

**28829/2018/O/o SECY**Subject: **Minutes of the first meeting of the NITI-NER Forum**

Date: 31/05/18 11:37 AM

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Minutes of the meeting NITI Forum\_31-05-2018.pdf (91kB)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached please find Minutes of the first meeting of the NITI-NER Forum held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and co-chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent charge), Ministry of DoNER on 10th April in Agartala.

Warm regards,

Ram Muivah, IAS

Secretary, NEC & Member Secretary, NITI Forum

## **Minutes of the first meeting of the NITI-NER Forum**

**Agartala, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The first meeting of NITI Forum was held under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and co-chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent charge), Ministry of Development of North East Region on 10<sup>th</sup> April in Agartala. A list of participants is at Annexure – I.

2. Welcoming members, Secretary, NEC emphasized that the Forum leverages on the strengths of NE Region and attempt to identify the constraints hindering development of NER. Secretary, DONER added that the Ministry is working towards bringing synergy between different Agencies working on the development Agenda of the NE Region through the mechanism of Inter Ministerial Committee in areas such as Piggery, Tourism, Bamboo, Organic Farming etc. Just in time release for contractors and new Guidelines under NLCPR have also been initiated for addressing the problem of delays in infrastructure projects.

3. Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent charge), Ministry of Development of North East Region mentioned about the various initiatives taken by Government of India, including M/o DoNER, for the development of NER. He informed about the change in the funding pattern for NE states from 90:10 to 100%, launch of Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), creation of Venture Capital Fund, North East Tourism Development Council (NETDC), structural and functional reorientation of NEC and Act East initiatives.

4. Hon'ble Vice- Chairman NITI Aayog observed that the constitution of NITI Forum for North East is in line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister and is unique in the sense that it brings Government, academia and civil society at one place, for providing fresh ideas and perspective to underlying issues and give concrete solutions to various problems. NITI Forum would focus on action orientation, closely monitor & evaluate and would work towards tangible results in a time-bound manner. He stated that there is a need to mainstream NER in the national policies of the country.

### **Salient observations of Members/ Invitees**

#### **Shri M P Bezbaruah, IAS (Retired)**

- Mission approach in agricultural sector like setting up of cold storage chain, value addition of horticultural products may be given a further push. States should build upon their inherent strength and potentials in organic, medicinal and aromatic plants, horticulture etc. and strive to be recognized for it.
- NE Region suffers from lack of income generation initiatives. One of the potential areas for income creation is downstream manufacturing units of the Gas Cracker project in the Region. Japan can be explored as an international partner for setting up small and medium industries in areas of commonality as the country has shown great interest in the development of the Region.
- UDAAN has made NE Region more integrated, but physical infrastructure have to be converted to economic corridors.
- Exports of pharmaceutical products, value added horticulture products are areas of great potential.

- Ancillary industries such as in the Power sector can be set up, so that power plants and Distribution companies do not have to look outside the Region for repair and maintenance works of power equipment.
- Tourism has to be developed as, in spite of the great potential in this Sector, the NE states remain at the bottom as far as a realisation of this potential is concerned. For international tourism to increase, we need to engage and connect tourism stakeholders like tour operators of the neighbouring ASEAN countries. Basic tourist infrastructure such as wayside amenities etc. also needs improvement.

#### **Shri Jarnail Singh, IAS (Retired)**

- Start-ups in the Region are not able to move ahead due to restrictive Rules and Regulations. Way forward could be to identify 100-200 start-up areas in the Region along with handholding arrangements to assist the NE youths working in this Sector.
- Exposure visits of entrepreneurs to South East Asian neighbours like Laos and Cambodia need to be encouraged and adequately followed up.
- Entrepreneurs need to be guided on how to take such collaborations forward as there is potential for technology transfer to these countries for mutual benefit to both parties.
- Huge delays in implementation of infrastructure projects is a major bottleneck. The answer could lie in better contracting processes to attract bigger contractors, improving capacity of local contractors and thereby enabling faster implementation of projects.

#### **Ms. Jayati Chandra, IAS (Retired) –**

- The major constraints for development in the Region are shortage of manpower, material and machinery.
- The way forward could be:
  - a. Source machinery and materials from neighbouring countries and from outside the Region and create material and machinery banks to boost up local inventory.
  - b. Developing manpower through capacity building and skill training.
  - c. Strengthening the IT infrastructure in the Region to encourage IT-based start-ups and e-Commerce.
  - d. Restructuring educational institutions – primary, secondary and higher to make NER a net exporter of students
  - e. Regenerating the natural resources that are exploited, such as bamboo and medicinal plants and implementing suitable waste management policies.
  - f. Developmental activities are creating an environment problem. Eco-tourism should be promoted.

