

Municipal Corporation Election In Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

The article explores the significance of elections in sustaining democracy, with a focus on the impact of local government elections in India. Urban local bodies, tracing their origins to ancient civilizations like the Indus Valley and evolving through historical periods, play a crucial role in local administration. The article details the structure and functioning of Municipal Corporations and Municipalities, highlighting their legal foundations, administrative frameworks, and the roles of elected officials. A significant portion is devoted to the increasing participation of women in local politics, facilitated by constitutional amendments and state policies reserving seats for women. The article underscores the progress in women's political involvement, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where a significant number of mayoral positions in Municipal Corporations are now reserved for women, reflecting broader efforts to enhance gender representation in governance.

Introduction:

Election is the best tool found by the people of this era to follow the system of people's rule. Democracy thrives only when proper and timely elections are held. It is especially the local government elections that shake up the people of the country, especially the grassroots of the society, more than the general elections. This choice calls for direct responsibility. Elements like public welfare, public relations, administration, leadership qualities are taken into consideration.

Urban local bodies are not new. The Indus Valley Civilization suggests that city-states such as Mohanjataro and Harappa were well-governed. Women's participation in politics and elections of that time was rare. But now a reservation of 50 % has been given to women in local body elections. Learn about it.

Urban local bodies

The book Artha Shastra by Kautilya gives a good account of the way in which Pataliputra (Patna) was administered. Kautilya mentions in his book that an administrative official called Nagaraka administered the cities. There is evidence that municipal bodies functioned even during the Gupta period. Under the Mughals, cities were ruled by city administrators called Kothawals. The founders of the municipal system were the British. The first Chennai Corporation was formed in 1687. These were the beginnings of municipal bodies. Later in independent India, urban local bodies started functioning independently.

Corporation:

Areas with high population density and development are considered as first-class and second-class cities. The organization set up in very big cities is called Corporation. Corporations are created by laws enacted in their respective states. Municipal Corporations in Union Territories are governed by laws made by the Central Legislature and Corporations in States are governed by laws made by the State Legislature. Corporations in some important cities have been formed under the following Acts.

- Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957
- Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act 1951
- Chennai Municipal Corporation Act 1919
- Bombay Municipal Corporation Act 1988
- Madurai Municipal Corporation Act 1971

The city administration is vested with power at three levels. The administration is vested in executives such as the Corporation General Assembly, General Assembly level committees, the Commissioner and an elected Mayor.

Municipalities are at the highest level among urban local bodies. These are formed by the State Governments and in Union Territories by the Central Government. According to Social Science Art Archive, Corporations are political institutions created by law without the will of the people.

Municipality:

Municipalities are formed in small towns. A district may also have one or more municipalities. State governments are empowered to declare an area as a municipality and delimit its boundaries. There are three main organs of municipal administration. They are 1. City Council, 2. City Council President, 3. Commissioner.

The body called City Council is elected by the people. The city council elects its chairman from among its members.

Organization:

The Corporation Council is made up of several members. The Mayor and other members will be present in this Municipal Council. Members of the Municipal Council are directly elected by the people on the basis of adult suffrage.

The city is divided into several wards for the election of members. The system of reservation is followed with the total Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in the city. And 1/3rd of the total number of members of Parliament are reserved for women. The number of members of the Corporation Council varies from Corporation to Corporation. The number of members depends on the population of the city. One of the members is elected as Deputy Mayor. The term of office of the Corporation Council in Tamil Nadu is 5 years.

Removal of Members:

1. If you are mentally unstable
2. Misuse of Corporation property or money
3. Three consecutive meetings without prior approval of the Corporation Council
Failure to attend the series.
4. Absence from meeting for 12 consecutive months.

Appointment and Tenure:

The Commissioner is appointed by the State Government. But the Corporation Commissioner of Delhi is appointed by the Central Government. The Corporation pays him the salary and allowances fixed by the Government from its own funds. He is selected by Central and State Public Service Selection Commission.

The Corporation fulfills the basic needs of the urban population and also carries out development work. Corporation is the body which has more powers and functions than all other local bodies. The administrative head of the municipal body is the mayor. He is known as the political leader, city father and first citizen of the city.

Mayor's Privileges:

He has power to inspect all the records of the Corporation at all times. The Corporation Commissioner may be asked to produce documents about the administration. Correspondence between the Government and the Commissioner shall be through the Mayor. The primary function of the mayor is to preside over the municipal council meetings. Conducting the meetings of the council Monitoring the attendance of the council members and removing some unnecessary entries from the council action notes are his main duties. The mayor can use his casting vote in case of a tie in deciding votes, to expel a member from the council or temporarily ban him from participating in council proceedings if his actions cause problems for the council. It has the power to supervise and inspect the administration of the Corporation in general.

In some Corporations, communication between the Corporation and the State Government is done through the Mayor. There is power to stop and continue some work if it is not good. Corporations are also empowered to form committees. Identify and coordinate the functions of the Corporation and make certain appointments in consultation with the State Public Service Commission. Being the first citizen of the corporation, she has been empowered to perform many social duties and cultural works. He welcomes special guests visiting the Corporation, lays foundation stones of buildings, inaugurates certain ceremonies, attends public meetings and participates in national celebrations.

Reservation for women in Panchayats:

Early Women In 1985, the Karnataka state government implemented a 25% reservation for women in Mandal Praja registers with sub-reservations for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women. Karnataka became the first state to implement these. In 1987, the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh implemented a quota of 9% for women in gram panchayats. In 1991, Odisha panchayat organizations provided women with 33%. Then in 1992, the constitutional amendment nationalized the reservation.

Article 243 of the Constitution mandates reservation of at least 13% of seats out of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election and the number of offices of heads of Panchayats.

Contribution of women:

Women's participation in local elections was very low in the early days. Due to awareness and political dominance of men, very few women contested in elections. Later, to address women's participation in elections, the Government of India enacted the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments of 1994 to ensure that women contest in local body elections with a reservation of 33% of seats.

In Tamil Nadu, following the publication of seat reservation details for the Corporation, Municipality and Borough wards in the urban local bodies, the expectation of when the urban local body elections will be held has increased. The fact that more seats have been reserved for women has been welcomed by many parties.

At present, out of total 21 Municipal Corporations in Tamil Nadu, 11 Municipal Corporations have been reserved for women. Among these, reservation for women has crossed 50%. The post of Mayor in Chennai Tambaram Municipal Corporations is reserved for Scheduled Caste women.

It is also a special feature that women are mayors of Municipal Corporations like Erode, Coimbatore, Madurai, Kancheepuram, Sivakasi, Karur, Vellore, Dindigul, Cuddalore. Currently, the municipal corporation election held in Tamil Nadu is an indirect election, so the mayor is elected by the winning members of the corporation ward councillors.

Conclusion:

Women's participation in politics was seen more in ancient times. The situation was similar during the British rule. After India's independence various measures were taken to increase the participation of women. And with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment, women's participation in local and municipal elections is seen to be high. At present, in more than half of the states in India, reservation of 50% has been given to women. It can be seen that currently there are 50% women seats in Tamil Nadu. Hence, political awareness, participation, campaigning in public meetings etc. can now be seen to a greater extent.

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