North Eastern Council (NEC)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity & Governance*

Why in News?

The North Eastern Council (NEC) hold its 73rd Plenary Session on 4th June, 2026, in Shillong, Meghalaya.

- **North Eastern Council** – It was constituted as a *statutory advisory body* under the *NEC Act, 1971* and came into being on the 7th November, 1972 at Shillong.
  - **North Eastern Region** (8 States) – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- **Sikkim's Inclusion** – Sikkim was not part of the original 1971 composition, included via an amendment to the NEC Act in 2002.
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Development Of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- **Composition**
  - **Ex-Officio Chairman**– Union Home Minister
  - **Ex-Officio Vice-Chairman** – Minister of state, ministry of development of north eastern region (DoNER).
  - **Members** – It comprises governors & chief ministers of constituent states and three members nominated by the President.
- **Function** – It serves as the *apex regional planning body* for the North Eastern Region & plays a pivotal role in fostering coordinated development and strengthening cooperative federalism in the region.

*NEC resembles a Zonal Council in role, but legally it stands apart as a **separate statutory institution**.*

Key Discussions in 73rd Plenary Session

- **Discuss flagship initiatives** – Like Bamboo, Agarwood, and the Ashtalakshmi Darshan, and other issues.
- **CM Task Forces** – Review progress of CM High-Level Task Forces.
- **Focus** – Includes Tourism, Agriculture & Horticulture, Investment Promotion, Self-reliance in food, Sports, Economic Corridors, Infrastructure, and Handloom & Handicrafts.
- **Ministry of DoNER**
  - Review important initiatives, major schemes and programmes,
  - Outcomes of the North East Investment Summit and Bankers' Conclave,

    - Youth-focused initiatives, tourism, logistics, and
    - Unique Selling Proposition (USP) projects in the region.
- **North East Vision Plan 2047** – Further deliberate on the Vision Plan, which seeks to provide a long-term roadmap for transforming the region by India's centenary year of independence.

References

1. PIB | North Eastern Council to Convene 73rd Plenary Session on 4th June, 2026
2. North Eastern Council | NEC

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