



**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

**Abstract**

Local Self Government Department -Authorising Chief Town Planner for the mapping of the Census Towns to the Gram Panchayats , with the support of the State Election Commission- Orders Issued

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**LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT (RD) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.(Ms)No.179/2021/LSGD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 16/08/2021

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**ORDER**

In the State of Kerala, apart from the 59 no. of Statutory Towns such as Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, there are 461 number of Census Towns also as per 2011 census. The census towns satisfy a threefold urban criteria relating to population, density and main working force engaged in non-agricultural activities. These are:

- i. A minimum population of 5,000;
- ii. At least 75 per cent of the male main working population engaged in non- agricultural pursuits; and
- iii. A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km.

As per the 2011 census, 6 out of 14 districts have percentage of urban population above 50%. Even though the no. of statutory towns in the state in 2011 is only 59, the total no. of urban areas including the census towns is 520. Most of the census towns are spread across statutory rural Local Self Governments, and reflects the urbanising nature of many peri urban and rural areas of the State. This brings in new challenges in Planning, and necessitates adoption of Spatial Planning strategies to address these new challenges.

As the Amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act has incorporated the scope for spatial planning, there arises a need to prioritise the Gram Panchayats that can be taken up for the thematic sectoral plans that have been proposed within the ambit of the Rebuild Kerala Initiative. In the context of heavy urbanisation of the State, spatial plans can help to better prepare for disaster management and climate action and reduce/mitigate the impact on people who are affected by calamities.

Government have examined the matter and are pleased to consider the gram panchayats that have been identified as census towns, (as these are likely to be population hubs on their own, showing characteristics of urban activity), as urban areas for spatial plan formulation for the purposes mentioned above and to authorise Chief Town Planner to map the census towns to those Gram Panchayats which fall wholly or partly within them. The support of the State Election Commission may be taken for validation of the panchayat and ward wise population figures.

(By order of the Governor)  
Sarada Muraleedharan I A S  
Additional Chief Secretary

To:

1. Secretary, State Election Commission, Kerala
2. Chief Town Planner, Thiruvananthapuram
3. Director of Panchayats, Thiruvananthapuram
4. Director of Urban Affairs, Thiruvananthapuram
5. Executive Director, Information Kerala Mission
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Section Officer