#### **Ms Rekha Pai, IFS (Retired) –**

- The abundant natural resources and the potential of eco -tourism need to be fully tapped with the improvement in connectivity.
- Development of value chain for bamboo and medicinal plants should be given priority, and for this small enterprises should be encouraged.

#### **Shri Pradeep Phanjoubam, Editor Imphal Free Press**

- Act East Policy has actually taken off, but through the sea route and not through the NE states. More needs to be done to channelize trade through the corridor of the NE Region.

- Trade with Myanmar should leverage the successes of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and learn from its shortcomings. This requires not only commercial interventions but also the implementation of effective geo-political strategies in the NE Region.
- NE India is adjacent to Northern Myanmar, which is relatively less prosperous than the southern part of that country, building infrastructure in the NE Region to make it more attractive to trade and commerce stakeholders in northern Myanmar and adjacent countries such as Laos and Cambodia could enhance trade.
- Connectivity is the foremost requirement in NER.

**Shri Gautam Mukhopadhyay, IFS (retd)**

- India's Act East Policy should begin with and include Bangladesh.
- Infrastructure built in the Region is not being fully utilized. NER being a net importer and net consumer, should increase production in the Region in order to fully leverage the infrastructure already created.
- Potential of hydro energy and bamboo need to be fully exploited. Small and medium hydro projects have to be given a push and designers for bamboo products from Indonesia and Japan have to be attracted to the Region in order to enhance value addition of products in this sector.
- There has to be a balance of tensions in three areas - between big and small projects, between environment and development and between planning and implementation.

**Director IIM Shillong** – The strengths of the NE Region are its natural resources and tourism. These strengths can be leveraged through:

- Improving connectivity for better tourism and creating value chain like logistics and supply chain in sectors such as horticulture.
- Facilitating big ticket manufacturing industry by creating a conducive eco-system and raising skilled technical manpower.
- Encouraging Business Processing Outlets in the Region to arrest the outflow of skilled manpower in this Sector.
- IIM Shillong is mainly created for the NE states and its expertise may be fully utilised by them, especially through the APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research of the Institute.
- There is a need to focus on science and technology as it enhances the employability of the workforce and would help in setting up big-ticket manufacturing base.
- He mentioned that CEDNER is already providing training for graduates and high school pass outs. On the issue of sports, he suggested that sports policy needs to be prepared. He shared the experience of preparation of a sports policy.

**Director General, PIB, Guwahati**

- Success stories should be shared with the Media for dissemination to a wider audience.
- There is a need to publicise and advertise the policies and initiatives taken by Central/ State Governments.

**Director, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Arunachal Pradesh**

- Students from the NE states are weak in basic Science subjects. About 10% to 15% local students are not even able to complete the six years integrated programme that the Institute offers. Therefore, states have to tune up the quality of their basic and secondary education, especially in Science and Mathematics.
- A bridge course model could be developed for North East candidates
- Research and Development programmes should focus on applied research and must be linked with end manufacturing of viable products

- NERIST can be considered for opening a Department of Floriculture with the technical support of ICAR and other academic bodies. Certificate and diploma Courses can be started in the initial stages.
- NERIST is also capable of setting up incubation centres for floriculture chain.

**Director General, RIS, Ministry of External Affairs**

- There should be localization of the development strategy.
- More technical Institutes will need to be set up in the Region to meet the demand for higher technical education in the Region.
- The Act East Policy should visualize what has not happened. International borders could be leveraged for our collective gain. Cross-border development of adjacent districts through community involvement across international borders could be initiated for creating peaceful and happy borders.

**Prof. Ramgopal Uppaluri, IIT Guwahati**

- The lack of skilled manpower in the Region can be bridged through model Diploma courses in IIT Guwahati and IIM Shillong. Such courses should be case-study driven and not merely academic. Consortium for model diploma courses with IIM Shillong, IIT Guwahati and NERIST should be formed.
- Setting up of Bio-refineries using silicas and waste-processing industries to re-cycle and re-use domestic waste is essential such as tubelights.
- Micro Food Processing units for ready-to-eat foods such as soups and khichdi can be developed for meeting the Region's demand. Ginger oil is also a prospective product.
- Textile, handicraft and handlooms with a one village-one product model can be promoted in the Region.

