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Chapter 5 Institutional Structure of Urban Governance

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5.1 Constitutional Position

Part 10 of the Constitution of India deals with the “Scheduled and Tribal Areas”. Article 244 (2) of the Constitution states that: The provisions of the Sixth Schedule shall apply to the administration of the tribal areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Sixth Schedule provides for declaring those districts included in each item of (Parts 1,II and II A and in Part III) of the table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth schedule as autonomous districts , which in the case of the State of Meghalaya, includes Khasi Hills District, Jaintia Hills District and the Garo Hills District. To govern these districts, para 2 (sub para 1) provides that: a) There shall be a District Council for each autonomous district consisting of not more than 30 members, of whom not more than four persons shall be nominated by the Governor and the rest shall be elected on the basis of adult suffrage.

Further, Para 3, sub para 1 lays down the powers of the District Council which includes: allotment, occupation or use or setting land apart for purposes of agriculture or grazing or for residential etc., purposes to promote the interests of the inhabitants of any village or town. Para 5 deals with conferment of powers under Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure Codes on the District Councils; para 6 empowers District Councils to establish primary schools etc; para 8 lays down their powers to assess and collect land revenue and to impose taxes and para 10 refers to power to make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals etc.

According to para 20, sub-para 2, no part of the area comprised within the Municipality of Shillong shall be deemed to be within the Khasi Hills District.

5.1.1 Traditional Institutions

The traditional institutions operating in the State of Meghalaya are detailed below.

District Council

The Sixth Schedule provides for the establishment of District Councils for autonomous district consisting of not more than thirty members, of whom not more than four persons are to be nominated by the Governor and the rest needs to be elected on the basis of adult suffrage. (para 2{1}).

The administration of an autonomous district shall be vested in the District Council whose term of office is five years.

Powers

According to para 3 of the Sixth Schedule the District Council is empowered to make laws with respect to –

- (a) The allotment, occupation or use, or the setting apart, of land, other than any land which is a reserved forest for the purposes of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes or for any other purpose likely to promote the interests of the inhabitants of any village or town.

However, the State government is empowered to compulsorily acquire any land, whether occupied or unoccupied, for public purposes.

- (b) The management of any forest not being a reserved forest;
- (c) The use of any canal or water-course for agricultural purposes;
- (d) The regulation of the practice of Jhum or other forms of shifting cultivation;
- (e) The establishment of village or town committees or councils and their powers;
- (f) Any other matter relating to village or town administration, including village or town police and public health and sanitation;
- (g) The appointment or succession of Chiefs or Headmen;
- (h) The inheritance of property;
- (i) Marriage and divorce;
- (j) Social customs. (para 2, sub-para 6A)
- The District Council is empowered to establish, construct, or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, cattle pounds, ferries, fisheries, roads, road transport and waterways in the district (para 6, sub-para 1).
 - The Governor may, with the consent of any District Council, entrust either conditionally or unconditionally, to the Council functions in relation to agriculture, animal husbandry, community projects, co-operative societies, social welfare and village planning may be entrusted by the Governor (para 6,sub-para 2).
 - Powers to assess and collect land revenue and to impose taxes.

Further, the District Council enjoys the power to levy and collect all or any of the following taxes viz.

- (a) Taxes on professions, trades, callings and employments;
- (b) Taxes on animals, vehicles and boats;
- (c) Taxes on the entry of goods into a market for sale therein, and tolls on passengers and goods carried in ferries; and
- (d) Taxes for the maintenance of schools, dispensaries or roads. (para 8, sub-para 2)

The Constitution of India provides that,

- (a) If any provision of a law made by a District Council is repugnant to any provision of a law made by the State Legislature the law or regulation made by the District Council to the extent of repugnancy, be void and the law made by the State Legislature shall prevail ((para 12 sub-para: a).
- (b) Further, the President may, with respect to any Act of Parliament, direct that it shall not apply to an autonomous district or an autonomous region in the State, or shall apply to such district or region subject to such exceptions or modifications as he may specify in the notification (para 12 sub-para: b).

