



Centre of Excellence

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE SANJAULI
SHIMLA-06, H.P.

{**NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME**}

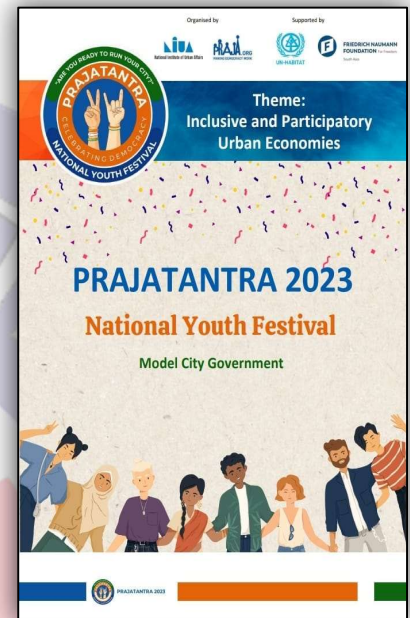
A Report

➤ **PRAJATANTRA 2023**
(National Youth Festival)

Date: 04/11/2023

➤ **About the competition:**

Prajatantra a national-level competition, stands as a beacon of democratic engagement, providing a platform for the youths of India to form and function the Model City Government. The sole intension of the competition is that youth is to make them understand how the city governance functions? In this regard, the participants will form and function as the model of city government with *mayor, committee chairperson and different committees* important for cities' policymaking.



➤ **About this year's theme:**

The theme of this year was **"Inclusive and Participatory Economies"**.

The theme reflects on three aspects:

1. Celebrating Economic Importance of our cities.
2. Focusing on developing sustainable and resilient economic model for cities.
3. Involving inclusion and participation from government and citizens (regardless of their gender, age, class, etc.) in the economic prosperity.

➤ **Stages of this competition:**

1. Qualifying Round (Virtual)
2. Semi-Final Round (Virtual)
3. Field Activity/Engagement (offline in respective cities)
4. Grand Finale (in-person ceremony at *National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi*).

➤ **Competitions in Prajatantra 2023:**

1. Mayor's Speech.
2. Policy Presentation on Urban Economy.
3. Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance.
4. Policy Debate.
5. Quiz Competition.
6. **Opinion-Editorial Writing.**



✚ **OP-ED WRITING COMPETITION**

Op-Ed referred to Opinion-Editorial. It is an effective tool for citizens to elaborate on a subject closer to their interest.

In this, participants had the opportunity to delve into various aspects of urban governance and express their thoughts and opinions through informative Op-Eds.

➤ **My Journey:**

As a participant in Prajatantra 2023, my journey through the competition was nothing short of transformative, marked by moments of discovery, collaboration and personal.

My journey began with a spark of curiosity and a desire to make a difference in my city (Shimla). Upon registering for this competition, I embarked on a journey of exploration, eager to delve into the intricacies of municipal governance and contribute meaningfully to the discourse on pressing societal issues.

I ***Gungun Thakur***, represented H.P. and my team **“Yuva Jan Shakti”** in the final round of Op-Ed writing competition at National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi. I felt very delightful when I

say that, I was the only contestant from H.P. who got selected for the finals of this competition.



गुनगुन ठाकुर ने प्रजातंत्र 2023 (राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव) में अपनी टीम "युवा जन शक्ति" और हिमाचल प्रदेश का प्रतिनिधित्व किया