**Dr R.S.C. Jayaraj Director, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat**

- There are 90 species of bamboo in the NE Region out of which 15 can be commercially used. Due to inaccessible areas where bamboo grows, contract planting and captive plantations of bamboo have to be encouraged. Processing needs to be encouraged at the place of production. Tissue culture for bamboo will also be needed to be developed to meet the demand for these plantations.
- Short life of bamboo has to be addressed through chemical treatment. Treatment can be both through primary processing so that bamboo that is harvested does not go to waste and through secondary processing in manufacturing hubs for industry use.
- Usage of bamboo for housing should be encouraged. Tripura already has demo structures with bamboo.

**Shri M K Gupta, Member Railway Board**

- Last 4 years average expenditure in the NE is about Rs 5400 crores which is about 156% more than what was being spent earlier. Presently, 43 projects costing Rs 90,000 crore are ongoing in the North East.
- Few constraints, such as land acquisition, forest and environment clearance, unrest are impediments in project implementation in the NE. If Sand, chips and ballast can be procured within the NE Region itself, it will speed up the railway projects construction in the NE states.

**Shri R K Verma, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority**

- Slow progress in the progress of Hydro Power projects is a concern, besides the weak distribution networks in many areas of the Region. If projects can be terminated with no liabilities or litigation, PSUs can take up the slow moving hydro projects.
- Hydro power projects are multi-purpose projects with flood mitigation, drinking water and fisheries usages, and these benefits are loaded on to the project cost making the project unviable.

to many developers. If the Government steps in to bear part of this burden, there may be more developers willing to come to the Region to set up hydroelectric projects.

### **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**

Solar off-grid applications, solar park of 20 MW and small hydro projects of 25 MW capacity as well as financial and technical support are some of the focus areas of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in the NE states.

### **Additional Chief Secretary Manipur**

- Extension of East-West Corridor from Silchar up to Imphal and introduction of Imphal-Silchar flight.
- 'Go to village scheme' of the Manipur Government may be supported by the Central Government.
- EAP window should be utilized fully by the States.

### **Chief Secretary Nagaland**

There is a need for creating Marketing Infrastructure, Tourism infrastructure and providing support for the fledging BPO industry in the state.

### **Chief Secretary, Assam**

Connectivity is the main issue. Rail and Power projects will have to be expedited. Chronic contracting issues will have to be sorted out and more road maintenance funds will have to be provided to the states.

## **Issues raised by Chief Ministers, Dy. Chief Ministers and Ministers of the NE states**

### **Chief Minister, Nagaland**

- For a landlocked NER, road and air connectivity has to be greatly strengthened to achieve physical integration with the mainland
- Cross-border connectivity in the NE states may be improved through provision of adequate maintenance funds.
- Completion of ongoing Central Power projects and support for state-initiated power projects.
- Support for setting up of a Centre for Women Entrepreneurs to create mentoring opportunities and financial linkages for building successful women led enterprises.
- It is vitally important that more LCS, ICP and border haats should be opened. The border towns where these border haats, LCS and ICP should be connected by two lane roads with nearest national highways.
- Raised the issue of construction of a new air field at State capital and stated that 600 hectares of land have been made available near Kohima and yet Greenfield Airport has not been sanctioned.
- Nagaland is a land of festivals and in the Hornbill Festival the total income generated has been Rs. 50 crores.
- Promotion of sports should be given special attention in NER. He mentioned that proposal for Dr. Ao Centenary Football Academy with the support of NEC has been mooted.
- Centre for Floriculture be set up within the Centre for Horticulture, Dimapur.
- He also stated that Inter-State Connectivity in NER needs to be given greater focus to bring the states closer to each other. He suggested that 10 km remaining stretch to Avangkhu on the

Myanmar border and the road to Longwa should be given special thrust under the schemes of NESIDS.

- He also mentioned that the proposal to connect road from Dimapur to Dobka under consideration since 2013-14 and Dimapur-Tizet Railway line needs to be expedited.