Dorbar Hima

The **Dorbar Hima** or the State Assembly is presided by **SYIEM** who is the chief of a tribe who rules a HIMA or a number of villages or areas. Representation at the Hima and Raid level is rigid. Syiem can be elected only from the Syiems' family or its legitimate branch. The electoral council consists of Council members and other Heads of Clans. In some cases the Heads of Clans propose the names of the candidates and the people choose the Syiem.

The functions to be discharged by Syiem include; construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, water sources and sanitation; establishment of and maintenance of markets and collection of dues; welfare works and community services; judicial powers to settle petty disputes/cases; to organize cultural festivals.

Dorbar Shnong

Each Village or Area has a SHNONG, headed by a RANGBAH SHNONG (Headman) who is elected by voice vote of the villagers. Other members are elected in a similar manner. Election is endorsed under the guidelines of the tribe. Term of office vary from Dorbar to Dorber. It enjoys no legal or constitutional status.

The DORBAR SHNONGS are responsible for looking after law and order, maintaining the common properties of the village and ensuring the delivery of urban services which is done in cooperation with the SMB and related State Government departments.

In many urban areas, DORBAR SHNONG works with the Governmental agencies and NGOs' in providing services like water supply, electricity, roads and foot paths schools and dealing with anti social elements. It also implements SJSRY.

DORBAR SHNONG has limited funds which include fines imposed, contributions and duties from the households to meet general expenses.

These institutions do not enjoy any legal or constitutional status.

5.1.2 At the State Level

Department of Urban Affairs

The main objective of the Department of Urban Affairs is to ensure proper planning and management of the urban areas with emphasis on provision of necessary infrastructure and civic amenities like water supply, roads, drainage, street lights, parks and play grounds to promote a clean and healthy living conditions in all urban centres of the State.

The Department is to formulate Policies and Programmes and in this connection co-ordinate, supervise and monitor the implementation of the various schemes towards realization of the stated objectives.

Administratively, the Department is headed by the Commissioner and Secretary, and assisted by Secretary, 2 Directors, Officer on Special Duty, Under Secretary and other staff.

Directorate of Urban Affairs

In 1990, the 'Directorate of Municipal Administration Cell' was merged with 'Directorate of Urban Development' and was redesignated as the 'Directorate of Urban Affairs'. The activities of the Directorate are confined to the urban areas of the State having the Municipalities and also to those urban areas having Town Committees.

Functions

The Directorate of Urban Affairs is responsible to assist the Urban Affairs Department in administering the Meghalaya Town and Country Planning Act to ensure proper planning and management of the urban areas of the state with emphasis on provision of necessary infrastructure and civic amenities for healthy living conditions in all urban centers. Its main functions include

Advising on Urban Development Policies and Strategy.

- Preparation of Master Plans for the towns for orderly growth and development under the Act.

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- Formulation of Regulations for enforcement of development control according to the Master Plan.
 - Surveying and mapping of towns and planning areas (including Aerial photography/ remote sensing)
 - Preparation of Traffic and Transportation Plan and Schemes.
 - Preparation of Utility Plans of Towns.
 - Preparation of Slum Improvement Plans, Environmental Improvement Plans and Poverty Alleviation Action Plan of urban areas.
 - Preparation of Development Project proposals.
 - Guidance in and implementation of building regulation, sub-division of lands through layout plan.
 - Execution of development works under the Centrally Sponsored and State Plan Schemes.
 - Monitor and co-ordinate the activities of District level offices under the Directorate.
 - Advice and assist the Municipal Boards, MUDA and MUDAg in discharging their functions and duties and to monitor and co-ordinate the activities of these organizations.
 - Providing technical assistance to other Government Department.
 - Advice and assist the State Government on matter relating to Planning and Urban Development, Urban Management and administration.

