

The following Ordinance which was promulgated by the Governor on the 20th October 2021 is hereby published for general information:—

TAMIL NADU ORDINANCE No. 1 OF 2021.

An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a Municipal Corporation for the city of Cuddalore.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the State is not in session and the Governor of Tamil Nadu is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 213 of the Constitution, the Governor hereby promulgates the following Ordinance:—

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021.

(2) It extends to the city of Cuddalore.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

2. (1) In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "city of Cuddalore" or "city" means the local area comprised in the Cuddalore municipality and includes any local area which, after the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, is included in the city but does not include any local area which, after such date of the commencement of this Ordinance, is excluded from the city;

(b) "corporation" means the municipal corporation of Cuddalore constituted under section 3;

(c) "council" means the council of municipal corporation of Cuddalore;

(d) "Government" means the State Government;

(e) "municipal council" means the municipal council of Cuddalore municipality;

(f) "municipality" means the Cuddalore municipality;

(g) "Scheduled Castes" and "Scheduled Tribes" shall have the meanings, respectively, assigned to them in clauses (24) and (25) of Article 366 of the Constitution.

(2) All words and expressions used in this Ordinance and not defined but defined in the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as the "1981 Act"), shall have the meanings, respectively, assigned to them in the 1981 Act.

Tamil Nadu
Act 25 of
1981.

Establishment
of municipal
corporation
for city of
Cuddalore.

3. (1) With effect on and from the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, the local area included in the Cuddalore municipality shall constitute the city of Cuddalore for the purposes of this Ordinance and from such date of the commencement of this Ordinance, a municipal corporation shall be deemed to have been established for the said city by the name of Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation:

Provided that the Government may, from time to time, after consultation with the corporation, by notification, alter the limits of the city constituted under this sub-section so as to include therein or to exclude therefrom the areas specified in the notification:

Provided further that the power to issue a notification under this sub-section shall be subject to previous publication.

(2) The corporation shall, by the said name, be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to enter into contracts and may by its corporate name, sue and be sued.

(3) The Cuddalore municipality, functioning immediately before the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been abolished from such date of the commencement of this Ordinance.

4. The municipal authorities charged with carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance shall be,— Municipal authorities.

- (1) a Mayor;
- (2) a council;
- (3) a standing committee;
- (4) a wards committee; and
- (5) a commissioner.

5. (1) Save as otherwise provided in sub-section (2), the council shall consist of such number of councillors elected in the manner laid down in this Ordinance as may be fixed by the Government, by notification, from time to time, so, however, that the total number of councillors of the council shall not exceed seventy-two at any time. Constitution of council.

(2) The following persons shall also be represented in the council, namely:—

(a) the members of the House of the People representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly the area of the corporation and the members of the Council of States registered as electors within the area of the corporation;

(b) all the members of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly the area of the corporation.

(3) The persons referred to in sub-section (2) shall be entitled to take part in the proceedings but shall not have the right to vote in the meetings of the council.

(4) Seats shall be reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the council and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in the council as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the city or of the Scheduled Tribes in the city bears to the total population of the city.

(5) Seats shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, from among the seats reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, which shall not be less than fifty per cent. of the total number of seats reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

(6) Seats shall be reserved for women in the council and the number of seats reserved for women shall not be less than fifty per cent. including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the total number of seats in the council.

(7) The reservation of seats under sub-sections (4) and (5) shall cease to have effect on the expiry of the period specified in Article 334 of the Constitution.

Duration of corporation.

6. (1) The corporation, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting after each ordinary election and no longer and the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the corporation.

(2) An election to constitute the corporation shall be completed,—

(a) before the expiry of its duration specified in sub-section (1); or

(b) before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution:

Provided that where the remainder of the period for which the dissolved corporation would have continued, is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election, under this sub-section for constituting the corporation for such period.

Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 not to apply.

7. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3), the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 (hereinafter referred to as the "District Municipalities Act") shall, with effect on and from the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, cease to apply to the local area comprised within the city of Cuddalore.

Tamil Nadu Act V of 1920.