### **Chief Minister, Meghalaya**

- Air connectivity between all NE states and to international destinations.
- 8-lane road connectivity between all NE state capitals.
- Creation of reservoirs/ check dams/ micro-hydel projects as part of climate change adaptation policy.
- Promotion of hybrid power plants involving solar, wind and hydro energy.
- Introducing the concept of sister states with other developed states in the country
- Support for Meghalaya as host of 2022 National Games coinciding with 50th anniversary of Meghalaya statehood and 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- Addressing the challenge of water shortage and climate change and its impact on migration from neighbouring countries.
- Plastic recycling and segregation of plastic as an integral part of waste management
- Climate change and its impact on migration.
- NEC should give policy and directions for the North East Region.
- The forum should aim to get the maximum output from the available funds releasing synergy from various programmes over multiple states. Focussing on the issue for development of peace, he said that militancy in the North East is more due to socio-economic reasons and therefore, the forum should stress on augmenting infrastructure both within the region and with neighbouring Bangladesh. For eg. Mahendraganj (Meghalaya) to Hili (West Bengal) Road (100 kms) will save about 500 kms.

### **Chief Minister, Tripura**

- Connectivity among the NE states may be strengthened.
- Facilitation of trade and commerce with Bangladesh through Tripura and onward access to international markets.
- Roughly 50,000 m/tonnes of rubber does not have permission to export rubber – need to change the regulations in this regard.
- While welcoming the regional tourism in NER he mentioned that each state should have its own identity and in that context it mentioned that the Queen Pineapple of Tripura which have a geographical indication should be the identity of the State.
- On the lines of Mata Vaishno Devi, religious tourism should be encouraged by construction of 4-lane road to Mata Bari.
- Bamboo, cane, pineapple, rubber, jackfruit, textiles are highly prospective products.
- 100 beneficiaries have been benefitted under the Stand Up Scheme. Tripura is a power surplus state.
- He mentioned the initiative of HIRA – Highway, Information way, Railway and Airway. He suggested the need for a 109 km long rail line to Mizoram. On the water way he suggested dredging of Howrah river in Agartala and Meghna to Gomti.
- Climate is naturally conducive for aquarium fish whereas Bangkok which is a global market, it is created artificially. It would require better air connectivity.

### **Deputy Chief Minister Arunachal Pradesh**

- The Buddhist pilgrims from Myanmar may be encouraged to come by road and facility of visa on arrival may be provided.
- There should be more focus on education and health care, particularly, in border areas.
- He stated that State has the largest land bank, 18 lakh hectares of land is suitable for ranging from tropical to temperate to alpine. On the PM Fasal Bima Yojna, he mentioned that insurance companies are not coming forward in the State.
- There should be some provision for providing last-mile connectivity to Agricultural and Horticultural hubs.
- There is lack of quality seeds and inadequate technical knowhow needs to be addressed by import of new technologies.
- Regarding promotion of medicinal plants he suggested NE Bio-resource development centres should be set up in Arunachal Pradesh.
- He also raised the issue of climate change on the large cardamom.
- NE Venture Fund should also be made available for tourism on Bamboo.
- He mentioned about the MoU with the Numaligarh refinery.
- Sports should be given high priority.
- He also mentioned two days regional conference to be held in Itanagar shortly.
- Accelerating the implementation of ongoing hydro power projects in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Promotion of contract farming with marketing support for the farmers.
- Providing tourism entrepreneurs with incentives to exploit the potential of the Region.
- Linking the new NE Tourism Development Council with ASEAN tourism stakeholders and the country's Act East Policy.

#### **Deputy Chief Minister, Tripura**

- Tourism promotion should go hand in hand with environment preservation.
- A roadmap should be developed to standardize the Handloom and Handicrafts products of the Region.
- Sports development should be encouraged among local youth as a deterrent to insurgency related activities.
- Public Private model should be adopted as the way forward in this sector.
- North Eastern Council should be strengthened to closely follow up the areas having a regional dimension for facilitating time bound completion.
- Tourism may be a thrust area but it needs to be handled with caution. The fragile eco-system of NER may be kept in mind while propagating tourism and therefore, discourse should be centred on sustainable tourism.
- Funds for skilling should be augmented.

#### **PWD Minister, Assam**

- Connectivity is the foremost requirement and emphasis should be on time bound completion of projects.
- Shortage of raw materials for Infrastructure connectivity should be resolved.
- The National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) establishment in the NE Region should be strengthened.
- Value addition of locally produced materials such as horticulture produce should be encouraged.
- Adequate fencing along international borders should be ensured to address the threat if illegal



immigration.