Organizational set up:

- The Directorate of Urban Affairs is headed by the Director, Urban Affairs, Meghalaya and has been organized at State and District level. The Directorate of Urban Affairs is located at Shillong and the Director is assisted by 2 (two) Joint Directors, 1(one) Executive Engineer, 1(one) Architect, 1(one) Finance and Account Officer beside other Officers and staffs.
- At the district level, the Directorate has 10 (ten) sub ordinate Offices viz. Offices of the District Urban Planners at Shillong, Jowai and Tura, Offices of Executive Engineers at Shillong, Jowai and Tura and Offices of Assistant Engineer at Nongpoh, Nongstoin, Williamnagar and Baghmara responsible for planning and execution of development works.

Meghalaya Urban Development Agency

The Centrally sponsored Urban Poverty Programmes i.e. Nehru Rozgar Yojana and Urban Basic Services Programme were launched in 1990 and as per the guidelines

of these schemes, an Urban Development Agency at State level was to be constituted to act as nodal point for implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes. Hence, the MUDAg was set up and registered in May 1991 as a Society under the Meghalaya Societies Registration Act, 1983.

The objectives of the Agency are:

- (a) To draw up plans and assist local bodies/Municipal Boards/Town Committees in implementation, development of schemes relating to urban poor for improvement of their socio-economic condition;
- (b) Improvement of physical environment of the habitat;
- (c) Improvement of their quality of life;
- (d) Analysis and solution of specific problems encountered in planning and implementation of various development programmes;
- (e) Assisting the Government of Meghalaya in policy formulation, the choice of options and strategy for their up-liftment; and
- (f) To undertake all such other lawful activities as are conducive or necessary to the attainment of the above objectives of promoting urban development in all its facets.

The MISSION / VISION STATEMENT envisaged for the Agency is to

- Plan and assists the local bodies in implementation of schemes relating to the urban poor for development of physical, social and economic environment and thereby improving the quality of life,
- Facilitate the Boards in coordination and convergence of activities of various sectoral departments and
- Function as a nodal agency to channelise fund, monitor the proper utilization of fund, monitor and assess the programme and coordinate the schemes relating to urban poor.
- The organization functions as a nodal agency to channelise funds, oversee their proper utilisation, monitor and evaluate the operation of programmes and coordinate the schemes relating to urban poor.
- This Agency is under the administrative control of the Department of Urban Affairs.

Functions

The functions of the Authority are detailed below:

- (a) To draw up plans and assist local bodies/Municipal Boards/Town Committees in implementation, development of schemes relating to urban poor for improvement of their socio-economic condition;
- (b) Improvement of physical environment of the habitat;
- (c) Improvement of their quality of life;
- (d) Analysis and solution of specific problems encountered in planning and implementation of various development programmes;
- (e) Assisting the Government of Meghalaya in policy formulation, the choice of options and strategy for their up-liftment; and
- (f) To undertake all such other lawful activities as are conducive or necessary to the attainment of the above objectives of promoting urban development in all its facts.

Organisation

Beside the General Council and the Governing Body of the Agency at the apex, the Director heads the Agency; who is the Executive Officer. As most of the District has only one town, District Urban Development Agency has not been set up. However District level Departmental Officers of DJUD are appointed as ex-officio District Co-ordinator's at the Town level. Urban Poverty Alleviation Cell has been created at the Urban Local Body level for implementation of the Scheme. Further, the Agency is also supporting setting up of Building Centres for propagation of cost effective building technology and 6 (six) centres have been set up in Shillong, Tura, Jowai, Williamnagar, Baghmara and Nongstoin. The core staff has been created to run the Building Centres at Shillong and Tura. The other Building Centres are being run by the Assistant Engineers of the respective District who are declared as Ex-officio Project Managers.

Meghalaya Urban Development Authority (MUDA)

The Meghalaya Town and Country Planning Act was enacted in 1973 with a view to ensure the development of the towns and country side of the State on sound planning principles with the object of securing proper sanitary conditions to conserve and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the people living in those areas.

