

Role of NEC (North Eastern Council)

North Eastern Council is a statutory

advisory body constituted under the NEC ACT

1971 and came into being on 7th November 1972

at Shillong. The eight states of North East India

are Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya,

Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, are

members of the council, with their respective

chief ministers and governors representing them.

Sikkim was added to the council in 2002.

The headquarters of the council is situated in

Shillong and functions under the ministry of

home affairs of the Government of India.

Aims and objectives of North-Eastern Council

The following are the main objectives of North

Eastern Council:-

(1) To make an all round efforts for bringing

social economic development of the entire NE Region through co-ordinated Regional planning.

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- (2) Removing regional imbalances and inequalities through balanced regional development.
- (3) Promoting co-operation, co-ordination and integration among the constituent states by giving advice.
- (4) Supplementing the efforts of the constituent units for the development of adequate infrastructural facilities.

Organisation of NEC

The NEC is usually formed by taking all the chief ministers and governors of the NE states as its members headed by a chairman. The chairman of the council is nominated by the President of India among the governors of NE states. The president of India has got the right to nominate a union minister as its member. The council is holding discussion in the matters of common

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interest and undertakes projects involving more than one state. The North Eastern Council is functioning through a permanent Secretariat established at Shillong.

Functions of the Council :-

Following are the main functions of the North Eastern Council :-

- ① Being an advisory body, the Council may discuss any matter connected with one or more member states having a common interest and advise the Central government and state governments concerned on any matter of common interest, connected with economic planning, interstate transport and communication, power and flood control project.
- ② For securing balanced regional development of the entire NE area, the Council prepares verified regional plan on matters of common interest

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and determines the priorities regarding location of projects and schemes included in the regional plan to the Central government for consideration.

3 The third important function of the council is to make a review from time to time about the implementation of the projects and schemes included in the regional plan and bring effective co-ordination among the states in connection with implementation and maintenance of the projects, expenditures

The most important function of the Council is to make an overall review of the measures taken by the member states for maintenance of security and public order, recommend the state governments for further measures to be undertaken in this regard.

Projects undertaken by NEC.

NEC has undertaken different development works in various sectors like education, health etc.

Achievements The Council has worked for the socio-economic development of the region.

The NEC promoted different Regional Institutes such as

NEPA — North East Policy Academy set up at Shillong in 1978

NEPCO — North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. set up at Shillong in 1976.

NERIST — North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology Itanagar started 1986.

RIPAN — Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Science Aizawl set-up in 1995.

RNC — Regional Nursing College Guwahati established 1977.

NETDC — North East Tourism Development Council in Shillong established in 2016 for Promoting tourism in the region.

The NEE has focussed on improving the connectivity of the region, worked for interstate connectivity of the region, worked for Road Infrastructure, supported installation of

TEZU in Arunachal Pradesh has been completed under NEC funding. It has awarded sportsmen and sports women. In fact NEC has contributed a lot in different fields.

Limitations of NEC.

While considering the role of NEC it should be taken into consideration about the limited statutory role.

All NEC financed schemes are implemented through state and central government agencies and autonomous institutions. There is close monitoring by the NEC. but in spite of it all states are facing problems regarding implementation of the schemes of NEC. because of 1) delay in starting projects; 2) delay in release of fund received from NEC; 3) lack of proper utilisation of funds and so on.