

4. NORTH EAST REGION - VISION 2020



Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Addressing the Deligates at the Release of "North East Region Vision 2020"

1. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, released the North Eastern Region Vision 2020 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 2nd of July, 2008. The NER Vision 2020 sets up the goals, identifies the challenges and suggests implementation strategies for various sectors for

peace and prosperity of the region. It was a momentous occasion attended by Union Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers and officials of the Central and State Governments. Youngsters from the North East also attended the function in large numbers. The event received wide publicity in the

printed and electronic media in the region.

2. The NER Vision 2020 seeks to tell the people of the region what it is capable of and to the rest of the country as to what it seeks to gain when the NER takes its rightful place in the Indian polity and more importantly, the economy. The destiny of the NER - the seven sisters and Sikkim - are linked to each other due to an accident of history - the Partition of India – and its concomitant geographical isolation from the rest of India. They are also linked through their enormous unrealized potential in agriculture, natural resources and their main resource – their immensely talented people.
3. The initial steps for the North Eastern Region Vision 2020 were taken on the directives of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in 2005 that a Vision for the region upto 2020 is drawn up. The North Eastern Council then embarked on an unprecedented exercise of questioning about 40,000 families of the region for their views on what progress entails for them. This enormous exercise was tempered then by the experts from the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy who came up with a six pronged strategy for the development of the region. Then the document was embellished by a group of development experts from the North East and the document was again taken to the people of the region through people's hearings in 12 important cities and towns of the

North East. And then to indicate its non-partisan acceptance across the political spectrum of the North East, the NER Vision 2020 was adopted by the North Eastern Council which is chaired by me and comprises Governors and Chief Ministers in May 2008 at Agartala. The Hon'ble Prime Minister then released it in July, 2008 in New Delhi.

4. This background is recounted to impress that the Vision 2020 for the NER has not been merely an academic, bureaucratic, intellectual exercise – the people's voice is intrinsic to it. NER Vision 2020 is thus unique in being a composite of people's aspirations and expert views. The strategy it encapsulates not merely consists of infrastructure, social and economic but also empowerment of people, creation of development opportunities in agriculture and rural non-farm sector, developing sectors with comparative advantages in the region, capacity development of people and institutions, creating a hospitable investment climate for both public and private sector.
5. The NER Vision 2020 is not merely a document. The Ministry aims to translate it into actionable working plans. Along with other Ministries of the Union Government and State Governments, it is presently engaged in drawing up action plans for each sector of the Vision Document which will be adopted finally by a High Powered Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by Hon'ble Minister, DONER.