The Act provided for setting up of Development Authority (section 8A). The Shillong Development Authority was constituted in March 1990 with its jurisdiction over

Shillong Master Plan Area. Subsequently in 1991 its jurisdiction was extended to cover the whole State and was renamed as Meghalaya Urban Development Authority.

Functions and Duties.

- The MUDA is entrusted with the responsibility to promote and secure the development of the area according to the Master Plan (Section 8D).
- The Authority has also to prepare the Schemes in areas notified as scheme areas under the Act.
- Enforcement of Master Plan powers relating to land-use controls.
- The Authority is also vested with the power to sanction erection, alteration or re-erection of any building to ensure that no construction takes place in violation of the provisions of the Master Plan.
- The Authority is also responsible for implementation of the Master Plan, land-use and zoning regulation and the schemes, to impose reasonable restrictions on the use of the land and buildings including the regulating of the open space to be maintained etc.
- The Authority has to function as an umbrella body and is responsible mainly for co-ordination, sanction and monitoring of urban development schemes.
- This Agency is under the administrative control of the Department of Urban Affairs.
- This Agency is also responsible as the nodal agency for the implementation of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission programmes and projects.

Composition of the Authority

The Authority consists of a full time Chairman to be appointed by the State government. Other members include;

Deputy Commissioner of the District,
Chairman of the local Municipality,
Director of Town Planning,
Public Health Engineer,
Director of Health Services,

Three persons representing the areas lying outside the Municipality but within Master Plan area nominated by the State government and

Two persons to be elected by the Commissioners of the Local Municipality from amongst the Council members. (Sec .8b.1)

The Authority is empowered to borrow and receive grants, advances and loans.(Sec 48&49).

Organizational set up

The organizational set-up of the Authority consists of broadly five branches Viz. the Planning and Design Branch, Engineering Branch, Finance and Accounts Branch, Monitoring Branch and Administrative Branch which are under the over-all administrative charge of the Chairman assisted by the Secretary and other Officials.

The Engineer-In-Chief heads the Engineering branch and is assisted by one Superintendent Engineer, two Executive Engineers, and 4 each of Assistant and Junior Engineers.

The Chief Urban Planner is in charge of planning and design branch and is assisted by one Urban Planner and Assistant Planner each with support staff.

At the District Level, the Town Planning Units at Tura and Jowai are manned by the respective District Urban Planners of Urban Affairs as Town Planning Officers.

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)

The main function of the PHED is to plan, implement and maintain Rural and Urban Water Supply and Rural Sanitation schemes.

The District Level administration of the PHED undertakes field investigation, survey, data collection, preparation, execution and maintenance of schemes.

The PHED started functioning with two working Divisions viz., PHE Hills Division, Shillong and PHE Tura, Division. Subsequently, due to increased volume of works, 4 (four) circle, 17 (seventeen) working Divisions and 36 (thirty six) working Sub-Division were set up.

The PHED, at the secretarial level, is headed by one Principal Secretary, one Commissioner & Secretary and assisted by one Under Secretary.

At the departmental level, it is by the Chief Engineer, PHED who is assisted by 5 (five) Additional Chief Engineer i.e. Add. Chief Engineer (PHE), Zone-I, Shillong,

Zone-II, Tura, HRD Cell, Shillong, Sanitation Cell, Shillong and newly created Zone-III, Shillong.

The Zone-I comprises of Greater Shillong Circle and electrical Circle and the prestigious Greater Shillong Water Supply Scheme along with other schemes falling under the Circle are being looked after Add. Chief Engineer (PHE) Zone-I.

Zone-II comprising of three Districts of Garo Hills, is looked after by the Add. Chief Engineer (PHE), Zone-II. The Urban and Rural Schemes pertaining to Tura Circle, covering entire Garo Hills areas are directly looked after by the Add. Chief Engineer (PHE), Zone-II.

Areas under Rural Circle, Shillong covering Ri-Bhoi District, West Khasi Hills District and most part of Jaintia Hills District and rest of East Khasi Hills District will be looked after by the newly created Additional Chief Engineer, PHE, Zone-III.

