



Speech of

Dr. D. D. LAPANG
Chief Minister, Meghalaya

at the

54th Meeting

of the

North Eastern Council

at

Aizawl, Mizoram

on

18th & 19th May, 2007

Hon'ble Chairman, Distinguished Members of the North Eastern Council, Officials from the Government of India, N.E.C., State Governments and Friends,

I am happy to participate at this 54th Meeting of the North Eastern Council and I congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram for having hosted the meeting in this beautiful Hill State. I sincerely appreciate the steps taken by Hon'ble Union Minister of DONER & Chairman, N.E.C for having chalked out the thrust areas which the N.E.C should look into during the Eleventh Plan. The Sectoral Summits held at Pasighat, Shillong, Guwahati and Gangtok in respect of Power, Roads, Irrigation & Flood Control and Tourism & Hospitality Industry respectively are indeed like lighthouses to throw light on the path that the N.E.C is pursuing to usher in economic progress and prosperity in the region. The Sectoral Summit on Air Connectivity that is scheduled for tomorrow will be another important milestone in the path of the N.E.C. I really admire the steps taken by the Hon'ble Minister of DONER & Chairman, N.E.C in this regard and hope that, under his able leadership, the N.E.C will be able to make great achievements in its history.

2. State's Priority & NEC's Thrust Areas :

In the Eleventh Plan (2007-12), we in Meghalaya have decided to assign priority to the following areas: -

- Power generation, transmission, grid connectivity and rural electrification.
- Agriculture and allied sectors with strong emphasis on horticulture including post harvest management and processing, irrigation and water harvesting.
- Roads and bridges for ensuring better connectivity.
- Sericulture and weaving for generation of income and employment.
- Tourism infrastructure and tourism services.
- Trade with Bangladesh and creation of infrastructure for the same.
- Decentralisation of planning and involvement of the people in the development process.
- Social services like education, health, water supply and nutrition.
- Rural development and poverty alleviation programme.

