

**LANDMARKS
IN INDIAN
ANTHROPOLOGY**

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LAND MARKS IN INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

TRIBAL INSTITUTIONS OF MEGHALAYA

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FOREWORD

Till today, very little is known about the people of Meghalaya and their indigenous institutions. What is far less, was the knowledge of those institutions from the point of view of the people themselves. One obvious reason for this lack of information was the absence of comprehensive work on the subject by the people of the State. Of course, there were earlier works written by the British Officers, the Missionaries as the Indian scholars, but they dealt with only some of the aspects of the social and political institutions of the people. As such, no complete account was given by any one of them.

The Department of Education, Government of Meghalaya, was fully aware of this deficiency and it was with the idea of filling up this lacunae as well as to meet the growing needs of the scholars and the legal practitioners that a Seminar was organised under the auspices of the Education Department, Government of Meghalaya from 6th, 8th and 9th Dec, 1980, in the State Central Library, Shillong. Many scholars from different parts of North East India came and attended and contributed learned articles in this Seminar.

The present volume is thus the product of this Seminar and discussions. It should, however, be made clear that the views and opinions expressed in the Papers are not the views and opinions of the Government of Meghalaya. The views and opinions are of the authors alone and the Government of Meghalaya is not responsible for them.

The book is divided conveniently into three parts. Part I deals with the indigenous institutions of the Khasis and the Jaintias. Part II deals with the indigenous institutions of the Garos, and Part III deals with the indigenous institutions of the State, as a whole.

This volume cannot claim to have given a complete picture of the indigenous institutions of the people of Meghalaya by dealing with all aspects of those institutions which are complex and are

varied from region to region. It is conscious of its shortcomings. But it is hoped that this volume will contribute its mite in adding more literature to the already available materials on the subject.

Dr. B. PAKEM

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