

# MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND ROLE OF MAYOR AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

# INTRODUCTION

- **About Municipal Corporation in India**
- Municipal Corporations are local level governments in India. It's also called as Mahanagar Palika, Nagar Palika, Nagar Nigam, City Corporation, etc. A city is administered by a Municipal Corporation if the population of that city exceeds one billion. Municipal Corporations are largely dependent on the property tax collected for their revenue. The other sources of revenue include water tax, professional tax, drainage tax, etc and some fixed aid from the state government. Mumbai Municipal Corporation or Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is the richest Municipal Corporation in India. Its budget exceeds than that of some of the smaller states of India.

# COMPOSITION OF MUNICIPALITIES

- Based on the population of that particular city, the city or Municipal Area is divided into certain wards. A representative is chosen for each ward by the people in that ward. A chosen representative of a particular ward is called as councilor or corporator. Corporators are elected for a period of five years.

# FUNCTIONS OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

- 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.

# MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

- The Municipal Corporation consists of a committee which includes a Mayor with Councillors. The Corporations provide necessary community services to the Metropolitan Cities and are formed under the Corporation Act of 1835 of Panchayati Raj system. The Mayor heads the Municipal Corporation. The corporation remains under the charge of Municipal Commissioner. The Executive Officers along with the Mayor and Councillors monitor and implement the programs related to planning the development of the corporation. The number of Councillors also depends upon the area and population of the city. In India, the four metropolitan cities; Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, have the largest corporations.

- **Who conducts Municipal Corporation Elections**
- The elections to the Municipal Corporations are conducted under the guidance, direction, superintendence and control of the State Election Commission. The corporations fall under the State government jurisdiction, therefore there are no uniform provisions for the election of the municipal bodies. In some States, the elections are organised by the state governments, while in some states, the Executive Officers arrange the same.

# QUALIFICATION

- **Qualification for contesting Municipal Corporation elections**
- A person can contest elections for Municipal Corporation if he/she fulfills the following criteria:  
She/he must be a citizen of India
- She/he must have attained the age of 21 years
- His/her name is registered in the Electoral Roll of a ward
- She/he is not earlier disqualified for contesting Municipal Corporation elections.
- She/he must not be an employee of any Municipal Corporation in India

# ROLE AND DUTIES OF COUNCILLOR

- **Roles and Duties of a Councillor**
- The Councillors under the Municipal Corporations perform the following duties:
  - To work towards the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole.
- To participate in the council meetings, council committee meetings and meetings of other related bodies.
- To participate in developing and evaluating the programs and policies of the municipality
- To keep the privately discussed matters in council meetings in confidence.
- To get all the information from the chief administrative officer about the operation and administration of the municipality.
- To perform any other similar or necessary duties.



# ROLE OF MAYOR INTRODUCTION

- Mayor is the Presiding Officer of Municipal Corporation Mayor is the first citizen of the city. He is the civic head of the Corporation. All the powers and functions entrusted to the Mayor are regulated by The Punjab Municipal Amendment Act,1994.

# ELECTION

- ELECTION The Mayor is indirectly elected by the Municipal Corporation every year from amongst its members. Along with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor is also elected for a period of one year.

# REMOVAL

- The Mayor can be removed from his office by introducing No-Confidence motion by a majority of not less than 2/3rd of members of the Corp. present and voting.

# POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

- Being the civic head of the Corp. represents the city on ceremonial occasions Presides over the meetings of the Corp. Hears complaints from the general public and ventilate their grievances “Access to all the records of the Corporation.”

# Powers and functions

- Supervises and inspect the work of the Corporation, Serves as channel of communication between the Municipal Commissioner and the state govt. Serves as ex-officio member of all the standing committees of the Corporation.

# Postion

- By viewing the powers and functions entrusted to the Mayor, it can be said that his role and influence in Corporation. As a member, Presiding Officer and a civic head. Thus, his position is more of a figure head than an active functionary .This is all due to his short tenure and indirect election

# Position

- Therefore, there is a need to strengthen his position by introducing direct election of the Mayor, appointing him for a period of more than one year say for 2-3 years and it vested him with more powers of political powers of constitution of India.

# Duties and responsibility of mayor

- Duties and Responsibilities of the Mayor The Municipal Act, 2001, Section 225, identifies the Mayor's responsibilities as follows: • To be head of the municipal council and to act as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. • To preside over council meetings. • To provide leadership to council. • To represent the municipality at official functions. • To carry out the duties of the Head of Council under this or any other Act. • To perform duties of a member of council as outlined in the Municipal Act, 2001, Section 224. The Mayor shall also serve as a member of county council and is required to attend all regular and special meetings of county council as well as any standing committees to which he/she may be appointed.



# Duties and Responsibility of Deputy Mayor

- Duties and Responsibilities of the Deputy Mayor  
The Deputy Mayor is required to fulfill his/her normal duties as a member of council under the Municipal Act, 2001, Section 224. The Deputy Mayor shall assist the Mayor in carrying out the Mayoral responsibilities under the Municipal Act, Section 225. The Deputy Mayor shall also serve as a member of county council and is required to attend all regular and special meetings of county council as well as any standing committees to which he/she may be appointed.