

Role of KMDA

KMDA, established in August 1970 under presidential ordinance and later sanctified under the KMDA Act of 1972, functioned essentially as a development agency with the specific purpose of carrying out major infrastructure development in KMA. With the enactment of West Bengal Town and Country (Planning & Development) Act in 1979, KMDA was designated as the statutory planning and development authority for KMA. Between 1970 and 1981 KMDA functioned as an overarching development authority in KMA, as most of the units of local self-government in KMA were under suspension with no elected representation in place. It is only with the State Government's avowed policy of decentralized planning and development across the urban and rural areas of the State that elected representation was inducted in all the urban local bodies of the State including those in KMA. KMDA has been working in tandem with the elected ULBs towards the overall development of KMA.

The process of decentralized planning and development took a further step following the enactment of West Bengal Metropolitan Planning Committee (WBMPC) Act in 1994 in line with the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. Following the provisions of WBMPC Act of 1994, Kolkata Metropolitan Planning Committee (KMPC) was established in KMA towards the end of 2000. Of the 60-member KMPC, 40 are elected from amongst the local elected representatives. The WBMPC Act provides for preparation of a Draft Development Plan for KMA by KMPC keeping in mind the plans prepared by the individual units of local self-government. The Act further mandates that KMPC should co-ordinate all the development activities undertaken by the different agencies of the State and Central Governments within the geographical boundaries of KMA to ensure conformity of developmental actions to the development plans. KMDA is the Technical Secretariat of KMPC.

KMDA has always been sensitive to the needs of urban development. To accelerate the process of urban infrastructure development, KMDA has been the pioneer in enlisting private sector participation by invoking the paradigm of public-private partnership in development and management of urban development projects.

Above all, with the evolution of functions of KMDA over the last 40 years, KMDA has become an epitome for urban planning and development in KMA.