

# **Impact analysis of the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1997 on traditional institutions in the State: A case study of two districts of Papum Pare and East Kameng**

**Sponsored by  
Indian Council of Social Science Research**

**Undertaken by**

**Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies, TERI University**

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## **Context**

What happens to traditional legal institutions in a liberalized era? Good governance has been one of the major objectives of law reform in recent times. Devolution of political power to grassroots has been considered as one of the attributes of good governance. India made a major step towards that direction by bringing in the Seventy Third and Seventy Fourth constitutional amendments in 1992. These amendments gave constitutional status to local self-governing institutions and made periodic elections to these institutions mandatory. Representation of socially excluded sections of the society in the form of reservations was also an important feature of these amendments. It is interesting to note that India's economic reforms and the process of devolution of political power to the grassroots happened roughly at the same time.

Tribal societies had their own systems of governance and these institutions had wide powers on the community including the power to adjudicate criminal disputes and to impose punishments. The Indian Constitution had recognized this parallel system of governance in the V and VI schedule to the Constitution. An attempt is made to study the impact of democratically elected and 'representative' Panchayati Raj institutions on the traditional tribal institutions.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the study is to,

1. Critically analyse the implementation of the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act 1997 and its interaction with traditional customary institutions in Papum Pare and East Kameng Districts of the State.

2. To prescribe policy, legal and institutional interventions to the Government in order bring out best possible solutions for a healthy interaction between Panchayati Raj Act and traditional laws and institutions aimed at harmonised existence of both the institutions.

## **Scope**

The scope of the project is to,

1. Undertake a review of customary legal institutions and practices in AP that is involved in the management of village affairs in Papum Pare and East Kameng districts.
2. Analyse the level of implementation of the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act 1997 in the State and the difficulties in its implementation in above districts based on select review of Panchayats/traditional institutions.
3. Undertake a study on the extent of interaction between Panchayat Raj institutions created under the 1997 Act and customary law and legal institutions of the State in above two districts.
4. Suggest ways and means for a healthy interaction between State, Panchayats and tribal institutions

**Project Director:** M P Ram Mohan, Associate Professor, TERI University

### **Project Members:**

- M V Shiju, Associate Professor, TERI University
- G Mini, Fellow, TERI
- Joy Dasgupta, Consultant & Research Scholar

### **ICSSR Nominated Advisory Committee**

- Prof N R Madhava Menon, IBA-CLE Chair on Continuing Legal Education, NLSUI, Bangalore
- Prof M P Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata
- Prof Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi

### **Contact:**

mprmohan@teri.res.in  
Tel. 011 71800222