

Paper : Grass Root Level Democracy In India

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UNIT – III

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION :

- A **municipal corporation** is a local government in India that administers urban areas with a population of more than one million.
- The growing population and urbanization in various cities of India were in need of a local governing body that can work for providing necessary community services like health care, educational institution, housing, transport etc. by collecting property tax and fixed grant from the State Government.

Structure and Functions :

- Urban planning including town planning.
- Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings.
- Planning for economic and social development
- Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes.
- Public health, sanitation conservancy, and solid waste management.
- Fire services.
- Urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects.
- Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded.
- Slum improvement and up-gradation.
- Urban poverty alleviation.

COPORATION COUNCIL :

Municipal or local governance refers to the third tier of governance in India, at the level of the municipality or urban local body.

MAYOR :

- The Mayor in the Municipal Corporation is either directly elected or is a representative elected by the councilors from amongst themselves for a term of One year, which is renewable.
- The Mayor exercises administrative control over the secretariat of the

corporation.

- The Mayor in India has no executive authority.
- The indirect election of the Mayor combined with his short term makes him more a figurehead than an active functionary.

The Municipal Corporation also has a Chief Executive Officer known as the Commissioner. The Commissioner is appointed by the State Government from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

He or she implements the decisions made by the Corporation. Commissioner takes the help of the officers in-charge of various departments such as health, water, sanitation and housing.

He or she also prepares the annual budget.

MUNICIPALITIES :

- A **municipality** is usually a single administrative division having corporate status and powers of self-government or jurisdiction as granted by national and regional laws to which it is subordinate.
- The term **municipality** may also mean the governing or ruling body of a given **municipality**.

CANTONMENT BOARD :

- They are created for municipal administration for civilian population in the cantonment areas.
- Unlike other urban local bodies, a cantonment board is created as well as administered by union government. The provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006, a central government act, are applicable to a cantonment board.
- A cantonment board functions under the administrative control of union defence ministry. Now, there are 62 cantonment boards in the country.

TOWNSHIP :

Townships are created by the large public sector enterprises for its staff and workers near to the plant with all civic amenities.

A town administrator is appointed by the enterprise to take care of the administration of the township. He is assisted by some engineers and some other staff.

The township form of urban government has no elected members.

SPECIAL PURPOSE AGENCY :

Along with the above seven types of urban bodies, the states can create certain agencies to look after specific functions that 'legitimately' belong to any of the above

local urban governments. These agencies are function-based and not area-based like the above seven bodies. They are known as 'special purpose' or 'single purpose' agencies or 'functional local bodies'.

They are created as statutory bodies by an act of state legislature or as departments by an executive resolution. They work as autonomous bodies dealing with their allotted functions independently of the local urban governments. They are not subordinated to any local urban governance bodies.

Examples of such bodies are:

- Town improvement trusts.
- Water supply and sewerage boards.
- Pollution control boards.
- Electricity supply boards.
- Urban development authorities.
- City transport boards.
- Housing board