

State Bill Summary

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Bill, 2020

- The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Bill, 2020 was introduced in the Karnataka Assembly on March 24, 2020. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is the municipal corporation governing the Greater Bengaluru metropolitan area. It is currently functioning under the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, 1976. The Bill seeks to improve decentralisation and public participation in the municipal governance of Bengaluru and will replace the Act's provisions in Bengaluru. Key features of the Bill include:
 - **BBMP Corporation:** The Bill establishes the BBMP (Corporation) which will be the apex municipal authority in Bengaluru. It will have a term of five years. The Corporation will consist of: (i) elected Councillors, (ii) members of Lok Sabha and Karnataka Legislative Assembly whose constituencies are within the area of the Corporation, (iii) members of Rajya Sabha and Karnataka Legislative Council who are registered as voters in the Corporation, and (iv) nominated members (with no voting rights). Nominated members will include residents who are social workers or experts in administration, town planning, education, or health.
 - **Functions of the Corporation:** The Corporation will be responsible for functions including: (i) preparation and implementation of schemes for social justice and urban development in the city, (ii) preparation of annual budget and allocate funds to different departments, and (iii) determining criteria for eligibility and priority of selection of beneficiaries for development schemes.
 - **Mayor and Deputy Mayor:** The elected members of the Corporation will elect two of its members to be the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Their functions will be assigned to them by the Corporation.
 - **Chief Commissioner:** The state government will appoint a Chief Commissioner, in consultation with the Mayor, for a term of two years. He must be an officer not below the rank of Additional Chief Secretary. His functions will include: (i) adjudicating inter-zonal conflicts, (ii) supervising zones under the BBMP Corporation, and (iii) signing contracts on behalf of the Corporation.
 - **Zones:** The Bill proposes to establish up to 15 zones within the Corporation, which will be administered through Zonal Committees. These Committees will consist of: (i) Zonal Commissioner (as Chairperson), (ii) Councillors elected from wards within the zone, (iii) engineer in charge of the zone, and (iv) two nominated members who are experts in waste management and urban governance, respectively. The Zonal Commissioners will be responsible for civil administration in their respective zones. They will be appointed by the state government for a term of two years and must be officers not below the rank of Principal Secretary.
- **Functions of the Zonal Committee:** The Zonal Committee will be responsible for functions including: (i) supervision and implementation of projects and schemes within the Corporation area, (ii) approving fresh infrastructure projects, and (iii) organising public engagement activities.
- **Ward:** The state government will divide the total area under the Corporation in up to 225 wards of roughly same population. Each Ward's elected Councillor will also be a member of the Corporation. The Bill establishes a Ward Committee for each ward, consisting of: (i) Councillor of the ward (as Chairperson), and (ii) up to 20 nominated members including representatives from civic and resident groups. Functions of the Ward Committee include: (i) preparing ward development scheme, (ii) supervising the schemes of the Corporation in their ward and ensuring proper utilisation of funds, and (iii) ensuring management of water supply, sanitation, street lights, and waste.
- **Area Sabha:** Each ward will be divided into Area Sabhas whose representatives will be civil society members nominated by the Zonal Committee. Functions of the Area Sabha include: (i) generating proposals to determine the priority of development programmes, (ii) identifying beneficiaries for schemes, and (iii) identifying deficiencies in water supply, sanitation, and street lighting.
- **Taxes:** The Bill specifies taxes that will be imposed by the Corporation. These include: (i) property tax on buildings and vacant land, (ii) stamp duty on transfer of property, and (iii) entertainment tax. It also allows the Corporation to impose cesses for certain purposes such as: (i) urban transportation, (ii) infrastructure, and (iii) solid waste management.
- **Fiscal management:** To improve fiscal management: (i) annual financial statements of income and expenditure will be prepared by the Chief Commissioner, (ii) medium-term fiscal plan will be framed by the Mayor, and (iii) a debt limitation policy shall be framed by the Corporation.

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