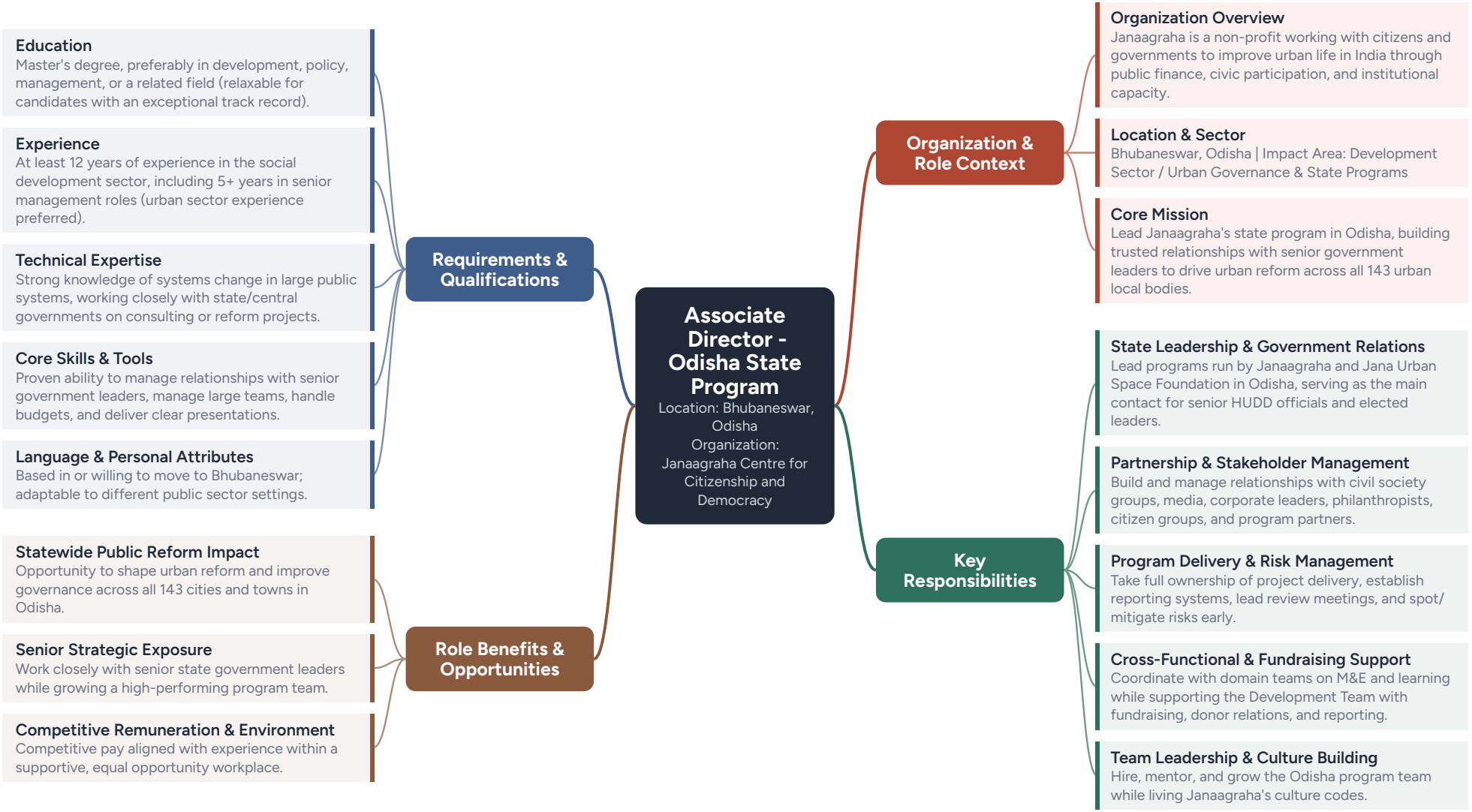
Janaagraha

Associate Director – State Program in Bhubaneswar | Janaagraha

Bhubaneswar, Odisha · full-time · lead level · Competitive

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Skills this role needs

Senior government stakeholder engagement	Program delivery and management	Systems change	Team leadership and mentoring	Budget management

Job description

Janaagraha

Janaagraha is a nonprofit that works with citizens and governments to make life better in India's cities and towns. It helps improve both city services and the way citizens take part in local decisions. In Odisha, it has a long-term partnership with the state's Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) on civic participation, public finance and stronger institutions across all 143 urban local bodies (city and town governments). This work includes the Odisha Urban Design Hub (OUDH) and ANKUR (Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanisation and Reforms). This role sits within Janaagraha's Odisha State Program, which leads this work across the state.