(2) Such cessor shall not affect,—

(a) the previous operation of the District Municipalities Act in respect of the local area comprised within the city of Cuddalore;

(b) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against the District Municipalities Act; or

(c) any investigation, legal proceedings or remedy in respect of such penalty, forfeiture or punishment, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if this Ordinance had not been passed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), all appointments, notifications, notices, rules, bye-laws, regulations, orders, directions, licences, permissions, schemes, forms and powers, made or issued or conferred under the District Municipalities Act and in force on the date of the commencement of this Ordinance shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, continue to be in force in the local area comprised within the city of Cuddalore until they are replaced by the appointments, notifications, notices, rules, bye-laws, regulations, orders, directions, licences, permissions, schemes, forms and powers to be made or issued or conferred under this Ordinance.

Application of provisions of 1981 Act to corporation.

8. (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided herein, all the provisions of the 1981 Act, including the provisions relating to the levy and collection of any tax or fee are hereby extended to and shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the corporation and the 1981 Act shall, in relation to the corporation, be read and construed as if the provisions of this Ordinance had formed part of the 1981 Act.

(2) For the purpose of facilitating the application of the provisions of the 1981 Act to the corporation, the Government may, by notification, make such adaptations and modifications of the 1981 Act and the rules and bye-laws made thereunder, whether by way of repealing, amending or suspending any provisions thereof, as may be necessary or expedient and thereupon, the 1981 Act and the rules made thereunder, shall apply to the corporation subject to the adaptations and modifications so made.

(3) Notwithstanding that no provision or insufficient provision has been made under sub-section (2) for the adaptation of the provisions of the 1981 Act, or the rules and bye-laws made thereunder, any court, tribunal or authority required or empowered to enforce these provisions may, for the purpose of facilitating their application to the corporation, construe these provisions in such manner, without affecting the substance, as may be necessary or proper having regard to the matter before the court, tribunal or authority.

(4) In the 1981 Act as extended and applied to the city of Cuddalore,—

(a) any reference to the city of Coimbatore and Coimbatore municipality, shall by reason of this Ordinance, be construed as a reference to the city of Cuddalore and Cuddalore municipality, respectively; and

(b) any reference to the Coimbatore Corporation, Corporation of Coimbatore and Municipal Corporation of Coimbatore, shall by reason of this Ordinance, be construed as a reference to the Cuddalore Corporation, Corporation of Cuddalore and Municipal Corporation of Cuddalore, respectively.

9. (1) All property, all rights of whatever kind, used, enjoyed or possessed by and all interests of whatever kind owned by or vested in, or held in trust by or for the municipal council with all rights of whatever kind used, enjoyed or possessed by the municipal council as well as all liabilities legally subsisting against the municipal council, on and from the date of the commencement of this Ordinance and subject to such directions as the Government may, by general or special order, give in this behalf, vest with the corporation.

Transitional provisions.

(2) All arrears of taxes or other payments by way of composition for a tax, or due for expenses or compensation, or otherwise due to the municipal council on the date of such commencement may be recovered as if they had accrued to the corporation and may be recovered as if the said arrears or payments had become due, under the provisions of this Ordinance.

(3) All taxes, fees and duties, which immediately before the date of the commencement of this Ordinance were being levied by the municipal council shall be deemed to have been levied by the corporation under the provisions of this Ordinance and shall continue to be in force accordingly until such taxes, fees and duties are revised, cancelled or superseded by anything done or any action taken under this Ordinance.

(4) All proceedings taken by, or against, the municipal council or authority or any person under the District Municipalities Act may be continued by, or against, the corporation, authority or person as if the said proceedings had been commenced under the provisions of this Ordinance.

