



# The Arunachal Pradesh Gazette

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GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
LAW, LEGISLATIVE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT  
CIVIL SECRETARIAT  
ITANAGAR

NOTIFICATION

The 27th April, 2023

No. Law/Legn-4/2023.— The following Act of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly which was passed in the Eleventh Session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly and received the assent of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh is hereby published for general information.

(Received the assent of the Governor on 15th April, 2023)

THE ARUNACHAL PRADESH PROTECTION OF DRINKING WATER  
CATCHMENT AREAS ACT, 2023  
(ACT NO. 5 OF 2023)

An

Act

*to provide for the protection of Drinking Water Catchment areas with a view to preserve drinking water sources and to make provisions for the same and matter connected therewith and incidental to there.*

**WHEREAS**, water is one of the most vital elements to human life and community;

**AND WHEREAS**, drinking water sources in the hill areas are dwindling due to denudation and unwanted human activities in the catchment areas.

**AND WHEREAS**, it has become necessary to take regulatory measures to protect and improve the environment and the catchment areas and thereby preserve the drinking water sources therein and augment the yield of drinking water from such sources, springs, streams and rivulets;

BE, it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arunachal Pradesh in Seventy - fourth year of the Republic of India as follows :-

1. (1) This Act may be called the **Arunachal Pradesh Protection of Drinking Water Catchment Areas Act, 2023**. Short title, extent and commencement.
- (2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
- (3) It shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.
2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-
  - (a) '**Act**' means the **Arunachal Pradesh Protection of Drinking water Catchment Areas Act, 2023** ;
  - (b) '**Advisory Board**' means the '**Arunachal Pradesh Drinking Water Catchment Areas Advisory Board (APDWCAAB)**' constituted under section 3;Definitions.

- (c) **'Competent Authority'** means the Competent Authority appointed under section 18 of the Act;
- (d) **'Dependency of a livelihood'** means no other alternative source of income for sustenance of a family or a community;
- (e) **'District Board'** means the **'District Drinking Water Catchment Area Protection Board (DDWCAPB)'** constituted under section 5 of the Act;
- (f) **'Drinking Water Catchment Area'** means an area where springs, streams, rivulets, lakes, glaciers and water sources originate and serve as a potential source of perennial flow of water;

**Note** : Drinking Water Catchment Area can be categorized into **'Critical Catchment Area'**, **'Sub-Critical Catchment Area'** and **'Non-Critical Catchment Area'** in terms of threat pertaining to the water availability in the source as defined under section 11 (2) (a), (b) and (c);

- (g) **'Executive Committee'** means the **'District Executive Committee for Drinking Water Catchment Areas Protection (DECDWCAP)'** constituted under section 7 of the Act;
- (h) **'Government'** means the Government of the State of Arunachal Pradesh;
- (i) **'Land Owner'** means an individual or a community holding the ownership rights conferred through ancestral inheritance or through a Land Possession Certificate (LPC);

Explanation : **'Land'** for the purpose of this Act includes trees and standing crops in the catchment area.

- (j) **'Measures'** means the measures specified in section-12 of this Act;
- (k) **'Notification'** means notification by Government of Arunachal Pradesh published in the *Gazette of Arunachal Pradesh*;
- (l) **'Prescribed'** means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (m) **'Section'** means a section of the Act;
- (n) **'VWSC'** means the **'Village Water & Sanitation Committee'** constituted under section-9 of the Act;
- (o) **'Watershed'** means an area surrounding any spring, stream or pond (whether formed naturally or otherwise) which conserves and sustains a source of water, the quality and quantity whereof are likely to be varied by erosion of soil, felling of trees or disturbances by cattle grazing or human settlement/activity.

Constitution of a State Level Drinking Water Catchment Areas Advisory Board.

3. (1) The State Government shall by notification constitute a Board at the State level to be known as the **'Arunachal Catchment Areas Pradesh Drinking Water Board (APDWCAAB)'** to advise the Government on matter connected with the drinking water catchment areas and their protection.
- (2) The Board, if it considers necessary may co-opt any person in any of its sitting to resolve any particular issue or issues.
- (3) The Advisory Board may take appropriate decisions on matters that may contribute to better implementation of the Act as deemed fit.

Functions of the State Level Advisory Board sources-ground water, springs, streams, rivulets, lakes.

4. (1) The functions of the Advisory Board shall be to advise Government on :-
- (a) The preservation and protection of drinking water sources-ground water, springs, streams, rivulets, lakes, glaciers as water sources and on measures to be adopted thereof;
- (b) The appropriate method of management of catchment areas vis-a-vis the activities customarily practiced in relevant areas;
- (c) Such matter connected with the improvement and augmentation of yield of drinking water from sources therein;
- (d) Subjects brought forth by the District Drinking Water Catchment Area Protection Board for Government decision.
- (e) In matters involving issues pertaining to Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) between two or more districts, it shall examine the views of District Drinking Water Catchment Area Protection Board and issue order at its level order at its level.
- (f) or for critical matters recommend to the Government for appropriate decision.