

## **A:Public Health Department**

The main aim of the Public Health Department in the Chennai corporation, headed by the Technical Head – The City Health Officer is to reduce health inequalities through out the city of Chennai targeting resources, programs, and attending to high need neighborhoods in the city. The Health Department works to ensure that good health conditions prevail in the city with effective and efficient systems. The City Health officer is assisted by one Additional City Health Officer and at the Zonal level 10 Zonal Health Officers and a Director for the Communicable Diseases Hospital located at Tondiarpet, Chennai-81. Zonal Health Officers assist the City Health Officer in looking after the administration of UPHCs and Diagnosis Centers, Public Health & Environmental Sanitation, Prevention of Food adulteration, online registration and issual of Birth and Death Certificates, registration of Nursing Homes and Hospitals and issuing Public Health Sanitation Certificates to the educational Institutions.

## **History of Chennai Corporation and Health Department**

Corporation of Chennai is the Oldest Municipal Institution in India established on the 29th September 1688. In 1785, the health department previously the medical department were set up in Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies. In 1968 separate civil medical department was form after which the first Public Health Commissioner and a Statistical Officer were appointed to the Government of India.

The Medical departments were under the control of the Central Government until 1919. The Montgomery-chelmsford constitution reforms of 1919 led to the transfer of public health, sanitation, and vital statistics to the provinces. This was the first step of decentralization of health administration in India. In 1920.-21, municipality and local board acts were passed containing legal provisions for advancement of public health in provinces. In 1937, the central advisory board of health was set up with the Public Health Commissioner as Secretary to coordinate the Public Health activities in the Country. In 1939, **The Madras Public Health Act** was passed, which was the first of its kind in India.

The Parliamentary Act of 1792 gave the Corporation power to levy Municipal Taxes in the City. The Municipal administration properly commenced from the Parliamentary Act, 1792 making

provision for the good order and administration of the city. The city has been growing in size and population. The number of territorial Divisions have been expanded from 30 in 1919 to 155 in 2011 . The population of the city has grown from 5 lakhs in 1921 to approximately 46 lakhs in 2011. Likewise the area has increased from 27.6 sq.miles in 1921 to 174 sq.kms.

Administrative Pattern