- Medical and medical educational infrastructure of AIIMS standard should be created in the Region.
- International connectivity of the Region with neighbouring countries should be increased to improve tourism.
- NH 44 to Tripura needs to be given more attention to begin two lane road and material should be made available so that work is completed within short working season.
- Air Link to Dhaka should be encouraged.
- Local varieties need to be given more attention for instance Jampui Orange has almost disappeared.
- He also raised the issue of inadequate number of super specialist doctors in various medical.

#### **Planning Minister, Mizoram**

- Road construction and maintenance in the NE Region is different from other parts in the country due to the difficult topography. Accordingly, suitable technology and approach needs to be adopted for infrastructure creation in the Region.
- There should be early release of Funds for Central projects due to short working season in the Region.
- Youth should be skilled adequately to improve employability in the private sector.
- School Curriculum have to made lighter to ease the burden on school children
- Mizoram Entrepreneurship Development Scheme under the New Economic Development Programme of the state may be supported.
- Projects need to be completed in time; East- West Corridor supported the suggestion of capacity building of the state for contracting issues and creating hard and soft infrastructure for tourism.

#### **MOS, Ministry of DONER and Co-Chairman NITI-NER Forum made the following concluding observations:**

- There has been a significant 21% rise in fund utilization in the North-East during the last three years.
- The NITI-NER Forum is part of the Prime Minister's advice to re-orient and upgrade the North Eastern Council into a state-of-the-art think resource centre for the North Eastern states with the necessary resources, knowledge and skills. The NITI-NER Forum will provide analytical inputs and there will be no overlap with the functioning of the NEC.
- Mentioning about the initiative taken by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and NEC such as providing 100% funds for projects under NEC and NESIDS; setting up venture fund for North East; sanction of NE road sector development scheme for inter-state roads; demarcation of priority areas for NEC, using space technology for planning and monitoring, Udaan II Scheme, NEIDS 2017 and setting up of Inter-Ministerial Committees in the Ministry.
- He said that the forum would supplement the efforts of the Ministry of DoNER and NEC and provide policy inputs not only as a think tank but as a body which can also energise action. A Media Campaign to bring NE on the centre of policy discourse and focus on the 14 aspirational districts in NER may be launched .

#### **Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Chairman NITI-NER Forum summed up the discussions and highlighted the key takeaways as under:**

- NITI-NER Forum is the first of the series of Regional councils to be set up by NITI for group of

States to identify common issues. It will usher in synergy among the NE states and will supplement the work of the North Eastern Council with analytical inputs and fresh ideas. .

- He highlighted that the consensus was that the way forward could be to focus on the key thrust areas Horticulture, Bamboo, Tourism, Food Processing, Education and Made in North Eastern Region (NER). It is important that a holistic view is taken of resources already available by Central Ministries and State Governments in these Sectors and NEC funds are used to fund critical gap areas with a regional perspective so that time bound results are visible, on the lines of a Mission Mode approach.
- The Forum will not merely be an events forum but will address constraints that come in the way of exploitation of strengths of the region in a time bound manner. The endeavour will be to yield tangible results from the deliberations.
- The Forum will bring public, private institutions and civil society to the same table with the mandate to identify constraints and bottlenecks in critical areas such as Education, Infrastructure, Livelihoods and Health and devise means to address them.
- NITI-Aayog will have a unit dedicated to the North East and will focus on Monitoring, Evaluation and Follow-up of implementation of development projects.
- He also emphasized that diplomacy could address the problems arising out of the landlocked character of the region.
- While summing up, he mentioned that HIRA combined with education, health and skills will competently transform the region. He also supported the concept of VGF support for establishing air connectivity with neighbouring countries. Marketing of products of NER, both through e-commerce and scaling up of showrooms, may be given greater thrust. He suggested that the products of NER could be sold through Asht Lakshmi showrooms throughout the country.
- Proposing the vote of thanks, Chief Secretary, Tripura stated that Bangladesh is as integral a part of India's Act East Policy, as other ASEAN countries. He stressed on the connectivity of Chittagong in Bangladesh via Sabroom in Tripura .

