

## **Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC)**

Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) is the local governing body responsible for the administration, planning, and development of Surat city in the state of Gujarat, India. It works under the Gujarat Municipal Corporation Act and plays a crucial role in providing essential public facilities and services to the residents of Surat. As Surat is one of the fastest-growing cities in India, SMC's role has become increasingly important in managing urban growth, infrastructure development, and public welfare.

Surat is widely known as the “Diamond City of India” and a major hub for the textile industry. Rapid industrialization and migration have led to a significant increase in population, creating high demand for housing, transport, healthcare, sanitation, and other civic amenities. SMC is responsible for addressing these demands and ensuring planned and sustainable urban development. The corporation is headed by a Municipal Commissioner, who is supported by elected representatives and various administrative departments.

One of the most important functions of SMC is **public health and healthcare services**. The corporation manages government hospitals, maternity homes, urban health centres, and dispensaries across the city. These facilities provide affordable or free medical care to citizens, especially people from low-income groups. SMC conducts vaccination programs, maternal and child health services, and disease control measures. The corporation has gained national recognition for its effective handling of health emergencies, including controlling epidemics and efficiently managing healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another major responsibility of SMC is **water supply management**. The corporation ensures the supply of safe and clean drinking water to households, schools, hospitals, and industries. It operates water treatment plants, pumping stations, and an extensive pipeline network. Regular water quality testing and monitoring help prevent waterborne diseases. SMC also works toward reducing water wastage and improving distribution efficiency through modern technology and planning.

**Sanitation and solid waste management** is one of SMC's strongest areas. The corporation manages door-to-door waste collection, segregation of dry and wet waste, transportation, and scientific disposal. Public toilets, street cleaning, and drainage maintenance are carried out on a daily basis. Due to its consistent efforts in cleanliness and hygiene, Surat has repeatedly ranked among the cleanest cities in India under the Swachh Survekshan survey. SMC's sanitation model is often considered a benchmark for other Indian cities.

SMC is also responsible for **urban infrastructure and transport development**. It plans, constructs, and maintains roads, flyovers, footpaths, bridges, streetlights, and stormwater drainage systems. Efficient infrastructure helps reduce traffic congestion and improves connectivity across the city. Well-maintained roads and public spaces contribute to economic growth and improve the quality of urban life.

In the field of **education and social welfare**, SMC runs municipal schools that provide affordable education, especially for children from economically weaker sections. It also implements welfare schemes for women, children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. These initiatives aim to promote social inclusion, improve literacy rates, and support vulnerable sections of society.

Due to its location near the Tapi River, Surat is vulnerable to flooding, making **disaster management and flood control** a critical function of SMC. The corporation maintains embankments, pumping stations, and drainage systems to manage flood risks. Early warning systems, emergency response teams, and disaster preparedness plans help reduce damage and protect lives during natural calamities.

In recent years, SMC has played a major role in **Smart City and digital initiatives**. Under the Smart City Mission, SMC has adopted technology-driven solutions such as online payment systems, grievance redressal portals, smart surveillance, and traffic monitoring systems. These digital services improve transparency, efficiency, and citizen participation in governance.

In conclusion, Surat Municipal Corporation is a vital institution that directly affects the daily lives of Surat's citizens. Through efficient public services, strong sanitation systems, healthcare management, and smart governance, SMC has transformed Surat into one of India's best-managed urban centres. Its focus on cleanliness, technology, and rapid response to challenges makes SMC a model municipal corporation for cities across the country.



### **Importance of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC)**

Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) plays a vital role in the overall development and smooth functioning of Surat city. As the local self-government body, it is responsible for planning, managing, and delivering essential public facilities that directly affect the daily lives of citizens. With Surat being one of the fastest-growing urban and industrial centres in India, the importance of SMC has increased significantly.

One of the key reasons SMC is important is its role in **public health and sanitation**. By managing hospitals, health centres, vaccination programs, and waste management systems, SMC helps maintain public hygiene and control diseases. Surat's consistent ranking among India's cleanest cities highlights the effectiveness of SMC's sanitation efforts. Clean surroundings not only improve health but also enhance the city's image and livability.

SMC is also crucial for **urban infrastructure and basic services** such as water supply, roads, drainage, and street lighting. Reliable infrastructure supports industrial growth, trade, and transportation, which are essential for Surat's economy. Proper water supply and drainage systems prevent health hazards and reduce the impact of floods, especially given the city's proximity to the Tapi River.

Another important role of SMC is in **social welfare and inclusive development**. By running municipal schools, health programs, and welfare schemes for women, children, and disadvantaged groups, SMC ensures that development benefits reach all sections of society. These efforts promote social equality and improve quality of life.

Finally, SMC's adoption of **smart city and digital governance initiatives** has improved transparency, efficiency, and citizen participation. Online services and quick grievance redressal have strengthened trust between citizens and the local government. Overall, SMC is essential for sustainable urban development, public well-being, and making Surat a well-planned and resilient city.