Role

As Associate Director for the Odisha State Program, you will lead Janaagraha's work in the state. You will build trusted relationships with senior government leaders and make sure programs deliver real results for people in Odisha's cities and towns. You will guide and grow the program team, help teams work together, and work closely with the Director, State Program, Odisha. The role is based in Bhubaneswar.

Responsibilities

- Lead the programs that Janaagraha and Jana Urban Space Foundation run in Odisha, and act as the main contact for senior officials in HUDD and related departments.
- Build and deepen trusted relationships with Odisha's senior leaders, both elected representatives and government officials, across departments and levels.
- Build and manage relationships with civil society groups, media leaders, companies, philanthropists and citizen groups, and manage partners across the current work.
- Take full ownership of program and project delivery, set up reporting systems, and run regular review meetings with internal teams and outside partners.
- Spot risks early, plan ways to reduce them, and keep everyone informed.
- Coordinate with domain teams on planning, program design, review, reporting, monitoring, evaluation and learning, so that teams achieve more together than they would alone.
- Support the Development Team with fundraising, donor relationships and donor reporting.
- Lead the program team, including hiring, induction, reviews, mentoring and learning plans, help high-potential team members grow into leaders, and set an example by living Janaagraha's culture codes.

Requirements

- A Master's degree, preferably in development, policy, management or a related field, though this can be relaxed for candidates with an exceptional track record.
- At least 12 years of experience in the social development sector, including at least five years in senior management roles, with urban sector experience as an advantage.
- Experience working within or closely with state or central government, ideally on large systems change or consulting projects that involved stakeholder relationships and program management.
- Proven experience managing relationships with senior government leaders and managing large teams.
- Strong knowledge and practice of systems change in large public systems, with the ability to adapt to different settings and link programs to key reform goals.
- Good budget management skills to get the most impact from available funding.
- Excellent written and spoken presentation skills.
- Based in or willing to move to Bhubaneswar.

Benefits

- Competitive pay based on your experience, skills and background.

- A lively and supportive work environment at an equal opportunity employer.
- The chance to shape urban reform across all 143 cities and towns in Odisha.
- Close work with senior government leaders and the chance to lead and grow a strong team.

Apply

Check your fit for the role and receive the apply link in your mailbox

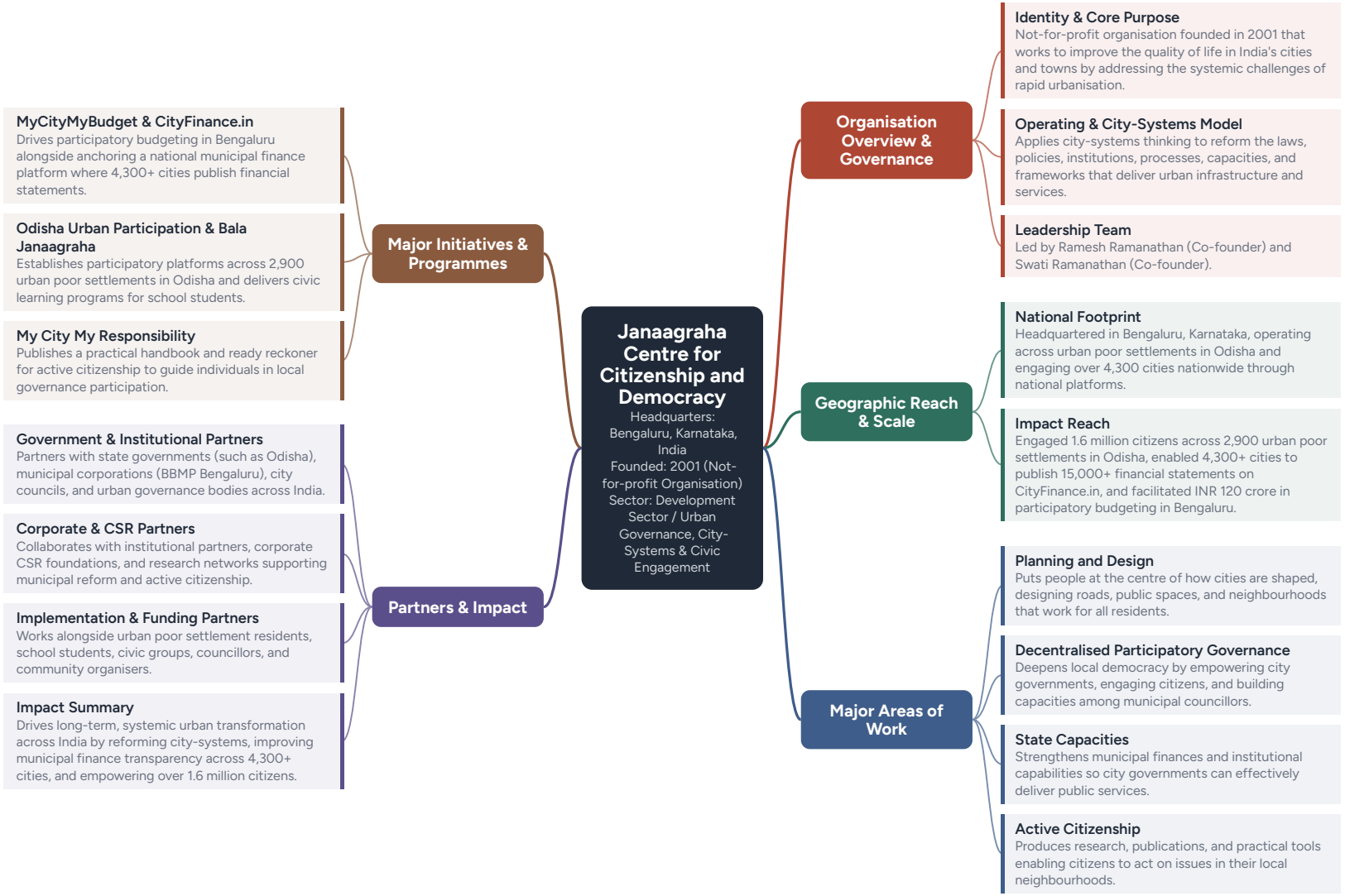
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About the organisation

