

# Meet 21-year-old Priyadarshini of CPI(M), Chennai's youngest councilor

By

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Priyadarshini gained with a margin of 5,253 votes from ward 98 in Teynampet, one among the many 50 wards reserved for ladies candidates.

Newly elected councillor A Priyadarshini is assured that she's going to finish her ward's perennial water woes. "Right now, the 42,000 odd voters in my ward – even those belonging to the middle and upper classes – are dependent on water lorries or water cans for their potable water requirements. I want to reduce this dependence and find a permanent solution to their woes," she tells TNM.

The 21-year-old made headlines because the youngest councillor to be elected to the Chennai Corporation. She stood from ward 98 in Teynampet, one among the many 50 wards reserved for ladies candidates. Priya gained with a snug margin of 5,253 votes. Her celebration, CPI(M), is in alliance with the DMK, Congress, DMDK, IUML (Indian Union Muslim League), and many others.

"I've been a CPI(M) loyalist from my childhood as my father, who's an auto driver, has been a card-bearing member of the party for decades together now," she says. Even throughout her days at **Stella Maris College the place she did a BA in Sociology**, Priya was energetic in pupil politics (outdoors of the faculty). She was a member of the Students' Federation of India (SFI, the coed wing of the CPI(M)). She later joined the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), the youth wing of the CPI(M).

Ahead of the 2022 native physique elections, when the celebration needed Priya to contest from her ward, she didn't hesitate. "I'm used to serving the public and also seeing my dad

doing the same thing right from childhood. So standing for elections and receiving the mandate to become a public servant is something that I'm happy about. It is an extension of my service to the public that I have done for so long," she says. The Chennai Corporation is slated to have a lady mayor and as much as 50 girls councillors.

When requested if she aspires for a profession in politics, Priya says that she would like to enter politics, however that it was "up to the party". "The party told me to stand for elections and I did. Now if the party wants me to continue in politics, I will," she says.

More younger girls candidates have been elected as ward councillors this yr. In ward 136 in Kodambakkam, 22-year-old Nilavarasi charted historical past by being elected to the company. She is an MBA aspirant and needs to stability her duties as councillor together with her research. She says that secure ingesting water and good roads are among the many fundamental facilities missing in her ward.