शिमला अवन्तिका पामटा। उत्कृष्ट शिक्षा केंद्र राजकीय महाविद्यालय संजौली की एनएसएस स्वयंसेवी गुनगुन ठाकुर ने प्रजातंत्र 2023 (राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव) में अपनी टीम "युवा जन शक्ति" और हिमाचल प्रदेश का प्रतिनिधित्व किया। गुनगुन ठाकुर राजकीय महाविद्यालय संजौली, शिमला की एक छात्रा एनएसएस स्वयंसेवक हैं। उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय बाल भवन, नई दिल्ली में प्रजातंत्र 2023 (राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव) में अपनी टीम "युवा जन शक्ति" का प्रतिनिधित्व किया। उन्होंने 28 सितंबर, 2023 को "Opinion Editorial" प्रतियोगिता में प्रजातंत्र 2023 के फाइनल में जगह बनाई। प्रजातंत्र 2023 एक 'राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव' है, जो प्रजा फाउंडेशन द्वारा नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ अर्बन अफेयर्स की शहरी युवा इकाई के सहयोग से और यूएन-हैबिटेड और एफएनएफ दक्षिण एशिया द्वारा समर्थित 'सेलिब्रेटिंग सिटी गवर्नेंस इन इंडिया' का आयोजन करता है। प्रजातंत्र युवाओं, विशेषकर कॉलेज के छात्रों को भारत में शहरी सरकारों की संरचना और कार्यों को समझने का अवसर प्रदान करता है। गुनगुन ठाकुर हिमाचल प्रदेश से एकमात्र प्रतिभागी हैं जिन्हें फाइनल के लिए चुना गया है। राजकीय महाविद्यालय संजौली की प्राचार्या डॉ. भारती भागड़ा मैम ने गुनगुन ठाकुर को शुभकामनाएं दीं। एनएसएस के कार्यक्रम अधिकारी डॉ. पूजा दीलता और प्रो. अनुपम वर्मा ने इस प्रतियोगिता में उनके अच्छे परिणाम और विजय की कामना की।

Prajatantra 2023 Grand Finalists

Op-Ed Competition

Sr No	Participant Name	Team Name	College Name	City	State
1	Rishav Sankrityayan	National Action Front	School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi	Delhi	Delhi
2	Aman Dahaniya	Sahari Samridhi Parishad	School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra
3	Aarul Bhalekar	Sarvodaya Nirman Dal	School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
4	Rachael Daniel Nadar	Bhartiya Loktantrik Sangh	SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra
5	Irada Mansoori	Sam Vikas Nyayik Paksh (SVNP)	Hindi Vidya Prachar Samiti's College Of Law	Mumbai	Maharashtra
6	Gungun Thakur	Yuva Jan Shakti	Centre of Excellence, Government Post Graduate College, Sanjauli, Shimla	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
7	Antabikhya Gogoi	Binbinati Madhumakhi Samaj	National Law University, Assam	Guwahati	Assam

➤ Before participating in finale, I've engaged in a two-week Field Activity in my city i.e. Shimla. The objective of this activity was to gain the exposure of the realities of urban governance system in MC Shimla with special focus on urban economic policies.

➤ **Stages of Field Activity/Engagement:**

1. **Secondary Research:** It was specifically reserved for **Literature Review**. In this stage, I researched on policies, plans and schemes on Urban Economies, and briefed about MC Act of Shimla.

2. **Primary Research:** In this stage I've engaged in two broad field interviews and validate my *report on MC Shimla*.

Firstly, I conducted the interview of **Comm'r, Jt. Comm'r and C.HO.** of MC Shimla, Mr. Bhupinder Kumar Attri (HAS), Dr. Bhuwan Sharma (HAS) and Dr. Chetan Chauhan, respectively. Secondly, I conducted the interview of **Mayor, Deputy Mayor** of MC Shimla, Mr. Surinder Chauhan and Mrs. Uma Kaushal, respectively. Also, I engaged with some **councillors** to learn more about the implementation of different policies.

➤ **GRAND FINALE:**

The Grand Finale of Prajatantra 2023 held at **National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi** from October 30th to November 1st, 2023. There were 110 finalists representing 18 States and 3 UT in different competitions.

In the final round of Op-Ed, I presented my *article*, “**Shimla’s Economic Ascent: Unveiling the Mountain Cities Financial Landscape**” on Urban Economy of MC Shimla. Also, as the per the rules I’ve to present my field engagement *report* and *PPT*. There was a questioning round based on my *article* after the 3 minutes of presentation.



On the last day of finale, 1st November, I had an exposure visit to the **Parliament House of India**, and various places viz. India Gate and National War Memorial. In the cultural event I entertained the audience by presenting the folk songs of “Devbhoomi”.

➤ **Learning/Outcome:**

Participation in **Prajatantra 2023 (National Youth Festival)** yielded invaluable insights and experiences for me. I deepen my knowledge in different areas of City Governance. Addressing challenges of people and proposing solutions through my article related to City Governance enhanced my problem-solving skills. Engaging in presentations, discussions, interviews with officials and fellow participants improved my communication skills.



Reported by:

Vol. Gungun Thakur (B.Sc.2nd year)