

Understanding Seventy- Fourth Constitutional Amendment Act And Its Effects On Urban Local Governance With Special Reference To Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Assam

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Abstract:

Local government can be considered as the best form of government due to its closest association with the local people. Local government provides a space to the people to concentrate on the characters of local problems and to come up with suitable solutions that are in conformity with the obtaining local situations. Its direct interface with the local citizenry makes it highly communitarian. Again, it is these institutions which provide training ground for administrators and ministers. The Constitution of India in 1992 was amended to give constitutional recognition to the local self government, especially to Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and for ushering in a regime of empowered and strengthened urban governance in the country. This paper attempts to study the Seventy –fourth Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) and its effects on urban local governance.

Keywords: Local Government; Association; Interface; Constitution; Amendment.

Introduction:

The introduction of local governance in India started when India's constitution came into effect in 1950. A two tier system of governance comprising of a central govt. and state governments was set up with the coming of India's constitution into force. The local governance of settlements was left for states to manage. There were wide variations across states with regard to how local governments in rural and urban areas were organized and how efficiently they were run. In 1989, two Constitutional Amendment Bills were introduced in Parliament to mandate the existence and form of local governments. Proponents argued that this was necessary to ensure the existence of viable units of local self government across the country and equal access to democratic mechanisms by citizens across states. Moreover, standard local governance structures would help to administer government programmes by enabling a uniform pathway and accountability structure to connect the central government with settlements. While these Bills neither were nor passed rather similar Bills were reintroduced in 1991 and passed in 1992, resulting in 73rd and 74th Constitutional