

Questionnaire for Meghalaya Vision 2030

In an attempt to broad-base *the Meghalaya State Vision 2030* and capture public views on the developmental issues faced by the state, the NIPFP team invited inputs from interested individuals in the state through various channels. On the NIPFP website, we posted a questionnaire focused on a wide range of issues that could have a bearing on development and progress in the state, and invited public comment and recommendations on these, as well as any other pertinent issues, through advertisements in local English and Khasi newspapers. The questionnaire was also mailed to prominent public figures in the state, professors, administrators, educators, politicians, journalists, and other individuals, for their inputs.

We welcome your views on the following questions:

1. What are your views, if any, on the *Northeast Vision 2020* document adopted by the North Eastern Council? Does it adequately represent the concerns of Meghalaya?
2. What in your view should be the vision for development of Meghalaya in 2030? Some of the objectives in the *Northeast Vision 2020* document are: bringing peace and prosperity to the region, accelerating growth so that the states can catch up with the rest of the country, ensuring participatory governance and planning to achieve inclusive growth, empowerment of people through education and healthcare, and eradication of poverty. Do you agree? Would you like to add to these goals?
3. Participatory governance and planning is a key strategy detailed in the *Northeast Vision 2020* document. How can we promote participatory governance and planning for the development process in Meghalaya?
4. A key to the progress and prosperity of Meghalaya lies in improving connectivity. Access to a seaport and land connectivity through Bangladesh is critical for the development of the state. What initiatives should the Government of India take to ensure better connectivity through Bangladesh?
5. At present, states do not have any role in improving connectivity and trade with neighbouring countries. At the same time, the economic condition of states depends critically on greater trade and connectivity through neighbouring countries. What changes are needed to assign a greater role to the state in its relations with neighbouring countries?
6. What steps can be taken to improve the productivity of the main agricultural crops in the state?

7. There is widespread practice of Jhum cultivation in the state. Do you think it is detrimental to the environment? In your view, is there a sustainable alternative to jhumming?
8. What initiatives are needed to improve marketing links and cold storage facilities for agricultural produce in the state?
9. What initiatives are needed to attract investment in agri-processing activities? How can we co-ordinate policies with other north-eastern states so that producers have a large enough processing activity to make it economically viable?
10. What are the major infrastructure initiatives you would recommend for the development of markets and promotion of trade and investment in the state?
11. What specific initiatives would you recommend to improve (i) land connectivity, (ii) inland water connectivity, (iii) air connectivity, and (iv) rail connectivity?
12. What in your opinion has been Meghalaya's experience with the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) of the Government of India?
13. Do you think there is scope for setting-up of major industries like cement manufacturing in Meghalaya? What initiatives would be required to attract private investment in such industries? Should the Government of India take initiatives to invest in large public sector industries in the state?
14. Given that Meghalaya has a large forest area, what would be the most appropriate way to promote sustainable development of forest and mineral resources?
15. Do you think the Government of India should provide a transport subsidy to reduce cost disadvantages faced by the state?
16. What measures would you recommend to increase development expenditure by the state government?
17. How can we enhance the revenue base of the state to generate more revenue for development?
18. What are the critical bottlenecks in promoting trade with neighbouring countries, particularly Bangladesh? How can we ease these bottlenecks?
19. What are your views on promoting public-private partnerships (PPP) in Meghalaya?

20. What are the policy and institutional changes needed to attract private investment to Meghalaya?
21. What measures can you recommend for building people's capacity to participate in and contribute to the development process in the state?
22. What are the measures needed to augment education facilities — general, professional, and vocational education and skill development?
23. What measures could you recommend for developing the capacity of various institutions in the state (government, non-government, etc.) so that they can play a role in the development process?
24. What steps can be taken to raise the effectiveness of village education committees in improving the quality of school education, especially in rural and remote areas?
25. What measures would you recommend to improve the quality of healthcare in Meghalaya and people's access to good services?
26. What steps are needed to minimise rural-urban disparities in the provision of basic services and improving the quality of services, such as sanitation, drinking water, and transport?
27. In what ways can the constitutional provisions relating to institutions of governance be moulded to promote harmony and integration within the state?
28. What measures would you recommend to encourage people's participation in governance to make it more inclusive and also promote liberalisation and outward orientation?
29. How can the North Eastern Council become a more effective agency for planning? What restructuring would you recommend to make it an agent of transformation?
30. What measures do you recommend to control insurgency in the state?