



Edition 20
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Dear All,

Greetings from Praja Foundation!

Praja Team visited Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh in the first week of February 2020, to study the urban governance structures and reforms implemented in the state. The Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 2007 was enacted to provide for the establishment of Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats. The Itanagar Municipal Council was formed in August 2013, which is the first council



formed in Arunachal. There are a total of 17 urban local bodies in Arunachal Pradesh. The first elections in Arunachal for local bodies was held in 2015 and the council served a term of 5 years and was dissolved. The council elections are pending as of February 2020.

Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 2007

The Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 2007 (APMA) is one of the latest acts drafted for the establishment of municipal corporations. The act consists of provisions such as the Empowered Standing Committee (u/s 12) being the executive head of the corporation and the respective administration being accountable to the standing committee member.

There is also a provision for wards committees (u/s 30) to be constituted with three or more contiguous wards together. The wards committee will work on implementing and monitoring the projects in the respective wards. The empowered standing committee assigns ward officials to the wards committee.

The act also has a provision for constitution of a Joint Committee (u/s 34) for more than one city government for the purpose of coordination in matters of common interest and joint action. The members of the Joint Committee should include elected representatives of each city government, one member from the concerned state department and joint director of urban local bodies.

Training for the first councillors of Itanagar

The Central and the State government arranged for training exercises of the councillors since elections were being held for the first time. The training was conducted on topics such as the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, schemes launched by the Government of India - AMRUT, Smart City Mission and schemes to be implemented by IMC. An exposure visit was also conducted for all the 30 councillors to Gangtok to understand the structure and service delivery in Sikkim.

The Arunachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (AIPA) was also involved in the training of the councillors. This is a good practice followed in Arunachal Pradesh to conduct training of the Councillors. The training of councillors should be institutionalised to ensure its regularity. The councillor training programme should also include training for councillors elected for the first time and a refresher programme for other councillors.

Devolution of functions to Itanagar Municipal Council

Since the Municipal Council of Itanagar is new and does not have substantial experience or expertise, the State government has decided to transfer the functions and functionaries gradually to IMC. The State government has already devolved 13 functions out of the 18 functions mentioned in the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. However, on ground, only 7 functions are performed by the IMC, one is under multiple agencies and 10 functions are with the State government.

Important Links –

Itanagar Municipal Council website (<https://www.imc.arunachal.gov.in/>)

Department of Urban Development and Housing, Arunachal Pradesh (<http://udarunachal.gov.in/>)

Town Planning Department, Arunachal Pradesh (<http://arunachaltp.nic.in/>)

Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 2007

(http://arunachaltp.nic.in/sites/default/files/files/AP_Municipality_Act_2007_2.pdf)

Kind Regards,



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