

## NORTH EASTER REGION

### ***LET US DREAM : LET US THINK : LET US***

### ***PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE***

#### **VISION NER - 2020**

Somehow the general impression has developed among us that our Region is poor and backward and cannot do without money and material from the rest of the country for all time to come. But the fact is that really it is not so. We have inherited the best in body and mind from many races; the best in the field of art from many cultures. We are equally at home in the martial arts, in games and sports as in fine arts, song and dace, literature and poetry, as in weaving and carving. Nature has endowed us with immense riches by way of rivers and lakes, forests and fields, hills and vales below the surface of which lies buried boundless wealth of petroleum and gas, coal and minerals etc. We have plentiful rains and all types of climates where all types of fruits and vegetables, grains and herbs can grow. The list is endless. All these lie scattered all over. Divided and alone our eight State may be poor, but collectively we and our NR Region are immensely rich. Only we have to come together to convert these rich resources into material prosperity to reap and share the benefits.

The first step on this journey towards prosperity is for each one of us to dream about the future that we want for ourselves and then think together and plan together to carve out a roadmap for the future and then start out march on that road with measured and un-halting steps with patience and perseverance, each at his own pace but in step and in tune with the others, with sweat at the brow, smile on the lips and joy in the heart.

Let us take the first step forward and dream about the bright future that we want for ourselves and for the region say 15 years hence, by the year 2020. What should our village look like in 2020, how can our town be made a better place to live in; what should our State do to help unfold our potential? What more facilities like schools, dispensaries and the like ought to come up in 15 years? What should our children be taught in the schools and colleges so that they are able to do better than us in our ancestral vocations? How best can they take advantage of modern science to increase production and be able to process our local produce ourselves locally to get higher income. What new means of livelihood they would like to adopt and what training facilities would they like to have. How best can we take maximum benefit from trading with the neighboring countries, which is going to be permitted very soon? What needs to be done so that our youth can retain the best from the past and absorb the best from the present to build the best of future for us all. A future where we are materially prosperous, mentally sharp and receptive, emotionally contented and spiritually happy and fully of joy always.

The North Eastern Council was constituted by late Smt. Indira Gandhi as a means of bringing all the areas of the region together – a sort of *Kebang, Ho-ho, Ke*, Panchayat of the *eldest among the elders* – to sit together and dream and plan together about a brighter future for the region as a whole each pooling in the resources and talent of his area for the common betterment of all. Lot of good work was done. Roads connecting neighboring States were built, institutions were set up to improve the local produce of an area and to take such knowledge to other parts of the region. Energy given by the benevolent nature in the form of perennial waters gushing down the hills was converted to electric power and used to light up and run machines not only in those areas but also elsewhere in the region.

Born in 1972, NEC has now matured over the last 33 years. New responsibilities were entrusted to it on 12<sup>th</sup> April this year. Calling it the *Mini Planning Commission* for our Region, our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh called upon us all to get plans for development of the region made not only ***for the people*** but also ***by the people***. Our Chairman Shri PR Kyndiah wants that the plans for development should be prepared by learned men and experts drawn from the people themselves and not by those within the Government only. That is what we want to do : to request you to think about what you need. We shall then put all your ideas together and request some learned people amongst you to give them the shape of a 15-year Plan. Once again we shall bring it back to you for further suggestions. Only after taking those into account, will the document be given the final shape and put before the North Eastern Council i.e., all the eight Governors and Chief Ministers and three expert Members, for approval. That would be our roadmap for progress.

Share your ideas and be a partner in the preparation of Vision NEC : 2020 that will help our region emerge as a bright and prosperous part this great country with all the communities living a satisfied and honourable life in a harmonious, violence-free, tension-free peaceful atmosphere.

For prompt and personal attention that your views and comments deserve, please send your views to Shri PP Shrivastav, Member NEC as soon as you can at the following address by post, e-mail or fac:

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