(5) Any action taken under the District Municipalities Act, by any authority before the date of such commencement shall be deemed to have been taken by the authority competent to take such action under this Ordinance as if this Ordinance had been in force.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance, every officer or employee who, immediately before the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, was in the service of the municipality shall, on and from the date of such commencement, be deemed to be an officer or employee of the corporation:

Provided that—

(a) the terms and conditions applicable to such officers and employees consequent on their absorption in the service of the corporation shall not be less favourable than those applicable to such employees immediately before the date of such commencement, as regards pay and allowances, leave, pension, gratuity, provident fund and age of superannuation; and

(b) the service rendered by any such officer or other employee under the municipality upto the date of such commencement shall be deemed to be service under the corporation and he shall be entitled to count that service for the purpose of increment, leave, pension, provident fund and gratuity:

Provided further that any officer or other employee serving in the municipality shall be given an option to be exercised within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed either to be absorbed in the service of the corporation or to be transferred to the service referred to in section 73-A of the District Municipalities Act or to be retrenched from the service of the municipality on such retrenchment benefits as may be prescribed.

(7) Any division of the Cuddalore municipality into wards, made under the District Municipalities Act, and in force on the date of the commencement of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be a division of the corporation until altered.

(8) The electoral roll prepared for the Cuddalore municipality under the District Municipalities Act, and in force on the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, shall be deemed to be the electoral roll for the corporation until a new electoral roll is prepared and published and the part of the said electoral roll relating to each ward of the municipality shall be deemed to be the list of the electoral roll for the corresponding division of the corporation.

Appointment
of Special
Officer.

10. (1) There shall be appointed by the Government, by notification, a Special Officer to exercise the powers, perform the duties and discharge the functions of—

- (a) the council,
- (b) the standing committee,
- (c) the commissioner, and
- (d) the wards committee.

(2) The Special Officer shall exercise the powers, perform the duties and discharge the functions,—

- (a) of the corporation, until the elected councillors come into office;
- (b) of the standing committee, until a standing committee is appointed by the corporation; and
- (c) of the commissioner, until a commissioner is appointed by the Government and such officer may, if the Government so direct, receive remuneration for his services from the municipal fund.

(3) Until a new Special Officer is appointed by the Government under sub-section (1), the Special Officer of the municipality functioning immediately before the date of commencement of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be the Special Officer of the corporation and he shall exercise the powers and perform the duties and discharge the functions as those exercised, performed and discharged by the Special Officer appointed under sub-section (1).

(4) The Special Officer referred to in sub-section (1) or in sub-section (3) shall hold office until the day on which the first meeting of the council is held after ordinary elections to the corporation.

Power to make
rules.

11. (1) The Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) (a) All rules made under this Ordinance shall be published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* and, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the day on which they are so published.

(b) All notifications issued under this Ordinance shall, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, come into force on the day on which they are so published.

(3) Every rule made or notification or order issued under this Ordinance shall, as soon as possible, after it is made or issued, be placed on the table of the Legislative Assembly, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so placed or the next session, the Assembly makes any modification in any such rule or notification or order, or the Assembly decides that the rule or notification or order should not be made or issued, the rule or notification or order shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification or order.

12. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Ordinance, the Government may, by an order published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette*, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance as appear to them to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

Power to
remove
difficulties.

20th October 2021.

R. N. RAVI,
Governor of Tamil Nadu.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

As per the 2011 population census, the percentage of urban population in the State of Tamil Nadu was 48.45. Now the percentage of population living in urban areas to the total population has increased to over 53 per cent. It has therefore become essential to merge the areas having urban characteristics adjoining Corporations and Municipalities with the respective urban local bodies and to create necessary infrastructure in those areas.

2. Based on this, the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, among other things, has made an announcement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly during the Demand for Grant of this department for the year 2021-2022, that, Cuddalore Special Grade Municipality and the adjoining urbanised Local Bodies will be merged and upgraded as Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation. Accordingly, as an initial measure of achieving the above objective, the Government have decided to upgrade the Cuddalore Special Grade Municipality with its present territorial limits, as Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation.

3. The Government have, therefore, decided to undertake a legislation adapting the provisions of the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981 (Tamil Nadu Act 25 of 1981), with such modifications as are necessary.

4. The Ordinance seeks to give effect to the above decision.

(By order of the Governor)

C. GOPI RAVIKUMAR,
*Secretary to Government (Legislation),
Law Department.*