Janaagraha

Urban Governance and Civic Participation

janaagraha.org ↗
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About Janaagraha

Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 2001 that works to improve quality of life in India's cities and towns. It works on how cities are planned, designed, governed and funded, so that they work for everyone who lives in them. The organisation says that India's urbanisation has outpaced its ability to govern cities, and notes that 814 million Indians are expected to live in cities by 2050. Its answer is what it calls city-systems thinking. This means fixing the laws, policies, institutions, processes, capacities and frameworks that deliver urban infrastructure and services, not only the infrastructure and services themselves. Its work aims to build trust and engagement between governments, councillors and citizens so they can build inclusive neighbourhoods and cities together.

> *Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India*

Major Areas of Work

- Planning and Design: Putting people at the centre of how cities are shaped, with roads, public spaces and neighbourhoods that work for all.
- Decentralised Participatory Governance: Deepening democracy at the local level through empowered city governments, engaged citizens and capable councillors.
- State Capacities: Strengthening municipal finances and the capacities of institutions so cities can deliver services.
- Active Citizenship: Producing research, publications and practical tools that help citizens act on issues in their neighbourhoods.

Major Initiatives and Programmes

- MyCityMyBudget: A participatory budgeting initiative in Bengaluru that brings citizens' priorities into the city's budget allocations.
- CityFinance.in: A national municipal finance platform where cities publish their financial statements, making urban public finances more transparent.
- Participation in Odisha's urban poor settlements: Work to set up platforms through which residents of urban poor settlements in Odisha take part in local decisions.
- Bala Janaagraha: A civic learning programme for school students that teaches them about local government and civic issues.
- My City My Responsibility: A handbook for active citizenship, written as a ready reckoner to help individuals become active citizens whatever their experience or expertise.

Impact

Janaagraha states that it has set up platforms for participation for 1.6 million citizens in 2,900 urban poor settlements in Odisha. It cites INR 120 crore allocated by Bengaluru through MyCityMyBudget in FY 2020-21. It also reports that more than 4,300 cities have published over 15,000 financial statements on CityFinance.in.

Leadership

- Ramesh Ramanathan, Co-founder
- Swati Ramanathan, Co-founder

Janaagraha suits people who want to work on how Indian cities are run, not just on a single service or project. Its work covers urban design, local democracy and municipal finance, and combines research and policy, capacity building with governments, and work with citizens. Staff work with city governments, councillors, state departments and residents, so they get exposure to policy, public finance and community mobilisation at the same time. It is a good fit for urban planners, policy and finance professionals, researchers and community organisers who want to work on long-term, systemic change in Indian cities.

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