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Annexure – I

**NITI FORUM FOR NORTH EAST****Members present in the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of NITI Forum for North East held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at Agartala**

1. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog - Chairman
2. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region – Co-Chairman
3. Shri Naveen Verma, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER
4. Shri Ram Muivah, Secretary, NEC – Member Secretary
5. Shri M. K. Gupta, Member, Engineering Railway Board, Ex-officio Secretary to GOI
6. Smt. T.Y. Das, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam
7. Shri Temjen Toy, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Nagaland
8. Shri Sanjeev Ranjan, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura
9. Ms. Jayati Chandra, IAS (Retired)
10. Shri Jarnail Singh, IAS (Retired)
11. Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, IAS (Retired)
12. Prof. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Indian Foreign Service (Retired)
13. Ms. Rekha Pai, Indian Forest Service (Retired)
14. Shri Pradeep Phanajaboum, Editor (Imphal Free Press)
15. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS
16. Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, Director, Rain Forest Research Institute (RERI), Jorhat, Assam
17. Prof. H.S. Yadav, Director, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Arunachal Pradesh
18. Dr. Amitabha De, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong
19. Shri K.S. Dhatwalia, Director General, PIB, North East

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**Representative of Union Ministries/ NE States, etc. present in the 1st Meeting of NITI Forum for North East held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at Agartala****Central Ministries/Institutions:**

1. Shri Satyendra Garg, Joint Secretary (NE), MHA, Department of Home
2. Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronic & Information Technology
3. Shri S.N. Pradhan, Joint Secretary, M/o DoNER
4. Shri C.H. Kharshiing, Planning Adviser, North Eastern Council
5. Shri R.K. Verma, Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power
6. Dr. Parthajyoti Gogoi, Sr. Regional Director, DGHS, MoH & FW
7. Shri Jitendra Kumar, Adviser (NRE), NITI Aayog
8. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Director (States-NE), NITI Aayog
9. Shri Naveen Kumar, Economic Officer (States-NE), NITI Aayog
10. Shri Ashok K. Jeph, Dy. Commissioner, M/o MoWR, RD & GR
11. Shri Dilip Nigam, Adviser, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
12. Shri P. Bhaktavatsalam, Under Secretary, Department of Higher Education,

Ministry of Human Resource Development.

13. Shri M. Riten Kr. Singh, Regional Officer (Civil), Guwahati, MoRTH, Govt. of India
14. Shri S. N. Singh, CAO/Con-I, NF Railway, Maligaon
15. Shri A. K. Yadav, CAO/Con-III, NF Railway, Maligaon
16. Ms. Perna Joshi, Deputy Director, M/o DoNER
17. Prof. Ramgopal Uppaluri, IIT Guwahati
18. Dr. R. Gopinath, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, MoEFCC
19. Prof. Keya Sengupta, Dean Academics and Coordinator, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis, IIM Shillong
20. Prof. Milindo Chakraborty, Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
21. Mrs. Nidhi Sharma, IRS, Private Secretary to Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog
22. Shri Krishna Mohan Uppu, OSD to MoS (IC), DoNER
23. Shri Joseph Lanah, Research Officer (Planning), North Eastern Council

**NE States:**

1. Shri Joram Beda, Secretary Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
2. Shri Pallab Dey, Director, Planning Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
3. Shri A. Kundu, Deputy Director, Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
4. Shri Ravi Capoor, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam
5. Shri K.K.Nath, Secretary, Transformation and Development Department, Govt. of Assam
6. Shri M.H. Khan, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur
7. Smt. Kulkarani Devi, Joint Director, Planning Department, Govt. of Manipur
8. Shri Rajeev Arora, Officer on Special Duty ex-officio Additional Development Commissioner/ Prabhari Officer
9. Shri R.P. Batra, Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority
10. Dr. C. Vanlalramsanga, Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram
11. Shri Nosazol Charles, Addl. Development Commissioner, Govt. of Nagaland
12. Shri Chorayi Veyie, Planning Officer, Planning & Coordination Department, Govt. of Nagaland
13. Shri Sonam Lepcha, Secretary, DPERNECAD, Govt. of Sikkim
14. Dr. Rakesh Sarwal, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Tripura
15. Shri Amit Shukla, Director, Planning & Co-ordination Department, Govt. of Tripura

**VIPs invitees present in the 1st Meeting of NITI Forum for North East held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at Agartala**

1. Shri Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister, Nagaland
2. Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Minister, Meghalaya
3. Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Chief Minister, Tripura
4. Shri Chowna Mein, Deputy Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh

5. Shri Lalsawta, Minister Planning and Finance, Govt. of Mizoram
6. Shri Neiba Kronu, Minister Planning & Coordination, Nagaland
7. Shri Jishnu Debbarma, Deputy Chief Minister, Tripura
8. Shri Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister PWD (Roads and Buildings, NH), Fisheries and Excise, Assam