The administration at the District level is divided into Four Public health Engineering Circles and 17 Working Divisions covering the entire State under the administrative control of the Chief engineer.

Public Works Department (PWD)

After attaining of statehood in 1972 from the erstwhile composite the PWD (R&B) of the State came into being and inherited the assets concerning roads, bridges, Irrigation and flood control projects. Its functions are:

To construct roads, bridges, irrigation and flood control projects as well as for their maintenance including administrative works etc. Construction of roads and bridges including their maintenance and other works relating to :

Road communication,

Irrigation,

Flood control,

Contract

Works/ Employment

- Organizational structure diagram at various level, Directorate, Regions, Districts, Block etc.

Department of Housing

In 1972, the Department of Town Planning and Housing was created and this Department was bifurcated in the year 1982 to constitute Department of Housing.

Objectives

Its main activity consists of issuing of sanctions for the implementation of housing schemes in the State relating to Rural Housing, Rental Housing Schemes, Construction of Economically Weaker Section Houses and Land Acquisition and Development Schemes.

Organizational Structure

The Department is headed by Commissioner and Secretary and Three Under Secretary's.

5.1.3 At the City Level**Shillong Municipal Board (SMB)**

The SMB was constituted in 1908. It is being governed under the provisions of Meghalaya Municipal Act 1973 and Meghalaya Municipal (Amendment) Act 2000.

The municipal jurisdiction extends to 10.36 sq. kms out of a total planning area of 174 sq. kms. Elected council is absent since 1973. Since then the Board is being administered by a senior officer of the State government who is designated as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Objectives and Functions

To ensure the right to public health, efficient and quality basic services to all citizens, to provide a congenial environment, and to bridge the gap in the availability of urban services among the various sections of the society.

The Mission/Vision Statement of SMB is to:

- Provide Hygienic services
- Regulate of trading license, hoardings and kiosks
- Registration of birth and death
- Facilitating up gradation of the means of livelihood and living standards of the urban poor.
- Providing equitable and efficient service to all citizens.

The Municipal Act envisaged that the Municipal Board will provide an efficient civic administration to the area under its jurisdiction by managing water supply, lighting, drainage, and sanitation and other civic amenities.

The Act also provides for setting up funds for specific purposes including water and lighting, removal of sewerage and rubbish, public health administration including measures to control epidemics, construction, maintenance and improvement of roads, bridges, squares, parks, Drains, latrines and urinals etc in the interests of the citizens living within the municipal area.

Organisation

Presently, the Chief Executive Officer heads the organization and operates through two Executive Officers and other staff. The Municipal Board consists of 10 departments which are:

1. General Administration,
2. License,
3. Collection,
4. Assessment,
5. Health and Conservancy
6. Public works;
7. Water Works;
8. Accounts;
9. Establishment and
10. Urban Poverty Alleviation Cell which is a part of the Public Works.

The UPA Cell in the SMB is financed by the MUDAg works under the supervision of the SMB.

In the following paras details of the departments have been presented.

a) Establishment Branch

This department deals with all the personal files of all the Employees of the SMB and is also actively involved in providing facilities and privileges to the employees of the Municipal Board

b) Assessment Branch

The function of this Branch consists of:

- 1) To calculate taxes as per the annual value (AV) given by the PWD branch of the SMB for purposes of House Tax, Water Tax, Lighting Tax and Latrine Tax.

- 2) Maintenance Demand and Bill Register for keeping the records of the details of all tax payers and the amounts that the taxpayers have to pay. On average the Department prepares about 45-50 bills (approx.) per day.
- 3) Dealing with Transfer / Mutation / Apportionment of holdings as applied by the ratepayers.
- 4) Correspondence in regards to reviewing / reducing of municipal tax.
- 5) Misc. such as issuing of certified copies of holdings as required by the ratepayers.

c) License Branch

The License Department performs four activities viz.,

License for pets : The License Department issues one-year license for pets (dogs and horses). The owners are provided with a ticket for a pet. The ticket holds the number, session, the names of the owner and SMB written on the top. The license fees are collected yearly.

