

# Avantha Foundation Urban Governance Initiatives



A non-profit organization working with Urban Local Governments (ULGs) across India to develop and implement strategic governance reform projects. Initiatives emphasize on making urban areas more livable, sustainable, socially inclusive and economically empowered. The short term focus is on building capacities for delivery of quality public services. The long term goal is to economically empower ULGs, harness their unique strengths to build a brand identity for themselves capable of independently attracting investments leading to enhanced and inclusive growth.



Our endeavour is to pioneer innovative projects that deliver workable and scalable solutions. We are a young organization and realize that transformational change takes years to effect. We have begun our journey with small but definitive steps towards ensuring a more empowered and equitable society.

*Gautam Thapar*  
Chairman, Avantha Foundation

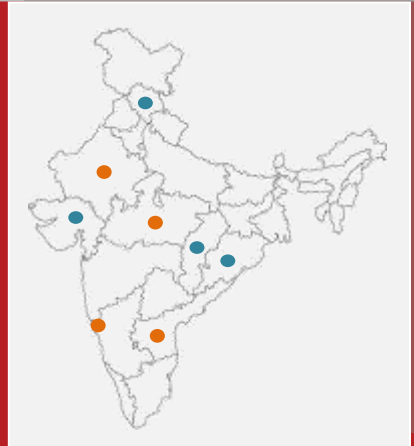
# Urban Innovation Program

*Inception: 2012*

Aims at establishing evidence-based, sustainable models of participatory urban governance in small and medium towns. Pilots have been implemented across four States covering eight ULGs comprising:

- ▶ Formation of ward committees across all wards in Dharamshala and Kullu
- ▶ Medium-term fiscal strategy for Dharamshala and Kullu aimed at making the ULGs financially self-sustainable
- ▶ Increased central grants to Kullu under mission mode projects
- ▶ Governance survey in one ward in Shimla
- ▶ GIS-based planning and budgeting in Rapar
- ▶ Ward development plans in Bhuj
- ▶ Citizen report card for improved public services and entitlements in Kumhari
- ▶ Vision document for Konark and Pipli
- ▶ Capacity building workshops on 74<sup>th</sup> CAA, State Municipal Acts, Municipal Finance and Citizen Engagement among others across all eight intervention towns

- ▶ National footprint
- ▶ Long term commitment to governance reform projects
- ▶ Partnership with state and local governments
- ▶ Fellowship for young professionals in governance and public policy domain



Programs: ● Existing ● Planned

# Key Interventions

- Formation and strengthening of ward committees
- Local area planning through ward committees
- Building capacities of councilors and municipal staff; cross-skilling and up-skilling
- Process mapping of municipal services
- Standard operating procedures
- Simplification and dissemination of relevant acts and rules for councilors and municipal staff
- Fiscal planning and management
- Human resource management
- Media habits assessment
- Communication strategy
- Governance survey

- ▶ Financial management
- ▶ Community engagement
- ▶ Communication strategy
- ▶ Building capacity of stakeholders



# Avantha Governance Fellowships

*Inception: 2014*

A two-year Fellowship program for young professionals to engage in live urban governance reform projects. Fellows are placed with ULGs, contributing through research-based and participatory action projects aimed at improved public service delivery, fiscal governance and enhanced citizen participation.

The first batch comprising of seven Fellows graduated in December 2016. The second batch commences April 2017.



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