

Traditional Homes of Arunachal Pradesh



Arunachal Pradesh in the North East India is a unique mix of forests, hills, rivers, valleys, high Himalayan peaks etc which is inhabited by more than 60 tribes that still follows a traditional lifestyle and practices old customs. The houses of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh have traditional style of construction from the locally available materials and the size of the houses depends on the family patterns of the tribes. Tribes such as **Apatamis** live harmoniously with their environment and nature. They make their house out of bamboo or easily available local materials. There are different types of houses in each region, but in most houses there are wooden or bamboo pillars, bamboo walls, a balcony, a terrace, roof etc made out of dry leafs. In Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, there are stilt kutcha houses or '**chang**' which has construction done in mostly with bamboo or wood and thatch for roofs. The high pitched roof kutcha houses with a double pitched roof with high fronts and low backs are seen mostly in Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Materials used for construction are mostly timber or bamboo, weaved bamboo sheets for walling infill, thatch for roofing etc.



Traditional houses of the tribes...



Houses of Apatamis has fireplace in the centre with the middle of the house used as the kitchen and a meeting point for family members. Sometimes, houses are constructed on flat lands but often they build house on sloping land to avoid flooding.

The **Adi** tribe builds their houses of wood, cane, bamboo and leaves and no metal or no nail is used in the construction. The houses are raised above the grounds with the help of stilts. The house on wooden stilts have wooden floor using grass or paddy straw. Stilts are tied wooden beams and thus the level floor is made. The roof is made by dry paddy straws, dry **Tokow** leaves or thatch grass. Usually, the house has no windows but only two doors in the front used by men and back door used by women. There is a large hall serving purposes such as living, cooking, sleeping, dining, etc. In big houses, there are different rooms for members of the family. Some house has divided into many chambers with married couples and young girls having separate rooms. The space between the floor and the ground is used for keeping domestic animals such as cows, pigs etc and a storage of firewood and tools such as fishing nets, utensils, baskets, agricultural implements and looms etc. The house may have an open verandah in the front and has one or more fire places. Since bamboo houses deteriorate with time, they are usually rebuilt after 5 to 7 years.





What are the challenges faced by a traditional house in a developing state like Arunachal Pradesh.

Draw a traditional house in Arunachal Pradesh and label it.