License for Stall : The License Department of SMB issues licenses to Municipal Market, Stakeholder on a yearly basis. The person using the stall has to pay the tax monthly.

License for Parking Places and Toll gates : The License Department on contract basis issues One-year license to the Contractor for collecting the taxes for the Parking Places and Tollgates. Tenders are invited from the interested parties through advertisement in newspaper. The contract is for one year.

License for Commercial establishment: The License Department issues one-year license for commercial establishments. Person who wants to set up a Commercial Establishment must have a trade license issued by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the SMB.

d) Collection Branch

After the calculation of taxes by the Assessment Department, the Collection Department prepares the Bill and sends it to the holder or taxpayer. The Bill includes the previous balance, if any. The process of Tax Collection involves the collection of all types of taxes, administration fee, composition fee, mutation fee etc. It also receives information from other departments as License Department, Water Works Department of SMB etc. The collection department is the backbone of the SMB. The main objective is to generate income for the Board.

e) General Administration Branch

The main functions of this Department includes maintenance of a copy of building plan of each holding; Elections of Ward Commissioners; maintenance of training programs from Government and from private entrepreneur; dealings all the Government Correspondence, issues and receipts etc.

f) Public Works Branch

The Public Works Department of the SMB grants permission for construction of any residential/office building. It looks after the construction works of the municipality roads, Drainage system, Local Community Halls, etc. Without the permission from this department, the Shillong citizen cannot construct any building or so. The PWD also assess the Annual Rental Value (ARV) for any newly constructed buildings, which is used for the calculation of taxes in future.

There are mainly two divisions:

1. Civil Division
2. Enforcement Division

Civil Division looks after the construction works of the Municipality roads, drainage system, municipal buildings, local community hall, etc. Enforcement Division looks after unauthorized construction, assessment to tax of buildings, etc.

This branch also looks after Street lighting also. Since there is no permanent electrical division an Electrician looks after this service. The details of streetlights in the municipal area are indicated below:

This branch is also entrusted with the responsibility of provision of Parking Spaces. For regulation of traffic congestion and to avoid haphazard parking the SMB provides designated parking places/ lots in areas like Laitumkhrah, Jail Road, Police Bazaar, Bara Bazaar, where a nominal fee for the service is charged.

The services provided include: -

- Providing safe and clean parking space.
- Issue of receipts/tickets of payment for parking.
- Eviction of encroachers like hawkers etc. from the designated parking space.

- Removal of any destruction / nuisance in the parking space.
- Providing proper signs boards and regulation there of entry and exit and parking for free moving of vehicles

g) Water Works Branch

According to Meghalaya Municipal Act, every Municipal Board is required to provide or arrange for the provision of sufficient supply of drinking water for inhabitants of the areas within its jurisdiction. (Section 264).

The main functions of this branch of the SMB are:

- To provide water connection from both municipal line and PHE line.
- Provision / maintenance of public taps.
- Maintenance, repair and cleaning of water sources, water tanks, water lines.
- Regulations of timings of water supply by designated key men.
- Provision of additional water supply by water tankers.
- Regulation of certified plumbers - issue of license, regulation of fees, etc.
- Inspection of wells, perennial water and declaration of closure of the same if found not fit for using and
- Tapping water resources.

h) Health and Conservancy Branch

According to the Meghalaya Municipal Act, Municipal Boards are required to provide for removal of sewage, rubbish and offensive matters from all public roads and all property vested in the Board and wherever latrine tax has been imposed sewage and offensive matter and cleaning of all private latrines, urinals and cess-pools in the areas under their jurisdiction. (Section 211(1)).

The main objective of the health department is to develop and maintain proper sanitation all across the city. As cleaning drive is the regular basic work, this department launches a special drive for cleanliness in the city during festivals. This department also helps localities and non-Municipal localities during their cleaning drive by providing them labour, transport and machinery things.

