internal audit report in the public domain?
- 03 Are the ULGs mandated to have a digital governance policy/ roadmap?
- 04 Are the ULGs mandated to have a citizen charter with:
a. Target level of service | b. Timelines for delivery of service | c. Protocols for obtaining relief, where service levels are not met
- 05 Does the state government provide for the constitution of an ombudsman for the ULG to cater to service-related issues as well as corruption/maladministration?
- 06 Is the ombudsman authorised to:
a. Resolve inter-agency disputes? | b. Investigate corruption *suo motu*?

Assessment criteria:

Will citizens have a stronger voice?

- 01 Does the municipal law mandate for ward committees and area sabhas to facilitate citizen participation?
- 02 Are the ULGs mandated to have a participatory budgeting process in place?

Assessment criteria: Does the city have the institutional set up and resources to actually deliver?

- 01 Is the ULG empowered to set and collect the following taxes?
a. Property tax | b. Entertainment tax | c. Profession tax | d. Advertisement tax/fee
- 02 Is the ULG authorised to raise borrowings without state government/union government approval?
- 03 Is the ULG authorised to make investments or otherwise apply surplus funds without state government/ union government approval?
- 04 Is the ULG required by law to have a long-term and/or medium-term fiscal plan?
- 05 Are the annual accounts of the ULG mandated to be audited by an independent/external agency?
- 06 Is the ULG mandated to follow a double-entry accounting system?
- 07 Does the law mandate a minimum tenure of 2 years for the municipal commissioner?
- 08 Are the ULG officials mandated to undergo induction and periodic training?
- 09 Does the law mandate to establish a performance management system?
- 10 Does the ULG have access to a municipal cadre for its staffing?

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List of bodies constituted under Part III of the CURE Bill.

#	Body (Under Part III - Integrated Governance Architecture)	Section	Chapter
1	CURE Apex Governance Council	S.231	26 - Coordination
2	CURE Executive Committee	S.233	26 - Coordination
3	HYDRAA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency)	S.241	28 - HYDRAA
4	Climate Action Cell	S.244	29 - Environment, Climate & Net Zero
5	Lake Protection Committee	S.255	29 - Environment, Climate & Net Zero
6	CURE Disaster Management Authority	S.256	30 - Disaster Management
7	CURE Traffic Management and Road Safety Authority	S.259	31 - Traffic Management
8	CURE Utility Coordination Committee	S.260	31 - Traffic Management
9	Food Safety and Nutrition Committee	S.263	33 - Food Safety and Nutrition
10	CURE Heritage Committee	S.264	34 - Heritage Conservation
11	CURE Smart Governance Center (SGC)	S.272	36 - CURE Smart Governance Center
12	Advertisements Regulatory Committee	S.274	37 - Advertisements
13	Gender Inclusion Cell	S.277	38 - Gender Inclusion
14	CURE Urban Livelihoods Coordination Cell	S.281	39 - Labor Welfare
15	CURE Appellate Authority	S.289	41 - CURE Appellate Authority