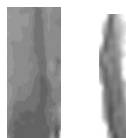


CIVICS



Urban Administration

While the administration of a village is looked after by a panchayat, the administration of a city is looked after by a municipal council or municipal corporation. Administration of big cities like Pune, Mumbai and Delhi is looked after by their respective municipal corporations while municipal councils manage the general affairs of small cities.

The Working of the Municipal Corporation

- Municipal corporations look after cities with a population of ten lakhs and above.
- A municipal corporation carries out its functions through well organised departments like the education department, electricity department, health department, water department etc.
- A city is divided into different wards. The people of each ward elect the members of the municipal corporation known as the ward councillors.
- Elections to the corporation are held once every five years.
- The municipal commissioner is the chief executive of the corporation. He is appointed by the governor of the state.
- All the councillors together elect the mayor who presides over the meetings of the corporation.
- The mayor not only prepares the final budget of the corporation but also looks after the administrative activities of the municipal corporation.
- The ward councillors play an important role in improving the condition of their wards. After the preparation of the budget, the councillors try to place the demands of their wards before the council.
- The decisions which are taken by the council are implemented by the administrative staff of the corporation.



The building of the Chennai Municipal Corporation. It is the oldest Municipal Corporation in India.

Functions of the Municipal Corporation

Some of the functions of the municipal corporation are:

- To arrange for the proper disposal of garbage and sewage of the city.
- To supply electricity and clean drinking water to the people of the city.
- To construct and maintain the roads and streets.
- To set up various public health care services like public hospitals, dispensaries and family welfare centers.
- To set up schools to provide primary and secondary education to the children.
- The municipal corporation also constructs and maintains public parks, gardens, libraries, museums etc.



One of the main functions of the municipal corporation is the construction and maintenance of roads.

The Function of Disposal of Wastes and Sewage

One of the important functions of the municipal corporation is to keep the city clean. This is done by appointing sweepers who clean the streets and roads of various localities. The collection and disposal of garbage is an important part of keeping the city clean. Nowadays, the municipal corporations in order to cut the cost of garbage collection, hire many private contractors who collect and process the garbage. This system is called **sub contracting**. In this system of sub contracting, the private company carries out the work which was earlier done by the government. The municipal corporation of the city of Surat has done a recommendable work in cleaning the city of its garbage after the breakout of plague in 1994.

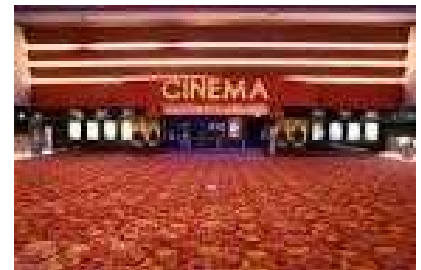


Municipal Corporation in order to save money gives contract to the private companies for the collection of garbage.

Sources of Income of the Municipal Corporation

In order to manage the general affairs of a city, the municipal corporation requires money. Following are the sources of its income:

- The municipal corporation collects taxes from the people who own houses in the city. This tax is known as property tax. The property tax forms about 25-30 percent of the total money which a corporation earns.
- It levies taxes on entertainment and education.
- The municipal corporation charges taxes on water and electricity.
- It also earns money by levying octroi charges (goods coming into the cities).
- It gets financial support from the government.



One of the sources of the income of the municipal corporation is the money received from entertainment tax.