Within this department a separate cell exists viz., Health Establishment to manage refuse collection and disposal services. It is entrusted with the responsibility to:

Deploy sweepers for road sweeping in all roads, lanes and bye lanes of the city and of labourers for cleaning of drains and road side herbs etc.

Depute of garbage collectors for door to door collection of garbage from each household and of garbage vehicles for the door to door collection and

Transport garbage for disposal at the designated compost plant site.

Provide infrastructure for solid waste and liquid waste management like the garbage collection station, transfer stations, trashcans, municipal drains, etc.

Ensure a safe cheap and hygienic system of sewage disposal through cesspool cleaner;

Check and penalise violation of sanitation rule and laws through the polluters pay policy

Issue of notices to the repairers regarding construction of septic tank, latrines, etc. and

Human disposal of unclaimed dead bodies.

This Municipal area is divided into three zones the details for purposes of refuse collection services which are as follows:

Table 5-1: Zoning for the purpose of refuse collection

ZONES	AREAS COVERED
Zone A	Laitumkhrah, Malki, Cleave Colony, Fire Brigade, Dhankheti, Lachumiere, Laban, Lumparing, Rilbong, Kenchs Trace, etc.
Zone B	Pine Mount School, Keating Road, European Ward, Official Areas, Police Bazar, Thana Road, Jail Road, Polo, Forest Colony, Laumali, Mawlai Nongmali, etc.
Zone C	Mawlonghat, Matphrang, Mawkhar, Jaiaw, Sunny Hill, Garikhana, Wahingdoh, Um-sohsun, Upper and Lower Mawprem, Lama Villa, Barapathar, etc.

(Source: Website: smb.gov.in)

The Cell is equipped with the following machinery to undertake collection and disposal of solid wastes.

i) Urban Poverty Alleviation Cell

This cell largely caters to the needs of the Urban Poor through centrally sponsored scheme i.e. SJSRY, NSDP by providing gainfully employment to the urban employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

The functions of the Cell are:

- Assistance to the individual urban poor beneficiaries for setting up gain full employment venture.
- Assistance to groups of urban poor women for setting up gainful employment ventures through DWCUA.
- Training of beneficiaries for up gradation and acquisition of vocational and entrepreneurial skills.
- Assistance in the formation of thrift and credit society (SHG)
- Regular health checks ups for women and children.
- Nutrition program.
- Provides medicine aid to the poor.
- Regular health check ups, some beneficial programs, medicine distribution to the poor, etc are done in each municipal area through the co-operation of the neighborhood community.

SHILLONG CANTONMENT BOARD

The CB's population, as per 2001 Census, was 12387 covering an area of 2 sq.kms. It is divided in to 5 wards.

The following paras details out the status of urban services in its jurisdiction.

Water Supply

The Board gets bulk supply of water from SMB and PHED. It has a RCC tank with a storage capacity of 0.2 MLD, and 9 steel tanks with a capacity of 0.10 MLD thus making the total capacity of 0.12 MLD.

The supply is for one hour each in the morning and evening serving a population of nearly 10,000. There are 416 domestic water connections and 3 standposts.

Drains

The total length of drains in the Board area is 5.50 kms approximately and all are open drains.

Solid Wastes Collection

The collection is done by the CB. The garbage is lifted from the collection bins by 3 trucks and disposed off at the municipal dumping ground at Mawiong.

Parking lots

There is one open parking at T.G.road.

Slums

The slum of Jhalupara is located within the Board's area.

5.1.4 Issues

A look at the institutional matrix shown brings out distinctly the complexity involved in the provision of urban services in the city.

