

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the Tamil Nadu on 6th January, 2022 is published together with Statement of Objects and Reasons for general information:—

L.A. Bill No. 6 of 2022

**A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR THE CITY OF
KUMBAKONAM.**

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation Act, 2022. Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to the city of Kumbakonam.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 20th day of December 2021.

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

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

(b) “corporation” means the municipal corporation of Kumbakonam established under section 3;

(c) “council” means the council of municipal corporation of Kumbakonam;

(d) “Government” means the State Government;

(e) “municipal council” means the municipal council of Kumbakonam municipality;

(f) “municipality” means the Kumbakonam 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 Act 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.

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

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 Kumbakonam municipality, functioning immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have been abolished from such date of the commencement of this Act.

Municipal
authorities.

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

- (a) a Mayor;
- (b) a council;
- (c) a standing committee;
- (d) a wards committee; and
- (e) a commissioner.

Constitution of
council.

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 Act 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.

(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.

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.

Duration of
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.

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 Act, cease to apply to the local area comprised within the city of Kumbakonam.

Tamil Nadu District
Municipalities Act,
1920 not to apply.

(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 Kumbakonam;

(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 Act 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 Act shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, continue to be in force in the local area comprised within the city of Kumbakonam 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 Act.

Tamil Nadu Act
V of 1920.

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 Act 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 Kumbakonam,—

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

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

Transitional provisions.

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 Act and subject to such directions as the Government may, by general or special order, give in this behalf, vest with the corporation.

(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 such arrears or payments had become due, under the provisions of this Act.

(3) All taxes, fees and duties, which immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act were being levied by the municipal council shall be deemed to have been levied by the corporation under the provisions of this Act 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 Act.

(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 such proceedings had been commenced under the provisions of this Act.

(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 Act as if this Act had been in force.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, every officer or employee who, immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act, 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 favorable 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 Kumbakonam municipality into wards, made under the District Municipalities Act, and in force on the date of the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be a division of the corporation until altered.

(8) The electoral roll prepared for the Kumbakonam municipality under the District Municipalities Act, and in force on the date of the commencement of this Act, 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 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 Act 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 appointed under sub-section (1) shall hold office for six months from the date of his appointment or until the day on which the first meeting of the council is held after ordinary elections to the corporation, whichever is earlier.

Power to make
rules.

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

(2) (a) All rules made under this Act 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 Act 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 Act 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 Act, the Government may, by an order published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette*, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to them to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Power to remove difficulties.

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of two years from the date of the commencement of this Act.

Tamil Nadu
Ordinance
7 of 2021.

13. (1) The Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 is hereby repealed.

Repeal and saving.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done, any action taken or any direction given under the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done, taken or given under this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

Considering the rapid pace of urbanisation in the State, it is imperative to reorganise the urban local bodies. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, among other things, made an announcement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly during the Demand for Grant for the year 2021-2022, to the effect that, Kumbakonam Municipality and adjoining urbanised areas will be merged to form a City Municipal Corporation.

2. The Kumbakonam town is known for its renowned Shaivite and Vaishnavite Shrines. The legendary Mahamaham festival, considered as a parallel to the globally famed Kumbh Mela festival, is held in Kumbakonam once in twelve years. It was estimated that, nearly 60 lakh Devotees/People took part in the 2016 Mahamaham festival held in the town. Further, with a number of important temples such as Navagraha temples, Dharasuram Iravatheeswarar temple, Thirunageswaram temple, Upiliappan temple, etc., situated around the town, Kumbakonam is considered as a religious tourism hub. Devotees from far and wide make Kumbakonam town as their place of stay during the religious tour of the region. As a result, the Kumbakonam Municipality and the adjoining areas are urbanising fast. Therefore, in order to address the civic infrastructure requirements of the local population and the visiting devotees, it has become essential to upgrade the Kumbakonam Municipality into a City Municipal Corporation, with the inclusion of adjoining urbanised areas.

3. Based on the aforesaid announcement by the Hon'ble Minister in the Legislative Assembly, and in view of the foregoing circumstances, the Government, by following the due procedure mandated by relevant statutory provisions, notified the inclusion of Dharasuram Town Panchayat within the limits of Kumbakonam Municipality, so as to constitute Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation.

4. Accordingly, for the constitution and administration of Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation, the Government, 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. Accordingly, the Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 (Tamil Nadu Ordinance 7 of 2021) was promulgated by the Hon'ble Governor on the 20th December 2021 and the same was published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* Extraordinary, dated the 21st December 2021.

5. The Bill seeks to replace the said Ordinance.

K.N. NEHRU,

Minister for Municipal Administration.

STATEMENT UNDER RULE 168 OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RULES EXPLAINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH NECESSITATED THE PROMULGATION OF THE KUMBakonam CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ORDINANCE, 2021 (TAMIL NADU ORDINANCE 7 OF 2021).

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4. Accordingly, for the constitution and administration of Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation, the Government, 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.

5. As the Legislative Assembly of the State was not in session at that time, it became necessary to promulgate an Ordinance to give effect to the above decision. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Governor promulgated the Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 (Tamil Nadu Ordinance 7 of 2021) on the 20th December 2021 and the same was published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* Extraordinary, dated the 20th December 2021.

K.N. NEHRU,

Minister for Municipal Administration.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION.

Clauses 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Bill authorise the Government to issue notifications or orders or to make rules, as the case may be, to carry out the purposes specified therein.

2. The powers delegated are normal and not of an exceptional character.

K.N. NEHRU,
Minister for Municipal Administration.

Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009,
6th January 2022.

K. SRINIVASAN,
Secretary.