1. At the State level, in the present scheme of things, the institutional arrangements for planning and implementation of urban projects in the State is unclear and highly distorted. Dual system is evident in the service delivery in all-key sectors like water supply, drainage and solid wastes management.
2. The organizational capacity of the urban agencies, except PHED and PWD, to undertake projects of large magnitude is also doubtful.
3. The MUDA, which is the nodal agency for the Mission, needs to be strengthened in all respects, especially on the technical, planning, financial management and monitoring and review fronts. Many positions at the higher echelons of the organization are lying vacant.

The present strength of the technical staff is 12 out of which 7 officers are viz., one Executive Engineer, 4 Assistant Engineers and 2 Junior Engineers. The post of Engineer-in- Chief is lying vacant. On the planning side, no technical officer is presently in position in all the 6 senior technical posts. On the finance side out of a total of 8 posts, only Chief Accounts Officer, Assistant Finance officer and Assistant Audit officer and other supporting staff are in position. On the projects side, the post of Project Director is vacant and the division is headed by Project Monitoring Officer assisted by one Assistant Project Officer. The administrative wing also needs strengthening

4. The jurisdiction of Municipal Board is confined to only 10.36 sq. kms out of a total metropolitan planning area of 174 sq. kms. Presently, the SMB is catering to only 6% of the area of SUA. Departmental structures and functional distribution of SMB calls for restructuring is urgently called for.

5. According to North Eastern Region Urban Development Project (Phase1) Report: Effective and sustained delivery of urban services will require that the existing ULB, which lacks a city council, be reconstructed along non-conventional lines to address concerns raised by the dorbars, that water supply, sewerage and solid wastes management services be operated in a much more effective and efficient manner, that urban land management be improved and that own source funding of urban services be very substantially enhanced. These will require a variety of actions.... Some measures, such as reconstruction of the urban local body or the creation of a new water supply and sanitation agency, which will involve major changes.
6. According to the Report of the North Eastern Region Urban Development Project (Phase1) Report: There is virtual institutional paralysis in the Greater Shillong Area, with the most adverse impact on civic services, public amenities and facilities, public health and environment. The institutional set up is no longer tenable.... There is an overwhelming demand from citizens for improvement in municipal governance and civic services. (Para 53, Table 24-5, p 24-20). The Report underlined the measures, among others, for: design of Municipal legislation for the Greater Shillong Area, to provide for the representation of Dorbar Shnongs in the Municipal Council and to provide an important role to Ranbah Shnongs at the ward level. (para 53, Table 24-5, p24-20).
7. Further, the need to strengthen the capacity of SMB and the Dorbar Shnongs has been underlined. (Ibid, p 24-21).
8. According to the Report of the Gangtok-Shillong South Asia Regional Water Supply and sanitation Program: There has been a lack of clarity among institutions with respect to their roles and responsibilities mainly as a result of the lack of solid financial and staffing positions at the SMB. In addition, outside SMB, Dorbars are only now facing increased requirements of an urban area and have little experience in providing services or collecting the money required for them.
9. Further, the existing set of institutions in Shillong lack the structural as well as technical capacity to take up integrated urban infrastructure planning and management. (p B-7).

Need for streamlining Institutional framework

1. The major institutional issue relating to the city is the need to evolve a holistic mechanism to ensure that the Shillong city provides good urban governance and efficient and effective provision of urban services. Since ULBs are the cutting edge of the administration, a greater accountability and transparency in their functioning is essential. Constitution of a municipal corporation for the entire Greater Shillong Planning Area could be one plausible approach. The GoM needs to address this problem on a priority basis.
2. The Dorbar Shnongs have been playing a dynamic role in providing civic services in their respective jurisdictions. To promote good urban governance, their active participation is an essential pre-requisite. Hence it is desirable to enlist their participation by identifying them as decentralized units of urban governance.

Civil Society Participation

Voluntary Technical Corps: An Advisory Group headed by a Technical Advisor drawn from civil society to encourage private sector participation, citizen's involvement and transparency in urban governance has been set up at the national level.

This Group is to enable the Constitution of Voluntary Technical Corp's in each city identified under the Mission which could be a platform for associating the civil society with the management of JNNURM. This needs to be followed up by the GoM.